

NEWSLETTER

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Pathway to Ilm



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Dhul-Hijjah: The Month of Hajj

Dhul-Hijjah is the twelfth month of the Islamic calendar, and, as its name suggests, it is the month of Hajj. We have already covered the details of Hajj in our May article (Issue 11), as well as the virtues of the first ten days of Dhul-Hijjah and the significance of fasting on the Day of 'Arafah in our May article (Issue 12). We encourage you to refer to those articles for more in-depth information about this blessed month.

The Angelic Audience

The Anṣārī Ṣaḥābī of Rasūlullāh ﷺ, Usayd ibn Ḥuḍayr (RA), was once reciting Sūrah al-Baqarah in Tahajjud Ṣalāh. During his recitation, his horse, which was tied nearby, began to move about. Noticing this, Usayd ibn Ḥuḍayr (RA) became silent, at which his horse also calmed down and ceased moving about. Thereafter, as he recommenced his recitation, his horse also resumed moving about, and again when Usayd (RA) became silent, the horse once again calmed down and stopped moving.

When Usayd (RA) resumed his recitation for the third time, the horse began to move about again. The son of Usayd (RA), Yaḥyā (RA), was lying within reach of the horse, and Usayd (RA) feared that the horse would trample him as it moved about. He therefore pulled his son out of harm's way and glanced up at the sky.

As he glanced up, he saw a cloud-like shape dotted with lights resembling lanterns, ascending towards the sky. As he watched, it ascended higher and higher until it eventually faded out of sight. The next morning, Usayd ibn Ḥuḍayr (RA) went to Rasūlullāh ﷺ and informed him of his experience the previous night. On hearing his account, Rasūlullāh ﷺ exclaimed: "If only you had continued to recite, O son of Ḥuḍayr! If only you had continued to recite, O son of Ḥuḍayr!"

On hearing this, Usayd (RA) explained the reason for terminating his recitation, saying: "O Messenger of Allāh! I feared that my horse would trample Yaḥyā as he was close to it. Then, when I lifted my head to the sky, I suddenly saw a cloud-like shape which was dotted with lights resembling lanterns. It ascended into the sky until I could no longer see it".

Rasūlullāh ﷺ asked Usayd (RA): "Do you know what that was"? When Usayd (RA) replied in the negative, Rasūlullāh ﷺ explained: "Those were angels who had approached to listen to your recitation. Had you continued reciting, the people would have seen the angels in the morning".

(Ṣaḥīḥ al-Bukhārī: 5018; Fath al-Bārī, vol. 9, p. 77)

100 ways to enter Jannah (56-60)

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To treat one's sisters in a good manner

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Purifying the soul (Tazkiyah Nafs)

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Being attached to the Mosques

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Migration for the sake of Allāh ﷻ

60

One who is martyred for the sake of Allāh ﷻ

The Earliest Pioneers

The very first woman to accept Islam was the beloved wife of Rasulullāh ﷺ, Khadijah al-Kubrā (RA). She also became the first to join him in performing Ṣalāh (in congregation) on a Monday evening. Therefore, she is considered the earliest among the Ahl al-Qiblah (those who turn towards the Qiblah, i.e. the Muslims).

After her, ‘Alī (RA), who was at that time in the care of Rasulullāh ﷺ embraced Islam when he was just 10 years old. This made him the first child to accept Islam. On the Tuesday following Rasulullāh's ﷺ appointment as Prophet, he joined him in performing Ṣalāh as well.

When ‘Alī (RA) saw Rasulullāh ﷺ and Khadijah (RA) performing Ṣalāh the day after his appointment to prophethood, he asked: “What is this”? Rasulullāh ﷺ replied: “This is the Dīn of Allāh ﷻ. Every Prophet who came to this world conveyed this same Dīn to his people. I am also calling you towards Allāh. Worship Him alone and reject (the idols of) Lāt and ‘Uzzā”. ‘Alī (RA) responded: “I have never heard of anything like this before. I cannot make a decision without first consulting my father, Abū Ṭālib”. Since Rasulullāh ﷺ was hesitant to reveal his mission to others at that point, he said: “‘Alī, if you do not wish to accept Islam right now, then please do not mention this to anyone”.

‘Alī (RA) remained quiet. Not even a night had passed when the light of Islam illuminated his heart. The next morning, he came to Rasulullāh ﷺ and asked: “What are you inviting us to”? Rasulullāh ﷺ replied: “Testify that Allāh is One and has no partner. Reject Lāt and ‘Uzzā and detest idolatry”. ‘Alī (RA) then accepted Islam and, according to some narrations, kept his conversion hidden from his father Abū Ṭālib for almost a year.

After this, Rasulullāh's ﷺ freed slave, Zayd ibn Ḥārithah (RA), also embraced Islam and joined Rasulullāh ﷺ in performing Ṣalāh. This made him the first slave to accept Islam. When Imām Abū Ḥanīfah (RA) was asked about the first individuals to embrace Islām, he responded: “Among the free men, it was Abū Bakr (RA); among the women, it was Khadijah (RA). The first slave to accept Islām was Zayd ibn Ḥārithah (RA), and the first child to enter the fold of Islām was ‘Alī (RA)”.

Reference: Muḥammad Idrīs Kāndhlawi, Seeratul Muṣṭafā (Pages 47-48)

DID YOU KNOW?



The name جَبْرِيل (Gabriel) is written and pronounced in several different ways in Arabic texts and traditions. Below are a few of the ways mentioned in various Islamic texts:

- Jabrīl — جَبْرِيل (fathah on the jīm)
- Jibrīl — جِبْرِيل (kasrah on the jīm)
- Jabra'il — جَبْرَائِل (hamzah after rā)
- Jabra'il — جَبْرَيْل (yā' after hamzah)
- Jibrā'il — جِبْرَائِيل (alif after rā)

Meaning: Scholars interpret Jibrīl (جِبْرِيل) as meaning “Servant of Allāh ﷻ”. It is composed of Jibr (جِبْر) (servant) and 'īl (ئِيل) (Allāh ﷻ).

Reference: Tafsīr al-Kabīr, Imām Fakhr al-Dīn al-Rāzī, vol. 3, pp. 211–212.