

The Beautiful Character of the **Messenger of Allah**

صلى الله عليه وسلم



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The Messenger (صلى الله عليه و سلم) is the perfect example for humanity to follow. The Qur'an explicitly states:

لَقَدْ كَانَ لَكُمْ فِي رَسُولِ اللَّهِ أُسْوَةٌ حَسَنَةٌ لِّمَن كَانَ يَرْجُوا اللَّهَ
وَالْيَوْمَ الْآخِرَ وَذَكَرَ اللَّهَ كَثِيرًا ﴿٢١﴾

You have indeed in the Messenger of Allah a beautiful pattern (of conduct) for any one whose hope is in Allah and the Final Day, and who engages much in the praise of Allah. (Al-Ahzaab: 21)

A true Muslim has no option but to follow the perfect example of the Messenger (صلى الله عليه و سلم). Today, we observe advancement of technology all around us. Computers, airplanes, machinery, etc. Did they come about by themselves? No. A great effort and centuries of hard-work led to their commonality and utilization among us. This advancement is a result of human engagement and effort upon the matter of the world. Effort was done upon matter, thus material things are flourishing in the world. However, as humans toiled on matter, they forgot the internal struggle. Effort was done upon silicon, thus computer chips were made. Work was done upon metal, so cars and airplanes exist. Work is done upon dirt, sand, gravel and buildings are constructed. However, mankind forgot the most important of all works, the effort upon the heart; to improve a person's internal conduct and external behavior. The effort on attaining a God-conscious attitude, a soul full of divine love and longing, the spirit of reverence for the Messenger (صلى الله عليه و سلم), and a complete adherence to his Sunnah were suppose to have been the real struggles of the Muslim. Since we forgot this great task, the reflection of Prophetic character is no where to be seen in our lives. Muslims have to be encouraged to look at the beautiful life of the Messenger (صلى الله عليه و سلم) and imitate, to the best of their ability, his noble character and conduct, regarding which divine testimony reads:

وَإِنَّكَ لَعَلَىٰ خُلُقٍ عَظِيمٍ ﴿٤﴾

*And you (stand) on an exalted standard of character.
(Al-Qalam: 4)*

The highest pedestal of human glory, the most exalted standard of humanity, and the greatest of characters was possessed by the Messenger (صلى الله عليه و سلم).

Explaining this verse, Ibn Katheer says:

قَالَ الْعَوْفِيُّ عَنْ ابْنِ عَبَّاسٍ وَإِنَّكَ لَعَلَى دِينٍ عَظِيمٍ وَهُوَ الْإِسْلَامُ وَكَذَلِكَ قَالَ مُجَاهِدٌ وَأَبُو مَالِكٍ وَالسُّدِّيُّ وَالرَّبِيعُ بْنُ أَنَسٍ وَكَذَا قَالَ الضَّحَّاكُ وَابْنُ زَيْدٍ

Aufi narrates from Ibn Abbas (radhi Allah anhuma) as saying: (This verse means) "And you (stand) on a great religion, i.e. Islam."

Because Allah says in the Qur'an:

إِنَّكَ لَعَلَىٰ هُدًى مُّسْتَقِيمٍ

Indeed you (stand) on straight and righteous guidance.

(Al-Haj 67)

Ibn Katheer has also narrated the following sayings under the explanation of "And you (stand) on an exalted standard of character" (Al-Qalam: 4):

وَقَالَ عَبْدُ الرَّزَّاقِ عَنْ مَعْمَرٍ عَنْ قَتَادَةَ عَنْ زُرَّارَةَ بْنِ أَوْفَى عَنْ سَعْدِ بْنِ هِشَامٍ قَالَ سَأَلْتُ عَائِشَةَ فَقُلْتُ أَخْبِرِينِي يَا أُمَّ الْمُؤْمِنِينَ عَنْ خُلُقِ رَسُولِ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ فَقَالَتْ أَتَقْرَأُ الْقُرْآنَ؟ فَقُلْتُ نَعَمْ فَقَالَتْ كَانَ خُلُقَهُ الْقُرْآنَ

And Abdur Razzaq narrates from Ma'mar who narrates from Qatadah who narrates from Zurarata bin Aufa who narrates from Sa'd bin Hishaam, who says: "I asked Ayesha (رضى الله عنها), I said: 'Inform me, O mother of the believers, regarding the character of the Messenger (صلى الله عليه و سلم).' She said: 'Have you not read the Qur'an?' I replied: 'Yes.' She further said: 'The character of the Messenger (صلى الله عليه و سلم) was the Qur'an'.

قَالَ الْإِمَامُ أَحْمَدُ حَدَّثَنَا عَبْدُ الرَّزَّاقِ حَدَّثَنَا مَعْمَرٌ عَنْ الزُّهْرِيِّ عَنْ عُرْوَةَ عَنْ عَائِشَةَ قَالَتْ: مَا ضَرَبَ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ بِيَدِهِ خَادِمًا لَهُ قَطُّ وَلَا ضَرَبَ امْرَأَةً وَلَا ضَرَبَ بِيَدِهِ شَيْءًا قَطُّ إِلَّا أَنْ يُجَاهِدَ فِي سَبِيلِ اللَّهِ

Imam Ahmad says: Abdur Razzaq has narrated to us from Ma'mar who narrates from Az-Zuhri who narrates from Urwah who narrates this saying of Ayesha (رضى الله عنها): "The Messenger (صلى الله عليه و سلم) never hit

any of his servants with his hands, nor did he ever hit any of his wives, nor did he hit anything except while making Jihad in the path of Allah."

وَقَالَ الْإِمَامُ أَحْمَدُ حَدَّثَنَا سَعِيدُ بْنُ مَنْصُورٍ حَدَّثَنَا عَبْدُ الْعَزِيزِ بْنُ مُحَمَّدٍ عَنْ مُحَمَّدِ بْنِ عَجْلَانَ عَنِ الْقَعْقَاعِ بْنِ حَكِيمٍ عَنْ أَبِي صَالِحٍ عَنْ أَبِي هُرَيْرَةَ قَالَ: قَالَ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ " إِنَّمَا بُعِثْتُ لِأَتَمِّمَ صَالِحَ الْأَخْلَاقِ

Imam Ahmad says: Sa'eed bin Mansoor has narrated to us from Abdul Azeez bin Muhammad who narrates from Muhammad bin Ajlaan who narrates from Al-Qa'qa bin Hakeem who narrates from Abi Saalih who narrates from Abu Hurairah as saying: The Messenger said: "Indeed I have been sent to complete good character.

Regarding our Noble Messenger (صلى الله عليه و سلم), heavenly testimony reads:

فِيمَا رَحِمَهُ مِنَ اللَّهِ لَئِن لَّهُمْ وَلَوْ كُنْتَ فَظًّا غَلِيظَ الْقَلْبِ
لَأَنْفَضُوا مِنْ حَوْلِكَ فَاعْفُ عَنْهُمْ وَاسْتَغْفِرْ لَهُمْ وَشَاوِرْهُمْ فِي
الْأَمْرِ فَإِذَا عَزَمْتَ فَتَوَكَّلْ عَلَى اللَّهِ إِنَّ اللَّهَ يُحِبُّ الْمُتَوَكِّلِينَ ﴿١٥٩﴾

*It was because of the Mercy of Allah that you dealt with them gently. Were you severe or harsh-hearted, they would have perished from you: so forgive them, and ask for (Allah's) forgiveness for them; and take their consultation. Then, when you have taken a decision, put your trust in Allah. For Allah loves those who put their trust (in Him).
(Al-e-Imraan: 159)*

The following saying of Al-Hasan Al-Basri has been recorded by Ibn Katheer while explaining the above verse:

وَقَالَ الْحَسَنُ الْبَصْرِيُّ: هَذَا خُلِقَ مُحَمَّدٌ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ بَعَثَهُ اللَّهُ بِهِ وَهَذِهِ النَّأْيَةُ الْكَرِيمَةُ شَبِيهَةٌ بِقَوْلِهِ تَعَالَى لَقَدْ جَاءَكُمْ رَسُولٌ مِنْ أَنْفُسِكُمْ عَزِيزٌ عَلَيْهِ مَا عَنِتُّمْ حَرِيصٌ عَلَيْكُمْ بِالْمُؤْمِنِينَ رَءُوفٌ رَحِيمٌ

Hasan al-Basri says: "This is the beautiful conduct that Allah had sent Muhammad (صلى الله عليه و سلم) with and this verse of the Qur'an is similar to another verse of the Qur'an in which Allah says: "Now has come unto you a Messenger from amongst yourselves: it grieves him that you

should perish: ardently anxious is he over you: to the Believers is he most kind and merciful". (At-Tawba: 128)

This Qur'anic verse was revealed after the battle of Uhud, when some of the Companions had misunderstood The Messenger (صلى الله عليه و سلم) and hence, the Muslims had suffered a loss. Allah the Almighty says that it was due to the mercy that Allah had put in the heart of The Messenger (صلى الله عليه و سلم) that he forgave his companions and was lenient on them. Through this verse, we learn that hard-heartedness is a sign of being deprived of the mercy of Allah. May Allah make our hearts soft and kind. Ameen.

A sincere study of the following Ahadith will truly inspire each and every Muslim to follow the excellent character of The Messenger (صلى الله عليه و سلم) that is so beautifully reflected in these Ahadith.

Anas bin Malik (رضى الله عنه) narrated:

The Prophet (صلى الله عليه و سلم) observed: None among you will be a truthful believer till he likes for his brother or for his neighbor that which he loves for himself. *Sahih Muslim*, no. 64.

It is narrated on the authority of Jarir (رضى الله عنه) that he observed: I gave pledge of allegiance to Allah's Messenger (صلى الله عليه و سلم) on the observance of the Prayer, payment of Zakah, and sincerity and well-wishing for every Muslim. *Sahih Muslim*, no. 83.

Abu Shuraih Al-Khuza'i (رضى الله عنه) narrated:

The Prophet (صلى الله عليه و سلم) observed: He who believes in Allah and the Last Day should do good to his neighbor; and he who believes in Allah and the Last Day should show hospitality to the guest; and he who believes in Allah and the Last Day should either speak good or better remain silent. *Sahih Muslim*, no. 69

Abu Hurairah (رضى الله عنه) narrated:

The Messenger of Allah (صلى الله عليه و سلم) observed: There have come the people of Yemen; they are tender-hearted, the belief is that of the Yemenites, the understanding (of the faith) is that of the Yemenites and sagacity is that of the Yemenites. *Sahih Muslim*, no. 73

Narrated Abu Sufyan (رضى الله عنه):

That Heraclius sent for him and said, "What did he, (i.e. the Prophet)

(صلى الله عليه و سلم) order you?" I replied, "He orders us to offer prayers; to give alms; to be chaste; and to keep good relations with our relatives. (Bukhari)

Narrated Abu Huraira (رضى الله عنه):

Allah's Apostle (صلى الله عليه و سلم) 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," Allah's Apostle cast a look at him and said, "Whoever is not merciful to others will not be treated mercifully." (Bukhari)

Narrated 'Aisha (رضى الله عنها):

A bedouin came to the Prophet (صلى الله عليه و سلم) and said, "You (people) kiss the children! We don't kiss them." The Prophet (صلى الله عليه و سلم) said, "I cannot put mercy in your heart after Allah has taken it away from it." (Bukhari)

Narrated Anas bin Malik (رضى الله عنه):

The Prophet said, "If any Muslim plants any plant and a human being or an animal eats of it, he will be rewarded as if he had given that much in charity." (Bukhari)

Narrated 'Aisha (رضى الله عنها):

The Prophet (صلى الله عليه و سلم) said "Gabriel continued to recommend me about treating the neighbors Kindly and politely so much so that I thought he would order me to make them as my heirs. (Bukhari)

Narrated Masruq (رضى الله عنه):

Abdullah bin 'Amr (رضى الله عنه) mentioned Allah's Apostle (صلى الله عليه و سلم) saying that he was neither a Fahish nor a Mutafahish. Abdullah bin 'Amr added, Allah's Apostle said, 'The best among you are those who have the best manners and character.' (Bukhari)

Narrated Jabir (رضى الله عنه):

Never was the Prophet (صلى الله عليه و سلم) asked for a thing to be given for which his answer was 'no'. (Bukhari)

Narrated Anas (رضى الله عنه):

I served the Prophet (صلى الله عليه و سلم) for ten years, and he never said to me, "Uf" (a minor harsh word denoting impatience) and never blamed me by saying, "Why did you do so or why didn't you do so?" (Bukhari)

Narrated Al-Aswad:

I asked 'Aisha what did the Prophet (صلى الله عليه و سلم) use to do at home. She replied. "He used to keep himself busy serving his family and when it was time for the prayer, he would get up for prayer." (Bukhari)

Narrated Abu Huraira (رضى الله عنه):

The Prophet (صلى الله عليه و سلم) said, "The worst people in the Sight of Allah on the Day of Resurrection will be the double faced people who appear to some people with one face and to other people with another face." (Bukhari)

Narrated Abu Huraira (رضى الله عنه):

The Prophet (صلى الله عليه و سلم) said, "Beware of suspicion, for suspicion is the worst of false tales; and do not look for the others' faults and do not spy, and do not be jealous of one another, and do not desert (cut your relation with) one another, and do not hate one another; and O Allah's worshipers! Be brothers (as Allah has ordered you!)" (Bukhari)

Narrated Anas bin Malik (رضى الله عنه):

Allah's Apostle (صلى الله عليه و سلم) said, "Do not hate one another, and do not be jealous of one another, and do not desert each other, and O, Allah's worshipers! Be brothers. Lo! It is not permissible for any Muslim to desert (not talk to) his brother (Muslim) for more than three days." (Bukhari)

Narrated Mujahid:

'Abdullah bin 'Umar (رضى الله عنه) said, "Allah's Apostle (صلى الله عليه و سلم) took hold of my shoulder and said, 'Be in this world as if you were a stranger or a traveler.'" The sub-narrator added: Ibn 'Umar used to say, "If you survive till the evening, do not expect to be alive in the morning, and if you survive till the morning, do not expect to be alive in the evening, and take from your health for your sickness, and (take) from your life for your death." (Bukhari)