

Allah's Final Messenger

Introduction

Muhammad son of Abdullah was Allah's final prophet and messenger to humanity, who is also referred to as the Seal of the Prophets. He brought the Almighty's last revelation to mankind, the Qur'an, and adopted and enshrined a code of conduct, a system of governance, and a morality the like of which was never seen before him in human history, nor will be seen in the future. [And We have not sent you but as a mercy to the worlds.] 21:107 Editors.

- ❖ The Holy Prophet Muhammad, peace be upon him and his holy family, is the role model for all humanity and the perfect example of all manifestations of good and virtue.
- ❖ It is imperative for the Muslims, or rather, for the entire world population – if they wished good for themselves – to follow the Holy Prophet's lead and emulate and uphold his morals and conducts.
- ❖ In all situations, Allah's messenger, peace be upon him and his holy family, was the finest example for trustworthiness and sincerity, truthfulness and loyalty, good manners, noble nature and magnanimity, knowledge and forbearance, forgiveness, generosity and bravery, piety and abstention from any sin or evil, asceticism and virtue, justice, humility, and tireless endeavor (or *jihad*).
- ❖ Allah's Messenger, peace be upon him and his holy family, was the embodiment of all virtues and morality, the essence of honor and magnanimity, the home of knowledge and justice, piety and ethics, and the touchstone of the religion, the material world, and the hereafter.

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- ❖ Never did a similitude of Allah's Messenger, peace be upon him and his holy family, come in the past, and there will never ever come one like him in the future.
- ❖ Prophet Muhammad, peace be upon him and his holy family, is the greatest and the most distinguished and virtuous personality Almighty Allah has ever created. Even when the Commander of the Faithful, Imam Ali, peace be upon him, was asked "Are you a Prophet?" he said: "I am but one of the slaves of Allah's Messenger, peace be upon him and his holy family."
- ❖ The Prophet of Islam, peace be upon him and his holy family, established a comprehensive *Sunnah*, or a system of rules, laws and teachings for the Muslims. Like the Prophet himself, these rules, laws and teachings are the best and the most perfect for mankind.
- ❖ The Holy Qur'an is the living eternal miracle of Allah's Messenger, peace be upon him and his holy family. This is because it is the only heavenly book that Almighty Allah willed to be immune from additions, deductions, changes and alterations; despite the concerted effort of those who planned and embarked on effecting such alterations. Thus it is the eternal book, and the permanent constitution for life until the Day of Judgment, and as long as mankind lives on Earth. This is because the Holy Qur'an contains superior laws and teachings that guarantee mankind's prosperity, progress and advancement.
- ❖ Allah's messenger, peace be upon him and his holy family, never pre- emotively started a war against an enemy. Rather, it was the enemy who used to attack the holy Prophet. Imam Ali adopted the same policy, as did Imam Husayn;¹ Imam Ali's son and the holy Prophet's grandson. Even though the enemy had besieged him, Imam Husayn used to say, "I hate to be the one to initiate the attack." This indeed was always the stance taken by Ahl al-Bayt, peace be upon them all, in confrontation with their enemies.²

Islam lays great emphasizes on human behavior, and pays significant attention to social manners and etiquette, so much so that Allah's messenger, peace be upon him and his holy family, made the ultimate goal of his blessed mission to be the perfection and dissemination of noble manners and ethical conduct throughout the land, by saying: **“Indeed, I have been sent to perfect and complete the noble morals.”** Furthermore, when Almighty Allah praises His beloved messenger, peace be upon him and his holy family, He commends his noble manners, by saying: **[and you are of sublime morality].**³ When Allah reminds the Muslim nation of the mercy and blessing that have been bestowed upon them, He cites the most important of qualities of such mercy, which are the leniency and clemency of his manners; Almighty Allah states; **[by the mercy of Allah you have been lenient to them].**⁴ These words allude to the importance of good manners and moral conduct in Islam, and their significance for a Muslim individual as a way of life.

¹ Imam Husayn, peace be upon him, is the third of the twelve divinely- appointed Imams to succeed the prophet Muhammad, peace be upon him and his holy family.

² And the same goes with Muslim ibn Aqeel, Imam Husayn's cousin and special envoy to the people of Kufah. Muslim ibn Aqeel never resorted to anticipatory or pre-emptive strike against the notorious Kufah governor Obaidullah ibn Ziyad, when the opportunity arose for him, even though if he had done so he would have saved his own life, prevented the slaughter of Imam Husayn and the tragedy of Karbala altogether. He refrained from resorting to such a conduct which ultimately resulted in a monumental cost to him and his master Imam Husayn, peace be upon him. However, **“In English law, you don't have to wait for the aggressor to shoot first – and the same principle is accepted in international law.”**

³ The Holy Qur'an, the Pen (68):4

⁴ The Holy Qur'an, Family of 'Imran (3):159

- ❖ A great number of people were impressed by Allah's Messenger's well-mannered and courteous conduct, and were attracted to Islam as a result.

- ❖ During the Prophet's time in Mecca – after the start of his divine mission – his teachings and policies did not become common knowledge. Thus most of his teachings were not implemented, because neither the environment was conducive to practice such teachings; nor did he have any other alternatives – in order to assess how the prophet interacted with people; during times of war or peace, and with his friends and foes. But all that became clear in Medina, when he began to lay the foundation for the blessed Islamic government; and when he and the Muslims found themselves unimpeded by the restrictions and sanctions imposed on them in Mecca. It was then that the real meaning and the ideals of the magnanimous Sharia and the pure prophetic Sunnah became evident to the Muslim nation. In this way Prophet Muhammad, peace be upon him and his holy family, established a perfect example of the ideal model of government in existence. This was the same style of government which the Commander of the Faithful (*Amir al-Mo'mineen*), Imam Ali, peace be upon him, followed during his five-year reign.

You only need to study the biography of the Prophet of Islam, peace be upon him and his holy family, to see hundreds of examples [of his social and moral conducts and interactions with friends and foes, and his generosity].¹ If these examples were compiled and presented, every non-Muslim, even if zealous and fanatic – save the very stubborn ones – would get impressed by the Prophet's virtues and teachings, and would ultimately embrace Islam.

¹ For example, when he conquered Mecca, the capital city of polytheism and idolatry, the Prophet did so without any bloodshed, he did not force anyone to accept Islam, and furthermore he did not pursue or prosecute those chiefs who had been attempting to kill him by waging wars against him for many years,

- ❖ If today, or any other day, the teachings and policies of the Holy Prophet, peace be upon him and his holy family, and those of Commander of the Faithful Imam Ali, peace be upon him, were implemented; say in our homes, places of work, and our countries, then what was achieved fourteen hundred years ago would be realized today.¹ People would attain prosperity and choose Islam as a way of life.
- ❖ The fact that great number of people embraced Islam during the time of the Holy Prophet, was not a miracle or an extraordinary phenomenon. Rather, this was a natural outcome of the policies, approach and conduct of the Prophet of Islam, peace be upon him and his holy family.
- ❖ The life of the Holy Prophet, peace be upon him and his holy family, is full of inspiring examples of superior social and ethical conduct that touch the mind and soul of the individual.
- ❖ I urge you to study the biography of the Holy Prophet, peace be upon him and his holy family, and recount and present the great many of the sublime stances and intellectually persuasive arguments to the Jews, Christians and atheists, and you would undoubtedly convince them to embrace Islam as a religion of reason and ideals. Simultaneously, upon learning about these, Muslims will strengthen their own faith in their religion, and will encourage them to pass on their conviction to others.

and before that they had driven him and his fellow Muslims out of the city and confiscated all their properties, but the Prophet released them to be free.

¹ i.e. the prosperity and happiness that was achieved as a result of those policies then would be realized today.

- ❖ The Prophet of Islam, peace be upon him and his holy family, introduced the system of social security and welfare as a gift to the world, with happy consequences for humanity. This will be achieved once again with the reappearance of Allah's greatest Authority, the Awaited Imam Mahdi,¹ may Allah hasten his reappearance, and thus the Divine Promise will be realized.
- ❖ Prophet Muhammad, peace be upon him and his holy family, was the best human being and Allah's chosen messenger, and he brought the best law and policy that promised material and spiritual fulfilment to mankind. This begs the question: who wouldn't like to follow such a convincingly rational path and pride oneself of belonging to a superior system of justice and equality?!
- ❖ The progressive laws which were put in practice by the Prophet Muhammad, and by the Commander of the Faithful Imam Ali, peace be upon them, upheld human honor and dignity and provided social security to the masses. These laws have no similitude anywhere in the world and no laws measure up to the unparalleled laws of Islam.
- ❖ Without doubt, Allah's Messenger, peace be upon him and his holy family, is matchless in creation, and commands the most distinguished stature in Almighty Allah's view. He is the most honored in creation, rather, Almighty Allah did not create anything except for the sake of the Prophet, and peace be upon him and his holy family. On the night of ascension, Almighty Allah addressed the prophet by saying, "O Ahmad! Were it not for you, I would not have created the galaxies."

¹ Imam Mahdi, may Allah hasten his reappearance, is the twelfth of the divinely-appointed successors to Prophet Muhammad, peace be upon him and his holy family, about whom the prophet said, "He will fill the earth with peace and justice after it has been filled with wronging and oppression."

- ❖ If Almighty Allah had not commanded us to obey His Messenger, peace be upon him and his holy family, it would not have been obligatory for us to obey the Prophet.
- ❖ Obeying the Prophet and obeying the Imam, peace be upon them, is part of the obedience of Almighty Allah, and if Almighty Allah were to order us to obey someone other than them, we would have done so in obedience to His command.
- ❖ The disbelievers used to connive against Islam and the Muslims, show animosity towards Allah's Messenger personally, belie him, and attribute rude things to him. Yet, despite all this, they used to live in peace and harmony among the Muslims and enjoyed freedom and welfare under the rules of Allah's Messenger and of the Commander of the Faithful, Imam Ali, peace be upon them. It is not reported that any one of the offending disbelievers was ever harmed in any way for their actions under the Muslim rule. Rather, history records that when a disbeliever activist, who used to harass the Prophet did not show up for a few days, the Prophet enquired about him, and it was said that he was ill. The Prophet, peace be upon him and his holy family, paid him a visit to wish him well, together with a group of his companions.