

## Sīrah Series Part 8– The Night Journey & Ascension

### Slide 1 – Title Slide

الحمد لله رب العالمين والصلوة والسلام على سيد المرسلين وعلى آله وصحبه أجمعين أما بعد  
رب اشرح لي صدري ويسر لي أمري واحلل عقدة من لساني يفقهوا قولي  
سبحانك لا علم لنا إلا ما علمتنا أنك انت العليم الحكيم

### Slide 2

My dear respected ‘Ulamā, elders, brothers and sisters listening at home, Assalāmu ‘Alaykum Wa Raḥmatullāhi Wa Barakātuhu, I begin by praising Allāh سُبْحَانَهُ وَتَعَالَى Lord of the Worlds and sending Peace & Salutations to our beloved Prophet Muḥammad صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ.

Welcome to part 8 of the Sīrah of Muḥammad صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ series, where we will be discussing Al-Isrā wal-Mi‘rāj, the night journey and the Ascension to the Heavens.

### Slide 3 – Recap Questions

Before we begin, let's go through some recap questions from the last session.

Which close companion of Rasūlullāh صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ decided to migrate to Abyssinia?

Abū Bakr رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهُ

Who offered him protection?

Ibn -ad-Daghinah

What were the Qurayshi conditions set for Abū Bakr رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهُ?

That he would pray inside his home and not pray outside

What did Abū Bakr رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهُ build outside of his house?

A Masjid

When Ibn ad-Daghinah revoked his pledge of protection, what did Abū Bakr رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهُ say?

That he was satisfied with the protection of Allāh سُبْحَانَهُ وَتَعَالَى

### Slide 4 – Recap Questions

What was the 10<sup>th</sup> year of Prophethood known as?

The year of sorrow

Name 2 people close to Rasūlullāh ﷺ who passed away during this time?

Abū Ṭālib and Khadijah رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهَا

Where were they both buried?

In Jannah al-Mu‘allā

Did Abū Ṭālib die with Imān?

No, he chose to remain on the religion of his forefathers

How many children did Rasūlullāh ﷺ have with Khadijah رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهَا

6

### Slide 5 – Recap Questions

Where did Rasūlullāh ﷺ go with Zayd رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهُ to invite the people to Islām?

Ṭāif

What did the leaders of Ṭāif do?

They refused to listen to the guidance of Rasūlullāh ﷺ and sent the street urchins after him

What was the name of the person from Nineveh who they met in a garden

‘Addās

Who listened to Rasūlullāh ﷺ reciting the Qur’ān on his journey back to Makkah?

A group of Jinns

### Slide 6 – Al Isrā wal Mi‘rāj

After returning from Ṭā’if, Allāh سُبحانه وتعالى took Rasūlullāh ﷺ on a journey which no man had ever undertaken before.

This journey started from Makkah and took him all the way to Al-Masjid al-Aqṣā' in al-Quds and then up to the Heavens.

### Slide 7 – Al-Isrā' Wal Mi'rāj

This journey is known as 'Al-Isrā wal-Mi'rāj'.

According to some scholars, the journey took place in the 11<sup>th</sup> or 12<sup>th</sup> year of Prophethood.

Regarding the exact date of the journey, there is a difference of opinion. There are 5 opinions in total, but the most common one is that it occurred on the 27<sup>th</sup> of Rajab and Allāh سُبْحَانَهُ وَتَعَالَى knows best.

### Slide 8 - Definitions

Now sometimes there is a little confusion as to what Isrā' and Mi'rāj mean, so here are the definitions:

'Al-Isrā'' is the term used for the night journey, which Rasūlullāh صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ undertook from Makkah to Al-Masjid al-Aqṣā'.

### Slide 9 - Definitions

'Al-Mi'rāj' is the term used for Rasūlullāh صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ going from Al-Masjid al-Aqṣā' up to the Heavens.

### Slide 10 - The Importance of Al-Masjid al-Aqṣā' in Islām

Al-Masjid al-Aqṣā' is a place which holds a very high status in Islām. Before we carry on with the Sīrah, let us look at its unique importance.

Allāh سُبْحَانَهُ وَتَعَالَى says in Sūrah Al Isrā':

سُبْحَنَ الَّذِي أَسْرَى بِعَبْدِهِ لَيْلًا مِّنَ الْمَسْجِدِ الْحَرَامِ إِلَى الْمَسْجِدِ الْأَقْصَا الَّذِي بَارَكْنَا حَوْلَهُ وَلِنُرِيَهُ وَمِنْ ءَايَاتِنَا إِنَّهُ هُوَ السَّمِيعُ الْبَصِيرُ ﴿١٠﴾

“Glorious is He Who made his servant travel by night from Al Masjid Al-Ḥarām to Al-Masjidul Aqṣā' whose environs We have blessed, so that We let him see some of Our signs, Surely, He is the All-Hearing, the All-Seeing”

Allāh سُبْحَانَهُ وَتَعَالَى mentions Al-Masjid al-Aqṣā' by its own name in the Glorious Qur'ān.

## Slide 11 – Importance of Masjidul Aqsā'

Now before we talk about this journey, let us go through a few Ḥadīth regarding the Importance of Masjid Al-Aqsā'. We have already heard it has been mentioned by name in the Qur'ān. Masjid Al-Aqsā' is a place which holds a very high status in Islām, it is the 3<sup>rd</sup> holiest Masjid in Islām.

In Ṣaḥīḥ Al-Bukhārī:

عَنْ أَبِي هُرَيْرَةَ رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهُ عَنِ النَّبِيِّ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ قَالَ

" لَا تُشَدُّ الرَّحَالُ إِلَّا إِلَى ثَلَاثَةِ مَسَاجِدَ الْمَسْجِدِ الْحَرَامِ وَمَسْجِدِ الرَّسُولِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ وَمَسْجِدِ الْأَقْصَى " <sup>1</sup>

Abū Hurayrah رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهُ narrates, that Rasūlullāh صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ said "A person should not set out on a journey except to 3 Masājid, Al-Masjid Al-Ḥarām, the Masjid of the Rasūlullāh صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ (Al-Masjid an-Nabawī) and Al-Masjid Al-Aqsā'.

Only three Masājid are named in this Ḥadīth, where a person can make an intention to go and visit specifically. If a person follows this Ḥadīth and visits Al-Masjid al-Aqsā', it will be very rewarding.

## Slide 12 – The 2<sup>nd</sup> Masjid to be Built

In Ṣaḥīḥ al-Bukhārī, there is another narration where Rasūlullāh صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ tells us when Al-Masjid al-Aqsā' was built:

حَدَّثَنَا إِبْرَاهِيمُ التَّيْمِيُّ عَنْ أَبِيهِ قَالَ سَمِعْتُ أَبَا ذَرٍّ رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهُ قَالَ قُلْتُ يَا رَسُولَ اللَّهِ أَيْ مَسْجِدٍ وَضِعَ فِي الْأَرْضِ أَوَّلَ قَالَ

" الْمَسْجِدُ الْحَرَامُ " قَالَ قُلْتُ ثُمَّ أَيْ قَالَ " الْمَسْجِدُ الْأَقْصَى " قُلْتُ كَمْ كَانَ بَيْنَهُمَا قَالَ "

أَرْبَعُونَ سَنَةً ثُمَّ أَيْنَمَا أَدْرَكْتِكَ الصَّلَاةُ بَعْدَ فَصْلِهِ فَإِنَّ الْفَضْلَ فِيهِ " <sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Ṣaḥīḥ Al-Bukhārī 1189

<sup>2</sup> Ṣaḥīḥ al-Bukhārī 3366

Abū Dhar رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهُ says, “I said O Messenger of Allāh, which was the first Masjid set upon the earth? Rasūlullāh صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ said ‘Al-Masjid al-Ḥarām’. I then said, then which one, he said ‘Al-Masjid al-Aqṣā’. I said, ‘What was the time in between the two?’ He said, ‘40 years, then whenever the time comes for Ṣalāh, read Ṣalāh there, for indeed there is good in it.’”

From this Ḥadīth, we can see that Al-Masjid al-Aqṣā’ was the second Masjid to be built on earth, 40 years after Al-Masjid al-Ḥarām.

### Slide 13 – Iḥrām from Al-Masjid al-Aqṣā’

This Ḥadīth from Sunan Abū Dāwūd tells us the reward for entering into the state of Iḥrām from the 3<sup>rd</sup> Holiest Masjid in Islām.

عَنْ أُمِّ سَلَمَةَ زَوْجِ النَّبِيِّ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ أَنَّهَا سَمِعَتْ رَسُولَ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ يَقُولُ " مَنْ أَهَلَ بِحَجَّةٍ أَوْ عُمْرَةٍ مِنَ الْمَسْجِدِ الْأَقْصَى إِلَى الْمَسْجِدِ الْحَرَامِ غُفِرَ لَهُ مَا تَقَدَّمَ مِنْ ذَنْبِهِ وَمَا تَأَخَّرَ " أَوْ " وَجَبَتْ لَهُ الْجَنَّةُ " شَكَكَ عَبْدُ اللَّهِ أَيَّتَهُمَا قَالَ قَالَ أَبُو دَاوُدَ يَرْحَمُ اللَّهُ وَكَيْعًا أَحْرَمَ مِنْ بَيْتِ الْمَقْدِسِ يَعْنِي إِلَى مَكَّةَ <sup>3</sup>

Umm Salamah رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهَا the wife of Rasūlullāh صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ said, she heard Rasūlullāh صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ saying, “Whoever puts on the Iḥrām for Ḥajj or ‘Umrah from Al-Masjid al-Aqṣā’ to Al-Masjid al-Ḥarām, then all his previous sins are forgiven and his latter sins. Or Jannah become obligatory upon them.”

We can see from these narrations how important Al-Masjid al-Aqṣā’ is in Islām.

### Slide 14 – The Journey Begins

One-night, Rasūlullāh صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ was resting in the house of Umm Ḥāni رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهَا.

Umme Ḥāni رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهَا was the first cousin of Rasūlullāh صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ, the daughter of Abū Ṭālib. Her real name was Fākhitah.

The location of her house can be seen in the picture below, marked with the silver outline.

Suddenly, the roof of the house opened.

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<sup>3</sup> Sunan Abū Dāwūd 1741

Jibrīl عَلَيْهِ السَّلَامُ came down from the Heavens with some other Angels.

They woke Rasūlullāh صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ up and took him to Al-Masjid al-Ḥarām, which was nearby.

### Slide 15 - Ḥaram

Rasūlullāh صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ fell asleep in the Ḥaṭīm.

Jibrīl عَلَيْهِ السَّلَامُ and Mikā'il عَلَيْهِ السَّلَامُ once again woke up Rasūlullāh صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ and took him to the well of Zamzam.

Rasūlullāh صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ was laid down and his blessed chest was split open by the Angels. They removed his heart and washed it with Zamzam.

A golden tray was then brought, full of faith and wisdom.

They filled the heart of Rasūlullāh صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ with this faith and wisdom and put it back inside his body.

The seal of Prophethood was then placed between his shoulder blades. This seal was visible proof of Rasūlullāh صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ being the last of the Prophets.

### Slide 16 – Burāq

A Heavenly creature was brought for Rasūlullāh صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ, which was called a Burāq.

The earlier Prophets used to ride on this animal. It was smaller than a mule but larger than a donkey, being white in colour. In another narration it mentions that the Burāq had two wings.

This animal could travel so fast, that in a single step, it could cover the distance one can see with their eyes.

Rasūlullāh صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ mounted the animal and it started to misbehave.

Jibrīl عَلَيْهِ السَّلَامُ addressed the Burāq and said, “What kind of misbehaviour is this? Until today, there has never been a servant of Allāh سُبْحَانَهُ وَتَعَالَى more respected and honoured than Rasūlullāh صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ who has sat on your back.”

### Slide 17 – The Burāq

Out of shame, the Burāq started to perspire.

Rasūlullāh صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ then left on the back of the Burāq accompanied by the two great Angels, Jibrīl عَلَيْهِ السَّلَامُ and Mikā'il عَلَيْهِ السَّلَامُ.

In other narrations it mentions that Jibrīl عَلَيْهِ السَّلَام put Rasūlullāh صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ on the back of the Burāq and then also sat on it behind Rasūlullāh صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ.

It was in this grace and dignity that Rasūlullāh صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ left for this miraculous journey.

### **Slide 18 – Yathrib**

The Journey began travelling north

### **Slide 19– Date Palms**

Rasūlullāh صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ passed by some land where there were many date palms.

Jibrīl عَلَيْهِ السَّلَام told Rasūlullāh صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ to dismount and pray Ṣalāh.

After Rasūlullāh صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ had finished, Jibrīl عَلَيْهِ السَّلَام asked Rasūlullāh صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ if he knew where he had prayed.

Rasūlullāh صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ said that Allāh سُبْحَانَهُ وَتَعَالَى knows best.

Jibrīl عَلَيْهِ السَّلَام said, that he prayed Ṣalāh in Yathrib. Yathrib would later be known as Madīnah, the city where Rasūlullāh صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ would migrate.

### **Slide 20 – Sinai**

They carried on their journey and after a while Jibrīl عَلَيْهِ السَّلَام told Rasūlullāh صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ to dismount and pray Ṣalāh once again.

Rasūlullāh صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ again dismounted and read his Ṣalāh.

### **Slide 21 - Sinai**

Jibrīl عَلَيْهِ السَّلَام now told Rasūlullāh صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ that he had prayed Ṣalāh in the valley of Sinai, near the tree of Mūsā' عَلَيْهِ السَّلَام.

### **Slide 22 – Midian**

After Sinai, Rasūlullāh صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ and Jibrīl عَلَيْهِ السَّلَام carried on until they stopped again in another land.

Again, Rasūlullāh صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ was told to dismount and read Ṣalāh which he did.

This time, Jibrīl عَلَيْهِ السَّلَام told him it was the land of Midian.

This is where Shu‘ayb عَلَيْهِ السَّلَام was sent.

### Slide 23 – Bethlehem – Bayt al-Laḥm

Rasūlullāh ﷺ and Jibrīl عَلَيْهِ السَّلَامُ carried on and again they stopped.

Rasūlullāh ﷺ was told to dismount and read Ṣalāh.

This time he was told it was Bayt al-Laḥm or Bethlehem,

The birth place of ‘Īsā’ عَلَيْهِ السَّلَامُ.

According to Christian sources, the location where ‘Īsā عَلَيْهِ السَّلَامُ was born is inside the Church of the Nativity, which is in Bethlehem.

### Slide 24– Strange Encounters

In Bayhaqī, there is a narration by ibn Jarīr رَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ which mentions when Rasūlullāh ﷺ was travelling on the Burāq, they passed by an old woman.

She called out to Rasūlullāh ﷺ but Jibrīl عَلَيْهِ السَّلَامُ told him to carry on and not pay any attention to her.

They carried on and then saw an old man. He also called out to Rasūlullāh ﷺ.

Again Jibrīl عَلَيْهِ السَّلَامُ told him not to stop and continue.

They carried on again and passed by a group of people who greeted Rasūlullāh ﷺ with the following words:

السلام عليك يا اول

السلام عليك يا اخر

السلام عليك يا حاشر

Jibrīl عَلَيْهِ السَّلَامُ told Rasūlullāh ﷺ to reply to their greeting.

### Slide 25– Strange Encounters

After a while Jibrīl عَلَيْهِ السَّلَامُ told Rasūlullāh ﷺ who all these people were.

He said that the old woman who they met first, was the world.

The world only has a little time left, in the same way as the old woman had a little time left in her life.

The second person they met, the old man, was Shayṭān, the Devil. Both the world and the Devil's aim is to entice you towards them.

Finally, the group of people who greeted Rasūlullāh ﷺ were the blessed Messengers, Ibrāhīm, Mūsā' and 'Īsā' عَلَيْهِمُ السَّلَامُ.

### **Slide 26 – Bayt al-Maqdis**

Rasūlullāh ﷺ now reached Bayt al-Maqdis. Before we carry on with the story, let us clarify what is Bayt al-Maqdis or Al-Masjid al-Aqṣā'. Many times, when we see pictures of Al-Masjid al-Aqṣā', we see the grey domed structure located to the south of the Holy Precinct.

In fact, the whole area which you can see within the old walls marked by the white line, the entire Holy Precinct is Bayt al-Maqdis or Al-Masjid al-Aqṣā'

There are two main structures in the blessed area. Firstly, the 'Dome of the Rock' or the 'Qubbat aṣ-Ṣakhrah'. This is the golden domed building on the raised platform in the centre of Al-Masjid al-Aqṣā'.

This place is attributed as the location where Rasūlullāh ﷺ ascended to the Heavens. Although it has a dome, it is not classified as a Masjid. It was built by the Ummayyad Caliph 'Abd al-Malik in 688 CE and opened in 691 CE.

The second main structure is Masjid al-Qiblī. This is the grey domed Masjid located to the south of the Holy Precinct. This is the Masjid where Ṣalāh takes place

### **Slide 27 – Masjid Burāq**

Rasūlullāh ﷺ had reached the land of the Prophets and dismounted from the Burāq.

In Ṣaḥīḥ Muslim, there is a Ḥadīth narrated by Anas رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهُ in which he mentions Rasūlullāh ﷺ tethered the Burāq to the same ring which the Prophets of Allāh ﷺ used to tether their animals to.

In this picture you can see the entrance to Masjid Burāq which is where the Burāq was tied. It is located on the western side of the Holy Precinct.

In this picture you can see the inside of the Masjid and the location of the ring.

### **Slide 28 – Masjid Burāq**

There is another narration in Jāmi' al-Tirmidhī as follows:

عَنِ ابْنِ بُرَيْدَةَ عَنْ أَبِيهِ قَالَ قَالَ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ " لَمَّا انْتَهَيْنَا إِلَى بَيْتِ الْمَقْدِسِ  
قَالَ جِبْرِيلُ بِإِصْبَعِهِ فَخَرَقَ بِهِ الْحَجَرَ وَشَدَّ بِهِ الْبُرَاقَ " <sup>4</sup>

Ibn Buraydah رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهُ narrates from his father that Rasūlullāh صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ said, "When we reached Bayt al-Maqdis, Jibrīl عَلَيْهِ السَّلَامُ pointed with his finger causing a crack in the rock, and he tied the Burāq to it."

## Slide 29 – The Prayer of the Prophets

Rasūlullāh صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ and Jibrīl عَلَيْهِ السَّلَامُ now entered the Masjid and both read 2 Rak‘ah Ṣalāh.

The Prophets عَلَيْهِمُ السَّلَامُ had already gathered in the Masjid in anticipation of Rasūlullāh صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ.

Amongst these were Ibrāhīm, Mūsā’ and ‘Īsā’ عَلَيْهِمُ السَّلَامُ.

Very soon many more people gathered within Al-Masjid al-Aqṣā’.

A Mu’adhin then performed the Adhān and Iqāmah.

All the people were standing in line, waiting to see who would lead the Prayer.

## Slide 30– The Prayer of the Prophets

Jibrīl عَلَيْهِ السَّلَامُ came to Rasūlullāh صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ and took his hand. He then made him go forward so he could lead the Ṣalāh.

When the Ṣalāh concluded, Jibrīl عَلَيْهِ السَّلَامُ asked Rasūlullāh صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ if he knew who he had just led in Prayer.

Rasūlullāh صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ said he didn’t know.

Jibrīl عَلَيْهِ السَّلَامُ informed Rasūlullāh صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ that all the Prophets عَلَيْهِمُ السَّلَامُ who had been sent by Allāh سُُبْحَانَهُ وَتَعَالَى, had just read Ṣalāh behind him.

In another narration it says that the Angels also descended from the Heavens and Rasūlullāh صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ led both the Prophets عَلَيْهِمُ السَّلَامُ and Angels in Prayer.

After the Ṣalāh, the Angels asked Jibrīl عَلَيْهِ السَّلَامُ who was with him. Jibrīl عَلَيْهِ السَّلَامُ replied that it was Muḥammad صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ.

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<sup>4</sup> Jāmi‘ al-Tirmidhī 3132

## Slide 31 – The Three Bowls

Rasūlullāh ﷺ left the Masjid and 3 bowls were presented to him.

One had water, the second had milk and the third had wine.

Rasūlullāh ﷺ chose the bowl of milk and Jibrīl عليه السلام told him that he has chosen the natural religion.

If he had chosen the wine, his people would have gone astray

and if he had chosen the water, his people would have drowned.

In some narrations it also says that a bowl of honey was presented to Rasūlullāh ﷺ from which he also drank.

## Slide 32 – The Ascension

Rasūlullāh ﷺ now made his way up to the Heavens with Jibrīl عليه السلام.

In some narrations it mentions that Rasūlullāh ﷺ made his way up on the Burāq whilst other narrations say that a ladder was sent down from Heaven which he ascended. It could also be that Rasūlullāh ﷺ went up the ladder whilst on the Burāq.

Ibn Ishāq رحمه الله mentions that Abū Sa‘īd al-Khudrī رضي الله عنه narrates that he heard Rasūlullāh ﷺ say, “When I finished from the commands in Bayt al-Maqdis, a ladder was brought down. I have never seen a more beautiful ladder than this.

It was that ladder which the souls of the children of Ādam عليه السلام ascend on the way up to the Heavens.

When a person is passing away, it is this ladder they look towards.

My Companion, Jibrīl عليه السلام made me climb the ladder until I reached a door from the doors of the Heavens called ‘Bāb al-Ḥafazāh’.

## Slide 33 – The Ascension

There was an Angel from the Angels on this door who was called Ismā‘īl.

He had 12,000 Angels under him and under each of these Angels, were another 12,000 Angels.”

Whilst Rasūlullāh ﷺ was narrating this Ḥadīth, he mentioned the verse:

## وَمَا يَعْلَمُ جُنُودَ رَبِّكَ إِلَّا هُوَ<sup>5</sup>

“And not one knows the Hosts of the Lord but He.”

When Rasūlullāh ﷺ was being entered through the door, the Angel asked, “Who is this O Jibrīl?”.

Jibrīl عليه السلام said “Muḥammad”.

The Angel said, “Has he been sent for?”

Jibrīl عليه السلام replied “Yes”.

The Angel then welcomed him and supplicated for him.

### Slide 34 – The Keeper of Hell

In another narration in Ibn Ishāq, it mentions that Rasūlullāh ﷺ met the Angels when he entered the Heavens.

All the Angels would be smiling, saying pleasant things, and supplicating for him. This continued until he met one particular Angel.

This Angel also said pleasant things and supplicated for him in the same way the other Angels did, however he did not smile.

Rasūlullāh ﷺ asked Jibrīl عليه السلام who this Angel was.

Jibrīl عليه السلام replied, “If he was to smile at anyone before you, or smile at anyone after you, he would have smiled at you, but he does not smile.

This is ‘Mālik’ the keeper of Hell.”

### Slide 35 – The Journey

Rasūlullāh ﷺ had started his journey to the Heavens from Al-Masjid al-Aqṣā (Bayt al-Maqdis)

### Slide 36 – The First Heaven

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<sup>5</sup> Sūrah al-Mudaththir Verse 31

Rasūlullāh ﷺ entered the first Heaven and saw a venerable person, meaning a wise respected person.

Jibrīl عليه السلام told Rasūlullāh ﷺ that this was his father Ādam عليه السلام.

Jibrīl عليه السلام told Rasūlullāh ﷺ to greet him, and he did. Ādam عليه السلام replied and said:

مرحبا بابن الصالح و النبي الصالح

“Welcome pious son and pious Messenger”

Ādam عليه السلام then supplicated for Rasūlullāh ﷺ.

### Slide 37 – The First Heaven

Rasūlullāh ﷺ noticed there were some people to the right of Ādam عليه السلام and some people to his left.

Whenever Ādam عليه السلام looked at the people on the right, he would get happy but when he looked at the people on the left, he would get upset.

Jibrīl عليه السلام told Rasūlullāh ﷺ that the people on the right side of Ādam عليه السلام were his pious children. Those who will go to Heaven. When he sees them, he gets happy.

The people on his left were his bad children, who are the people of the fire. When he sees them, he cries.

### Slide 38 - The Second Heaven

Rasūlullāh ﷺ and Jibrīl عليه السلام then made their way to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Heaven.

The Gatekeeper again asked Jibrīl عليه السلام who he was with. Again, Jibrīl عليه السلام replied it was Muḥammad ﷺ.

The door was opened, and they were welcomed inside.

Here Rasūlullāh ﷺ saw Yahyā' عليه السلام and 'Īsā' عليه السلام.

Jibrīl عليه السلام again told Rasūlullāh ﷺ to greet them and he did. They replied to his greeting and then said:

مرحبا بالاخ الصالح و بالنبي الصالح

“Welcome pious brother and pious Messenger”

### Slide 39 - The Third Heaven

Rasūlullāh ﷺ then proceeded to the other Heavens, one after another.

Each time, the Gatekeeper of the Heaven would ask Jibrīl عَلَيْهِ السَّلَامُ who he was with, and whether his Companion had been sent for. Upon receiving the answer, Rasūlullāh ﷺ would be welcomed inside.

Rasūlullāh ﷺ and Jibrīl عَلَيْهِ السَّلَامُ went up to the 3<sup>rd</sup> Heaven and saw a person whose face was like the full moon.

He enquired, who this person was and Jibrīl عَلَيْهِ السَّلَامُ told him it was his brother Yūsuf ibn Ya‘qūb عَلَيْهِ السَّلَامُ.

### Slide 40 - The Fourth Heaven

They then proceeded to the 4<sup>th</sup> Heaven and there was another person there.

Rasūlullāh ﷺ enquired about him and Jibrīl عَلَيْهِ السَّلَامُ said it was Idrīs عَلَيْهِ السَّلَامُ.

When Rasūlullāh ﷺ heard who it was, he mentioned the following verse:

وَرَفَعْنَاهُ مَكَانًا عَلِيًّا <sup>6</sup>

“And We raised him to a high place”

### Slide 41 – The Fifth Heaven

Rasūlullāh ﷺ then proceeded to the 5<sup>th</sup> Heaven with Jibrīl عَلَيْهِ السَّلَامُ and saw an elderly man with white hair and a large white beard.

He had never seen an elderly person more beautiful than him.

Once again Rasūlullāh ﷺ enquired as to who this person was and was told it was, he who was loved by his people, Hārūn ibn ‘Imrān عَلَيْهِ السَّلَامُ.

### Slide 42 – The Sixth Heaven

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<sup>6</sup> Sūrah Maryam Verse 57

Rasūlullāh ﷺ then proceeded to the 6<sup>th</sup> Heaven with Jibrīl عليه السلام and saw a person with a dark complexion.

He appeared as he was from the people of Shanū'ah.

Rasūlullāh ﷺ asked Jibrīl عليه السلام who this person was, and was told it was his brother, Mūsā' ibn 'Imrān عليه السلام.

#### Slide 43 – The Seventh Heaven

Rasūlullāh ﷺ then proceeded to the 7<sup>th</sup> Heaven with Jibrīl عليه السلام. They saw an elderly person who was sat on a chair near the door of the Bayt al-Ma'mūr.

The Bayt al-Ma'mūr or the 'Frequented House', is directly above the Ka'bah, and is the Qiblah of the Angels.

Every day 70,000 Angels perform Ṭawāf of this House and they will not return to it until the Day of Qiyyamah. This shows how many Angels have been created by Allāh سُبحانه وتعالى.

Rasūlullāh ﷺ said, that he hadn't seen a person who looked so much like himself.

#### Slide 44 – The Seventh Heaven

Rasūlullāh ﷺ then asked Jibrīl عليه السلام once again, who this person was.

He was told, it was his father, Ibrāhīm عليه السلام.

Jibrīl عليه السلام then told Rasūlullāh ﷺ to greet him.

Rasūlullāh ﷺ greeted Ibrāhīm عليه السلام who replied and said:

مرحبا بالابن الصالح والنبى الصالح

“Welcome pious son and pious Messenger”

#### Slide 45 – Sidrat al-Muntahā', the furthest Lote-Tree

Rasūlullāh ﷺ now journeyed to the Sidrat al-Muntahā', the furthest Lote-Tree.

This tree is a boundary. Everything that comes up from below stops here, and everything that comes down from above, also stops here.

It was here that Rasūlullāh ﷺ saw Jibrīl عليه السلام in his true form.

## Slide 46 – Sidrat al-Muntahā', the furthest Lote-Tree

The Ḥadīth below describes this amazing tree.

عَنْ أَسْمَاءَ بِنْتِ أَبِي بَكْرٍ قَالَتْ سَمِعْتُ رَسُولَ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ يَقُولُ وَذُكِرَ لَهُ سِدْرَةُ الْمُنْتَهَى قَالَ " يَسِيرُ الرََّاكِبُ فِي ظِلِّ الْفَنَنِ مِنْهَا مِائَةَ سَنَةٍ أَوْ يَسْتَظِلُّ بِظِلِّهَا مِائَةُ رَاكِبٍ شَكَ يَحْيَى فِيهَا فَرَّاشُ الذَّهَبِ كَأَنَّ ثَمَرَهَا الْقِلَالُ " <sup>7</sup>

Asmā' bint Abū Bakr رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهَا narrates, "I heard Rasūlullāh صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ while mentioning the Lote-Tree of the utmost boundary, saying: 'A rider will travel in the shade of one of its branches for a hundred years, or a hundred riders will seek to shade themselves with its shade' (one of the narrators) Yaḥyā' was in doubt. 'In it are butterflies of gold.

It is as if its fruits are al-Qilāl."

## Slide 47 – Sidrat al-Muntahā', the furthest Lote-Tree

In the Ḥadīth below, the fruits of the tree are described as well as the rivers that run from it:

ثُمَّ رُفِعْتُ لِي سِدْرَةُ الْمُنْتَهَى فَإِذَا نَبَقُهَا مِثْلُ قِلَالٍ هَجَرَ وَإِذَا وَرَقُهَا مِثْلُ آذَانِ الْفِيلَةِ قَالَ هَذِهِ سِدْرَةُ الْمُنْتَهَى وَإِذَا أَرْبَعَةُ أَنْهَارٍ نَهْرَانِ بَاطِنَانِ وَنَهْرَانِ ظَاهِرَانِ فَقُلْتُ مَا هَذَانِ يَا جِبْرِيلُ قَالَ أَمَّا الْبَاطِنَانِ فَنَهْرَانِ فِي الْجَنَّةِ وَأَمَّا الظَّاهِرَانِ فَالنَّيْلُ وَالْفُرَاتُ <sup>8</sup>

Rasūlullāh صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ said, "Then I was made to ascend to Sidrat-al-Muntahā' (i.e., the Lote Tree of the utmost boundary) Behold! Its fruits were like the jars of Hajr (i.e., a place near Madīnah) and its leaves were as big as the ears of elephants". Jibrīl عَلَيْهِ السَّلَام said, "This is the Lote Tree of the utmost boundary". There ran four rivers, two were hidden and two were visible, I asked, "What are these two kinds of rivers, O Jibrīl عَلَيْهِ السَّلَام?" He replied, "As for the hidden rivers, they are two rivers in Paradise and the visible rivers are the Nile and the Euphrates."

## Slide 48 – Heaven & Hell

<sup>7</sup> Jāmi' al-Tirmidhī 2727

<sup>8</sup> Ṣaḥīḥ al-Bukhārī 3887

After going to the Sidrat al-Muntahā, Rasūlullāh ﷺ then went to Heaven.

After he visited Heaven, he was then shown Hell.

After this Rasūlullāh ﷺ was again raised to a place where he could hear the pens writing.

The sound which is heard when the pens were writing is called Ṣarīf al-Aqlām.

At that place the pens were busy writing destiny.

After this a throne was brought for Rasūlullāh ﷺ and he went to Allāh ﷻ.

#### Slide 49 – Sūrah an-Najm

In Sūrah an-Najm, Allāh ﷻ tells us about the visit of Rasūlullāh ﷺ to the Heavens on this blessed night.

ثُمَّ دَنَا فَتَدَلَّى (٨) فَكَانَ قَابَ قَوْسَيْنِ أَوْ أَدْنَى (٩)  
فَأَوْحَىٰ إِلَىٰ عَبْدِهِ مَا أَوْحَىٰ ٩ (١٠)

“Then he drew near, and came down, (8) So as he was at a distance like that of two bows (joined together), rather even nearer. (9) Thus He (Allāh ﷻ) revealed to His slave what He revealed. (10)”

There is a narration in Khaṣāiṣ Kubrā’ where Anas رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهُ narrates that Rasūlullāh ﷺ said he saw the light of Allāh ﷻ and then Allāh ﷻ sent Revelation to him whatever He wished i.e., Allāh ﷻ spoke to Rasūlullāh ﷺ directly.

#### Slide 50 – Gifts from Allāh ﷻ

On this night, Allāh ﷻ bestowed three gifts on Rasūlullāh ﷺ which are mentioned in the Ḥadīth below:

عَنْ عَبْدِ اللَّهِ قَالَ لَمَّا بَلَغَ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ سِدْرَةَ الْمُنْتَهَى قَالَ " انْتَهَى إِلَيْهَا مَا يَعْرُجُ مِنَ الْأَرْضِ وَمَا يَنْزِلُ مِنْ فَوْقَ قَالَ فَأَعْطَاهُ اللَّهُ عِنْدَهَا ثَلَاثًا لَمْ يُعْطِ نَبِيًّا كَانَ قَبْلَهُ فُرِضَتْ عَلَيْهِ الصَّلَاةُ خَمْسًا وَأُعْطِيَ خَوَاتِمَ سُورَةِ الْبَقَرَةِ وَغُفِرَ لَأُمَّتِهِ الْمُقْحَمَاتُ مَا لَمْ يُشْرِكُوا بِاللَّهِ شَيْئًا " <sup>10</sup>

‘Abdullāh ibn Mas‘ūd رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهُ narrates:

“When Rasūlullāh صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ reached Sidrat al-Muntahā, he said: ‘There terminates everything that ascends from the earth, and everything that descends from above’. He said, there Allāh gave him three, which He did not give to any Prophet before him: He made five Prayers obligatory upon him, He gave him the last Verses of Sūrah al-Baqarah, and He pardoned the grave sins for those of his Ummah who do not associate anything with Allāh.”

### Slide 51 – Fifty Ṣalāh

Allāh سُبحَانَهُ وَتَعَالَى had initially made 50 Ṣalāh obligatory on Rasūlullāh صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ.

Rasūlullāh صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ started to now descend with the commandments.

He first met Ibrāhīm عَلَيْهِ السَّلَامُ who didn't ask him about what Allāh سُبحَانَهُ وَتَعَالَى had commanded him.

Rasūlullāh صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ now met Mūsā' عَلَيْهِ السَّلَامُ who asked him, what Allāh سُبحَانَهُ وَتَعَالَى had commanded him to do.

Rasūlullāh صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ said he had been commanded to read 50 Ṣalāh each day and night. Mūsā' عَلَيْهِ السَّلَامُ said that he had experienced the Banū Isrā'īl and the Ummah of Rasūlullāh صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ was weak, so they would not be able to complete this command.

He advised Rasūlullāh صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ to go back to Allāh سُبحَانَهُ وَتَعَالَى and ask Him if he can reduce the amount.

### Slide 52 – Fifty Ṣalāh

As per the advice of Mūsā' عَلَيْهِ السَّلَامُ, Rasūlullāh صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ went back to Allāh سُبحَانَهُ وَتَعَالَى and asked for a reduction. Allāh سُبحَانَهُ وَتَعَالَى reduced it by 5 to 45.

On the way down, Mūsā' عَلَيْهِ السَّلَامُ asked Rasūlullāh صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ how many Ṣalāh had it been reduced to. When Rasūlullāh صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ answered, Mūsā' عَلَيْهِ السَّلَامُ advised him that this was still too much, so he should go back to Allāh سُبْحَانَهُ وَتَعَالَى.

Rasūlullāh صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ went back again to Allāh سُبْحَانَهُ وَتَعَالَى, and it was reduced by another 5, so now 40 Ṣalāh were obligatory. Again Mūsā' عَلَيْهِ السَّلَامُ advised him to go back to get it reduced.

This process carried on. Rasūlullāh صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ would go to Allāh سُبْحَانَهُ وَتَعَالَى who would reduce it by 5, then Mūsā' عَلَيْهِ السَّلَامُ would send him back and Allāh سُبْحَانَهُ وَتَعَالَى would then reduce it by another 5.

35, 30, 25, 20, 15, 10, until eventually Allāh سُبْحَانَهُ وَتَعَالَى reduced the number to 5 obligatory Ṣalāh every day.

Mūsā' عَلَيْهِ السَّلَامُ again advised Rasūlullāh صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ to go back, but this time Rasūlullāh صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ said “I have asked time and time again, but now I am embarrassed”. He gave this answer to Mūsā' عَلَيْهِ السَّلَامُ and continued his journey.

### Slide 53 – The Reward

Allāh سُبْحَانَهُ وَتَعَالَى had reduced the number of daily Ṣalāh from fifty to five, however the Ummah of Rasūlullāh صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ were to be blessed with no reduction in the reward.

عَنْ أَنَسِ بْنِ مَالِكٍ قَالَ فَرَضَتْ عَلَى النَّبِيِّ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ لَيْلَةً أُسْرَى بِهِ الصَّلَوَاتُ خَمْسِينَ ثُمَّ  
نُقِصَتْ حَتَّى جُعِلَتْ خَمْسًا  
ثُمَّ نُودِيَ يَا مُحَمَّدُ إِنَّهُ لَا يُبَدَّلُ الْقَوْلُ لَدَيَّ  
وَإِنَّ لَكَ بِهَذِهِ الْخَمْسِ خَمْسِينَ<sup>11</sup>

Anas ibn Mālīk رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهُ narrated,

“On the night of Isrā', fifty prayers were made obligatory upon the Prophet (صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ). Then it was decreased until it was made five. Then it was called out: ‘O Muḥammad! Indeed, My Word does not change; these five prayers will be recorded for you as fifty’.”

### Slide 54 – Bayt al-Maqdis

Rasūlullāh صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ made his way back down to Bayt al-Maqdis.

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<sup>11</sup> Jāmi' al-Tirmidhī 213

## Slide 55 - Makkah

He then went back to Makkah on the back of the Burāq, reaching there before dawn.

## Slide 56 – The Quraysh

In the morning, Rasūlullāh ﷺ told the Quraysh about this amazing journey.

They were shocked at what they heard. Some of them placed their hands on their heads whilst others started to clap.

The Quraysh started to say, “He has gone and come back from Bayt al-Maqdis in one night! It takes one month to go from Makkah to Shām and one month to come back again, and he says he got there in one night and came back to Makkah as well!”

## Slide 57 – The Quraysh

The people who had been to Bayt al-Maqdis started to test Rasūlullāh ﷺ by asking him about the features of the sacred place.

Allāh ﷻ brought a vision of Bayt al-Maqdis in front of Rasūlullāh ﷺ and he was able to answer them.

When they ran out of things to ask, they asked him to tell them something about the journey.

## Slide 58 – The Caravan

Rasūlullāh ﷺ gave them details of a trading caravan which was returning from Shām.

They had lost one of their camels, which they had later found, and they would be back in Makkah after three days God willing.

He also said there would be an ashen coloured camel at the front.

After three days, the caravan which Rasūlullāh ﷺ had described entered Makkah.

They told the Quraysh how they had lost their camel, so what Rasūlullāh ﷺ had said was proven true.

Upon hearing this, the Quraysh still refused to believe. Walīd ibn Mughirah said that this was magic, and the people agreed with his opinion.

## Slide 59 - Abū Bakr aṣ-Ṣiddīq رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهُ

Some people went to Abū Bakr رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهُ and told him that his friend, meaning Rasūlullāh صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ claims he went to Bayt al-Maqdis last night, prayed there and came back to Makkah.

Abū Bakr رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهُ asked them if that was what Rasūlullāh صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ had said.

They replied that Rasūlullāh صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ was talking about it to the people.

Abū Bakr رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهُ told them, “By Allāh, if he has said it, then it is the truth, so what makes it so astonishing to you? By Allāh, he tells me that news comes from Allāh, from the Heavens to the earth in a moment, either in the day or the night. And I believe him. And this is further than what you have been astonished with.”

#### **Slide 60 – Aṣ-Ṣiddīq**

What an amazing answer! From that day on, Abū Bakr رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهُ became known as aṣ-Ṣiddīq, ‘the truthful’.

#### **Slide 61 – Summary**

Rasūlullāh صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ was sent on a journey by Allāh سُبْحَانَهُ وَتَعَالَى, first to Al-Masjid al-Aqṣā’ and then onto the Heavens

Before he went, his heart was removed and cleaned with zamzam

The Burāq was then brought for Rasūlullāh صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ.

Before reaching, Al-Masjid al-Aqṣā’ he stopped in Madīnah, Sinai, Midian and Bethlehem

At Al-Masjid al-Aqṣā he led all the Prophets in Ṣalāḥ.

#### **Slide 62 – Summary**

Rasūlullāh صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ then went up to the Heavens and met many Prophets along the way.

He then reached Sidratul Muntahā, the furthest Lote tree and also heard the pens writing

Rasūlullāh صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ then went to see Allāh سُبْحَانَهُ وَتَعَالَى.

He was given 3 gifts, the final verses of Sūrah al-Baqarah, that no believer will remain in Hell forever and 50 Ṣalāḥ

He then started to make his way down

#### **Slide 63 – Summary**

Rasūlullāh ﷺ met Mūsā عَلَيْهِ السَّلَامُ who advised him to ask Allāh سُبحَانَهُ وَتَعَالَى to reduce the amount of Ṣalāh.

Rasūlullāh ﷺ went back up and the number was reduced by 5.

The pattern continued until only 5 Ṣalāh were obligatory

A call was made from the Heavens that for 5 Ṣalāh, the reward of reading 50 will be given.

Rasūlullāh ﷺ made his way back down to Masjid al-Aqṣā and then to Makkah

In Makkah he informed the Quraysh of the journey who ridiculed him and started asking him questions.

Allāh سُبحَانَهُ وَتَعَالَى sent down a vision of Al-Masjid al-Aqṣā so he was able to answer all the questions.

The Quraysh even asked Abū Bakr رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهُ who testified to the truth of Rasūlullāh ﷺ.

#### **Slide 64 – The Importance of Al-Masjid al-Aqṣā' in Islām**

Al-Masjid al-Aqṣā' plays a very important role in Islām as we have seen today. Let us conclude this session with a reminder as to why it is so important to Muslims

#### **Slides 65 – 75**

Talk through each point