

The Message of Prophet Muhammad

(Sallallahu alaihi wa sallam)

Almighty Allah says in the Holy Quran:

Indeed, Allah conferred a great favor on the believers that He raised amongst them (the most eminent) Messenger (blessings and peace be upon him) from amongst themselves, who recites to them His Revelations, purifies them, and educates them on the Book and Wisdom though, before that, they were in manifest error. Surah Ale Imran (3:64)

The world before the Holy Prophet (Sallallahu alaihi wa sallam)

The Holy Prophet (Sallallahu alaihi wa sallam) is Himself a great bounty of Allah for all humankind. Before Him, ignorance ruled the roost. Along with the Arabian Peninsula, the whole world was submerged in darkness. People were stuck in the mire of disbelief and polytheism. They were busy in indecency. Oppression and trampling others' rights was rampant. Usury and gambling was the order of the day. Wine was consumed and blood was shed right in public. The ties of love between people were almost nonexistent. Instead, enmity and antagonism was common. One tribe would be opposed to another. One family would dislike another. This hate and opposition would eventually culminate in a war between the 2 tribes. Each tribe would call upon its supporters for help. In this way, many tribes would fight each other. They would spend all their energies in trying to wipe out the other tribe. 'Aus and Khazraj fought with each other over a trivial issue and the resulting war lasted for 120 years.

In such a terrorized atmosphere, how could human life remain safe? If life itself had become so cheap, then what to say of material wealth and possessions? The hearts had become hardened and mutual relations were straitened. People would consider selfishness, pride and vanity as their honor. Humanity itself was on the verge of death. In such a time, to guide humanity back on to the right path, to bring them out from the gloom of disbelief and polytheism and illuminate them with the radiance of faith, to dispel ignorance and grant humanity the wealth of knowledge, Almighty Allah sent the Holy Prophet (Sallallahu alaihi wa sallam) to the whole world as the

Seal of all Prophets. With the arrival of the Holy Prophet (Sallallahu alaihi wa sallam), mercy and benevolence enveloped the whole world. Humanity was provided succor. Bloodshed and slaughtering was replaced by peace and security. The hardened hearts were replaced by affectionate and soft-heartedness. Straitened relations were un-straitened. Selfishness was replaced by sincerity before Allah. Pride was replaced by humility. The Holy Prophet (Sallallahu alaihi wa sallam) smoothed the whole society. He replaced the differences of the society with unity. He granted the beacons of knowledge to those who were wandering bewildered in the darkness of ignorance. He granted life to humanity, which was in the throes of death. The Holy Prophet (Sallallahu alaihi wa sallam) taught everyone that their strength was not to slaughter others, but to maintain peace by removing threats from the society. He taught others that their energies should not be expended in creating differences but to promote and maintain unity, that our efforts should not be to deceive people but to sacrifice for their sake, that our very presence shouldn't be to oppress others but to end falsehood and to raise the banner of truth.

The universality of the Prophethood of the Holy Prophet (Sallallahu alaihi wa sallam)

Almighty Allah has made the Prophethood of the Holy Prophet (Sallallahu alaihi wa sallam) universal. He is not the Prophet for any particular nation or

country but He is the Divine Guide for the whole creation. Almighty Allah says:

Blessed is He (Allah) Who sent down to His (most beloved and most intimate) servant the Criterion (the Quran) that (draws the difference between right and wrong and) gives judgment in order that he may be a Warner to all the worlds; Surah Furqan (25:1)

The message of the Prophethood of the Holy Prophet (Sallallahu alaihi wa sallam) covers all aspects of life. It is equally beneficial for all classes and groups. After the Holy Prophet (Sallallahu alaihi wa sallam) came, those who worshipped their false "gods" started worshipping the One True Lord. He (Sallallahu alaihi wa sallam) safeguarded humanity. He granted the rights due to the weak folk. He freed humanity from the shackles of slavery and oppression and granted it the right to lead a free life. He turned those who committed indecencies into epitomes of high morals. He dispelled the gloom of terror and barbarism and spread the light of peace and security. Even those who spread thorns in His path were rewarded with prayers of guidance and good wishes. He gave such a lesson to a bloodthirsty nation that sworn enemies became brother to each other. Almighty Allah mentions this great favor of the Holy Prophet (Sallallahu alaihi wa sallam) in the Holy Quran:

And hold fast to the rope of Allah, all of you together, and do not generate dissension and factions. But call to mind the blessing of Allah upon you when

you were enemies (one to another). Then He created the bond of love amongst your hearts, and by His blessing you became brothers. And you (had reached) the brink of a pit of the Fire (of Hell) but He rescued you from it. That is how Allah elaborates His signs to you that you may take guidance to the right path. Surah Ale Imran (3:103)

The Holy Prophet (Sallallahu alaihi wa sallam) lived for 40 years in Makkah before the Declaration of Prophethood. His life, His morals, the transparency of His affairs, His high character and His love for truth forced others to admit that the Holy Prophet (Sallallahu alaihi wa sallam) is the Truthful (*Sadiq*) and Trustworthy (*Ameen*).

For this reason, Almighty Allah declares His very presence as a great bounty and His Prophethood as a great favor. Almighty Allah says in the Holy Quran:

Indeed, Allah conferred a great favour on the believers that He raised amongst them (the most eminent) Messenger (blessings and peace be upon him) from amongst themselves, who recites to them His Revelations, purifies them, and educates them on the Book and Wisdom though, before that, they were in manifest error. Surah Ale Imran (3:164)

A great example of magnanimity

The disbelievers of Makkah had troubled the Holy Prophet (Sallallahu alaihi wa sallam) and the Muslims to no end right from the declaration of Prophethood to the Treaty of Hudaibiyah. They had left no stone unturned in hurting the Holy Prophet (Sallallahu alaihi wa sallam). Time and again they had conspired to martyr the Holy Prophet (Sallallahu alaihi wa sallam). They had incited other clans of Arabia against the Muslims. When Makkah was conquered, such sworn enemies were given this beautiful message by the Holy Prophet (Sallallahu alaihi wa sallam):

Translation: Today, there is no reproach. You are free to go. (Subul Ul Huda War Rashad, Vol. 5, Pg. No. 242)

The Holy Prophet (Sallallahu alaihi wa sallam) gave a general declaration:

Translation: Today is the day of mercy and benevolence. (Jame' Ul Ahadeeth, Hadith No. 38481)

When human beings take the reins of rule in their hands, they fail to differentiate between justice and oppression. All their victories are celebrated with the bloodshed of the defeated. On the occasion of the Victory over Makkah, the Holy Prophet (Sallallahu alaihi wa sallam) gave an example to all the rulers of the world. He gave them a great message that when the sworn enemies were at His mercy, all of them could have been

justly killed, but the Holy Prophet (Sallallahu alaihi wa sallam) said: This is a day of being merciful.

The world was at its nadir intellectually and morally. Humanity was submerged in their abysmal darkness. Almighty Allah sent the Sun of Prophethood who illuminated the very horizons of the world. The Prophet who gave the message of peace to the whole world, who taught humanity how to lead their lives, who granted the realization of their Lord Almighty, Almighty Allah says about the aim of sending Him:

Alif, Lam, Ra. (Only Allah and the Messenger [blessings and peace be upon him] know the real meaning.) It is a (glorious) Book which We have revealed to you so that you may bring mankind out of the darkness (of disbelief) to the light (of faith. And moreover) by the command of their Lord, (lead them) to the path of the Almighty, the Praiseworthy? Surah Ibraheem (14:1)

Severities were removed

For the past nations, the rules were very stringent. With the arrival of the Holy Prophet (Sallallahu alaihi wa sallam), they were removed. The severities in the laws of the past nations were removed. For the Jews, every kind of worldly work was prohibited on Saturday. This prohibition was removed. If a garment became unclean, it was necessary to tear it off. In the Shariah of the Holy Prophet (Sallallahu alaihi wa sallam), worldly work on

a Saturday is not prohibited. Clothes are cleaned by washing. Earlier, war booty was prohibited. Now it is not so. Earlier, it was necessary to go a particular place for worship, now the whole world has been made a place of worship. Earlier, excepting using water, there was no way to gain purification. Now for a valid reason, one may gain purification from soil, etc. Earlier, there were a lot of prohibitions on women during menstruation. Now except sexual intercourse, all other relations have been declared permissible. It is not prohibited to eat or drink with her, sit with her, etc.

All these kinds of severities have been removed with the blessing of the Prophethood of the Holy Prophet (Sallallahu alaihi wa sallam). We have been given laws which are comforting. This is all due to the blessings of the arrival of the Holy Prophet (Sallallahu alaihi wa sallam). Almighty Allah says:

(They are the people) who follow the Messenger, the Prophet (titled as) al-Ummi (who imparts to the people from Allah the news of the unseen and knowledge and secrets of socio-economic disciplines of life without himself being taught by any human in the world); whose (eminent attributes and exquisite powers) these people find written in the Torah and the Injil (Gospel); who enjoins on them virtues and forbids them vices, declares wholesome things lawful and impure ones unlawful for them and removes from them their heavy burdens and yokes (i.e., shackles) weighing upon them (due to their acts of disobedience and blesses them with freedom). So those who will believe in this (most exalted Messenger [blessings and peace

be upon him]) and venerate and revere him and serve and support him (in his Din [Religion]) and follow this light (the Quran) that has been sent down with him, it is they who will flourish and prosper. Surah A'araaf (7:157)

Freedom from slavery

Due to the coming of the Holy Prophet (Sallallahu alaihi wa sallam), hardships have been changed with conveniences. As the Holy Prophet (Sallallahu alaihi wa sallam) came, the shackles of slavery have been broken and the chains of subjugation have been done away with.

Thus, as soon as the Holy Prophet (Sallallahu alaihi wa sallam) arrived, Hadhrat Thuwaiba (May Allah be well pleased with her) was granted freedom. As given in Sahih Bukhari, Vol. 2, Pg. No. 764, 'Umdatul Qari, Kitab Un Nikah, Vol. 4, Pg. No. 45. Almighty Allah showed the world that this is the One who is free the world from slavery and subjugation.

Freedom from oppression

This is the Prophet (Sallallahu alaihi wa sallam) who is to free humankind from the clutches of oppression. He is the One to free human intellect from prejudice and favoritism. He is the One who will give their mutual relations an international character. This Hadith of Sunan Abu Dawood is proof enough:

Translation: Beware! If any person oppresses a non-Muslim (with whom there was a prior agreement) and snatches his (or her) right or taxes him beyond his capacity or takes away something without his express wish, then on the Day of Judgment, I will present the case against the aggressor. (Sunan Abu Dawood, Hadith No. 3054)

What a beautiful system did the Holy Prophet (Sallallahu alaihi wa sallam) give us! Even a non-Muslim can't be oppressed. This is that great aspect of an Islamic system that if someone looks at it with an unprejudiced eye, he/she will surely accept it.

Message of justice in infancy

In the pre-Islamic days, snatching each others' rights was considered a matter of pride. It was considered to oppress and wrong others. In such an era, the Holy Prophet (Sallallahu alaihi wa sallam) gave the message of justice and gave an actual real-life example of fulfilling others' rights. In His infancy, when Hadhrat Haleema Sa'adiya (May Allah be well pleased with her) fed Him from the right side, He would accept it. When she would try to feed Him from the other side, He wouldn't accept it. Hadhrat Haleema (May Allah be well pleased with her) understood that this side is for her son Hadhrat 'Abdullah. She says that the Holy Prophet (Sallallahu alaihi wa

sallam) was also satiated as was her son. (Al Mawahib Al Ladunniya, Vol. 1, Pg. No. 269)

The Holy Prophet (Sallallahu alaihi wa sallam) gave the message of justice right from His cradle. Right from His infancy, He instructed the Ummah in justice. He made it clear that until now, rights were trampled upon but now a law will be given by which due rights will be granted to all.

Message of truthfulness

The unparalleled life of the Holy Prophet (Sallallahu alaihi wa sallam), His truthfulness and His trustworthiness were accepted even by non-Muslims. He always spoke the truth. There would be nothing false in His talk. He is the epitome of truth. There is a Hadith in Mustadrak 'Alas Sahihain:

Translation: Hadhrat 'Ali (May Allah be well pleased with him) says: Abu Jahl told the Holy Prophet (Sallallahu alaihi wa sallam)! We know without doubt that you maintain relations and speak the truth. (Mustadrak 'Alas Sahihain, Hadith No. 3187)

The character and the morals of the Holy Prophet (Sallallahu alaihi wa sallam) were so high that the disbelievers would also accept it. Thus, when He stood on the mountain of Safa and called out to the Quraish, they all gathered. The Holy Prophet (Sallallahu alaihi wa sallam) asked them:

Translation: Tell me! If I inform you that behind this valley lies an army which is going to attack you, will you acknowledge what I say? They said: Yes! We have always seen you speaking the truth. (Sahih Bukhari, Hadith No. 4770)

A concrete example through His attributes

Similarly, after the first divine revelation, when the Holy Prophet (Sallallahu alaihi wa sallam) was worried about the Ummah, the Mother of the Believers, Hadhrat Khadija (May Allah be well pleased with her) reassured Him with the words:

Translation: By the Lord Almighty, He will keep your status elevated and will not stop His help. You treat relatives nicely, share the burden of the weak, earn for the needy, host guests and help people in their difficulties. (Sahih Bukhari, Hadith No. 3)

Message to help those who face difficulties

In the days of ignorance, moral ineptitude was at its nadir. Mutual relations were strained. Hurting each other had become custom. The desire revenge had crossed all limits. In such a barbaric society, the Holy Prophet

(Sallallahu alaihi wa sallam) taught people to care for each other and be sympathetic. As is mentioned in Sahih Muslim:

Translation: It is narrated on the authority of Hadhrat Abu Hurairah (May Allah be well pleased with him), he said that the Holy Prophet (Sallallahu alaihi wa sallam) said: The person who removes any trivial difficulty from a believer, Allah Most High will remove the great difficulty from that person. The person who conveniences a needy person, Allah Most High will create conveniences for that person in this world and the next. The person who conceals the sins of a Muslim, Allah Most High will conceal his sins in this world and the hereafter. Allah Most High keeps specially helping a slave as long as he keeps helping his brother. (Sahih Muslim, Hadith No. 7028)

The Holy Prophet (Sallallahu alaihi wa sallam) instructed us to help the helpless and to provide succor to the defenseless. He also gave glad tidings of reward on doing so. There is a Hadith:

Translation: It is narrated on the authority of Hadhrat Abu Hurairah (May Allah be well pleased with him) that the Holy Prophet (Sallallahu alaihi wa sallam) said: The person who strives to provide succor to the widows and the poor and the needy is like the one striving in the path of Allah. The narrator says: I think the Holy Prophet (Sallallahu alaihi wa sallam) also said: That person is like that worshipper who stands in prayer all night and never

tires and like that fasting person who fasts unceasingly. (Sahih Bukhari, Hadith No. 6007; Sahih Muslim, Hadith No. 2982)

Emphasizing mercy and affection

Those people who in the days of ignorance didn't have even an ounce of mercy were exhorted by the Holy Prophet (Sallallahu alaihi wa sallam) towards mercy and love, as mentioned in this Hadith of Jame' Tirmidhi:

Translation: It is narrated on the authority of Hadhrat 'Abdullah bin 'Amr (May Allah be well pleased with them) that the Holy Prophet (Sallallahu alaihi wa sallam) said: The Lord Almighty is benevolent on those who deal with others with mercy. Be merciful to the dwellers of the earth and the Lord of all worlds will be merciful with you. (Jame' Tirmidhi, Hadith No. 2049; Sunan Abu Dawood, 4943)

It is highly necessary that the true teachings of the Holy Prophet (Sallallahu alaihi wa sallam) should be presented to the world. It is imperative that each and every aspect of the system which the Holy Prophet (Sallallahu alaihi wa sallam) brought should be presented before the world. We should make the non-Muslims aware of each and every clause of the divine law which the Holy Prophet (Sallallahu alaihi wa sallam) granted us.

This is such a logical and practical system that each aspect of it has its own attractiveness. This is such a flexible law that if anyone reflects over it with a free unprejudiced mind, that person will not resist accepting it. Each clause and each phrase of it induces humankind to accept the truth. These are those pure teachings whose each facet is pure. These are those illuminating teachings which put humankind on the right path and bring them close to the Lord Almighty.

In short, true solace and tranquility can be gained only by implementing this system. Guidance can be gained only by acting upon these teachings. Acting upon these teachings brings solace and deliverance and leads to success. In this law, there is no place for oppression or discrimination. There is no leeway for rudeness or indecency.

This is the law of peace. These are the teachings of morality and these guidelines are the pure ones.

May Allah guide us to act upon these teachings and to lead our lives according to them. May He grant us the blessings of the arrival of His Beloved Prophet and illuminate our hearts and souls with His radiance.