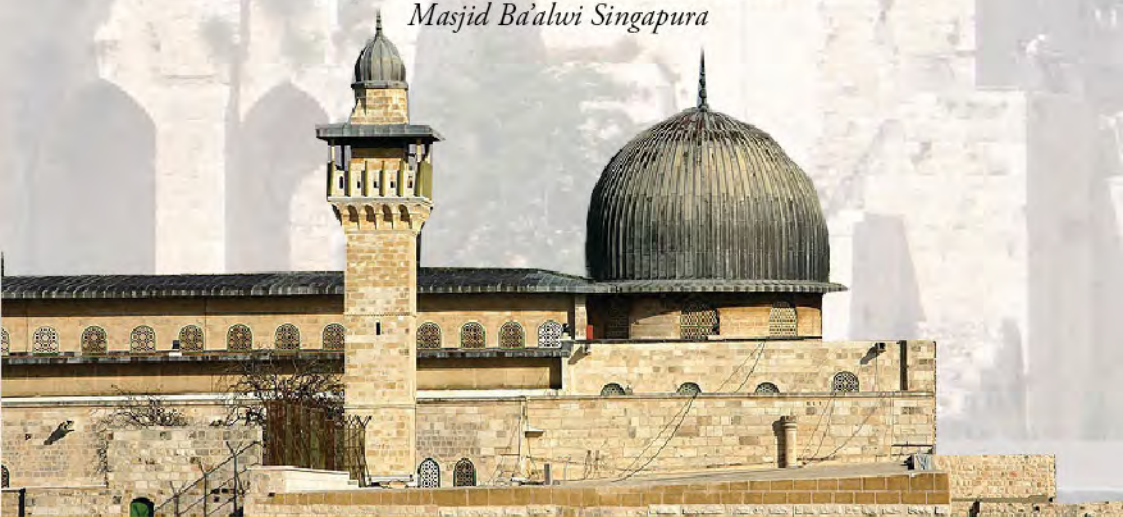




BAIT AL-MAQDIS, MASJID AL-AQSA & THE SUSPENDED ROCK

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BAIT AL-MAQDIS

Jerusalem is a holy and historic place for Muslims. It is a place where Prophet Muhammad SAW was ascended to the sky and the first qiblah for Muslims. It is also a place of Prophets and other Messengers before Prophet Muhammad SAW.

Without doubt if it becomes a bone of contention between the Jews and Christians. Until now, the city is visited by the followers of three religions. The Muslims visit the *Al-Aqsa Mosque, Kubbah As-Sakbrah* and the tomb of the Prophets. The Jews visit *The Herodian Wall* or *The Wailing Wall*. And as for the Christians, they visit *The Church of The Holy Sepulchre*.

Bait Al-Maqdis means *Holy Home*. It carried many names. In the days before Islam, *Bait Al-Maqdis* named *Iliya'* or *Iliya' madinat bayt al-maqdis*. *Iliya'* means synagogue. The name *Ilyas* or *Alias* mentioned in Al-Quran is believed from these words. Among its name are also *Al-Kuds* (holy), *Haikal Sulaiman*, (*Prophet Sulaiman a.s building*), *Al-Ard Al-Muqaddasa* (*holy place*) or *Bait Al-Muqaddas* (*holy house*).

The Christians called it *Jerusalem* while the Jews called it *Yerushalayim*.

Numbers of Prophet SAW hadith mention about Bait Al-Maqdis though there is not much mention in the Al-Quran.

History of Its Construction

Ibn Al-Atheer said at the time of Prophet Daud a.s occurred an epidemic of cholera. Nabi Daud a.s and his people had gone out to *Bait Al-Maqdis*. There he saw many angels ascend to the sky. He went and stood in *As-Sakhra* (Dome of the Rock) praying to Allah Almighty asking Him to lift epidemic of cholera from his people. Allah Almighty granted his prayer. That's when Prophet Daud a.s intends to turn that place into a mosque. He was the first to lay cornerstone of Bait Al-Maqdis as told by Imam Al-Mas'udi r.a "Prophet Daud a.s is the one who build house of worship in *Aur Shaleem*, which is *Bait Al-Maqdis*. But he passed away before *Bait Al-Maqdis* was built and bequeathed to his son Sulaiman a.s to complete its construction. Prophet Daud a.s ruled the land of Palestine and Jordan for 40 years and has a total of 60 thousands of soldiers. The place where Prophet Daud a.s pray at that time named as Chamber of Daud a.s. The chamber is not in *Bait Al-Maqdis* but it's in *Kubbah As-Sakhra*. Saiyidina Umar Al-Khattab has prayed there during the opening of the Ilya' city.

Prophet Sulaiman a.s is the one who completed the construction of *Bait Al-Maqdis*. That is why *Bait Al-Maqdis* is often called *Haikal Sulaiman* or *Building of Prophet Sulaiman a.s*. It was very beautiful decorated with marble and gold.

Imam Ahmad Ibn Hanbal r.a, An-Nasai, Ibn Maajah, Ibn Khuzaimah, Ibn Hibban and Al-Hakim leads to a hadith narrated by Ibn Amr r.a Prophet Muhammad SAW said:

لَمَّا فَرَعَ سُلَيْمَانُ بْنُ دَاوُدَ عَلَيْهِمَا السَّلَامُ مِنْ بِنَاءِ بَيْتِ الْمَقْدِسِ سَأَلَ اللَّهَ
عَزَّ وَجَلَّ حُكْمًا يُصَادِفُ حُكْمَهُ، وَمُلْكًا لَا يَنْبَغِي لِأَحَدٍ مِنْ بَعْدِهِ وَأَنَّهُ لَا
يَأْتِي هَذَا الْمَسْجِدَ أَحَدٌ إِلَّا يُرِيدُ إِلَّا الصَّلَاةَ فِيهِ إِلَّا خَرَجَ مِنْ ذُنُوبِهِ كَيَوْمِ
وَلَدَتْهُ أُمُّهُ. فَقَالَ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ: أَمَّا اثْنَتَانِ فَقَدْ أُعْطِيَهُمَا،
وَأَرْجُو أَنْ يَكُونَ قَدْ أُعْطِيَ الْثَالِثَةَ.

Meaning:

When Prophet Sulaiman a.s began to build *Bait Al-Maqdis*, he pray to Allah Azzawajalla (1) to give him laws according with his rule, (2) government, that no other government can match him afterward, and (3) so that no one comes to the mosque (*Bait Al-Maqdis*) and do not intend except praying in it, will be forgiven by Allah Taala his sins as if he had been born. Prophet SAW said, “Both of his requests has been granted by Allah and we pray that Allah will grant his third request.”

The Holy Place

Eventually, the term *Bait Al-Maqdis* is not only confined to a place of worship of Prophet Sulaiman a.s (*or Haikal Sulaiman*) but also the compound around it so that the whole town was named *Bait Al-Maqdis*. Blessing of the holy house is not only

confined to the place of worship, but also the surrounding area is blessed by Allah Taala as mentioned in Al-Quran in Surah Al-Israk verse 1:

الَّذِي بَارَكْنَا حَوْلَهُ

Meaning:

Whose surroundings We have blessed.

Restriction of *Bait Al-Maqdis* is surrounded by high fences and gates with certain names such as Bab Kota Damsyik and Bab Nabi Daud a.s.

Al-Kuds

Al-Kuds means holy. The name is given by the Arabs since the time of Bani Umaiyya and Bani Abbas for *Bait Al-Maqdis*. This name is found written in the Islamic maps as to mention *Bait Al-Maqdis*.

The Arab society, in history, like to shorten long names, especially when the name is always mentioned. For example, in the past when a parent call or order a child, the child will say سَمْعًا وَطَاعًا which means "I hear and I obey." Now the child will answer shortly سَم . B-a-i-t A-l M-a-q-d-i-s is more succinctly called Al-Kuds!



Kubbah As-Sakhra its surrounding.

Al-Haram Al-Syareef

There's another area which designated for holiness because in this place there are *Al-Aqsa mosque*, *Kubbah As-Sakbra* or *Dome of the Rock*, Chamber of Prophet Daud a.s, a place where Prophet SAW was ascended, a home and a place of worship of Prophet like Prophet Zakaria a.s, a place of worship of Siti Maryam mother of Prophet Isa a.s and etc. This place is called Al-Haram Al-Syareef.

If Al-Haram in Makkah including the *Kaabah*, *Tomb of Ibrahim*, *Hijir Ismail* and *Zam-Zam Well* are the non-noble places where non-Muslims are not allowed to enter till now, as well as *Bait Al-Maqdis*, the non-Muslims are not allowed to enter in the past days.

Because of the purity of this place, there are numbers of chamber in it. Most of the small chambers have a certain name which symbolizes the history of purity of this place.

Al-Haram mosque in Makkah and Prophet SAW mosque in Madinah has many entrances and each door has a special name like Bab Al-Salam, Bab Jibrail a.s and others, as well as in Al-Haram Al-Syareef in *Bait-Al-Maqdis*.

Al-Haram Al-Syareef in *Bait Al-Maqdis* has many entrances. The names are Bab Al-Hadid, Bab An-Nazir, Bab As-Silsile', Bab As-Sarai, Bab Al-Asbat, Bab Al-Ghawanine, Bab Al-Taubah, Bab Al-Kamanin, Bab Al-Hytta, Bab Al-Magharibe, Bab Al-Mathara, Bab Muhammad dan Bab Al-Buraq.

In *Al-Haram Al-Syareef* there are fragments of marble stones which are believed to be a place of saddle Buraq. Buraq was tied here while waiting for the return of Prophet SAW from ascension to take him back to Makkah. The place is now called *Al-Buraq mosque*.

Judaism Beliefs

Not far from *Al-Aqsa Mosque*, outside the wall of *Al-Haram*, towards the door of Bab Al-Magharibe, there is a high wall which considered by the Jews as the noblest place in Bait Al-Maqdis. This place is *The Herodian Wall*. For them, from here to heaven is nearer by 18 miles.

According to the beliefs of Judaism, Prophet Sulaiman a.s Mosque was destroyed and demolished by the Babylonians. After a few periods, a Rom governor who is half Jewish named *Herod* made a place of worship of Prophet Sulaiman a.s in the old site which is substantial and beautiful and was named *The Second Temple*. This place was destroyed except a wall that cannot be destroyed by the Rom after the death of Herod. This wall is considered by Jews as sacred wall and was named *The Herodian Wall*. The Jews when visiting this wall they will weep until they called it *The Wailing Wall*. On the 9th Av, they will visit this place and weep as to commemorate the destruction of *The First Temple* (Place of worship of Prophet Sulaiman a.s) & *The Second Temple*.



Saiyidina Umar Al-Khattab r.a Mosque

Christian Beliefs

About 300 meters away from *Al-Haram Al-Syareef* toward the west, facing *Bab An-Nazir*, there is a place for Christians which they assumed it as the most sacred place in *Bait Al-Maqdis* or in the world.

This place is *The Holy Sepulchre* church. Helena the mother of King Rom Constantine after embracing Christianity has come to *Bait Al-Maqdis* with a purpose to find the traces of 'Jesus'. She is said to have met with three crosses in a cave under the church which she believes one of them is the cross used to crucify 'Jesus'.

Christians belief is that this area, other than a place where 'Jesus' was crucified, buried and raised to the sky is also the center of the world. On every Friday, until today, visitors and priests will lift the cross and march in *Via Dolorosa* (Way of the Cross), a path that they believe Jesus go through it to where he was crucified with the purpose of taking blessings.

Saiyidina Umar r.a and The Holy Sepulchre Church

In 16H, during the opening of Ilya', Saiyidina Umar Al-Khattab r.a was brought to The Holy Sepulchre church. When the prayer time comes, Patriarch Sophronius asked him to pray in the church. He refused and then he prayed at Constantinian Basilicia stairs. He said that he did so out of fear of the future that Muslims would make the church a mosque with a reason that Saiyidina Umar r.a prayed there. But at the time of Bani Umayyah, they

have built a mosque in a place where Saiyidina Umar r.a. prayed and named the mosque Masjid Umar.

During the reign of Islam in *Bait Al-Maqdis*, the church was still in the hands of Christians but guarded by the Muslims. The church's key was held by the descendants of Muslim. This save the quarrels among Christians on who should take care of the church.

During the reign of Fatimiyyin, a commander named Al-Hakim has destroyed the church. But when Salahuddin Al-Ayubi r.a. conquered back the city of Bait Al-Maqdis from Salibi soldiers (The Crusaders) in 1187M. He has restored the freedom of religion for the Jews and Christians as in the days of Saiyidina Umar Al-Khattab r.a.

Al-Aqsa Mosque

Allah says in Al-Quran, in Surah Al-Israk verse 1:

سُبْحَانَ الَّذِي أَسْرَى بِعَبْدِهِ لَيْلًا مِّنَ الْمَسْجِدِ الْحَرَامِ إِلَى الْمَسْجِدِ الْأَقْصَى
الَّذِي بَارَكْنَا حَوْلَهُ لِنُرِيَهُ مِنْ آيَاتِنَا إِنَّهُ هُوَ السَّمِيعُ الْبَصِيرُ.

Meaning:

Exalted is He who took His Servant by night from al-Masjid al-Haram to al-Masjid al- Aqsa, whose surroundings We have blessed, to show him of Our signs. Indeed, He is the Hearing, the Seeing.

The Name of Al-Aqsa

Al-Aqsa Mosque means far. Referred to in Al-Quran is the mosque built by Prophet Sulaiman a.s. The mosque was originally named Haikal Sulaiman a.s. Some people called it *Bait Al-Maqdis*. Al-Aqsa is by its nature and not by its name.

As Saiyidina Umar Al-Khattab r.a arrived in *Bait Al-Maqdis*, when he asked the key holder, Patriarch Sophronius, he mentioned about the place of worship of Prophet Sulaiman a.s . He did not mention Al-Aqsa because this is a title given by the Arabs in Hijaz because of the journey that takes approximately forty days. Therefore, when Al-Quran mentions Al-Aqsa in Surah Al-Israk, Arabs already knew about it, and it's not necessary to be told whether it's in India or in Africa. They know it's in *Bait Al-Maqdis*, in Palestine.

Al-Aqsa Mosque Today

Al-Muqaddasi, an Islamic historian, in year 9 said that Al-Aqsa mosque that we see now, the foundation was made by Prophet Daud a.s and it was built by Abdul Malik Ibn Marwan r.a after he built Kubbah As-Sakhra but he passed away before completing the construction. It was then continued by his son Al-Walid Ibn Abdul Malik and it was completed in 73H. This mosque was located 70 meters away from Kubbah As-Sakhra to the west side of Al-Haram Al-Syareef.

He or his dad is believed to name the building with the name Al-Aqsa Mosque. Without any doubt that the objective was to



The minbar at Al-Aqsa

rebuild Prophet Sulaiman a.s Mosque which visited by Prophet SAW during Israk and Mikraj and named Al-Aqsa in Al-Quran. Improvement of Al-Aqsa Mosque.

Since it was established by Prophet Sulaiman a.s, Al-Aqsa Mosque was hit by various events. It was demolished and destroyed by the Romes. Major damage also occurred due to earthquake, burned, used as a horse stables and etc. But every time something occurs, the Muslims will fix it back and it remains to be a holy place for those who believe in Allah, insya-Allah until Judgement Day.

In 21hb August 1969, Al-Aqsa mosque was burned by a Jewish extremist. A special carved and historic wooden pulpit created by Nur Al-Din Al-Syahid from Elppo, Syira, brought by Sultan Salahuddin Al-Ayubi to Al-Aqsa mosque in year 1169 was burnt in the fire and could not be saved.

Invasion of Salibi Soldiers

In year 1099M *Kubbah As-Sakhra* was conquered by Salibi soldiers (The Crusaders) and they turned it into The Church of the Knights Templer. Drawings inside and outside of the church was decorated with designs and pictures of saint. Al-Aqsa mosque was turned into The Knights Templer palace and supplemental to the east and west of the mosque was from Salibiah's time.

Under the Godfrey De Bouillon many Muslims were killed in massacre. Some say the number is about 70 thousand people consisting of scholars, Islamic leaders and commoners who were killed in *Kubbah As-Sakhra*, in Al-Haram Al-Syareef's

compound. Because of their hatred for the Jews was very extreme, Salibi soldiers (The Crusaders) were also burned them in Al-Haram's compound. On the night of 27th Rejab year 583H (1187M), the night of Israk and Mikraj, Sultan Salahuddin Al-Ayubi r.a took back the city of Bait Al-Maqdis and remove all the Christianity effects from there. He has ruled with justice. The Christians were given the freedom of religion. Their churches were untampered. The Jews were allowed to visit Bait Al-Maqdis and their place of worship. Heinrich Graetz, a Jewish historian said 'Salahuddin's government makes a safe place for Jewish refugees who were oppressed. The Jews prospered under his rule'.

Al-Aqsa Mosque is Bait Al-Maqdis

Many scholars believe that Al-Aqsa Mosque now is actually on the site of a mosque which was built by Prophet Sulaiman a.s or Haikal Sulaiman.

Prof. Syed Naquib Al-Attas said, "Al-Aqsa Mosque is now on the site of a mosque which was built by Prophet Sulaiman a.s. If not, why the Jews tried to burn it in 1969 and now they are actively excavating (archiological digging) around the mosque. This indicates that the site of *The Temple of Solomon* (Prophet Sulaiman a.s Mosque) is actually the site of Al-Aqsa Mosque."

Chamber of Siti Maryam Mother of Prophet Isa a.s

After Islam conquer the city of *Bait Al-Maqdis* in 16H, they are said to have found the chamber of Siti Maryam, mother of Prophet Isa a.s in *Presentation of Mary* church which was built by the Babylonians. *Max van Berchem* in his book *Muslim Jerusalem* said that the chamber of Al-Aqsa Mosque now called Chamber of Zakaria a.s is actually the Chamber of Siti Maryam.

However, in Al-Quran in Surah Ali Imran verse 37, tells the story of Siti Maryam r.a, Allah SWT said:

فَنَقَّبَلَهَا رَبُّهَا بِقَبُولٍ حَسَنٍ وَأَنْبَتَهَا نَبَاتًا حَسَنًا وَكَفَّلَهَا زَكَرِيَّا
كَلَّمَا دَخَلَ عَلَيْهَا زَكَرِيَّا الْمِحْرَابَ وَجَدَ عِنْدَهَا رِزْقًا قَالَ يَمْرُؤُا مَنِ
لَكَ هَذَا قَالَتْ هُوَ مِنْ عِنْدِ اللَّهِ إِنَّ اللَّهَ يَرْزُقُ مَنْ يَشَاءُ بِغَيْرِ

حِسَابٍ ٣٧

Meaning:

Every time Zakaria entered upon her in the prayer chamber, he found with her provision.

Ibn Abbas r.a said the word *chamber* here means her house. While Imam Al-Qurtubi r.a said *chamber* means the highest place; the noblest event. According to Imam Al-Qurtubi r.a, Siti Maryam r.a lives in high chamber where Prophet Zakaria a.s did not go up to see her unless by using the stairs. Every time she menstruates, Prophet Zakaria a.s will bring her home and send her back to her

mihrab after her menstruation ends. Probably Siti Maryam r.a stay in a special room in *Bait Al-Maqdis*.

In Surah Ali Imran verse 39 when Allah Taala mentions about Prophet Zakaria a.s. Allah says:

فَنَادَتْهُ الْمَلَائِكَةُ وَهُوَ قَائِمٌ يُصَلِّي فِي الْمِحْرَابِ أَنَّ اللَّهَ يُبَشِّرُكَ بِيَحْيَىٰ
مُصَدِّقًا بِكَلِمَةٍ مِّنَ اللَّهِ وَسَيِّدًا وَأَحْسَبُورًا وَنَبِيًّا مِّنَ الصَّالِحِينَ

Meaning:

So the angels called him while he was standing in prayer in the chamber.

Imam Khazen r.a said the meaning of chamber in this verse is mosque. No doubt that Bait Al-Maqdis Mosque is the Al-Aqsa Mosque now.

But now, chamber means the balcony of the mosque or prayer hall, which extends into the qiblah, a place where imam leading a prayer. The chamber is now considered as heresy. The oldest chamber is believed under *Kubbah As-Sakhra*, a place where Prophet SAW was ascended.

At The Time Prophet Saw Was Ascended

At the time Prophet SAW was ascended, the building of the mosque built by Prophet Sulaiman a.s does not exist. It has been destroyed by war and fire. Among who destroyed it were the Babylonians under the reign of Nebuchadnezzar in year 586



The prayer hall at Al-Aqsa

BC. The distance between the time of Prophet Sulaiman a.s and Prophet Muhammad SAW is approximately 1600 years.

According to hadith narrated by Anas r.a in Sahih Muslim, Prophet SAW said:

ثُمَّ دَخَلْتُ الْمَسْجِدَ فَصَلَّيْتُ فِيهِ رَكْعَتَيْنِ.

Meaning:

Then I went into the mosque (Al-Aqsa) and I pray in it 2 rak'ahs.

Ibn Al-Atheer r.a said upon arrival at the door of the mosque, Jibrail a.s lowered Prophet SAW and he entered the mosque. Al-Haram Al-Syareef door is located close to the Al-Aqsa Mosque and up to now named as *Bab Muhammad* and *Bab Al-Buraq*.

What we need to understand here is the term of entering the mosque is a mosque as a place of prostration. Not necessary for a mosque that has buildings, walls, windows, doors or roofs. The word door here means entrance.

Until now, Umar Al-Mudhar bin Abdulrahman As-Saggaf Mosque in Hadramaut, under the tomb of Prophet Hud a.s is just a big rock. There is no building. Many people spend their night there and perform *tahiyatul masjid*.

When Prophet SAW returned from his night journey (mikraj), a man from Quraisy asked Prophet SAW how many doors are there in Bait Al-Maqdis. They did not ask about how many doors are there in Al-Aqsa Mosque, because no doubt there is no building of Al-Aqsa mosque.

The First Qiblah

After Prophet SAW returned from his night journey (Israk and Mikraj) and received a command from Allah Azzawajalla to pray five times a day, qiblah of the Muslims at that time was *Bait Al-Maqdis* as practiced by Prophet Musa a,s and his followers.

It is practiced in Madinah for a year and four months. Eventually Prophet SAW felt uneasy and looked up to the sky as if waiting something from Allah Taala.

Right on Tuesday, 15th of Syaaban, year 2H, Prophet SAW performed Zuhur prayer in Bani Salamah's house, outside the city of Madinah, which now named Qiblatain Mosque. When he was bowing in second rak'ahs, Jibrail a.s brought the revelation which was a command from Allah Taala, as to change the direction of qiblah, as mentioned in Surah Al-Baqarah verse 144:

قَدْ نَرَى تَقَلُّبَ وَجْهِكَ فِي السَّمَاءِ فَلَنُوَلِّيَنَّكَ قِبْلَةَ تَرْضَاهَا فَوَلِّ وَجْهَكَ شَطْرَ الْمَسْجِدِ
الْحَرَامِ وَحَيْثُ مَا كُنْتُمْ فَوَلُّوا وُجُوهَكُمْ شَطْرَهُ وَإِنَّ الَّذِينَ أُوتُوا الْكِتَابَ لَيَعْلَمُونَ أَنَّهُ
الْحَقُّ مِنْ رَبِّهِمْ وَمَا اللَّهُ بِغَافِلٍ عَمَّا يَعْمَلُونَ.

Meaning:

We have certainly seen the turning of your face, [O Muhammad], toward the heaven, and We will surely turn you to a qiblah with which you will be pleased. So turn your face toward al-Masjid al-Haram. And wherever you [believers] are, turn your faces toward it [in prayer]. Indeed, those who have been given the Scripture well know that it is the truth from their Lord. And Allah is not unaware of what they do.



Kubbah As-Sakhra

In verse 149 Surah Al-Baqarah Allah Taala reaffirmed:

وَمِنْ حَيْثُ خَرَجْتَ فَوَلِّ وَجْهَكَ شَطْرَ الْمَسْجِدِ الْحَرَامِ وَإِنَّهُ لَلْحَقُّ مِنْ
رَبِّكَ وَمَا اللَّهُ بِغَافِلٍ عَمَّا تَعْمَلُونَ

Meaning:

So from wherever you go out [for prayer, O Muhammad] turn your face toward al-Masjid al-Haram, and indeedm it is the truth from your Lord. And Allah is not unaware of what you do.

When this verse was revealed, Prophet SAW was leading a prayer and has completed two rak'ahs. When Jibrail a.s told the command to Prophet SAW, immediately Prophet SAW turned towards Al-Haram Mosque. The companions who pray with Prophet SAW follow what Prophet SAW do.

The Advantages of Praying in Al-Aqsa Mosque

Hadith narrated by At-Tabarani by Abu Darda r.a, Prophet SAW said:

الصَّلَاةُ فِي الْمَسْجِدِ الْحَرَامِ بِمِئَةِ أَلْفِ صَلَاةٍ وَالصَّلَاةُ فِي مَسْجِدِي بِأَلْفِ صَلَاةٍ
وَالصَّلَاةُ فِي بَيْتِ الْمُقَدَّسِ بِخَمْسِ مِائَةِ صَلَاةٍ.

Praying in Masjidil Haram is equal to the reward for one hundred thousand regular prayers. Praying in my mosque (Masjid Nabawi) is equal to the reward for one thousand regular prayers. Praying in *Bait Al-Maqdis* is equal to the reward for five hundred regular prayers. (At-Tabarani).

Dome of the Rock

The Dome of the Rock referred to in Arabic as *Kubbah As-Sakhra*. In the middle of this stone, there is a hole that drops down towards a small cave and whoever enters he will come out on top. Near the cave there is a small chamber which is believed to be the oldest chamber in the world. It was built by Abdul Malik Ibn Marwan and his son Al-Walid in 73H. This is where to be told that Prophet SAW was ascended.

This stone is said to want to follow Prophet SAW at the time of ascension but was stopped by Jibrail a.s. Marks of Jibrail a.s palms was said to be still there and was named *Kaff Saiyidina Jibrail*. This stone is 56 feet long and 42 feet wide and shaped almost semicircular.

Saiyidina Umar Al-Khattab r.a Days

At the time when Saiyidina Umar Al-Khattab r.a received *Bait Al-Maqdis* key form Patriarch Sophronius, in 16H (635M), Saiyidina Umar r.a asked him about Prophet Sulaiman a.s place of worship. He brought Saiyidina Umar r.a to *The Holy Sepulchre* church and *Sion* church. When Saiyidina Umar r.a looked around, he said that this is not characterized by Prophet SAW during Israk and Mikraj. *Sophronius* then brought him to Al-Haram Al-Syareef and to *Kubbah As-Sakhra*. When they reached, Saiyidina Umar r.a looked around him and ensure that this place is the one that characterized by Prophet SAW during Israk and Mikraj.

Sophronius refused to take Saiyidina Umar r.a there because this place was stained by Christians who was very hateful to Jews. According to them, the murderer of Prophet Isa a.s was Jews. In those days, the Jews are forbidden to enter *Bait Al-Maqdis*.

When Saiyidina Umar r.a entered *Kubbah As-Sakhra*, he found the place full of rubbish until As-Sakhra stone was invisible. He ordered that this place is cleaned up. However, only after it rained three times then it seemed really clean. At the time of prayer, Saiyidina Umar r.a asked Prophet SAW muezzin Bilal Ibn Rabah r.a to call the azan, whereas Bilal r.a had promised himself not to call the azan again after Prophet SAW died. Because the order came from Saiyidina Umar r.a, Prophet SAW caliph, Bilal r.a had to obey and call the azan. Many of the companions such as Abu Ubaidah Ibn Jarrah r.a and Muadh Ibn Jabal r.a were stunned and cried upon hearing Bilal r.a called the azan, because they recalled back their time with Prophet SAW, the most remarkable moment that cannot be imagined by feelings. Among them, Saiyidina Umar r.a cried until his beard was wet and they never see Saiyidina Umar r.a crying like that. In other event, Bilal Ibn Rabah r.a called the azan for the second time after Prophet SAW died in Madinah, when he was asked by Saiyidina Hasan and Saiyidina Husein r.a.

Saiyidina Umar r.a has built a mosque using a wooden board in the middle of the compound of *Al-Haram Al-Syareef* which named Umar Mosque. The objective is to protect the sanctity of *Kubbah As-Sakhra*, a place where Prophet SAW was ascended to the sky. This mosque was expanded, enhanced and added a dome on top of it as high as 99 feet made of wood overlaid with plumbum, has eight sides and each side is 66 feet wide, was

built by Abdul Malik Ibn Marwan, the 5th Umayyah Caliph, in year 62-72H (688-691M). He is said to be spending a great expenditure as great as Mesir's result of seven years. But some say that Al-Aqsa mosque is now at Umar Mosque site.

Golden Dome

Abdul Malik Ibn Marwan appointed experts from around the country such as Rom, Syrian and Palestine. Among the two organizers of *Kubbah As-Sakhra*, the most meritorious are Abu Al-Miqdam and Yazid bin Salam. After the completion, it is said that both of them has the advantages spending a hundred thousand dinars which was returned to Abdul Malik.

Because of Abdul Malik was very happy when seeing the beauty of *Kubbah As-Sakhra*, he gave a hundred thousand dinars to Abu Al-Miqdam and Yazid. Both of them refused and said they should not accept it and they were supposed to give their wives gold jewelry for construction expenses. Abdul Malik then ordered them that the gold dinar to be flattened and placed it on the dome.

During the reign of King Husein, Al-Aqsa mosque was restored with King Fahad's expenses and the golden dome was restored according to its originality.

Why Abdul Malik built Kubbah As-Sakhra

During the reign of Abdul Malik Ibn Marwan, a rebellion led by Abdullah Ibn Zubair broke out in Makkah. Following the incident, many residents of Syam were not happy when they were detained from performing Haj. Fear of influence and propaganda of Abdullah Ibn Zubair, Abdul Malik ordered the residents of Syam to go to Bait Al-Maqdis by bringing a famous hadith in which Prophet SAW said:

لا تشد الرحال إلا إلى ثلاثة مساجد: المسجد الحرام، ومسجد الرسول صلى الله عليه

وسلم، ومسجد الأقصى

One should take a religious journey to only three mosques: the Sacred Mosque, my Mosque (Masjid Nabawi) and Al-Aqsa Mosque.

Chamber of Prophet Daud a.s

In *Kubbah As-Sakhra*, there's a corner named Chamber of Daud a.s. This is where is believed that Prophet Daud a.s often supplicate and pray to Allah.

Imam Al-Tabari r.a said, when Saiyidina Umar r.a in *Bait Al-Maqdis* he was brought to chamber and leads the fajr prayer. He is said to have recited Surah Saad on first rak'ah and part of Surah Bani Israil on second rak'ahs.

Judaism Beliefs

The Jews also considered this place as a holy place. According to them, on this stone is where Prophet Ibrahim a.s sacrificed his son Ishak a.s and Allah replaced his son with a goat.

Thus we find that *Kaab Al-Ahbar* r.a when entered *Kubbah As-Sakbra* with Saiyidina Umar r.a he took off his shoes. He is a Jew successor who converted to Islam in that year.

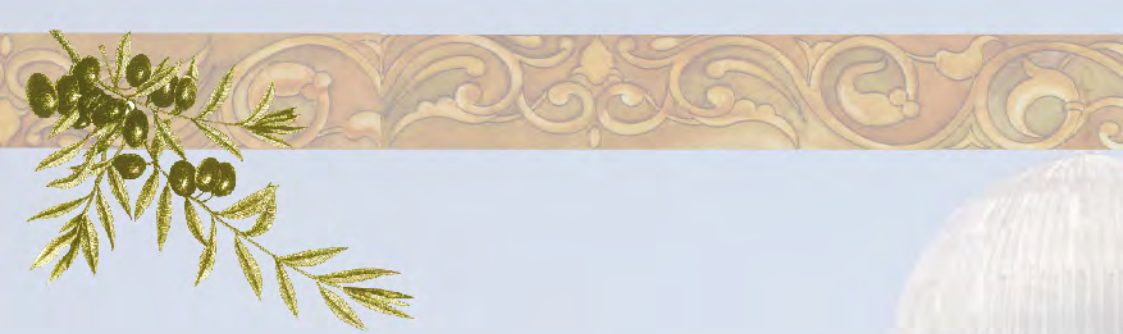
A place where Israfil blow the trumpet

There's a history which says that the angels visited *As-Sakbra* two thousand years before Adam a.s was created. This is where Prophet Nuh a.s ship docked and also a place where Israfil will blow his trumpet on Judgement Day. It is said that all Prophets and Messengers starting from Prophet Adam a.s until Prophet Muhammad SAW have come and pray here. Every day it is said to be seven thousand angels surround *Kubbah As-Sakbra*.

Is there a Dome of The Rock?

According to Sayyid Muhammad bin Alwi Al-Maliki, scholar of Al-Haram Mosque, they who said that the stone was hung between sky and heaven is not true because this story is not mentioned in Al-Quran and there are no strong arguments.

But according to other source, it says that under the stone there is *Bir Al-Arwah* or *Telaga Arwah*. That is why if you tap with your foot it will produce an empty sound. A wall where half of its stones were covered will also produce an empty sound when its been tapped.



*"Maha Suci Allah yang telah menjalankan hambaNya
(Muhammad) pada malam hari dari Masjidil Haram (di Mekah)
ke Masjidil Aqsa (di Palestin), yang kami berkati di sekelilingnya"*

Q 17:1

