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THE MIRACULOUS SPLITTING OF THE MOON





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In the early years of Prophet Muhammad's mission in Makkah, his teachings of Islam and the worship of one God faced strong opposition from the Quraysh tribe. They were deeply attached to their polytheistic beliefs and saw the message of Islam as a threat to their way of life.



Abu Talib, the Prophet's uncle, was his protector against harm. As a well-respected leader, Abu Talib's protection kept the Quraysh from harming the Prophet. However, after Abu Talib's death, the Prophet lost this protection, and the Quraysh began to persecute him openly.



The Prophet's wife, Khadijah, provided immense support and comfort. Her death shortly after Abu Talib's left the Prophet without two of his most significant supporters. Despite witnessing many signs confirming Muhammad's prophethood, the Quraysh ignored them and demanded more signs to challenge him.



One day, the Makkan pagans gathered at the Ka'bah and summoned the Prophet. Believing they wanted to discuss Islam, the Prophet hurried to meet them.



They repeated their demands:
"Muhammad, you tell us that the prophets had signs: Musa had a miraculous staff, Saleh had a camel, and Isa resurrected the dead. Show us something to confirm that you are like them."



The Quraysh misunderstood the nature of prophetic miracles, believing prophets should perform them at will, not realizing that Allah performed these miracles through His prophets.



In the Qur'an, Allah describes them as deaf, dumb, and blind to the signs of Allah in creation and in the Qur'an, yet they sought spectacular acts of sorcery.



The Quraysh asked the Prophet for grand miracles like turning Mount Safa into gold, causing a spring to gush forth, or bringing their ancestors back to life, claiming they would believe if he performed any of these miracles.



The Prophet prayed to Allah, asking Him to show the pagans a sign. Jibreel brought Allah's answer: the Prophet could choose between two options.



The first choice was to show the pagans a sign, but if they still disbelieved, they would face severe punishment. The second choice was to leave the door of repentance and mercy open without showing the signs they requested.



The Prophet wisely chose the second option, prioritizing mercy and repentance over miraculous signs that would not guarantee faith. This decision emphasized that belief in Islam should come from genuine faith, not forced demonstrations of power.



Despite this, the Quraysh continued to demand a sign, believing that Muhammad's failure to produce one would prove he was a false prophet.



The Prophet prayed again, and Allah granted a clear sign: the moon split in half, with each half appearing on either side of Mount Hira. The Prophet said, "Be you all witnesses."



Initially, the pagans were shocked by the sight, but they soon dismissed it as sorcery. They suggested waiting for travellers to confirm if they had seen the same thing.



When travellers confirmed seeing the cleft moon, there was no doubt about the event. However, the Quraysh stubbornly refused to believe, attributing it to magic.



This extraordinary event, known as the splitting of the moon (Shaqq al-Qamar), astonished the polytheists. The two halves of the moon briefly separated before rejoining, witnessed by many in Makkah and becoming a significant point in the Prophet's mission.



The splitting of the moon is mentioned in the Qur'an in Surah Al-Qamar (54:1-2): "The Hour has drawn near, and the moon has split. But if they see a sign, they turn away and say, 'Passing magic.'" This verse highlights the Quraysh's stubbornness in rejecting the truth.



The miracle was a powerful sign of the Prophet's truthfulness and divine support, strengthening the faith of believers and demonstrating Allah's power. However, many Quraysh continued to demand more signs, not seeking truth but rather looking to undermine the Prophet.



Companions of the Prophet, such as Abdullah ibn Mas'ud and Anas ibn Malik, witnessed the moon splitting and reported it in various hadith collections, adding credibility to the event through consistent testimonies.

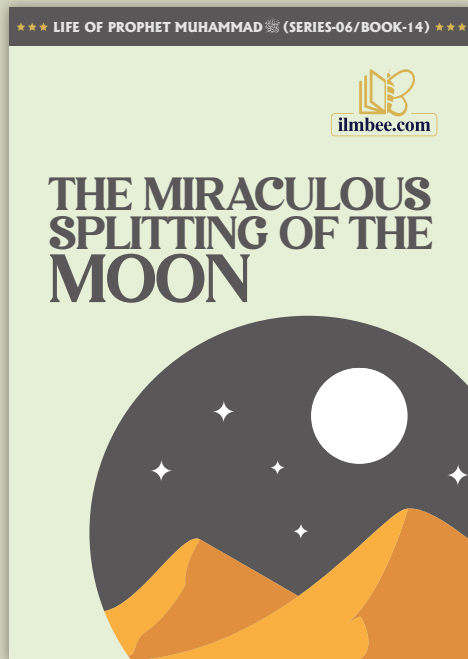


Despite this miraculous sign, the Meccan polytheists persisted in their demands for more signs, driven by a desire to discredit the Prophet rather than a genuine quest for truth. The Qur'an addresses this attitude, emphasizing that no number of signs will suffice for those whose hearts are hardened against the truth.



REVIEW YOUR READING

1. What does the quran say about those who ignore the signs of Allah?
2. Which companions witnessed and reported the moon splitting in hadith?
- 3 What was the famous miracle performed by Prophet Musa ﷺ?



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