

VIRTUES OF AL-MASJID AL-AQSĀ

First Qiblah

Al-Masjid Al-Aqsā was the first Qiblah until Allāh Ta'ālā commanded the Prophet ﷺ to face the Ka'bah.

Barā' narrates, "We prayed with the Prophet ﷺ facing Baytul-Maqdis for 16 or 17 months. Thereafter, Allāh Ta'ālā commanded him to face the Ka'bah." (Bukhāri)

Second Masjid in History

Al-Masjid Al-Aqsā – which is situated in the city of Jerusalem in Palestine – is the second Masjid to be built on this earth.

Abu-Dharr رضي الله عنه reported that he asked the Prophet ﷺ, "O Messenger of Allāh ﷺ, which Masjid was built first on earth?" The Prophet ﷺ replied, "Al-Masjid Al-Harām." I asked again, "Then which next?" The Prophet ﷺ replied, "Al-Masjid Al-Aqsā." I further asked, "How much time was there in between them being built?" The Prophet ﷺ replied, "40 years." (Bukhāri and Muslim)

Blessed Land

Allāh Ta'ālā mentions in the Qur'ān, "Glorious is He Who made his servant travel by night from Al-Masjid Al-Harām to Al-Masjid Al-Aqsā whose surroundings We have blessed, so that we let him see some of Our signs. Surely, He is the All-Hearing, the All-Seeing." (Surah Isrā, Ayat 1)

The land surrounding Al-Masjid Al-Aqsā is the blessed land of As-Shām (the Greater Syria) which included the countries of Jordan, Syria, Cyprus, Palestine and Lebanon.

Other Virtues

Allāh Ta'ālā said, "O Shām! You are the best of my lands and I shall inhabit you with the chosen ones among My servants."
(At-Tabrāni)

The angels of Allāh Ta'ālā have spread their wings over this land. (Tirmidhi)

Nabi ﷺ informed the Sahābah that Shām is the land where everyone will be brought together and brought back to life. From there they will be taken to the hereafter. (Abu Dāwood)

There is not an inch in Al-Quds where a prophet has not prayed or an Angel has not stood. (Tirmidhi)

During Mi'rāj

The Prophet ﷺ was taken to this Masjid during the journey of Mi'rāj in which he led all the prophets ﷺ in salāh. The Prophet ﷺ was the Imām and behind him were approximately 124,000 Prophets ﷺ! This is why he is given the title: Imām Al-Ambiyā (the leader of the Prophets ﷺ)

