

Isra wal Miraaj – The Night Journey and The Ascension

You are going to read a text about the Isra wal Mi'raaj (The Night Journey and Ascension)

1 PRE-READING TASK:

*What do you know about the Isra wa Miraaj?
Are there any Qur'anic verses related to these two events?
In what phase of the Prophet's life did it happen?*

2 VOCABULARY

The following words are in the text. Match the on words on the left with their meanings on the right.

- | | |
|--------------------------|--|
| 1) Mount (<i>v</i>) | A) a container which holds a liquid |
| 2) Mule (<i>n</i>) | B) the highest point |
| 3) Pure (<i>adj</i>) | C) anything which is carried |
| 4) Vessel (<i>n</i>) | D) to climb onto the back of an animal like a horse |
| 5) Ascend (<i>v</i>) | E) something very clean, not mixed with anything |
| 6) Mystery (<i>n</i>) | F) an animal that is half horse and half donkey |
| 7) Summit (<i>n</i>) | G) to go upwards, to rise |
| 8) Load (<i>n</i>) | H) something that is difficult to know or understand |
| 9) Bow (<i>n</i>) | I) to say something about |
| 10) Comment (<i>v</i>) | J) a weapon for shooting arrows |

3 READING

Fill in the blanks with the words from Vocabulary 2.

It was the night of Rajab 27, and while the Prophet Muhammed (saw) was sleeping by the Ka'bah, the angel Jibrael came and awoke the Prophet (saw). The Prophet (saw) sat up, but saw nothing and so lay down once again. A second time Jibrael came; and a third time, and then he took the Prophet (saw) by the arm and led him to the gate of the Mosque. The Prophet (saw) saw a white beast, between a 1. _____ and an ass, with wings at its side. He 2. _____ Buraq, for so the beast was named, and with Jibrael at his side they sped northwards to Jerusalem. There, they were met by a company of Prophets – Ibraheem, Musa, Isa and others – and when he prayed on the site of the Temple, they gathered together behind him in prayer. Then two 3. _____ were brought before him and offered him, one of wine and the other of milk. He took the vessel of milk and drank from it, but left the vessel of wine, and Jibrael said 'You have been guided unto the 4. _____ path, and wine is forbidden for your people'.

Then, the Prophet (saw) was taken up to Heaven.

From the rock in the center of the blessed site he again mounted Buraq, and they 5. _____ beyond the domain of earthly space and time. As they passed through the seven Heavens, he met again those Prophets with whom he had prayed in Jerusalem. He said about Yusuf that he had been given half of all existing beauty, and he also 6. _____ on the great beauty of Haroon. Of the Gardens he visited in the different Heavens he said afterwards 'A piece of Paradise the size of a 7. _____ is better than all beneath the sun', and 'if a woman of Paradise appeared to the people of earth, she would fill the space between Heaven and here below with light and with fragrance'. The 8. _____ of his ascent was the Lote Tree of the Uttermost End. Beyond this summit of the universe is a hidden 9. _____ known only to Allah. The Prophet

(saw) beheld the Lote Tree without his eye wavering or turning aside from it. Then the Prophet (saw) received for his people the command of fifty prayers a day. When they started their descent through the seven Heavens, they passed Musa, who asked 'How many prayers have been assigned to you'. 'Fifty' replied the Prophet (saw). 'The congregational prayer is a weighty thing, and your people are weak, so return to your Lord and ask Him to lighten the load.' The Prophet (saw) returned and asked for the 10. _____ to be reduced, and He took away ten. Again the Prophet (saw) passed Musa, who repeated what he had said. Again the Prophet (saw) returned. Every time he passed Musa he was given the same advice until finally all the prayers were taken away except five.

Then, they continued their descent until they arrived at the Rock of Jerusalem, and from there they returned to Makkah the way they had come.

④ COMPREHENSION

1. When did Jibraeel come to the Prophet (saw)?
2. What was at the gate of the mosque?
3. Who brought the vessel to the Prophet (saw)?
4. What things did the Prophet (saw) mention about the Gardens of Heaven?
5. What advice did Moses give?

5 PARAPHRASING

Paraphrasing means writing words with the same meaning but using different vocabulary and grammar.

Paraphrase the following sentences:

- a. It was the night of Rajab 27, the angel Jibraeel came and awoke the Prophet (saw).

The Prophet (saw) was woken up by Jibraeel at night on Rajab 27

- b. The Prophet (saw) sat up, but saw nothing and so lay down once again. A second time Jibraeel came; and a third time, and then he took the Prophet (saw) by the arm and led him to the gate of the Mosque.

Jibraeel awoke the Prophet (saw) three times, and then took him to the mosque's door.

- c. There, they were met by a company of Prophets – Abraham, Moses, Jesus and others – and when he prayed on the site of the Temple, they gathered together behind him in prayer

- d. As they passed through the seven Heavens, he met again those Prophets with whom he had prayed in Jerusalem. He

said about Joseph that he had been given half of all existing beauty

- e. When they started their descent through the seven Heavens, they passed Moses, who asked 'How many prayers have been assigned to you'. 'Fifty' replied the Prophet (saw). 'The congregational prayer is a weighty thing, and your people are weak, so return to your Lord and ask Him to lighten the load.

- f. Again the Prophet (saw) passed Moses, who repeated what he had said. Again the Prophet (saw) returned. Every time he passed Moses he was given the same advice until finally all the prayers were taken away except five

Aim:	Reading a Narrative /Paraphasing
Type:	Reading
Level:	Intermediate+
Time:	60 mins
Preparation:	None

① PRE-READING TASK:

Discuss the event and out key information on board

② VOCABULARY

Answers

- 1 D
- 2 G
- 3 H
- 4 A
- 5 C
- 6 B
- 7 E
- 8 F
- 9 J
- 10 I

③ READING

Answers

- 1. mule
- 2. mounted
- 3. vessel
- 4. pure
- 5. ascended
- 6. commented
- 7. bow
- 8. summit
- 9. mystery
- 10. load

④ COMPREHENSION

Answers

1. *night of 27 Rajab*
2. *buraq – animal, cross between ass and mule*
3. *Jibreel*
4. *small piece better than all of earth, fragrance of woman of paradise*
5. *reduce the number of congregational prayers*

⑤ PARAPHRASING

Answers vary