

الْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ الَّذِي مَنَّ عَلَيْنَا بِنَبِيِّنَا مُحَمَّدٍ، وَأَلَّفَ بَيْنَ قُلُوبِنَا، وَرَسَّخَ دَعَائِمَ
الِاتِّحَادِ، وَأَشْهَدُ أَنْ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ وَحْدَهُ لَا شَرِيكَ لَهُ، أَسْبَغَ عَلَيْنَا نِعْمَهُ،
وَأَرْسَلَ إِلَيْنَا خَاتَمَ رَسُولِهِ، وَأَشْهَدُ أَنَّ سَيِّدَنَا وَنَبِيَّنَا مُحَمَّدًا عَبْدُ اللَّهِ وَرَسُولُهُ،
فَاللَّهُمَّ صَلِّ وَسَلِّمْ وَبَارِكْ عَلَى سَيِّدِنَا وَنَبِيِّنَا مُحَمَّدٍ وَعَلَى آلِهِ وَصَحْبِهِ
أَجْمَعِينَ، وَعَلَى مَنْ تَبِعَهُمْ بِإِحْسَانٍ إِلَى يَوْمِ الدِّينِ.

All praise is due to Allah who favoured us with our Master Muhammad, who brought our hearts together and strengthened the foundations of our Union. I bear witness that there is no deity save Allah, having no associates. He endowed upon us His abundant bounties and sent us the seal of the Prophets. I also bear witness that our Master Muhammad is the Servant of Allah and His Messenger. May the peace and blessings of Allah be upon him, his pure blessed family and companions, and all those who follow them in righteousness till the Day of Judgment.

”قُلْتُ يَا رَسُولَ اللَّهِ. أَيُّ مَسْجِدٍ وُضِعَ أَوَّلُ قَالَ ” الْمَسْجِدُ الْحَرَامُ قُلْتُ ثُمَّ أَيُّ قَالَ ” ثُمَّ الْمَسْجِدُ الْأَقْصَى ”

“I said, ‘O Messenger of Allah, which mosque was built on earth first?’ He said, ‘al Masjid al Haram [in Makkah].’ I said, ‘Then which?’ He said, ‘al Masjid al Aqsa.’” (Bukhari)

- Built by either the angels/Adam/Ibrahim عليه السلام, and renovated by Sulaiman عليه السلام. Al Masjid al Aqsa in Jerusalem was the first Qibla the Prophet صلى الله عليه وسلم and companions directed their Salah towards for 10 years and 17 months before it was changed.
- It is the lonely brother of the lively and thriving two greatest Masajid; Masjid Haram and Masjid Nabawi.
- It lies under the gates of heaven, from where the Prophet صلى الله عليه وسلم ascended to the highest heavens on the miraculous Night Journey.
- It is in al Aqsa’s courtyard that 124,000 Prophets and Messengers miraculously gathered for Salah, led by none other than Muhammad صلى الله عليه وسلم
البيت المقدس بنته الأنبياء وسكنته الأنبياء، وما فيه موضع شبر إلا وصى فيه نبي أو قام فيه ملك

“Baitul Maqdis was built by the Prophets, inhabited by the Prophets. And there is not the area of a single hand span except that a Prophet prayed in or an angel stood on.”

- Al-Quds is the place of Dawud عليه السلام Mihrab, Zakariyah's Mihrab, where he was given the news of the coming of his son Yahya, and Maryam's Mihrab, frequented by the angels of Allah and the birthplace of Isa عليه السلام. It is to where Ibrahim and his nephew Lut عليه السلام migrated to:

كُلَّمَا دَخَلَ عَلَيْهَا زَكَرِيَّا الْمِحْرَابَ وَجَدَ عِنْدَهَا رِزْقًا - وَآتَاهُ اللَّهُ الْمُلْكَ وَالْحِكْمَةَ وَعَلَّمَهُ مِمَّا يَشَاءُ

“وَنَجَّيْنَاهُ وَلُوطًا إِلَى الْأَرْضِ الَّتِي بَارَكْنَا فِيهَا لِلْعَالَمِينَ” **We delivered both him and Lut to the land which We had blessed for all beings.” (27.71)**

- Al Aqsa is from where the second blowing of the horn will take place. Marking the beginning of the Resurrection; calling people from their graves...

وَاسْتَمِعْ يَوْمَ يُنَادِ الْمُنَادِ مِنْ مَّكَانٍ قَرِيبٍ يَوْمَ يَسْمَعُونَ الصَّيْحَةَ بِالْحَقِّ ذَلِكَ يَوْمُ الْخُرُوجِ

“**And listen on the Day when the caller will call from a near place. The Day when they will hear a scream in truth: that will be the Day of emergence.” (50.41)**

- This “near place” where the horn will be blown is on top of the rock in Al-Aqsa
- It is a blessed place of prayer, purification, blessings and transformation.

وَلْيُوشِكَنَّ لَأَنْ يَكُونَ لِلرَّجُلِ مِثْلُ شَطْنِ فَرَسِهِ مِنَ الْأَرْضِ حَيْثُ يَرَى مِنْهُ بَيْتَ الْمَقْدِسِ خَيْرًا لَهُ مِنَ الدُّنْيَا جَمِيعًا

Soon there will come a time when, if a man has a piece of land the size of a horse's rope from which he can see Bayt al Maqdis, that will be better for him than the whole world and everything in it.”(Mu'jam Tabrani)

- Al-Quds Jerusalem is an Islamic land & no one can change that reality
- Everyone should visit al-Quds; the 1ST **QIBLA** for Muslims, 2ND **MOSQUE** to be established and 3RD **HOLIEST** site in Islam. A haven of history and a sanctuary replete with spiritual blessings for everyone.
- Al-Aqsa marks the only spot on earth where all the Prophets performed Salah together, at the same time, in congregation. It was here that the title of Imaamul Ambiyaa was manifested.

Sayyidina Ibn Abbas رضي الله عنه commented: “There is not a single inch in al-Quds where a Prophet has not prayed or an angel not stood” (Tirmidhi)

- Historically the status of Al-Quds is the **YARDSTICK** by which the Ummah’s strength is measured. When the Ummah was **STRONG** Umar b. al-Khattab رضي الله عنه opened it.
- When the Ummah became **WEAK** it was occupied by the crusaders. When the Ummah became **STRONG** Salah al-Din al-Ayyubi liberated it once again. And after the **FALL** of the Ottoman Caliphate, it was occupied once again. And the Day of Judgement will not take place until the Ummah becomes **STRONG** again and liberates its.