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The Testimony of Faith: Messenger of Allah ﷺ

A Short Biography of
Muhammad ﷺ - Prophet of Allah

ﷺ



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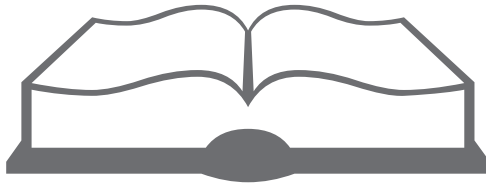


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Prophet Muhammad Before Prophethood ﷺ



Prophet Muhammad ﷺ was born around the year 570 C.E. in Makkah (Mecca), modern day Saudi Arabia. He was of a noble lineage as he was born into the tribe of Banu Hashim, who were the descendents of Prophet Isma'īl (Ishmael) عليه السلام, the son of Prophet Ibrahim (Abraham) عليه السلام. Prophet Muhammad ﷺ became an orphan at a very young age as his father Abdullah, died before his birth and his mother Aminah, died when he was only 6 years of age. After the death of his mother, he was raised by his paternal grandfather, Abdul Muttalib until he died when Muhammad ﷺ was 8 years of age. He was then raised by his paternal uncle Abu Talib. Prophet Muhammad ﷺ worked as a shepherd in his youth. He later worked for Khadijah رضي الله عنها, who was a wealthy businesswoman in Mecca. He would trade goods and merchandise for her. Khadijah رضي الله عنها hired his known virtues of honesty and trustworthiness, and this was proven by the fact that he ﷺ gave her more returns and profit than any of her workers had done before. Impressed by the Prophet's ﷺ personality and virtuous character, Khadijah proposed to him and the Prophet ﷺ married Khadijah at the age of 25.

Prior to prophethood, Prophet Muhammad ﷺ was known amongst his people as being an honest and truthful person and was given the titles such as “As-Sadiq, Al-Ameen”, meaning the “the truthful

one, the trustworthy one” and it is well known that his people would entrust their belongings to him for safekeeping. He never prostrated to an idol and did not engage in any immoral acts as Allah ﷻ protected him ﷺ from committing any sins even before he was made a Prophet. Prophet Muhammad ﷺ would often seclude himself from the society by going to a cave in a mountain near Mecca known as "The Cave of Hira" to seclude himself from the evils of the society in order for him to contemplate on life as he knew that there was a greater purpose and meaning to it.



The First Revelation and Prophethood



Before the first revelation was brought down to him, Prophet Muhammad ﷺ began having good dreams that would come true. He would then seclude himself more often in the Cave of Hira for longer periods of time and when the Prophet Muhammad ﷺ was 40 years of age, an incident happened that would not only change his life but the entire course of history - forever. This incident has been narrated to us by 'Aishah ؓ, who later became one of the wives of Prophet Muhammad ﷺ:

“The beginning of the Revelation that came to the Messenger of Allah ﷺ was good dreams; he never saw a dream but it came true like bright daylight. Then seclusion was made dear to him, and he used to go to the cave of Hira and worship there, which means that he went and devoted himself to worship for a number of nights before coming back to his family to collect more provisions, then he would go back again. Then he would go back to Khadijah ؓ to collect more provisions. (This went on) until the truth came to him suddenly when he was in the cave of Hira. The angel came and said, ‘Read!’ The Messenger of Allah ﷺ said, ‘I am not a reader.’ He said, Then he took hold of me and squeezed me until I could not bear it any more then he released me and

said, 'Read!' I said, 'I am not a reader.' He

took hold of me and squeezed me a second time until I could not bear it any more, then he released me and said, 'Read!' I said, 'I am not a reader.' He took hold of me and squeezed me a third time until I could not bear it any more, then he released me and said,

*'Read! In the Name of your Lord Who has created
(all that exists).*

He has created man from a clot (a piece of thick coagulated blood).

Read! And your Lord is the Most Generous.

Who has taught (the writing) by the pen.

He has taught man that which he knew not.'

(96:1-5)

Then the Messenger of Allah ﷺ went back with his heart beating wildly, until he came to Khadijah ؓ and said, 'Cover me! Cover me!' They covered him till his fear went away. Then he said to Khadijah ؓ, 'O Khadijah, I fear for myself,' and he told her what had happened. Khadijah ؓ said, 'No, rather be happy for by Allah, Allah will never disgrace you. You uphold the ties of kinship, speak truthfully, help the poor and destitute, serve your guests generously and assist those who are stricken by calamity.'

Then Khadijah ؓ took him to Waraqah ibn Nawfal, the son of her paternal uncle. He was a man who had become a Christian during the jaahiliyyah (pre-Islamic era). He used to write Arabic script and he used to write from the Gospel in Arabic as much as Allah willed he should write. He was an old man who had become blind. Khadijah ؓ said, 'O son of my uncle, listen to what your nephew says.' Waraqah said: 'O son of my brother, what have you seen?' [The Prophet ﷺ] told him what he had seen. Waraqah said: 'This is the Naamoos [Jibrael (Angel Gabriel)] who came down to Moosa (Moses). Would that I were young and could live until the time when your people will drive you out.'

The Messenger of Allah ﷺ said, 'Will they really drive me out?' Waraqah said, 'Yes. Never has there come a man with that which you have brought, but he was persecuted. If I

should live to see that day, I will support you strongly.' But a few days

later, Waraqah died, and the Revelation also ceased for a while, until the Messenger of Allah ﷺ was filled with grief.

The Messenger of Allah ﷺ said, speaking of that period when the revelation ceased: 'Whilst I was walking, I heard a voice from the sky. I looked up and saw the angel who had come to me in Hira, sitting on a chair between the heavens and the earth. I felt scared of him, so I came home and said, "Cover me, cover me [with blankets]!" So they did, then Allah revealed the words:

*"O you (Muhammad) enveloped in garments!
Arise and warn!
And magnify your Lord (Allah)!
And purify your garments!
And keep away from Ar-Rujz (the idols)!"
(74:1-5)*

Al-rujz were the idols which the people of the Jaahiliyyah used to worship. Then the revelation came frequently after that. (Bukhari and Muslim)

After the revelation by the angel Jibrael (Gabriel) ﷺ the Prophet Muhammad ﷺ became a Prophet of Allah ﷻ. To be a Muslim, one must believe in the Prophethood of Muhammad ﷺ, along with all the other Prophets and Messengers that were sent by Allah ﷻ before him to every nation.

وَلَقَدْ بَعَثْنَا فِي كُلِّ أُمَّةٍ رَسُولًا أَنِ اعْبُدُوا اللَّهَ وَاجْتَنِبُوا الصَّاغُوتَ ۚ فَمِنْهُمْ مَّنْ هَدَى اللَّهُ وَمِنْهُمْ مَّنْ حَقَّتْ عَلَيْهِ الصَّلَاةُ ۚ فَسِيرُوا فِي الْأَرْضِ فَانظُرُوا كَيْفَ كَانَ عَاقِبَةُ الْمُكذِّبِينَ

"And We certainly sent into every nation a messenger, [saying], 'Worship Allah and avoid Taghut.' And among them were those whom Allah guided, and among them were those upon whom error was [deservedly] decreed. So proceed through the earth and observe how was the end of the deniers." (16:36)

The message of each messenger was the same; to worship Allah ﷻ alone and to reject anything that is worshipped besides Allah ﷻ.

وَمَا أَرْسَلْنَا مِنْ قَبْلِكَ مِنْ رَّسُولٍ إِلَّا نُوحِي إِلَيْهِ أَنَّهُ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا أَنَا فَاعْبُدُونِ

“And We did not send any Messenger before you (O Muhammad) but We revealed to him (saying): Laa ilaaha illa Ana [none has the right to be worshipped but I (Allah)], so worship Me (Alone and none else)” (21:25)

The first pillar of Islam, the Shahadah (or testimony of faith), includes the testification that the Prophet Muhammad ﷺ is the messenger and slave of Allah ﷻ. One cannot enter Islam without testifying to this. As a Muslim, one must also believe in all the Prophets and Messengers that were sent by Allah ﷻ.

آمَنَ الرَّسُولُ بِمَا أُنزِلَ إِلَيْهِ مِنْ رَبِّهِ وَالْمُؤْمِنُونَ ج كَلَّ آمَنَ بِاللَّهِ وَمَلَائِكَتِهِ وَكُتُبِهِ وَرُسُلِهِ لَا نُفَرِّقُ بَيْنَ أَحَدٍ مِنْ رُسُلِهِ ح وَقَالُوا سَمِعْنَا وَأَطَعْنَا ط غُفْرَانَكَ رَبَّنَا وَإِلَيْكَ الْمَصِيرُ

“The Messenger has believed in what was revealed to him from his Lord, and [so have] the believers. All of them have believed in Allah and His angels and His books and His messengers, [saying], ‘We make no distinction between any of His messengers.’ And they say, ‘We hear and we obey. [We seek] Your forgiveness, our Lord, and to You is the [final] destination.” (2:285)

It is not enough to only believe in some of the Prophets and Messengers that were sent by Allah ﷻ and not to believe in others.

إِنَّ الَّذِينَ يَكْفُرُونَ بِاللَّهِ وَرُسُلِهِ وَيُرِيدُونَ أَنْ يُفَرِّقُوا بَيْنَ اللَّهِ وَرُسُلِهِ وَيَقُولُونَ نُؤْمِنُ بِبَعْضٍ وَنَكْفُرُ بِبَعْضٍ وَيُرِيدُونَ أَنْ يَتَّخِذُوا بَيْنَ ذَلِكَ سَبِيلًا أُولَئِكَ هُمُ الْكَافِرُونَ حَقًّا ح وَأَعْتَدْنَا لِلْكَافِرِينَ عَذَابًا مُهِينًا

“Indeed, those who disbelieve in Allah and His messengers and wish to discriminate between Allah and His messengers and say, ‘We believe in some and disbelieve in others,’ and wish to adopt a way in between - Those are the disbelievers, truly. And We have prepared for the disbelievers a humiliating punishment.” (4: 150-151)

If one disbelieves in one of the Prophets or Messengers that were sent by Allah ﷻ, then it is like disbelieving in all the Prophets and Messengers.

The proof for this is the verse in the Qur'an where Allah ﷻ says:

كَذَّبَتْ قَوْمُ نُوحٍ الْمُرْسَلِينَ

"The people of Nuh (Noah) rejected the messengers" (26: 105)

The people of Nuh (Noah) were only sent one Messenger, Nuh (Noah), and they rejected him. Even though they only rejected Nuh (Noah), Allah ﷻ said that they rejected the messengers, because by rejecting Prophet Nuh, they rejected all the messengers. Allah ﷻ sent to every nation a messenger and to our nation He sent The Prophet Muhammad ﷺ.

هُوَ الَّذِي بَعَثَ فِي الْأُمِّيِّينَ رَسُولًا مِّنْهُمْ يَتْلُو عَلَيْهِمْ آيَاتِهِ وَيُزَكِّيهِمْ وَيُعَلِّمُهُمُ الْكِتَابَ وَالْحِكْمَةَ وَإِن كَانُوا مِن قَبْلُ لَنِي ضَلَالٍ مُّبِينٍ

"It is He who has sent among the unlettered a Messenger from themselves reciting to them His verses and purifying them and teaching them the Book and wisdom - although they were before in clear error" (62:2)

We must believe that The Prophet Muhammad ﷺ is the final messenger that was sent by Allah ﷻ.

مَا كَانَ مُحَمَّدٌ أَبَا أَحَدٍ مِّن رِّجَالِكُمْ وَلَكِن رُّسُولَ اللَّهِ وَخَاتَمَ النَّبِيِّينَ ۗ وَكَانَ اللَّهُ بِكُلِّ شَيْءٍ عَلِيمًا

"Muhammad is not the father of [any] one of your men, but [he is] the Messenger of Allah and last of the prophets. And ever is Allah, of all things, Knowing" (33:40)

When Prophet Muhammad ﷺ went out to Tabook, he appointed 'Ali (Al) as his deputy (in Madeenah). 'Ali said, "Are you leaving me in charge of the children and women?" The Prophet ﷺ said:

“Does it not please you that you are to me like Haroon (Aaron) to Moosa (Moses)? But there will be no Prophet after me.” (Bukhari and Muslim)

The Prophet ﷺ also said,

“My position in relation to the Prophets who came before me can be explained by the following example: A man erected a building and adorned this edifice with great beauty, but he left an empty niche, in the corner where just one brick was missing. People looked around the building and marveled at its beauty, but wondered why a brick was missing from that niche? I am like unto that one missing brick and I am the last in the line of Prophets. (Agreed Upon)

The Prophet Muhammad ﷺ was sent as the final messenger by Allah ﷻ to all of mankind until the Day of Judgment.

“And We have sent you (O Muhammad) not but as a mercy for the Aalameen (mankind, jinns and all that exists)” (21:107)

وَمَا أَرْسَلْنَاكَ إِلَّا كَافَّةً لِّلنَّاسِ بَشِيرًا وَنَذِيرًا وَلَكِنَّ أَكْثَرَ النَّاسِ لَا يَعْلَمُونَ

“Allah revealed to His messenger the Qur’an by which to guide people and We have not sent you (O Muhammad) except as a giver of glad tidings and a Warner to all mankind, but most of men know not” (34:28)



Prophet Muhammad ﷺ : Our Role Model



Prophet Muhammad ﷺ was sent to convey the message of Allah ﷻ to the people. He was sent as a mercy to all of mankind and he is the perfect role model for us to follow in our daily lives. It is our objective to get as close as possible to the teachings of the Prophet ﷺ. All Muslims are to follow him as an example in order to attain success in this life and in the Hereafter.

يَا أَيُّهَا الرَّسُولُ بَلِّغْ مَا أُنزِلَ إِلَيْكَ مِنْ رَبِّكَ ۗ وَإِنْ لَمْ تَفْعَلْ فَمَا بَلَّغْتَ رِسَالَتَهُ وَاللَّهُ يَعْصِمُكَ مِنَ النَّاسِ ۗ إِنَّ اللَّهَ لَا يَهْدِي الْقَوْمَ الْكَافِرِينَ

“O Messenger, announce that which has been revealed to you from your Lord, and if you do not, then you have not conveyed His message. And Allah will protect you from the people. Indeed, Allah does not guide the disbelieving people.” (5:67)

He was sent to recite the verses of Allah ﷻ, to purify us by enjoining the good and forbidding the evil and to teach us the Qur’an and wisdom.

لَقَدْ مَنَّ اللَّهُ عَلَى الْمُؤْمِنِينَ إِذْ بَعَثَ فِيهِمْ رَسُولًا مِّنْ أَنفُسِهِمْ يَتْلُو عَلَيْهِمْ آيَاتِهِ وَيُزَكِّيهِمْ وَيُعَلِّمُهُمُ
الْكِتَابَ وَالْحِكْمَةَ وَإِن كَانُوا مِن قَبْلُ لَنفِي ضَلَالٍ مُّبِينٍ

“Certainly did Allah confer [great] favor upon the believers when He sent among them a Messenger from themselves, reciting to them His verses and purifying them and teaching them the Book and wisdom, although they had been before in manifest error.”
(3:164)

The wisdom referred to in this verse is the sunnah or way of the Prophet ﷺ. The sunnah of the Prophet ﷺ has been transmitted to us by hadith (pl. Ahadith) or narrations. These narrations include the actions, statements, approvals and the characteristics of the Prophet ﷺ. The sunnah, or way of the Prophet ﷺ, is an important aspect of Islam.

وَمَا آتَاكُمُ الرَّسُولُ فَخُذُوهُ وَمَا نَهَاكُمْ عَنْهُ فَانْتَهُوا ج وَاتَّقُوا اللَّهَ ۖ إِنَّ اللَّهَ شَدِيدُ الْعِقَابِ

“... And whatever the Messenger has given you - take; and what he has forbidden you - refrain from. And fear Allah ; indeed, Allah is severe in punishment.” (59:7)

We must follow the Sunnah of The Prophet Muhammad ﷺ. We cannot only follow the Qur'an while neglecting the Sunnah. Allah ﷻ has commanded us in many verses of the Qur'an to follow the Prophet ﷺ.

قُلْ إِن كُنتُمْ تُحِبُّونَ اللَّهَ فَاتَّبِعُونِي يُحْبِبْكُمُ اللَّهُ وَيَغْفِرْ لَكُمْ ذُنُوبَكُمْ ۗ وَاللَّهُ غَفُورٌ رَّحِيمٌ

“Say, [O Muhammad], ‘If you should love Allah, then follow me, [so] Allah will love you and forgive you your sins. And Allah is Forgiving and Merciful.’” (3:31)

قُلْ أَطِيعُوا اللَّهَ وَالرَّسُولَ ۚ فَإِن تَوَلَّوْا فَإِنَّ اللَّهَ لَا يُحِبُّ الْكَافِرِينَ

“Say, ‘Obey Allah and the Messenger.’ But if they turn away - then indeed, Allah does not like the disbelievers.” (3:32)

Obedying the Prophet ﷺ is part of obedience to Allah ﷻ.

مَنْ يُطِيعِ الرَّسُولَ فَقَدْ أَطَاعَ اللَّهَ ۖ

"He who obeys the Messenger has indeed obeyed Allah..." (4:80)

All these verses show us the great importance of following the sunnah, or way, of the Prophet Muhammad ﷺ.

The Prophet ﷺ himself said,

"I do not want to see any one of you reclining on his couch and, when he hears of my instructions or prohibitions, saying 'I don't accept it; we didn't find any such thing in the Book of Allah (ie in the Quran alone)'" (Tirmidhi)

The Prophet ﷺ also said,

"Would any of you think, reclining on his couch, that Allah would only describe what is forbidden in the Qur'an? I tell you, by Allah, that I have warned and commanded and prohibited things that are as important as what is in the Qur'an, if not more so." (Abu Dawud)

As Muslims, we follow what Allah ﷻ has revealed in the Qur'an and we also follow the authentic Sunnah of His Messenger ﷺ. As mentioned earlier, The Prophet ﷺ was sent by Allah ﷻ to teach us the Qur'an and wisdom. All of the teachings of Prophet Muhammad ﷺ are found in his Sunnah.

The religion of Allah ﷻ is complete, as Allah ﷻ says in the Qur'an:

الْيَوْمَ اكْمَلْتُ لَكُمْ دِينَكُمْ وَأَتَمَمْتُ عَلَيْكُمْ نِعْمَتِي وَرَضِيْتُ لَكُمُ الْإِسْلَامَ دِينًا ۚ

"...This day, I have perfected your religion for you, completed My Favour upon you and have chosen for you Islam as your religion (5:3)

Allah ﷻ has perfected our religion, and as such, we do not add anything to His religion or delete anything from it. If we differ in anything, we must refer all matters back to what Allah ﷻ and His Messenger ﷺ have taught us.

فَإِنْ تَنَازَعْتُمْ فِي شَيْءٍ فَرُدُّوهُ إِلَى اللَّهِ وَالرَّسُولِ

"...(And) if you differ in anything amongst yourselves, refer it to Allah and His Messenger..." (4:59)

Since Prophet Muhammad ﷺ is our role model, we believe in him and we also use him as an example to follow.

لَقَدْ كَانَ لَكُمْ فِي رَسُولِ اللَّهِ أُسْوَةٌ حَسَنَةٌ لِّمَن كَانَ يَرْجُو اللَّهَ وَالْيَوْمَ الْآخِرَ وَذَكَرَ اللَّهَ كَثِيرًا

"There has certainly been for you in the Messenger of Allah an excellent example to follow for anyone whose hope is in Allah and the Last Day and [who] remembers Allah often." (33:21)

The Prophet Muhammad ﷺ was honoured with noble characteristics that were not found in any other person. Allah ﷻ praised him for these characteristics in the Qur'an.

وَإِنَّكَ لَعَلَىٰ خُلُقٍ عَظِيمٍ

"And verily, you (O Muhammad) are on an exalted standard of character" (68:4)

The Prophet Muhammad ﷺ is an example for us to follow in every aspect of our lives. We should try to follow his example as best as possible. The Prophet Muhammad ﷺ was sent as a mercy to us.

وَمَا أَرْسَلْنَاكَ إِلَّا رَحْمَةً لِّلْعَالَمِينَ

"And We have sent you (O Muhammad) except as a mercy for the Aalameen (mankind, jinns and all that exists)" (21:107)

His character exemplified mercy and kindness.

لَقَدْ جَاءَكُمْ رَسُولٌ مِّنْ أَنْفُسِكُمْ عَزِيزٌ عَلَيْهِ مَا عَنِتُّمْ حَرِيصٌ عَلَيْكُمْ بِالْمُؤْمِنِينَ رَءُوفٌ رَّحِيمٌ

"There has certainly come to you a Messenger from among yourselves. Grievous to him is what you suffer; [he is] concerned over you and to the believers is kind and merciful." (9:128)

THE EXAMPLE OF THE PROPHET ﷺ AS A HUSBAND:



The Messenger of Allah ﷺ was extremely kind, loving, respectful and caring to his wives. We have many narrations from his companions and his wives.

The Messenger of Allah ﷺ said,

"The most perfect of believers in belief is the best of them in character. The best of you are those who are the best to their women." (Tirmidhi)

Narrated by 'Aishah رضي الله عنها, Ummul Mu'minin:

"The Apostle of Allah ﷺ used to kiss me when he was fasting and when I was fasting." (Abu Dawud)

Narrated by Zainab bint Abi Salama: Um Salama رضي الله عنها said,

"I got my menses while I was lying with the Prophet under a woolen sheet. So I slipped away, took the clothes for menses and put them on. Allah's Apostle said, 'Have you got your menses?' I replied, 'Yes.' Then he called me and took me with him under the woolen sheet." Um Salama further said, "The Prophet used to kiss me while he was fasting. The Prophet and I used to take the bath of Janaba from a single pot." (Bukhari)

Narrated by 'Amr bin Al-As رضي الله عنه:

The Prophet ﷺ deputed me to read the Army of Dhat-as-Salasil. I came to him and said, "Who is the most beloved person to you?" He said, "Aishah." I asked, "Among the men?" He said, "Her father." I said, "Who then?" He said, "Then 'Umar bin Al-Khattab." He then named other men. (Bukhari)

The Prophet ﷺ would play with his wives.

'Aishah رضي الله عنها said that she accompanied the Prophet on a certain journey. At that time she was neither fat nor bulky. The Prophet asked the people to move on and they marched ahead. Then the Prophet said to me, 'Come on, let us have a race'. 'Aishah says that she ran and remained much ahead of him. The Prophet kept quiet for some time. As she grew older and in size she later forgot about the incident and loose bodied, she forgot the previous incident. Again she accompanied the Prophet on some journey and the Prophet again asked the people to march ahead and they moved ahead. Then the Prophet again asked her to have a race with him. This time the Prophet defeated her and she lagged behind. Now the Prophet laughed and said, 'This is for your previous victory.' (Ahmad).

The Prophet ﷺ would seek the council and advice from his wives. There were two main instances where he had sought refuge as well as advice from his wives. The first instance was after the first revelation of the Qur'an, when the Prophet ﷺ sought refuge with his wife Khadijah رضي الله عنها. The second was when he went to seek council with his wife Um Salama رضي الله عنها, regarding the treaty of Hudaibiyah, when the companions were sad and reluctant with his decision to return without completing the pilgrimage.

"...When the writing of the peace treaty was concluded, the Messenger of Allah ﷺ said to his companions, get up and slaughter your sacrifices and get your head shaved." By Allah none of them got up, and the Prophet repeated his order thrice. When none of them got up, he left them and went to Um Salama and told her of the people's attitudes towards him. Um Salama said, "O the Prophet of Allah! Do you want your order to be carried out? Go out and don't say a word to anybody till you have slaughtered your sacrifice and call your barber to shave your head." So, the Prophet went

out and did not talk to anyone of them till he did that, i.e. slaughtered the sacrifice and called his barber who shaved his head. Seeing that, the companions of the Prophet got up, slaughtered their sacrifices, and started shaving the heads of one another,..." (Bukhari)

THE EXAMPLE OF THE PROPHET ﷺ AS A FATHER:



The Prophet ﷺ loved his children and honoured them. He also taught others to do the same and equated love to mercy.

It was narrated that 'Aishah رضي الله عنها said,

"I never saw anyone whose speech more closely resembled that of the Messenger of Allah ﷺ than Fatimah. When she entered upon him, he would stand up to greet her, kiss her and welcome her, and she would do the same for him."

Narrated by Anas bin Malik رضي الله عنه:

We went with the Messenger of Allah ﷺ to the blacksmith Abu Saif, and he was the husband of the wet-nurse of Ibrahim (the son of the Prophet). The Messenger of Allah ﷺ took Ibrahim and kissed him and smelled him and later we entered Abu Saif's house and at that time Ibrahim was in his last breaths, and the eyes of the Messenger of Allah ﷺ started shedding tears. 'Abdur Rahman bin 'Auf said, "O the Messenger of Allah ﷺ, even you are weeping!" He said, "O Ibn 'Auf, this is mercy." Then he wept more and said, "The eyes are shedding tears and the heart is grieved, and we will not say except what pleases our Lord. O Ibrahim! Indeed we are grieved by your leaving." (Bukhari)

Narrated by Abu Huraira رضي الله عنه:

The Messenger of Allah ﷺ kissed Al-Hasan bin Ali while Al-Aqra' bin Habis At-Tamim was sitting beside him. Al-Aqra said, "I have ten children and I have never kissed anyone of them," the Messenger of Allah ﷺ cast a look at him and said, "Whoever is not merciful to others will not be treated mercifully." (Bukhari)

He also has tremendous love for his grandchildren, as we can see in the hadith below.

Narrated by Abu Huraira رضي الله عنه:

"Once the Prophet went out during the day. Neither did he talk to me nor I to him till he reached the market of Bani Qainuqa and then he sat in the compound of Fatima's house and asked about the small boy (his grandson Al-Hasan) but Fatima kept the boy in for a while. I thought she was either changing his clothes or giving the boy a bath. After a while the boy came out running and the Prophet embraced and kissed him and then said, 'O Allah! Love him, and love whoever loves him.'" (Bukhari)

THE EXAMPLE OF THE PROPHET ﷺ AS A COMPANION/FRIEND:



The love of the companions (the Sahabah) for the Prophet ﷺ and the love he had for them was unparalleled. Often the companions would say: "May my mother and father be sacrificed for you", when expressing their love for him. The Prophet loved them dearly as well and cried on many occasions to see his companions. There is no better way to show this love than to appreciate what they said about

each other and the incidents that occurred between them. For this reason Allah ﷻ has given a great status to the Sahabah in the Qur'an and the Prophet ﷺ gave them a great status in the Sunnah by telling the generations of Muslims to follow him and his companions as an example in their own lives. May Allah ﷻ have His mercy upon all of them. Here you will find a few examples and incidents that express the love they had for one another.

Narrated 'Aishah ؓ, Ummul Mu'minin:

"I saw the Apostle of Allah ﷺ that he kissed Uthman ibn Maz'un ؓ while he was dead, and I saw that tears were flowing (from his eyes)". (Abu Dawud)

Narrated Abu Said Al-Khudri ؓ: The Prophet delivered a sermon and said,

"Allah gave a choice to one of (His) slaves either to choose this world or what is with Him in the Hereafter. He chose the latter." Abu Bakr wept. I said to myself, "Why is this Sheikh weeping, if Allah gave choice to one (of His) slaves either to choose this world or what is with Him in the Hereafter and he chose the latter?" And that slave was Allah's Apostle himself. Abu Bakr knew more than us. The Prophet said, "O Abu Bakr! Don't weep. The Prophet added: Abu Bakr has favored me much with his property and company. If I were to take a Khalil from mankind I would certainly have taken Abu Bakr but the Islamic brotherhood and friendship is sufficient. (Bukhari)

Narrated by Ibn 'Umar ؓ: Allah's Apostle ﷺ said,

"While I was sleeping, I saw that a cup full of milk was brought to me and I drank my fill till I noticed (the milk) its wetness coming out of my nails. Then I gave the remaining milk to 'Umar Ibn Al-Khattab" The companions of the Prophet asked, "What have you interpreted (about this dream)? "O Allah's Apostle!" he replied, "(It is religious) knowledge." (Bukhari)

Narrated by Anas bin Malik رضي الله عنه: The Prophet ﷺ said,

*"Zaid took over the flag and was martyred. Then it was taken by Jafar who was martyred as well. Then 'Abdullah bin Rawaha took the flag but he too was martyred and at that time the eyes of Allah's Apostle were full of tears. Then Khalid bin Al-Walid took the flag without being nominated as a chief (beforehand) and was blessed with victory."
(Bukhari)*



Love For The Prophet ﷺ And His Love For Us



As Muslims, we must have great love for the Prophet ﷺ for our faith to be complete. In fact, the Prophet ﷺ must be dearer to us than any other person.

النَّبِيُّ أَوْلَىٰ بِالْمُؤْمِنِينَ مِنْ أَنفُسِهِمْ ۗ

*"The Prophet is closer to the believers than their own selves.."
(33:6).*

The Prophet ﷺ said,

"No one of you truly believes until I am dearer to him than his father, his son, his own self and all the people." (Bukhari)

قُلْ إِنْ كَانَ آبَاؤُكُمْ وَأَبْنَاؤُكُمْ وَأَخْوَانُكُمْ وَأَزْوَاجُكُمْ وَعَشِيرَتُكُمْ وَأَمْوَالٌ اقْتَرَفْتُمُوهَا وَتِجَارَةٌ تَخْشَوْنَ كَسَادَهَا وَمَسَاكِنُ تَرْضَوْنَهَا أَحَبَّ إِلَيْكُمْ مِنَ اللَّهِ وَرَسُولِهِ وَجِهَادٍ فِي سَبِيلِهِ فَتَرَبَّصُوا حَتَّىٰ يَأْتِيَ اللَّهُ بِأَمْرٍ ۗ وَاللَّهُ لَا يَهْدِي الْقَوْمَ الْفَاسِقِينَ

"Say, [O Muhammad], "If your fathers, your sons, your brothers, your wives, your relatives and wealth which you have obtained, commerce wherein you fear decline, and dwellings with which you are pleased are more beloved to you than Allah and His Messenger and striving in His cause, then wait until Allah executes His command. And Allah does not guide the defiantly disobedient people." (9:24)

To have true belief, we must love the Prophet ﷺ even more than we love ourselves.

It was narrated that 'Abd-Allaah ibn Hishaam رضي الله عنه said:

We were with the Prophet ﷺ when he was holding the hand of 'Umar ibn al-Khattaab. 'Umar said to him: "O Messenger of Allah, you are dearer to me than everything except my own self." The Prophet ﷺ said: "No, by the One in Whose hand is my soul, not until I am dearer to you than your own self." 'Umar said to him: "Now, by Allaah, you are dearer to me than my own self." The Prophet ﷺ said: "Now (you are a true believer), O 'Umar." (Bukhari)

With this we learn that if one wants to taste the sweetness of faith, one must have great love for the Prophet ﷺ.

The Prophet ﷺ said,

"Whoever possesses the following three qualities will have the sweetness (delight) of faith: 1. The one to whom Allah and His Apostle becomes dearer than anything else. 2. Who loves a person and he loves him only for Allah's sake. 3. Who hates to revert to disbelief as he hates to be thrown into the fire." (Bukhari and Muslim)

We love the Prophet ﷺ more than any other person because we cannot reach the greatest good in this world or in the Hereafter except by believing in him as our last Prophet and following his teachings.

We love the Prophet ﷺ, and likewise, he has great love for us. The Prophet ﷺ loved us so much that he tried very hard to prevent us from entering the fire of hell.

The Prophet ﷺ said,

"The likeness of me and you is that of a man who lit a fire and grasshoppers and moths started going towards it, and he tried to push them away. I am seizing your waistbands

and trying to pull you away from the Fire but you are trying to get away from me.” (Bukhari and Muslim).

The Prophet ﷺ referred to us as his brothers, which shows the love and closeness that he felt for us. His love for us preceded our love for him.

The Prophet ﷺ said,

“I wish I could see my brothers, (the Companions said) aren’t we your brothers O Prophet of Allah? He replied: No, you are my Companions. My brothers are those who come after me and believe in me without seeing me.” (Ahmad)

The Prophet ﷺ was concerned so much for our wellbeing that he would weep for us.

'Abdullah ibn Amr ibn al-'As رضي الله عنه reported:

Verily the Apostle of Allah ﷺ recited the words of Allah, the Great and Glorious, that Ibrahim uttered. ‘My Lord, indeed they have led astray many among the people. So whoever follows me - then he is of me...’ (14:36) and Jesus عليه السلام said ‘If You should punish them - indeed they are Your servants; but if You forgive them - indeed it is You who is the Exalted in Might, the Wise.’ (5:118). Then he raised his hands and said: O Lord, my Ummah (nation), my Ummah (nation), and wept; so Allah the High and the Exalted said: O Gabriel, go to Muhammad (though your Lord knows it fully well) and ask him: What makes thee weep? So Gabriel عليه السلام came to him and asked him, and the Messenger of Allah ﷺ informed him what he had said (though Allah knew it fully well). Upon this Allah said: O Gabriel, go to Muhammad and say: Verily We will please thee with regard to your Ummah (nation) and would not displease thee. (Muslim)



In Summary



Prophet Muhammad ﷺ was of noble lineage as he was a descendent of Prophet Ibrahim عليه السلام (Abraham), through his son Isma'il عليه السلام (Ishmael). He was orphaned at a young age, and then raised by his paternal grandfather, followed by his paternal uncle. His honesty and trustworthiness were known amongst his people, even before he became a Prophet. Khadeejah رضي الله عنها, whom he worked for as a merchant, was impressed by his personality and they were married when Muhammad ﷺ was 25 years of age.

Allah ﷻ protected His Prophet from committing any sins even before prophethood. The Prophet Muhammad ﷺ never prostrated to an idol and did not engage in the immoral acts that people of his society engaged in. He would often seclude himself from society in the Cave of Hira. At the age of 40, the angel Jibrael (Gabriel) عليه السلام came to him with the first revelation, which made him a Prophet of Allah ﷻ. We believe in the Prophethood of Prophet Muhammad ﷺ along with all the other Prophets and Messengers that were sent by Allah ﷻ. The message of all the Prophets was the same: to worship Allah ﷻ alone and reject anything that is worshipped besides Allah ﷻ. Prophet Muhammad ﷺ is the final messenger and was sent to all of mankind.

The Prophet Muhammad ﷺ was sent to convey the message of Allah ﷻ to us. He was sent as a mercy to mankind and is our role model to follow in every aspect of our lives.

The sunnah, or way of the Prophet ﷺ, is an important aspect of Islam that we must strive to follow. As Muslims, we follow what Allah ﷻ revealed to us in the Qur'an and we follow the sunnah that His Prophet ﷺ left for us. Allah ﷻ tells us in the Qur'an that there is an excellent example to follow the Messenger of Allah ﷺ. As such, in addition to believing in Prophet Muhammad ﷺ, we follow his example. He is our role model in how to live with our spouses. He was extremely kind and loving towards his wives, he would play with them, sought their advice and council. He is our role model as a father and was kind, loving and merciful towards his children and grandchildren. He is also our role model for being a friend and companion. He was very close to his companions and would weep when his companions died.

We must have great love for the Prophet ﷺ and love him even more than ourselves in order to have complete faith. We cannot truly emulate the Prophet ﷺ until we love him. The Prophet ﷺ had great love for us and referred to us as his brothers. He would weep to Allah ﷻ because of his great concern over his ummah (nation).

As Muslims we must believe that Prophet Muhammad ﷺ is the final Messenger of Allah ﷻ, as this is the testification that one needs to make to enter into Islam. We must follow his sunnah that he left us with, as he is our example of how to live our lives. Finally, we should keep increasing our love for him and one of the best ways to do so is to learn as much as we can about his life and the example that he left for us.



Glossary



سُبْحَانَكَ يَا مَنْ لَا يُدْرِكُكَ الْبَصَرُ وَلَا يَحِيطُ بِكَ الْقَلْبُ
Subhanahu Wa Taalaa –
Glorified and Exalted be He

سَلَامٌ عَلَيْكَ يَا رَسُولَ اللَّهِ
SalAllahu Alayhi Wa Sallam –
May Allah's Peace and Blessings be upon him

سَلَامٌ عَلَيْكَ يَا نَبِيَّ اللَّهِ
Alayhis Sallam –
Peace be upon him

رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْكَ يَا رَسُولَ اللَّهِ
Radi Allahu Anhu –
May Allah be Pleased with him

رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْكِ يَا رَسُولَةَ اللَّهِ
Radi Allahu Anha –
May Allah be Pleased with her

رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْكُمْ يَا رُسُلَ اللَّهِ
Radi Allahu Anhum –
May Allah be Pleased with them

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