

In the Name of Allah, the Most Gracious, the Most Merciful

Prophet Muhammad^{PBUH} the Epitome of Humbleness and Mercy

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ABSTRACT

*“Kind speech and forgiveness are better than charity followed by injury.
And Allah is free of need and forbearing.”*

(Chapter 2: Verse 263)

Prophet Muhammad^{PBUH} is the mercy to mankind and indeed the preeminent creation of Allah who was born in the best place on earth among the best tribe and family. Prophet Muhammad^{PBUH} since his childhood has been one of the best examples of trust, faith, sincerity, loyalty, obedience, purity, cleverness and humbleness. In fact it would be more apt to say that Prophet Muhammad^{PBUH} is the only best and complete example of a perfect human being. His sincerity and truthfulness earned him the title of ‘Al-Ameen’ (the trustworthy) among the people of Makkah.

The present paper would try to highlight the attitude of beloved Prophet Muhammad^{PBUH} towards the entire humanity in general and particularly towards the children and weaker sections of the society.

Key words: Allah, Prophet Muhammad^{PBUH}, Makkah, Humanity, Al-Ameen, Muslims,

INTRODUCTION

The birth of Prophet Muhammad^{PBUH} is one of the best gifts mankind has ever received. His attitude and the way of dealing was no different for the rich and the poor, the good and the bad. His approach towards his neighbors and children was kind, gentle and humble. He taught to love and respect the needy, downtrodden, children & poor. There are bulk of instances that reflect His^{PBUH} kindness especially towards the poor and weak. Narrated by Anas Bin Malik^{RA}.

“I served Allah’s Messenger^{PBUH} for ten years, and, by Allah, he never said to me any harsh word, and he never said to me about a thing as to why I had done that or why I had not done that.”

(Muslim: 2309)

Indeed Allah the mighty has sent Prophet Muhammad^{PBUH} as a mercy not only to the mankind but also to the Jinn’s and all others. Allah says in the Quran:

“And We have sent you (O Muhammad) not but as a mercy for the Alamin (Mankind, Jinn’s and all other that exists).”

(Chapter 21: Verse107)

The word mercy has a vast meaning here including sympathy, kindness, generosity, humbleness, gentleness and much more. It is all these qualities that define our beloved Prophet Muhammad^{PBUH}. What else could outline His^{PBUH} mercy for the mankind, those who used to fill His^{PBUH} path with perils and barbs, He^{PBUH} kept on inviting and guide them to come out of the darkness towards the true light of Allah, in order to save them from the torment of hellfire.**(Mubarakpuri, (2011).**When Allah the Mighty ordered Prophet Muhammad^{PBUH} for calling people to Islam openly, the people (disbelievers) of Makkah called the Prophet with ill names and started to torture anyone accepting Islam. However, the Muslims relished patience because the Prophet Muhammad^{PBUH} had asked them to be patient in order to gain the pleasure of Allah. This distress caused by Mushrikeen’s (disbelievers) ultimately forced Prophet Muhammad^{PBUH} to migrate to Medinah. However, ultimately Allah out of His immense grace, granted Prophet Muhammad^{PBUH} a splendid victory over Mushrikeen-e-Makkah by the conquest of Makkah. Afterword’s he performed tawaaf (circumambulation) of the Ka’abah and purified it inside. It was the time when all might and power was in the hands of beloved Prophet Muhammad^{PBUH} but even this might and power couldn’t change His^{PBUH} attitude towards all those who had called him by names and tortured him and his companions (may Allah be pleased with them). This remarkable behavior of beloved Prophet Muhammad^{PBUH} set an example for the entire human race for the times to come. His humble and forgiving treatment towards those cruel enemies who martyred his Uncle, daughter and many companions is an eye-opener for all those who try to represent the religion of Islam as barbaric and cruel. The incident of *Ta’if* (a place in Saudi Arabia) is rare of its kind wherein the Allah’s Messenger^{PBUH} was requested by an Angel of mountains to order him to crush those who kept on stoning Prophet^{PBUH} till his feet started to bleed. However, in reply to the Angel, the below words of Prophet Muhammad^{PBUH} must go into the ears of those despots and Islam enemies who know nothing but just the dictionary meaning of the word *Mercy*:

“Rather, I hope those will appear from their progeny who will worship Allah without associating others with Him.”

(Bukhari: 592 & Muslim: 593)

Prophet Muhammad^{PBUH} has been a benediction for all especially those having been rejected and cursed by the society. A society is formed by the large and diverse group of people

including all forms i.e. children, men and women, old and young, rich and poor, good and bad etc. It is the will of Allah who favors some with a great worldly wealth and some with little. But this certainly doesn't mean that Allah's love for his servants is divided. Being poor or belonging to any such sect that receive very little or no attention from the society is not a curse, rather it is a boon for them that will pave their path towards paradise much easier than the rich and wealthy ones. Division on the basis of worldly wealth is the fabrication of people of this world and not Allah the mighty. Allah teaches to live in peace and tranquility with each other. Every individual has a purpose and a place in his/her society however, we forget this reality and outcast those who in fact need more attention, help and care. The term weaker sections of the society doesn't mean only those who are physically weak, it rather has a broader scope here. The weaker sections of the society include the poor, old, orphan, downtrodden, women, sick and children. In one of the Hadith Abu Hurairah^{RA} reported that the Messenger of Allah^{PBUH} said:

“Indeed I give a stern warning to those who do not fulfill the rights of the two weak persons: the orphan and the woman.”

(Ibn Majah: 3678)

In another Hadith Abu Hurairah^{RA} reported that the Prophet ﷺ said:

“A person who strives to take care of the needs of the widow and the poor man is like one who struggles in the way of Allah (a Mujahid), or like the one who stands during the night (to pray), without getting tired; and fasts during the day, without breaking the fast.” **(Bukhari: 5353, 606, 607)**

The materialistic thinking of today's people has built an unending barrier between the needy and the one who is blessed by Allah with all the resources and possessions through which he/she can help the needy. The wealthy must never forget this fact that it was very certain that Allah could have made him/her among those poor, orphan, sick and weak. This is why we must always seek Allah's refuge and help and follow the instructions and teachings of our beloved Prophet Muhammad^{PBUH}. If the people of the world will follow the examples of Allah's Messenger^{PBUH}, no poor shall sleep without getting fed, no orphan shall moist his/her eyes, no sick shall die in pain and no child shall grow a stubborn and xenophobic. Abu Hurairah^{RA} reported that once a man complained to Prophet^{PBUH} about himself saying that he has a hard heart i.e. he was a man who was heartless and cold and lacking the qualities of mercy and compassion. The Prophet^{PBUH} said to him:

“Pat the head of an orphan and feed the poor.”

(Ahmad: 14/558, Hadith number: 9018)

The teachings of Islam in any case doesn't mean just offering pray (Salah) or perform Haj, rather Islam in every step instills the mankind how to behave and live life in this world. It teaches us to become a partner in pain, express willingness to help other in all circumstances. In today's avaricious world we often forget the real purpose and essence of life, we get so much involved and lost in the worldly affairs that we can't differentiate between the good

and the bad, Halaal and Haraam. The definition of Halaal and Haraam has very aptly been explained by Sheikh Muhammed Salih Al-Munajjid:

The Halaal is that in which there is no sin in doing it and no sin in not doing it, but if a person intends to enhance his obedience to Allah by doing it, then he will be rewarded for this intention. Haraam is that for which the one who does it will be punished and the one who abstains from it will be rewarded, if the reason for is abstinence if following the prohibition is following the prohibition of Allah. Dictating what is Halal and what is Haraam is the right of Allah the mighty alone. (Al-Munajjid, n.d.)

Accumulating the power i.e. wealth has become the sole purpose of our lives and in this marathon we crush all what comes in between viz., our responsibilities towards our parents, children, women and others. This race and war is leading us nowhere rather it dumps us into the land of troubles and agony. The guidance of beloved Prophet Muhammad^{PBUH} is to be sort in every event and aspect of life, which means we must adhere to the teaching of our Prophet^{PBUH}. If we ponder and go through the teaching of Allah's Messenger^{PBUH} we would come to know about his vast mercy towards every individual. Each one of us has the responsibility and right over the other. In a Hadith Abu Hurairah^{RA} relates that he heard Messenger^{PBUH} of Allah saying:

“There are six rights that a Muslim has over another Muslim.”

(Bukhari: 1240, 2162)

Among these six rights one is to praise Allah if one sneezes and then the other one has to ask Allah to have mercy upon him (the one who sneezes). Giving this act a profound thought for a moment we would come to know how beautifully our beloved Prophet^{PBUH} has expressed & exemplified His^{PBUH}'s love and being immensely merciful to all of us, which in a broader spectrum conveys our responsibility over one another.

Our Prophet^{PBUH} has made it compulsory for us to educate, feed and dress our children properly and not only is this, the responsibility of respecting them also forms the part of His^{PBUH} teachings. The mercy of our Prophet^{PBUH} for children is reflected by the fact He^{PBUH} has asked us to take care of the feelings of our children. In no case shall we hurt our children and we must restrain ourselves from being harsh towards them. If He^ﷺ was kind towards adults, he was even more merciful and kind towards the children by being not only humble and kind but also playful as well. Prophet^{PBUH} has emphasized to parents that they must educate their children in the best possible manner so that their children develop in the environment where respect for elders become inevitable. This is one of the great favors of the Prophet^{PBUH} for children. Amr Ibn Shu'aib^{RA} relates from his father, who relates on the authority of his father that the Messenger^{PBUH} said:

“Whoever is not merciful towards the young among us and who does not recognize the honor of the elderly among us, is not from us.”

(At-Tirmidhi: 1920)

How can we forget the treatment of Prophet^{PBUH} towards his grandsons, it is indeed a lesson for us to learn how we must treat our children. Shaddad^{RA} reported the episode when Prophet^{PBUH} while performing Salah prolonged his prostration for a very longtime. The Prophet^{PBUH} said:

“All that happened was that my son (i.e., grandson) climbed onto me, and I disliked the idea of rushing him; rather, I wanted to wait until he finished doing what he wanted to do (i.e., until he dismounted on his own).”

(An-Nasai: 1142)

Thus caring, being humble and playful towards children was the quality of Prophet^{PBUH} which each one of us must never forget and be casual at. At times shortening the length of His^{PBUH} prayers while hearing the cries of babies convey a strong message to the entire humanity.

The last sermon by Prophet Muhammad^{PBUH} was not only a reminder to his followers, but also an important admonition. In this last sermon the mercy of Prophet^{PBUH} can be tacit by the fact that he stressed upon the believers to never hurt each other and to treat their women well. His^{PBUH}'s words that, “An Arab has no superiority over a non-Arab, nor does a non-Arab have any superiority over an Arab; white has no superiority over black, nor does a black have any superiority over the white; [none have superiority over another] except by piety and good action” are the golden lines for entire humanity, teaching everlasting love, sincerity and mercy.

Prophet Muhammad^{PBUH} excelled in all walks of life by being a Prophet, ruler, orator, soldier, husband, friend, father, uncle, nephew, and a grandfather. He^{PBUH} was a man of love, patience, courage, wisdom, generosity, intelligence and magnitude who inspired millions of lives throughout the world. Allah's Messenger^{PBUH} was the epitome of humbleness and mercy. Al-Qahtan writes in his book,

To be sure, it is our duty to follow the Prophet's^{PBUH} examples by being as humble as we can; furthermore, we must be humble not just in the presence of the people we want to impress, but in our dealings with everyone-with children, with our elders, and with the ones we deal with on a daily basis, our families. He^{PBUH} would extend greeting of peace to the group of children when he would pass them and when a slave woman needed help, the Prophet^{PBUH} would walk with her as far as necessary in order to do what He^{PBUH} could to help her (Al-Qahtan, 2007).

CONCLUSION

Prophet Muhammad^{PBUH} is the everlasting example of humbleness and clemency, in order to spend a blissful life it is important for every human to learn the lesson of calm behavior and humble attitude towards others. Humbleness is something we could learn at any stage of life only if we are ready to sacrifice our unwanted desires and passions. Good comes at some cost and what good we deliver today would pay us in the days to come. However, it is very important to keep one thing in mind about expectations that can ruin all good we did, so as being humble and merciful couldn't always invite the desired results.

I pray to Allah the mighty to help us learn and imbibe what is right and acceptable to Him. May peace and blessings be upon our beloved Prophet Muhammad^{PBUH}, His^{PBUH} family and all of His^{PBUH} companions.

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