

Virtues of Al-Masjid Al-Aqsā

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 radhiyallāhu anhu reported that he asked the Prophet sallallāhu alayhi wasallam, “O Messenger of Allāh sallallāhu alayhi wasallam, which Masjid was built first on earth?” The Prophet sallallāhu alayhi wasallam replied, “Al-Masjid Al-Harām.” I asked again, “Then which next?” The Prophet sallallāhu alayhi wasallam replied, “Al-Masjid Al-Aqsā.” I further asked, “How much time was there in between them being built?” The Prophet sallallāhu alayhi wasallam replied, “40 years.” (Bukhāri and Muslim)

First Qiblah

Al-Masjid Al-Aqsā was the first Qiblah until Allāh Ta’ālā commanded the Prophet sallallāhu alayhi wasallam to face the Ka’bah. Barā radhiyallāhu anhu narrates, “We prayed with the Prophet sallallāhu alayhi wasallam facing Baytul-Maqdis for sixteen or seventeen months. Thereafter, Allāh Ta’ālā commanded him to face the Ka’bah.” (Bukhāri)

During Mi’rāj

The Prophet sallallāhu alayhi wasallam was taken to this Masjid during the journey of Mi’rāj in which he lead all the Prophets alayhimus-salām in salāh. The Prophet sallallāhu alayhi wasallam was the Imām and behind him were approximately 124,000 Prophets alayhimus-salām! This is why the Prophet sallallāhu alayhi wasallam is known as Imāmul Ambiyā (Leader of all the Prophets).

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.” (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

From various Ahādeeth we learn many other virtues of this blessed land such as:

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 sallallāhu alayhi wasallam 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)