

Dear Brothers and Respected Sisters
Salaamun Alaykum

The Concept and Definition of Mu'jizah in Islamic Theology

Mu'jizah (miracle) is an extraordinary sign from Allah that proves the truthfulness of someone who claims to be as Nabi. It is a clear proof of Nubuwah, not just any unusual event. For something to be a Mu'jizah, it must meet the following conditions:

From Allah alone - It happens by Allah's will, without using ordinary methods, and it confirms the Nabavi mission. Extraordinary - It is something beyond natural causes. Common events like the sun rising or flowers blooming is not Mu'jizah. Cannot be copied - No one else can do it. Happens when the Nabi wants - It occurs at the time and in the way the Nabi requests. Matches the request - If the Nabi says, "This dead person will come back to life," that exact thing must happen. If something unrelated happens instead, it is not a Mu'jizah. Does not deny the Prophet - If the miracle itself goes against the Nabavi claim (for example, a talking animal says, "He is lying"), it is not a Mu'jizah. After declaring Nubuwah - It only counts after the Nabi publicly announces that he is a Nabi.

Signs Before Nubuwah (Irhasat)

Before a Nabi announces his mission, certain miraculous events may happen as signs of Nubuwah. These are called Irhasat. Nabi Essa (as) speaking while still in the cradle. Muhammad (S) being shaded by a cloud, greeted by trees and stones, receiving dates from a dry tree, or having his chest miraculously opened and purified during his childhood. These are not Mu'jizas but Karamas—miracles granted to Allah's beloved servants. Karamas can also occur to the Awliya (friends of Allah).

Important Clarification

Jahil or Ignorant people often call every strange or unusual event a "Mu'jizah." This is wrong. Not every surprising event is a Mu'jizah. For example a rare natural phenomenon, a coincidence, a magician's trick. None of these qualify as a Mu'jizah unless they meet all the conditions above and occur as proof of a truthfulness of Nabi.

Karam'at (singular: Karamah) are extraordinary events or miracles that Allah grants to His Awliya (saintly and pious servants). They are different from Mu'jizah in purpose and context. A Mu'jizah happens through a Nabi to prove his truthfulness and Nubuwah. A Karamah happens through a Wali (friend of Allah) as an honor from Allah, not to prove Nubuwah.

Key Points About Karam'at

From Allah Alone - The Wali does not create or control it; it is purely Allah's doing. Not a Proof of Nubuwah - It is a personal gift or support for the Wali, not a public claim. May Be Hidden – Many Awliya do not speak of their Karam'at to avoid pride or attracting fame. It can happen in many forms. Being protected from harm in an unusual way. Knowledge of something hidden (without formal learning). Receiving food or help in a miraculous manner. Extraordinary acts like traveling great distances in moments. Not Magic or Trickery – It is real, unlike illusions or sleight of hand.

Important Distinction

If an extraordinary event happens through a Nabi, it's a Mu'jizah. If it happens through a Wali it's a Karamah. If it happens through a sinful or lying person it could be Istidraj (a deceptive sign meant as a test). Istidraj is when Allah allows a sinful, disobedient, or false person to perform extraordinary acts - not as an honor, but as a test and a form of gradual punishment. Instead of being a sign of piety, it is a deception that misleads the person and those who follow him.

Key Points About Istidraj

From Allah, but Not a Blessing - Allah gives these powers or events to let the person go further in arrogance and sin before sudden punishment. It can happen to wrongdoers. It may occur through liars, oppressors, or people who openly disobey Allah. Can mislead people, many mistake it for a miracle or blessing and start following the person, thinking they are a Wali or Nabi. It is a form of gradual punishment. Allah allows them to continue so that when the punishment comes, it is complete and without excuse.

Examples of Istidraj

A corrupt leader suddenly gaining wealth, power, or influence despite wrongdoing. A false spiritual teacher showing unusual feats (e.g., walking on fire, revealing "hidden" things) but using them to mislead. A magician or liar gaining temporary supernatural abilities. Qur'an says: "We shall gradually lead them [to punishment] from where they do not know." (Surah al-Ar'af, 7:182)

With best Regards

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