

M'RAJ CONSISTENCY WITH SCIENTIFIC LAWS

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Received Date: 19 October 2022 • Accepted Date: 23 December 2022

Abstract

About 1400 years ago the Prophet of Islam Muhammad peace and blessings be upon him (PBUH), availed a roundtrip night journey from Mecca to about 1200 km away Jerujalem and then to seven heavens in the highest sky by Buraq in the company of Jibrail (AS). Gravity-unaffected angels move billion to trillion times faster than humans and Buraq moves in a lightlike speed. Showing Muhammad (PBUH) some wonders of God's creation that included, principally, the congression of past prophets in the Al-Aqsa Mosque, meeting with Adam (AS), John the Baptist (Yahya (AS)), Jesus (Esa (AS)), Yousuf (AS), Idris (AS), Harun (AS), Musa (AS), and Ibraheem (AS) in the seven heavens, visits to paradise and the righteous in it, hell and the sinners in it, Lot Tree, the Kaaba's image the Baytul Mamur where a new group of 70,000 angels pray daily, Jibrail (AS) in the angelic form, and the receipt of the daily five times prayer directive for his followers. The event has been described using human brain's timelag in sensin, Prophetic extraordinary senses, Einstein's special theory of relativity in physics, and astronomical observations along with the references from the Quran and Hadith. Consistency of the event with scientific laws is addressed. The journey is in consistent with the consequences of the theory of special relativity's distance contraction and time dilation coupled with the time lag in brain's sensing of physical feelings that eliminated the use of anesthetics in surgery, spacesuits, oxygen, and precautions against physical impacts. Body can tolerate violent physical impacts in lightlike speedy travels occurring within the timelag of brain's sensing. Different sects of Muslims can unanimously believe in the Prophet (PBUH)'s physical travel to the spiritual world leaving behind heldup the suspicions that originated for lack of scientific evidences. All knowledge comes from Allaah, the one and only one God Exalted in Might and Wise. Religious scholars should study natural sciences, too, for better understanding of His creation.

Keywords: Movement Control Order, COVID-19, hadith

Cite as: Miah Muhammad Adel. 2021. M'raj Consistency with Scientific Laws. *Malaysian Journal for Islamic Studies* 6(2): 73-81.

INTRODUCTION

On the 26th Rajb night in the 3rd year before Hijrat which falls on the night following the 19th March in 619 Gregorian Calendar (<https://www.searchtruth.com/hijri/>), Muhammad (PBUH), the Prophet of Islam was taken to Masjidul Al-Aqsa (Isra part) on a heavenly career called Burak that could place his hooves at the farthest boundary of his gaze (Sahih al-Bukhari 3207: Book 59, Hadith 18; <http://www.muslim-library.com/dl/books/English-Al-Israa-and-Al-Miraj.pdf>; <http://www.islamawareness.net/Isra/isra.html>; <https://books.google.com/books?id=hqiQwmTDYBUC&pg=PA56&dq=isra+and+miraj&hl=en#v=onepage&q=isra%20and%20miraj&f=false>; <http://www.sunnah.org/ibadaat/fasting/ascen3.htm>) in the company of the Archangel Jibrail (AS). And from Al-Aqsa, he (PBUH) was taken to the highest ascension in the seven heavens (M'raj part). The Quran asserts "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." (Al-'Isra, 17:1)

Figs. 1 through 5 illustrate the route, artist's drawing of the heavenly creature, and the places. The Quran further asserts: "The (Prophet's) heart lied not (in seeing) what he (Muhammad (pbuh)) saw. (11). Will you then dispute with him (Muhammad (pbuh)) about what he saw [during the *Mi'raj*: (Ascent of the Prophet (pbuh) over the seven heavens)] (12). And indeed he (Muhammad (pbuh)) saw him [Jibrael (Gabriel)] at a second descent (i.e., another time). (13) Near *Sidrat-ul-Muntaha* [lote-tree of the utmost boundary (beyond which none can pass)], (14) Near it is the Paradise of Abode. (15) When that covered the lote-tree which did cover it! (16) The sight (of Prophet Muhammad (pbuh)) turned not aside (right or left), nor it transgressed beyond (the) limit (ordained for it). (17) Indeed he (Muhammad (pbuh)) did see, of the Greatest Signs, of his Lord (Allah). (18)" Sura An-Najm (53: 11-18)

Hadith reports that on his (PBUH) return, he (PBUH) found the bed he left still warm (in those days, it was hard to believe how he (PBUH) could complete by a night this long trip that one-way measures 1,238 km and takes 40 days to cross. Only his (PBUH) companion Abu Bakr believed in the story. The arch enemy of Amr ibn Hisham (Abu Jahl) ridiculed at it (Gruber, 2010) (A researcher's account on the "bed warm" and "jar tipping", "door chain" is given below. These earthly events take thousands to millions times or even more time than the angelic time scale. There is no wonder about the reality of these happenings).

On Mi'raj occasions, many speeches are delivered on the event in the Muslim-majority countries. The audience takes the Prophet (pbuh)'s travel as in a human pace travel and wonders at Almighty's signs. None of the many discourses that are available on this journey touches on the scientific questions like i) how he (pbuh) made the longest journey by night, ii) how the Prophet (pbuh) travelled in space filled with dangerous radiation coming from the violent Sun and other stars without any special dress code, iii) how he (pbuh) survived without oxygen, iv) how his (pbuh) body was intact without having any impact in that high speed travel, and v) why his (pbuh) body did not burn out at the Earth's atmospheric re-entry on the return journey. This article will focus on these issues.

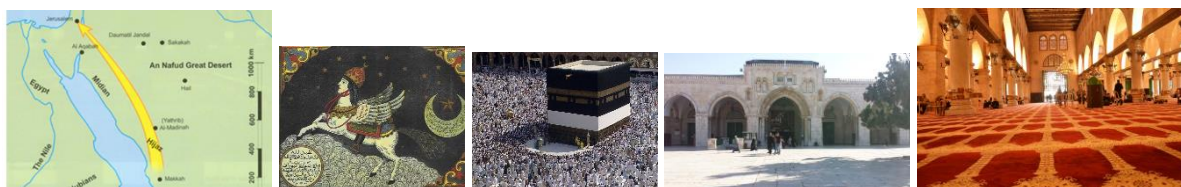


Fig. 1. Route to the Al-Aqsa Masjid from the Holy Qaaba* (<https://www.islamreligion.com/articles/151/miracles-of-muhammad-part-2/>); Fig. 2. Artist's drawing of the Buraq (https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/0/00/Al-Buraf_Hafifa.jpg); Fig.3. The semi-circular area attached to the Holy Qaaba is the Hatem or Hijr (<http://www.ancient-origins.net/artifacts-other-artifacts/kaaba-black-stone-holy-stone-outer-space-003661>); Fig. 4. Entrance to Al-Aqsa Mosque (<https://www.dawn.com/news/1275123>); Fig. 5. Inside of the Al-Aqsa Masjid (<https://www.dawn.com/news/1275123>)

METHOD

Information relating to M'raj was obtained from the Quran and Hadith. Angelic billion to trillion times faster pace of actions than humans was estimated from their activities mentioned in the Quran and Hadith. Relativistic phenomena of time dilation and distance contraction at lightlike speed travels were consulted. The human brain's timelag to sense impacts perceived by the five senses was obtained from different publications. Prophetic extraordinary sense of perception was obtained from Hadith.

Estimation of Angelic Performance Pace

Hadith states that the Angel of Death sits by the head of the dying person to take out the soul. Angels surround the dying person (http://islam1.org/khutub/Soul_Sep_Body.htm) (Imams *Ahmed*, *Abu Dawood* and *Alhakm*). The Quran asserts: "Say, "The angel of death will take you who has been entrusted with you. Then to your Lord you will be returned."" (Sura As-Sajda, 32:11). The Quran further asserts: "The angels and the Spirit will ascend to Him during a Day (an interval of time) the extent of which is fifty thousand years". (Sura Al-Ma'arij, 70:4).

Hadith states that the Angel of Death visits every house five times daily to find if anyone is due to die (*Bihar al-Anwar vol. 74, pg. 188.*). Five times visitations once in 24 hours to each of the worlds about 1,585,682,383 households (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_countries_by_number_of_households) takes him 100 families/sec, an unimaginable task for human. Global average death rate is about two peoples/sec who could be from two opposite sides of the Earth (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_countries_by_number_of_households). The Angel of Death had to move back and forth around the world super swiftly during the COVID-19 time (Worldwide COVID-19 deaths on January 26, 2021 was 17,836).

Natural calamities (e. g. Vesuvius eruption, Hiroshima, and Nagasaki bombing, 1970 East Pakistan Tsunami, 1976 China earthquake, 2004 Indian Ocean Tsunami, 2010 Haiti earthquake, 2011 Tuhuku earthquake, etc.) kill thousands of people at a place at the same time. Instantaneous destruction of the world of 7.5 billion people will need, in our account, simultaneous deaths of these people. The Angel of Death must kill a person in fractions of a nanosecond. What is simultaneous to us is asynchronous to angels.

In Ramadan month of 619 A. D. which was in the 3rd year before Hijrah, the people of Taif, a place about 62 miles east of Mecca, mistreated him (pbuh). The Archangel Jibrail (AS) at once appeared in the sky with the angel of mountains, at a place called Qarn Al-Manazil, about 52 miles to the east of Mecca. The angel of mountains d asked his (pbuh) permission to bury Mecca between the two mountains flanking Mecca. This was another example of angels instantaneous appearance.

Our Limited Sensing

A typical human reaction time is 200 to 300 ms.⁽¹²⁾ Having the upper and the lower bounds, human senses have limited coverages in seeing, hearing, touching, tasting, and smelling. Out of the huge range – trillionth of meters to kilometers - of wavelengths of electromagnetic radiation, our eyes are sensitive just about to 330 nm to 750 nm which covers violet to red colors.

Our brain can hold the perception of an image for almost 1/30th of a second. We cannot differentiate if changes occur in less than 1/30th seconds. We fail to detect it. If something fluctuates at intervals of 1/40th seconds, we will find that thing does not changes its shape. If a sinner's dead body is crushed and assembled in intervals of 1/40th seconds when it is in the grave, we will miss it and always see the whole dead body. Hadith mentions torments in the grave. (Summarized Sahih Al-Bukhari by Muhsin Khan (*Book of Faith*)). After opening the grave, we will not be able to see the punishment because the intervals of this torment is beyond our senses.

The time lag between the light hitting the retina and the brain's recognition of the object identity is about 0.15 seconds. The fastest speed of unrelated image processing by our brain occurs if images are presented in about 0.1 second intervals (Thorpe SJ, et al 1996). (<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/8632824>; <http://scholar.google.com/schola...>) We are sensible to vibration-produced audible sounds if the vibrations fall in the range of 16 to 16,000 vibrations in one second. Infrasound vibration area less than 16 per second and ultrasound vibrations are above 16000 in one second. Our brain is incapable of sensing feelings that occur at millisecond or lower intervals. We cannot sense mentally or physically if angels do anything on our bodies in these tiny intervals.

Prophetic Senses

Prophetic Senses are uncommon. Sulaiman (AS)'s army consisted of jinns, men, and birds. He could understand the language of birds and even of ants (An-Naml, 27:15-22). Prophet Moses (AS) spoke to God directly (Al-Qasas, 28: 29-32). Isa (AS) spoke in infancy. He could make living birds out of clay by Allah's will (5/110, 3/49). Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) saw Jibril (AS) both in the human and in his own forms (Sura An-Najm, 53:13). He (pbuh) heard grave torments expressed in infrasonic [*Sahih Bukhari*, Vol 2, Book 23, Hadith #443]. He (pbuh) punished the Shaitan when the latter tried to divert his (pbuh) attention in prayer (*Bukhari* 2.301). He (pbuh) saw the paradise and hell on the Qibla-facing wall during his (pbuh) prayer (*Bukhari*, *Book 12*, Characteristics of Prayer, Hadith 716 (Vol. 1)). He (pbuh) was shown a bunch of fruit from paradise during a prayer of solar eclipse (*Bukhari* Volume 1, Book 12,

Number 715). In M'raj, he ((pbuh) heard Bilal (RA)'s footsteps in paradise (*Sahih Muslim*). He (pbuh) would hear the heavens' crackling noise (*Mukashafatul-Qulub* by Imam Gazzali). He (pbuh) heard a tree trunk crying on its separation from him (pbuh) (*Sahih Al-Bukhari*, Vol.4, Hadith No. 783). The Prophet (pbuh) pronounced "Ameen!" following Jibrail (AS)'s mentioning of three cases of destined hellfire – an individual who does not receive forgiveness in Ramadan, an individual who does not take care of elderly parents, and an individual who does not send blessings upon the Prophet (pbuh) on hearing his (pbuh) name (Source: *Ṣaḥīḥ Ibn Ḥibbān* 915). All these are examples of the Prophet (PBUH)'s ability to interact with the spirits of the nano to picosecond time scales.

Special Theory of Relativity and Buraq

The special theory of relativity states that distance gets shortened if travelling takes place in a speed comparable to the speed of light without a change in speed magnitude and direction (Mazur, 2015). Buraq was the perfect carrier for such a trip. It moved straight at uniform speed in each part of its trip. The Prophet (pbuh) said, "The animal's step (was so wide that it) reached the farthest point within the reach of the animal's sight. I was carried on it, and Gabriel set out with me till we reached the nearest heaven" (*Sahih Al-Bukhari*, Book #58, Hadith #227). Geometry shows that the farthest visible distance depends on the height of the observer above the ground. On the ground, it is about 5 km. The higher the Buraq was rising, the wider the visual horizon was becoming, and so longer distance was covered. While we do not know the Buraq's speed and the angelic activity pace, we can take their speed around the speed of light to explain the M'raj event. His (pbuh) carrier Buraq was moving over as far as eye could see. 1400 years ago, light speed being unknown, these words could be appropriately used to describe the Buraq exceptionally high speed - nearing the speed of light.

The fact that mathematical models in computation are cardinal whereas all computers have finite capabilities, the minute accuracy of mathematical calculation cannot be done by human beings.

Preparation for the Night Journey: Prophet's (pbuh) Chest Surgery

Before the trip, Jibril (AS) cut open his (pbuh) body and took out his (pbuh) heart in the angelic pace and skill to fill his heart with a gold tray of Belief and then returned to its original place. "Narrated Abbas bin Malik: Malik bin Sasaa said that Allah's Apostle described to them his Night Journey saying, "While I was lying in Al-Hatim or Al-Hijr, suddenly someone came to me and cut my body open from here to here." I asked Al-Jarud who was by my side, "What does he mean?" He said, "It means from his throat to his pubic area," or said, "From the top of the chest." The Prophet (pbuh) further said, "He then took out my heart. Then a gold tray of Belief was brought to me, and my heart was washed and was filled (with Belief) and then returned to its original place. Then a white animal which was smaller than a mule and bigger than a donkey was brought to me."

Our brain can sense touch pressure, pain from cold or touch, thermal pain due to excessive cold or heat, etc. in about 0.3 seconds. Surgeries completed in 0.3 seconds, do not need partial or general anesthesia.

Wonders of His Creation

In Al-Aqsa Mosque, the Prophet (pbuh) led the congregational prayer with other prophets. On the question of meeting the dead prophets, it may be mentioned that God wanted to show him (pbuh) His wonderful signs. Everything he (PBUH) saw during the journey was His signs of wonders.

About making a dead person alive, the Quran mentions: "So, we said, "Strike the slain man with part of it." Thus does Allah bring the dead to life, and He shows you His signs that you might reason". (2:73): "And [mention] when Abraham said, "My Lord, show me how You give life to the dead." [Allah] said, "Have you not believed?" He said, "Yes, but [I ask] only that my heart may be satisfied." [Allah] said, "Take four birds and commit them to yourself. Then [after slaughtering them put on each hill a portion of them; then call them - they will come [flying] to you in haste. And know that Allah is Exalted in Might and Wise." (2:260)

Also, the following words of Jesus (Esa (AS)) in Sura Al-‘Imran expresses his ability to give life to lifeless by God’s permission: "I create for you out of clay the likeness of a bird, then I breathe into it and it becomes a bird with God’s permission." (Quran 3:49); "...and I bring to life the dead, by the permission of God." (Quran 3:49)

So, we see that it was Allah who made the meeting of the Prophet (pbuh) with the previous prophets.

The Prophet (pbuh) then ascended to the heaven. In the ascension, Jibril (AS) and the Prophet (pbuh) had to ask to open the gates of each of the heavens where the Prophet (pbuh) met a past prophet. The Prophet (pbuh) went up to the 7th heaven.

The Prophet (pbuh) met Adam (AS) in the first heaven, John the Baptist (Yahya (AS)) and Jesus (Esa (AS)) in the second heaven, Yousuf (AS) in the third heaven, Idris (AS) in the fourth heaven, Harun (AS) in the fifth heaven, Musa (AS) in the sixth heaven, and Ibrahim (AS) in the seventh heaven.

Seven Heavens

The Quran asserts: "Then He made them seven heavens in two days and revealed to each heaven its law. And We adorned the lower heaven with lamps, and firmly secured it. All this is the firm plan of the All-Mighty, the All-Knowing (41:12). The seven heavens were formed in two stages or steps and the lower one is heaven decorated with stars. This is the first heaven according to the Quranic statement. Naked eyes can see heavenly objects up to 4,000 light years. This distance can be increased to 7500 light years with the help of telescopes. Electromagnetic radiation allows observation of heavenly objects within the observable universe. The cosmic horizon extends to 46 billion light years. Astronomers find darkness beyond the visible universe in a sky survey by the Sloan Digital Sky Survey or SDSS. So, the 1st heaven extends to 4,000 light years. The other six heavens – 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th, 6th, and 7th ones are possibly contained within the cosmic horizon and are invisible to retina-exciting electromagnetic waves. They cannot be located at equidistances because the further away a heaven is, the faster it expands as Hubble discovered. The Quran states in this regard: "The heavens, we have built them with power. And verily, we are expanding it" (51:47).

Apart from this materialistic world description, in the angelic world, each heaven has a gate with a gateman. There are no interactions between humans and angels who are so many in number that a palm size space in the sky is not free, but an angel is prostrating. The Archangel knows where the entrance of which heaven. Protection of each heaven is required, possibly, to keep it safe from the entrance of the flying creatures, the Jinns.

Relativistic Effect of Distance Shortening

Whether it is the Isra (a one-way trip of 1,238 km) or M'raj (unknown distance in deep space) trip, the Prophet (PBUH) was in the company of Jibril (AS). Angels are not made of matter and are insensitive to gravitational attraction. In fast speed travels, distance becomes shortened. The contraction depends upon how close to light speed is the travel speed. This is human discovered law. Only the law creator knows the details of the law, the complete picture of which may not be known to the discoverer who bases it upon the experience only. His power is indicated in the verse (18:109): "Say, 'If the sea were ink for [writing] the words of my Lord, the sea would be exhausted before the words of my Lord were exhausted, even if We brought the like of it as a supplement.'" (18:109).

Muon Dilemma

Elementary particle muons are tiny particles that travel 99.8% of the speed of light. Their lifetime is a little more than 2 microseconds. These particles are created in abundance about six miles above the atmosphere. They can travel less than half a mile during their lifetime. But the application of fast speed travel laws shows their six miles distance reduced to less than half a mile. The steps to find the distance contraction are the following:

Find the ratio of the traveler (muon) speed to light speed. Then square it. Subtract the squared quantity from 1.00. Take the square root of the difference. Take the reciprocal of the difference. Divide the travel distance by the reciprocal to get the contracted distance. To know if the traveler muon can cross this distance, multiply the light speed by the ratio of the traveler speed to light speed to get the travel speed in mi/s or km/s. Have the traveler's lifetime in seconds. Multiply this lifetime by the traveler's speed in mi/s or km/s.

Space Radiation Hazards

Out of the two dangerous radiation belts that surround our planet, the inner one starts from about four hundred miles and extends to 6,000 miles, and the outer one extends from 8,400 miles to 36,000 miles leaving a gap of about 2,400 miles in between them.

That dangerous radiation mutates (changes) our DNA. The radiation deposit energy in our body if exposed to it. If 1 kg of our body mass gets 1 calorie of energy, a lot of cells will be damaged. Astronauts protect themselves with \$250,000,000-worth space suits (Director of the Spacesuit Laboratory in an interview with the National Public Radio). The radiation belt passing time was too short that the Prophet's (pbuh) body was unhurt. It is like getting not wet in a heavy downpour if exposed to one microsecond for rapid speeding but would get wet in one second or more exposure time.

Oxygen Requirement

Human brain damages in about 3 minutes without oxygen. The Prophet (PBUH) was in the company of the creatures of nano second place. He could easily survive without oxygen in that minute interval of time. The Quran states: “Near *Sidrat-ul-Muntaha* [lote-tree of the utmost boundary (beyond which none can pass)] (14), Near it is the Paradise of Abode (15). When that covered the lote-tree which did cover it (16) “The sight (of Prophet Muhammad (pbuh)) turned not aside (right or left), nor it transgressed beyond (the) limit (ordained for it) (17). Indeed he (Muhammad (pbuh)) did see, of the Greatest Signs, of his Lord (Allah)” (18).

Even if the Prophet (pbuh) gazed for one second, it would be too long in the nanosecond world - it would be 1000 times more than Angelic nanosecond time scale.

Buraq's Speed and Physical Damage

Bunge jumpers feel one G force – 9.8 Newton force per each kilogram body mass in free falls. If the planet's attraction is fourteen times stronger, a force of 14 G will be felt by the jumpers, which can tear organs from one another even in sideways jerking's. Head-to-foot motion pushes all blood to the feet. Anyone can be knocked out with a 4 to 8 longitudinal G force. Our blood takes to complete one cycle – from the heart to toes and back to heart – about 45 seconds. The journey being uniform all through at the angelic speed, humanly irresponsible bodily feelings reigned. The human brain takes about three-tenths of a second to receive the signals of pain from pressure or thermal pain due to excessive heat or cold. The super swift journey being completed in much, much shorter time interval with Archangel, the Prophet's (pbuh) physical inertia remained intact. It is like our body's insensitiveness to the electron-proton and nuclear phenomena within our body.

Atmospheric Re-entry

Prophet (pbuh) reentry to the Earth's atmosphere was not like the reentry of NASA's capsules because of the different time scales of event. Although it is hard to imagine, no atmospheric friction-generated heat could be produced in his (pbuh) body. The shortage of time lag between the re-entry and the heat development did not allow his (pbuh) his body to heat up.

Significance

Every year on the M'raj occasion numerous lectures is delivered without going into the details of the trip from the perspective of science. Lectures contain the description of the event and end with the praise of the Almighty. Anyone having a knowledge of the space environment, oxygen deficient deep space, physical impacts from high-speed travels, surgery without anesthetics, re-entry heating, etc. would naturally ask questions on these issues of the trip. Believing Muslims will rest the matter with the Almighty. This article provides answers to these questions. Muslims will rejoice at the scientific validity of the M'raj event. Their mind will be enlightened.

CONCLUSION

Angels are the swiftest creation of God. Humans are not sensitive to their pace of work. The Prophet had uncommon sense of perception. Angelic performances on humans can be so quick that their physical feelings fail to detect. Buraq was an ideal carrier in the applicability of the special postulates of relativity. Relativistic phenomena like distance contraction as in the case of M'raj continue happening in Allah creation. Humans' insensitivity to perceptions does not negate the existences of unforeseen effects, particularly, those occurring in the nano-second time scale. Religious scholars need to be scholars in natural sciences, too, to understand the Quran-ul-Hakim.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The author's sincere thanks are due to those individuals and agencies that have provided facts and figures for this article.

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