



Significance & Virtues of Al-Masjid Al-'Aqṣā'

Significance & Virtues:

Introduction

- ❖ Masjid Al-ʿAqṣā is one of the most significant landmarks in Islām.
- ❖ It is special and holds a distinguished rank in our Islāmic heritage.
- ❖ Masjid Al-ʿAqṣā is the place of origin of the Prophets ﷺ since the era of ʿIbrāhīm عليه السلام.
- ❖ It is the place of worship and the qiblah for the Prophets ﷺ.
- ❖ The Prophets ﷺ and many righteous personalities are buried surrounding it. [See: Tafsīr Qurṭubī, Tafsīr Ibn Kathīr, Rūḥul Maʿānī]

Significance & Virtues: Introduction

- ❖ Al-ʿAqṣā should have a place in our hearts.
- ❖ For our hearts to be connected to this Holy Masjid, it is imperative to know and recognize its worth.

Allāh Mentions It By Its Name In The Glorious Qur'ān

﴿سُبْحَانَ الَّذِي أَسْرَى بِعَبْدِهِ لَيْلًا مِّنَ الْمَسْجِدِ الْحَرَامِ
إِلَى الْمَسْجِدِ الْأَقْصَى الَّذِي بَارَكْنَا حَوْلَهُ لِنُرِيَهُ مِنْ آيَاتِنَا﴾

“Exalted is He who took His Servant by night from Al-Masjid Al-Ḥarām to **Al-Masjid Al-ʿAqṣā**, whose surroundings We have blessed, to show him of Our signs.” *{Al-Isrā': 1}*

Allāh Mentions It By Its Name

In The Glorious Qur'ān

- ❖ Apart from Masjid Al-Ḥarām it is the only Masjid which Allāh mentions with its name in the Qur'ān Majīd.
- ❖ If no other virtue was established apart from this Qur'ānic verse, **this verse alone would be sufficient to prove its virtue and all of its blessings.**

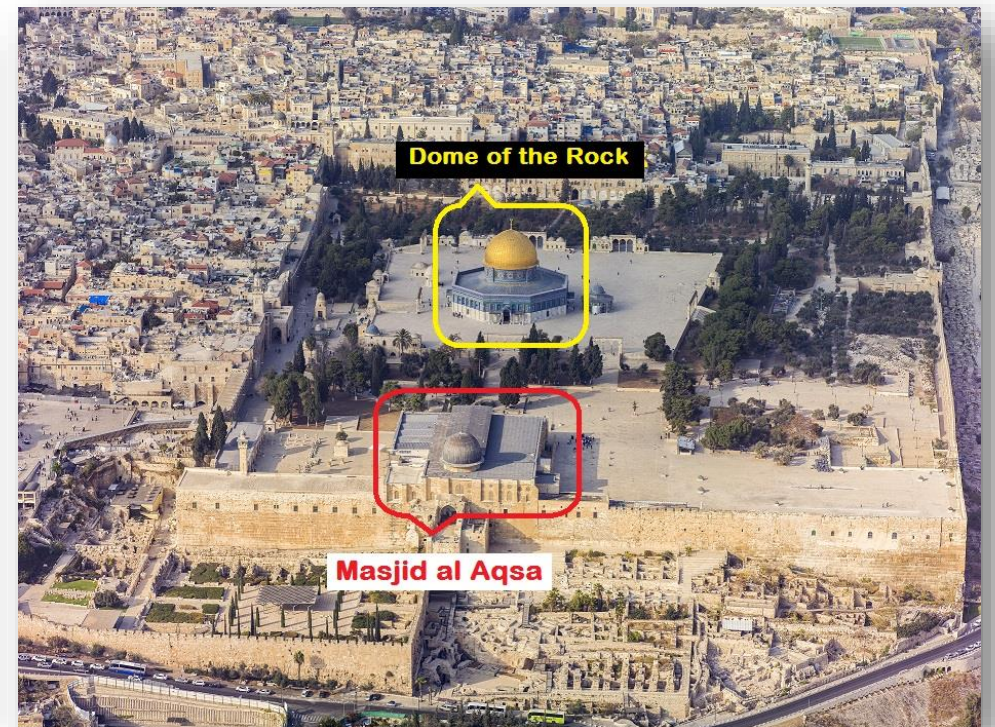
What Is Masjid Al-Aqṣā?

- ❖ The literal meaning of the Al-Masjid 'Aqṣā' is “The Furthest Precinct of Worship”.
- ❖ It is the furthest Masjid from Masjid Al-Ḥarām and Ḥijāz which is an honour to visit.
- ❖ It is also known by approximately 20 other names.
- ❖ Other famous names are:
 - ✓ Baytul Muqaddas: the Purified House
 - ✓ Baytul Maqdis: the House of Purification.

[See: *Tafsīr Qurṭubī, Rūḥul Ma‘ānī, Faḥḥul Bārī, Faḥḥul Mulhim*]

What Is Masjid Al-Aqṣā?

Misconception



What Is Masjid Al-Aqṣā?

- ❖ The scholars have unanimously agreed that Masjid Al-ʿAqṣā refers to the entire compound.
- ❖ It is inclusive of every portion within the four walls of the ʿAqṣā compound.

Al-Masjid Al-
Aqṣā's
Boundaries



Virtue of Shām-The Surroundings Of This Masjid Have Also Been Blessed

الَّذِي بَارَكْنَا حَوْلَهُ

The surroundings Which We have blessed. {Al-Isrā': 1}

❖ This refers to the entire land
of Shām.

Virtues of Shām

- ❖ The Prophet ﷺ supplicated (*du‘ā*) for it to be blessed. [Ṣaḥīḥ Bukhārī #1037]
- ❖ It is the land over which the angels spread their wings. [Jāmi‘ Tirmidhī #3954]

Virtues of Shām

Sayyidunā Zayd ibn Thābit رضي الله عنه narrated:

“We were with the Messenger of Allāh صلى الله عليه وسلم collecting the Qur’ān on pieces of cloth. Then, the Messenger of Allāh صلى الله عليه وسلم said: **‘Glad tidings (Ṭūbā) for Shām.’** So we said: ‘Why is that so, O Messenger of Allāh?’ He said: **‘Because the angels of the Ar-Raḥmān (The Most Merciful) spread their wings over it.’**”

[Jāmi‘ Tirmidhī #3954]

Virtues of Shām

- ❖ Shām is the land Which Nabī ﷺ commanded to hold on to when the fire will emerge close to Qiyāmah.
- ❖ It is the stronghold of the believers.

Virtues of Shām

- ❖ It is the land where 'Imān will be when trials and tribulations will befall. [Musnad Aḥmed #21733]
- ❖ Shām is Allāh's chosen land and the land where His chosen servants will be gathered.
- ❖ It is the land over which Allāh has taken responsibility for Nabī ﷺ. [Sunan 'Abī Dāwūd #2483]

What Is Shām?

- ❖ Shām is *literally* translated as Syria.
- ❖ In the *ḥadith*, *sīrah* and Islāmic history, it does not only refer to what we know as present-day Syria.

What Is Shām?

The land of **Shām** refers to:

- ❖ Modern day **Palestine**
- ❖ Syria
- ❖ Jordan
- ❖ Lebanon
- ❖ Parts of: Northern Egypt, Southern Turkey, Western 'Irāq and Northern Saudi Arabia.

[See: *Muʿjamul Buldān* 3/312]



Al-ʿAqṣā: Dual Virtues

- ❖ Al-ʿAqṣā is situated **in** Shām.
- ❖ Therefore, it is significant and virtuous from two angles :

1. Virtues of Al-ʿAqṣā and Baytul Maqdis itself.
2. Virtues of Shām.

Al-'Aqṣā: Virtues From The Qur'ān

❖ Allāh refers to it as:

- A *muqaddasah* (holy, pure, sanctified) land. {Al-Mā'idah:21}
- A *mubārak* (blessed) land. {As-Sabā:18}
- A pleasant abode. {Yūnus:93}

Al- 'Aqṣā: Virtues From The Qur'ān

- Some opinions state that the *muqaddasah* and *mubārak* land and 'a pleasant abode' is referring to **Baytul Maqdis** specifically.
- Other opinions state that a more general area of Shām or **Palestine** is being referred to.
- Nevertheless, whichever interpretation is taken, **Masjid 'Aqṣā** is also included within the virtue as it is located in Shām.

Al- 'Aqṣā: Virtues From The Qur'ān

﴿وَأَسْتَمِعْ يَوْمَ يُنَادِ الْمُنَادِ مِنْ مَّكَانٍ قَرِيبٍ﴾

And listen on the Day when the Caller will call out from
a place that is near. {Qāf:41}

- ❖ ‘A place that is near’ refers to the rock (ṣakhrāh) of Bayt al-Maqdis as it is in the centre of the earth and it is the closest point on earth to the heavens by a distance of 18 miles. [See: Tafsīr Ṭabrī 21/474, Tafsīr Qurṭubī 19/464, Rūḥul Ma‘ānī 25/460]

Al- ' Aqṣā: Virtues From The Qur' ān

﴿وَالْتَيْنِ وَالزَّيْتُونِ﴾

By the fig and the olive. {At-Tīn:1}

- ❖ Allāh Ta'ālā swears by 'The Olive' which is interpreted by some as Baytul Maqdis or the mountains upon which it is situated as this is where olives are grown.

Al- 'Aqṣā:

Virtues From The Qur'ān

- ❖ Maryam عليها السلام (Mary) And
Prophet 'Īsā عليه السلام (Jesus) Were
Sheltered In Or Around Masjid
'Aqṣā.

Al- 'Aqṣā: Virtues From The Qur'ān

﴿وَجَعَلْنَا ابْنَ مَرْيَمَ وَأُمَّهُ آيَةً وَآوَيْنَاهُمَا إِلَى رَبْوَةٍ ذَاتِ قَرَارٍ وَمَعِينٍ﴾

And We made the son of Maryam and his mother a sign and sheltered them within a high ground having level [areas] and flowing water. {Al-Mu'minūn:50}

'A high ground' refers to:

1. Palestine.
2. Ramlah in Palestine.
3. Damascus.
4. Bayt al-Maqdis [Tafsīr Qurṭubī 15/48, Rūḥul Ma'ānī 18/87, Ṣafwatut Tafāsīr 2/310]

Al- 'Aqṣā: Virtues From The Qur'ān

﴿وَلِسُلَيْمَانَ الرِّيحَ عَاصِفَةً تَجْرِي بِأَمْرِهِ إِلَى الْأَرْضِ الَّتِي بَارَكْنَا فِيهَا﴾

And to Sulaymān [We subjected] the wind, blowing forcefully, proceeding by his command toward the land which We had blessed. {Al-'Anbiyā':81}

❖ Shām was the capital of Sulaymān's ﷺ (Solomon) Kingdom and Masjid 'Aqṣā is located in Shām.

[See: Tafsīr Ṭabarī 16/231 See: Tafsīr Qurṭubī 14/255] [See: Ṣafwatut Tafāsīr 2/270]

Al- 'Aqṣā: Virtues From The Aḥādīth

- ❖ **The First Qiblah.** [Ṣaḥīḥ Bukhārī #4492] [See: Ṣaḥīḥ Muslim #525 (b)]
- ❖ **The Second Masjid On Earth.** [Ṣaḥīḥ Bukhārī #3425]
- ❖ **The third holiest Masjid towards which visiting is emphasized.** [Ṣaḥīḥ Bukhārī #1189] [See: Ṣaḥīḥ Muslim #1397]
- ❖ **The station between Isrā' and Mi'rāj.**
(the miraculous night ascension) [Ṣaḥīḥ Muslim #162]

Al- 'Aqṣā: Virtues From The Aḥādīth

- ❖ Nabī ﷺ performed ṣalāh in this Masjid. [Ṣaḥīḥ Muslim #162]
- ❖ Nabī ﷺ led all the Prophets ﷺ in ṣalāh in this Masjid during the night of Isrā' and Mi'rāj. [Sunan Nasā'ī #450]
[See: Ṣaḥīḥ Muslim #172, Musnad Aḥmad #2324]
- ❖ It is the **only** place on earth in which all the Prophets ﷺ were gathered from Ādam ﷺ until Our Nabī Muḥammad ﷺ in the most honourable gathering in history. [Al Masjid Al-'Aqṣā: 'Arba'ūna Ma'lūmatan Najhaluhā Pg. 20]

Al- 'Aqṣā: Virtues From The Aḥādīth

- ❖ The reward for performing ṣalāh in this Masjid is multiplied. (By **1000** according to the most authentic narration.) [Sunan Ibn Majah #1407]
- ❖ There is hope of attaining the reward of emerging free of sin if visited solely to perform ṣalāh within it. (Sulaymān's عليه السلام du'ā') [Sunan Nasā'ī #693]

[See: Sunan Ibn Mājah #1408]

Al- ' Aqṣā: Virtues From The Aḥādīth

- ❖ This Masjid is so sacred that it is among the four *masājid* in which Dajjāl (false messiah) will not be able to enter. [Musnad Aḥmad#23090, Sharḥ Mushkilil 'Āthār 15/376]
- ❖ It is the land of gathering (al-maḥshar) and resurrection (al-manshar). [See: Sunan Ibn Mājah #1407]

Al- ' Aqṣā: Virtues From The Aḥādīth

- ❖ Beloved to the Prophets ﷺ. Mūsā ﷺ asked Allāh to be buried close to it.
- ❖ There is a group who will always be victorious upon the Dīn and overpower their enemies in and around this Masjid.

[Ṣaḥīḥ Bukhārī #1339] [See: Ṣaḥīḥ Muslim #2372]

[Ṣaḥīḥ Muslim #1920, #1923, #1921, #1073] [Musnad Aḥmad #19290] [Musnad Aḥmad #22320]

Al-'Aqṣā: Virtues From The Aḥādīth

- ❖ Another virtue to marvel at is that the rock of Bayt al-Maqdis is from Jannah. [Sunan Ibn Mājah #3456]



Al- 'Aqṣā: Virtues From The Aḥādīth

It was narrated from Sayyidunā 'Abū Dharr رضي الله عنه who said: “.....what an amazing place of worship it is! Surely, there will soon be a time in which it will be better than the **entire world** for a man to possess **a piece of land** equivalent to his horse's lead rope from which he can see **Bayt al-Maqdis.**” He (the narrator) said: “Or he (عليه السلام) said: 'It will be better than the **entire world and everything it contains.**” [Ḥākim in *Al-Mustadrak* Vol.4 Pg.509]

Significance & Virtues

Conclusion

- ❖ Nabī ﷺ praised Al-ʿAqṣāʾ due to its virtue and esteemed status.
- ❖ It is due to its distinguished status that the hearts of the Muslims are attached to it. [Al Masjid Al-ʿAqṣāʾ: ʿArbaʿūna Maʿlūmatan Najhaluhā Pg. 14]
- ❖ Our heart strings can only be truly attached if we truly understand how blessed and virtuous it is.

May Allāh Ta'ālā instill
within us the true love
for Al-Masjid Al-'Aqṣā'
and its surrounding
lands.

May He grant us the
ability to truly
appreciate them.

May He bestow us with
the knowledge and
understanding of why it
is so blessed.

Āmīn.

