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Morals and Manners of Muhammed pbuh

Morals and Manners of Muhummed pbuh

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Morals and Manners of

Muhummed pbuh

The most striking aspect of a person's life that leads others to like him or her is the behaviour and manner in which he treats others. If there is any personality that has lived on the face of this earth who was complete in every regard and whose life can serve as a beacon of guidance for people in every walk of life; that personality would undeniably be the personality of Muhummed (PBUH). Muslims follow Him because of Him being the Last Messenger of God and those who do not follow Islam also hold Him at a higher pedestal when it comes to human character. Muhummed pbuh lived aptly to his saying:

"God has sent me to perfect good manners/morals and to do good deeds." (Bukhari)

The key factor that brings reverence and respect to Prophet Muhummed (PBUH) in both the Islamic and the non-Islamic circles is His character. He was the best in character and manners when it came to interacting with people.

The secret behind his unmatched character was his impeccable quality of sincere selflessness. He was the last and final Messenger sent by God to mankind and his selflessness derived from his sole desire to please God and have no personal interest whatsoever. Prophet (PBUH) was as selfless as a person could be in life. All his undertakings and motives were just to fulfil the order of God and He did not undertake any action out of His personal desire and will. He

lived everyday of His life for the sake of God and everything He did was for the Almighty. The extent of His selflessness can be seen from the example of His travel to the valley of Taif, where people hurled abuse and threw stones at Him while He was trying to invite them toward the truth and reality. He had to run for His life and He was covered in blood. But he did not complain to God, rather one of His companions narrates:

"The Prophet (PBUH) resembled a Prophet who was harmed by His people. He wiped the blood from His face and said: 'O God! Forgive my people, for they know not!' (Bukhari)

Such is the selflessness in His character and every moment of His life was for the sake of God and spreading His message. For forty years prior to the revelation, Muhammed pbuh was indisputably known to be of sound morals. Amongst his tribe he was known as "As-Sadeeq Al-Ameen," meaning the honest and trustworthy one. The fact that he was given this name was because his honesty and trustworthy nature surpassed all others at the time, it was rare to find someone who was honest and trustworthy to such a degree in the society; therefore his nature was unique and treasured as such.

Highest standard of Manners

The Quran confirms the highest standard of Muhammed's character by declaring:

"And you are certainly on the most exalted standard of moral excellence" (68:4)

The Quran presented the high moral standard of Muhammed pbuh as a proof of the truthfulness of his mission. The high morals of a person testify that he is a right-minded and sound-natured person, who possesses perfect temperamental equilibrium. The people of Makkah were not unaware of the morals and character possessed by the Messenger (peace be upon him) of God. Therefore, it was enough just to make a reference to them so that every reasonable man of Makkah was made to think how shameless were those people who were refusing to even listen to a man of such sublime morals and character.

The best description of the Holy Prophet's character has been given by Aisha in her statement:

"Kana khuluqu-hul- Quran" meaning "the Quran was his character" (*Muslim*)

This means that the Prophet had not merely presented the teaching of the Quran before the world but also given its practical demonstration by his personal example. Whatever was enjoined in the Quran was acted upon practically by him in the first instance. Whatever was forbidden in it was shunned and avoided by him most of all. His own self was characterized most of all by the moral qualities which were declared as sublime by it, and his own self was most free from those qualities which were declared as abhorrent and reprehensible by it.

In another tradition Aisha has stated:

"The Prophet (peace be upon him) never hit a servant, never raised his hand on a woman, never used his hand to kill a person outside the battlefield, never avenged himself on anyone for an injury caused unless someone violated a sanctity enjoined by God and he avenged

it for the sake of God. His practice was that whenever he had to choose between two things, he would choose the easier one unless it was a sin, and if it was a sin he would keep away from it most of all” (Musnad Ahmad).

Anas says: *I served the Prophet (peace be upon him) for ten years. He never did so much as express even a slight disgust over what I did or said. He never asked why I had done what I had done, and never inquired why I had not done what I had not done.* (Bukhari, Muslim).

Prophet (PBUH) was the epitome of good manners. Every action that He undertook in life represented the highest morals and manners that a person could exhibit. He was an Ideal being in terms of manners and ethics, the likes of which the world has not seen. As one of His companions notes about His manners:

“The Prophet (PBUH) did not swear at anyone, nor was He rude, nor did He curse anyone. If He desired to reprimand someone, He would say: ‘What is wrong with him, may dust be cast in his face!’ (Bukhari)

Kindness Towards Kids

Prophet (PBUH) always treated kids with kindness and mercy. He always enjoyed their company and played with them to make them happy. One such example can be seen from His life when He used to say to kids:

“I'll give such and such (i.e. gift or so) to the one who comes to me first.”

So they used to race and fall on His back and chest. (Ahmad)

He would also take kids and tip toe with them by holding their feet on top of his own feet!

Even during prayers the Messenger of God pbuh was kind and gentle with the playfulness of kids:

“The Messenger of God was leading us in prayer. Hasan, who was still a child, would come to him while he was in prostration, and sit on his back or sometimes on his neck. The Prophet would lift him tenderly.

This shows His treatment towards kids and there are countless other examples in His lifetime where He commanded parents to be loving and caring towards their children.

Prophet (PBUH) was the most pleasant person. He would greet everyone with a smile and always spoke to people with gentleness. His companion said about Him:

“I have never seen a man who smiled as much as the Messenger of God.” (Tirmidhi)

Great Sense of Humour

Prophet pbuh had a great sense of humour and there are countless accounts of his brilliant humour mentioned in his interactions with men, women and children alike.

“Once, an old woman came up to him and asked for paradise. He said, “Old women do not enter the paradise.” The woman started crying. As she started leaving the room, the Prophet, showing his

subtle sense of humour, stopped her and said, “Old women will become young before entering the heaven.” (Tirmidhi)

The Prophet brought an uplifting spirit that penetrated the hearts of people. There is a story mentioned about the Prophet and a common merchant that tells us just a little about the spirit he carried,

“One of his companions was Zahir, who used to trade in metal objects. Once the Prophet was passing by the bazaar, he saw Zahir and playfully grabbed him from behind and said, “Will anyone buy this slave?” Zahir, initially panicked but on seeing Prophet laughed and said, “O Messenger of God, whoever buys this slave will be in loss.” The Prophet smiled and said, “In God’s eyes, your value is high.”

On another occasion a man approached the Prophet (may Peace and Blessings be upon him) and asked him for a camel ride.

The Prophet pbuh said,

“I would give you a camel’s child”. The man said, “O Messenger of God. What will I do with a camel’s child?” The Prophet smiled and said, “Is there any camel who is not the progeny of a camel?”

‘Aisha reported in Ahmad:

“I went out with the Prophet on a journey. At that time I was a young girl and was quite slender. The Prophet told the people, ‘Go on ahead,’ so they went ahead, then he said to me, ‘Come, let us have a race.’ So I raced with him, and I won. He let the matter rest until I had gained weight. Later, I accompanied him on another journey. He told the people, ‘Go on ahead,’ so they went ahead. He said to me, ‘Come, let us have a race.’ So I raced with him, and he won. He began to laugh, and said, ‘This is for that.’”

This is such a beautiful example of love, care and an exquisite sense of humour of our beloved Prophet pbuh!

The children that the Prophet (pbuh) joked most with were obviously his grandchildren, Hasan and Hussein. He would hold their hands, place them on his feet and then lift them to his bosom, hug and kiss them. Sometimes he would even carry them on his shoulders.

One day, while Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) was going to a gathering with his companions, he ran into Hussein who was playing on the street. He stopped in front of him, opened his arms and called him. But Hussein did not want to come and he ran away playfully. Then the Prophet ran after Hussein laughing and caught him. Then he kissed and petted him and gave him his blessings.

In another narration by Jabir, the Prophet (pbuh) was pretending to be a camel, and his grandsons were riding on his back. He was walking on his hands and feet and made a compliment to them:

“How wonderful is your camel and how wonderful riders you are!”

Anas b. Malik was a companion who had served the Prophet from the age of ten. The Prophet sometimes joked with him by saying: “Ya Za'l-uzunayn (O you with two ears).” Then he would pull Malik's locks lightly and pet him.

Business Ethics Of Muhummed pbuh

Upon reaching adulthood, he chose jobs as a trader / entrepreneur. At that moment, not yet having the capital, he became manager of trading for the investors (Shohibul mall) it was based on a revenue sharing system. A large investor of Makkah, Khadijah bint

Khuwailid ra, appointed him as the manager to Habshah trade center in Yemen. His skills as an entrepreneur brought huge profits for him and his investors. None of the businesses he dealt with suffered any loss.

For more than twenty years Prophet Muhammad stayed active in the field of entrepreneurship (trades), so that he became known in Yemen, Syria, Basra, Iraq, Jordan, and trading cities in the Arabian Peninsula. Before becoming mudharib (fund manager) of property for Khadijah r.a , Prophet pbuh often did business trips, such as to the city of Busra in Syria and Yemen. After that he did four trips of trade for Khadijah, two to Abyssinia and two more to Jorasy, as well as to Yemen along Maisarah. He also did several trips to Bahrain and Abyssinia.

In the mid 30s, he was heavily involved in the trade like most other merchants. Three of the travels for trade of Prophet pbuh, after marriage, have been recorded in history: the first, a trade trip to Yemen, secondly, to Najd, and the third to Najran. In addition to these trips, the Prophet was involved in the affairs of big businesses, during the Hajj season, at festivals and that of the great market of Ukaz. While for the other seasons, the Prophet was busy taking care of wholesale markets of Makkah. In conducting his business Prophet Muhammed pbuh was clearly applying management principles that were accurate and reliable so that the business remained profitable and never suffered any loss.

Long before Frederick W. Taylor (1856-1915) and Henry Fayol coined the principle of management as a discipline, the Prophet Muhammed PBUH had implemented management values in life and business practices. He had successfully managed processes, transactions, and business relationships with all elements of the

business ethics required for a fair and ethical method. How would he manage his business, Prof. Afzalul Rahman in the book Muhammad A Trader, said:

"Muhammad did his dealing honestly and fairly and never Gave his customers any chance to complain. He always kept his promise and delivered on time the goods ensuring quality and fulfilling the mutually agreed terms between the parties. He always showed a great sense of responsibility and integrity in dealing with other people ". In fact, he said: "His reputation as an honest and truthful trader was well established while he was still in his early youth".

In the world of management, the words used by Peter Drucker to define the meaning of efficiency and effectiveness are:

Efficiency means doing things right (do thing right), while effectiveness is doing the right thing (do the right thing).

Muhummed pbuh applied both these principles in letter and spirit to set an unparalleled example of fair and honest trade ethics for all times to come.

Kindness and Compassion

The Quran mentions the kind and gentle behaviour of Muhummed pbuh in these words:

"O Messenger of God! It is a great Mercy of God that you are gentle and kind towards them; for, had you been harsh and hard-hearted, they would all have broken away from you" (Quran 3:159).

Once he said to his wife: "O 'Aisha! Never turn away any needy man from your door empty-handed. O 'Aisha! Love the poor; bring them near to you and God will bring you near to Him on the Day of Resurrection".

He also went much further on to say:

"Seek me (God) among your weak ones, for you are given provision, or you are given help only by reason of the presence of your weak ones". Prophet taught mercy by showing kindness to his servants and all creatures without any discrimination of their beliefs, colour or nationality. The Prophet said:

"God is kind and likes kindness in all things" (Bukhari).

His heart ached within him at the corrupt state of his fellow humans and their rejection of One God. The Holy Quran testifies to the fact that Muhummed was extremely sincere and keen to bring all mankind to God:

"O Muhammad, you will, perhaps, consume yourself with grief because the people do not believe" (Quran 26:3). In Surah Kahf, we read: "Well, O Muhammad, it may be that you will kill yourself for their sake out of sorrow if they do not believe in this Message." (Quran 18:6). And Surah Fatir says: "So let not your life be consumed in grief for their sake." (Quran 35:8).

He was always counselling people to be kind hearted regardless of people's sex, age or belief. Once Asma bint Abu Bakr's mother, who was still an unbeliever; came to see her in Madinah. She told this to the Prophet and said:

"My mother has come to see me and she is expecting something from me. May I oblige her?" The Prophet said: "Yes, be kind to your mother" (Muslim)

Once a number of women complained to the Prophet pbuh about the ill-treatment by their husbands. On hearing of this, the Prophet said:

"Such persons among you are not good persons." (Abu Dawud).

This condemnation by the Prophet himself was an indication that no one will be accepted before God who, while on earth, decided to be unkind to women. Another person said to the Prophet:

"O Messenger of God! My relatives are such that although I cooperate with them, they cut me off; I am kind to them but they ill treat me." The Prophet said this in reply: "So long as you continue as you are, God will always help you and He will protect you against their mischief" (Muslim).

This was not only a way of bringing comfort to the mind of the worried person but one of the communicative techniques of the Prophet to assure who ever found himself in that situation to look up to God to be consoled and protected. Prophet pbuh was extremely kind towards the oppressed sections of the society including orphans, women and slaves. Consider the practical example of how the prophet treated his own servant. Anas ibn Malik said,

"I served the messenger of God for ten years. By God, he never even said to me 'uff,' and he never said about anything I did, 'why did you do it?' or about something I did not do, 'why did you not do it?'" (Bukhari) and in another narration Anas said, "and he never found fault with anything I did." (Muslim)

The Messenger of God peace be upon him would say to a servant, "do you need anything?" (Ahmad)

Prophet was so kind hearted that Anas ibn Malik reported:

"A slave woman of Medina would take the hand of God's messenger peace be upon him, and he would not remove his hand from hers until she had taken him wherever she wanted in the city to show him what she needed. (Ibn Majah)

Prophet pbuh not only demonstrated exemplary kindness and compassion but also brought about a revolution in the society by changing its outlook towards the suppressed and oppressed sections of the society:

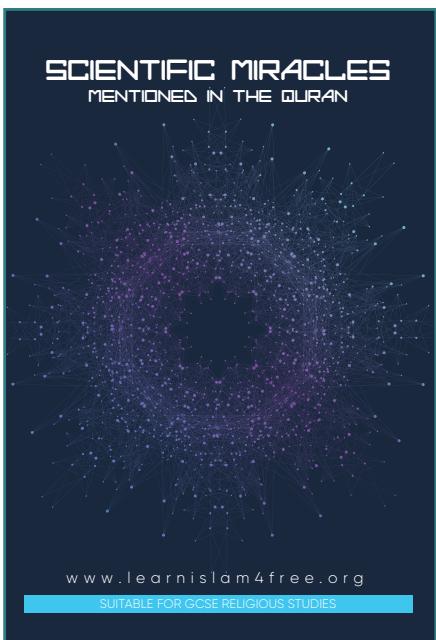
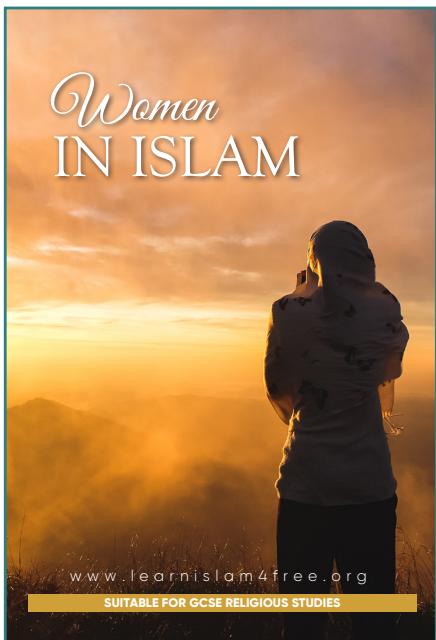
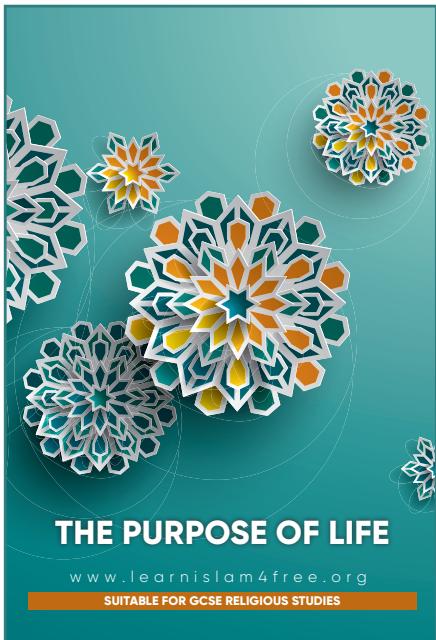
Ibn Suwayd said,

"I saw Abu Dharr wearing an ornament and his servant boy wearing a similar one. I asked him about it, and he mentioned that he had once insulted a man during the time of the Prophet, demeaning him through his mother. The man went to the Messenger of God peace be upon him and told him about that. The Messenger pbuh said,

"You are a person retaining some traits of the days of ignorance. Servants are your brothers whom God has put under your authority. So whoever has his brother under his authority should feed him from what he eats and clothe him from what he wears. And do not charge them with work that is too much for them, and if you charge them, then assist them with it." (Bukhari)

Muhammed pbuh was truly at the highest level of moral standards and he changed the world for better by his kind, compassionate and loving personality that is adored by billions even today, peace and blessings of God Almighty be upon him forever and ever.

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