

# Status of Al-Aqsa Mosque in Islam

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Slaves of Allah; the topic of my talk today with the help and will of God is the holy Al-Aqsa Mosque. This mosque is facing today a transformation to Judaism. It is facing demolition by the Jews to erect in its place the claimed Jewish Temple Mount. Digging works underneath the walls of Al-Aqsa mosque started many years ago, as the first step to knocking it down, and to evacuate the people of Al-Quds from Al-Quds and to demolish their homes and replace them with Jews. And recently we heard through the media the building of the Makharabi temple near Al-Aqsa mosque. May Allah make it the start of their demise. The Muslim world is in a state of lack of sense and lack of attention and it is in a deep sleep. We unfortunately are facing this with a total silence just like the silence of those who are in the graves. And if we speak we speak so quietly. One poet said:

*And if you speak you would make the living hear,  
But there is no life in those who you are calling,  
If it was a fire into which you blow, it would light,  
But in reality you are blowing into ashes.*

## The Status of Al-Aqsa in Islam.

Jews claim they have a religious and a historical right to Jerusalem. They claim that, yet at the same time the Torah and its appendices do not contain any sanctity for or towards Jerusalem. And it does not offer it any importance or attention. This is contrary with us Muslims, where

Jerusalem and Al-Aqsa mosque have big status in our faith, laws and worship.

**1) Al-Aqsa being our first point of focus for prayers (or *Qiblah*):**

When prayers were made compulsory for Muslims, they prayed for four and a half years facing Al-Aqsa mosque. That is until Allah changed the *Qiblah* to be towards the holy mosque of Al-Kaba in Mekka. When this change was made the Jews made big fuss over it. Some said that all the previous prayers done by Muslims had gone to waste because they were not facing the right way. Allah responded to that in His book by saying: **{Allah wouldn't waste your faith, for Allah is kind and merciful with people}**. In Al-Madinah there still remains a mosque that is known as “**The Two *Qiblas***” mosque. Where Muslim did pray in that Mosque until they switched after being commanded about the change and started praying towards the new *Qiblah*. So, Al-Aqsa Mosque was our first *Qiblah*.

**2) Jerusalem is in the land of Israa and Miraj or the miraculous journey and the ascent to the heavens:**

Jerusalem or Al-Quds is the land of miraculous journey and the ascent to the heavens. This is clearly stated in the holy Quran in a chapter titled “Al-Esraa”. Allah says: **{Praise be Him who brought His slave during the night from the Sacred mosque to the Al-Aqsa mosque which we made blessings round it, to show him some of our miracles}**. Allah described the mosque in Mekkah only by calling it the “Sacred

mosque”, yet Al-Aqsa mosque Allah mentioned it with the Blessings. The night journey was towards that land, and the ascending to the heavens started at that land. It means that selecting this land was intentional; or else the ascent could have started at the sacred mosque in Mekka. Allah wanted for His messenger to pass through Jerusalem and hold a prayer during which he led as an Imam all the prophets. And it was intended to be an announcement of change of the faith leadership for the entire world. Leadership of faith has been transferred from the children of Israel to the children of Ishmael, or to a new nation at a global scale. It is the best nation brought out to man kind. Not a racist nation. That event was an announcement for this change. Allah wanted this journey to establish a link between the two glorified mosques. The Sacred mosque as the point where the journey started and Al-Aqsa mosque where the journey ended so within each Muslim there will exist the sense of a connection between the two sanctified mosques. Negligence in one will lead to negligence in the other. Jerusalem is the land of the night miraculous journey and the ascending into the heavens; and it holds the wall of the *Buraq* and the Mosque of the Rock (Dome of the Rock mosque) which all hold memories of the journey and the ascent.

### **3) Jerusalem is the land of the blessings and prophet hood**

In His holy book; Allah has described and associated the land of Palestine with blessings directly five different times. Some scholars claim other indirect references to Palestine are made in the Koran. In the Chapter titled

*At-Teen* Allah makes a solemn oath with three lands: The land of figs and olives, in reference to the land of Jerusalem, which is the land where Jesus pbu was sent. The next verse “**طور سين**” refers to the land where Allah spoke to Moses pbu. The next part of the verse says: “and this peaceful land” in reference to the land of Mohammed’s prophet hood ppbu. This is the status of Al-Quds.

#### 4) **Al-Quds is the land of bonding and alertness and Jihad**

The messenger ppbu had told us that this land will suffer invasion and aggression. Muslims must bond with it, be alert and do jihad against the enemy, and resist them so it would not be taken over. And if it is taken then to continue jihad until it is liberated. The messenger ppbu said: **{Some group of my nation will remain clearly holding on to faith, and invincible to their enemies, they do not get harmed by this that infringes or aggresses against them except what befalls them of tiredness and hurt. They will continue to be like that until Allah will come with His word}**. The messenger ppbu was asked where they were located. He said: **{Al-Aqsa and round the Al-Aqsa}**. This is the status of Al-Aqsa in the Islamic faith.

#### 5) **Al-Quds or Jerusalem is the third most glorified city in Islam.**

The glorified cities in Islam are:

- (i) The holy city of **Mekka**, which contains the sacred house of Allah “Al-Kaba”.

- (ii) The enlightened city of **Al-Madinah** which is dignified with the mosque of the prophet ppbu, and it contains his remains and his grave.
- (iii) The city of **Al-Quds or Jerusalem** is the third most glorified city in Islam which contains Al-Aqsa mosque.

Those are the three glorified mosques in Islam as announced by the messenger ppbu who said: **{out of all mosques, travel can only be specifically and intentionally done to those three mosques: The sacred mosque (in Mekka), this mosque of mine (in Madina) and Al-Aqsa mosque}**.

All mosques are equal; they have the same amount of reward; except those three mosques. All mosques would have the same reward when performing a prayer at, the exception to getting more reward is in the case of a mosque where you go to listen to a talk or *Khutba*, or attend a lesson, or meet a brother. But as far as a prayer is concerned all mosques are all equal except those three mosques. This means that a Muslim would not be allowed to have the intention and make arrangement to travel for the purpose of doing a prayer in a particular mosque believing that more reward is gained at that mosque, except in the case of those three mosques.

This city, the city of Al-Aqsa mosque is targeted by a great danger. Where are the Muslims? And where are the Arabs? Where are the men who would sacrifice themselves for Allah? Is it possible for this sacred city to remain under occupation while the nation of one and

third billion Muslims is watching unconcerned? Where is Islam and where are the Muslims?

The Imam quoted a poem which says:

**And it hurt me, and hurt every living being,  
The question of eternity of where could Muslims be.**

Dear brothers in faith, each and every one of us has a duty towards this sacred city and blessed Al-Aqsa mosque. This duty is conditioned by ability, and it is to boycott the Israeli goods and products and all that comes from Israel. Every Muslim should refuse to go to Israel to pray at Al-Aqsa mosque, for we would not pray at the Al-Aqsa mosque under the Israeli flag and under the Zionist banner. And we would not enter Israel and the Israeli stamp is stamped on to our passports. The Palestinians do that because of their circumstances, but it is wrong for non Palestinian Muslims to go and prayer while the Israeli flag is erected. Save that for when the Al-Aqsa mosque is liberated.

All Muslims must have a positive stand with Al-Quds and with the people of Al-Quds. Give material and moral support to Al-Aqsa and the people of Al-Quds who alone are defending the sacred sites. They alone are facing the Jewish arrogance with their bare chests. We ought to put our hands up high and pray to Allah, and ask Allah His support and help and guidance and victory against our enemies, the enemies of faith.