

## **MUHAMMAD (PEACE BE UPON HIM)** **A MERCY FOR MANKIND AND ALL OTHERS**

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### **His Birth**

Our most beloved Prophet Muhammad ﷺ (may Allah bless him and give him peace), the last Prophet and Messenger, was born into the *Bani Hashim* clan of the tribe of *Quraish*, in Makkah on Monday morning, the ninth of *Rabi' Al-Awwal*, the same year of the Elephant i.e. the twentieth or twenty-second of April, 571 A.D.

### **His Character**

Aishah, his wife, رضي الله عنها said: “The Messenger of Allah, whenever he was given the opportunity to choose between two affairs, he always chose the easiest and the most convenient. But if he was certain that it is sinful, he would be as far as he could from it. He has never avenged himself; but when the sanctity of Allah was violated he would. That would be for Allah, not for himself. He is the last one to get angry and the first to be satisfied. His hospitality and generosity were matchless. His gifts and endowments manifest a man who does not fear poverty.”

Aishah رضي الله عنها, also, said that he used to repair his shoes, sew or mend his garment and did what ordinary men do in their houses. Milking the sheep and catering for himself were some of his normal jobs.

### **His Message of Mercy and How it Changed the World**

In the following pages, we will embark upon mentioning a few examples of the Messenger's conduct and preaching. I hope that after reading the following pages, our love for him will grow and we shall become more aware of the great impact of his message on humanity.

We will also see that he was truly, as Allah indicated, sent as a mercy for all worlds: men and women; young and old; Muslim and Non-Muslim; humans and animals; animate and inanimate; and particularly, the less fortunate.

**There will be very limited commentary to let the Prophet's traditions and statements speak for themselves.**

### **Mercy toward Parents**

The Prophet ﷺ said, “The Lord’s good pleasure results from a father’s good pleasure, and the Lord’s displeasure results from the father’s displeasure.” (Tirmidhi)

Mu’awiyah ibn Jahimah reported, Jahimah came to the Prophet ﷺ and said: “O Messenger of Allah! I intend that I should enlist in the fighting force and I have come to consult you. He said “Do you have a mother?” He said, “Yes.” He said: “Then stick to her, for paradise is beneath her two feet.” (Nasaei)

He was once asked: “O Messenger of Allah, who is most deserving of the best care from me?” He ﷺ replied, “Your mother.” The questioner asked who came next (in the order of importance), and he ﷺ replied, “Your mother.” He was asked again who came next and He ﷺ replied, “Your mother.” And when he asked who came next, he ﷺ replied, “Your father.” (Bukhari, Muslim)

### **Mercy toward the Wife**

The Prophet ﷺ said, “A believer must not hate his wife, and if he is displeased with one bad quality in her, then let him be pleased with one that is good in her.” (Muslim)

He ﷺ said, "How could one of you beat his wife like he does to a camel and then embrace her." (Bukhari)

### **Mercy toward Family**

The prophet ﷺ said, “Among the believers who show the most perfect faith are those who have the best disposition and are kindest to their families.” (Tirmidhi)

Also, he said, “One who cuts ties of relationship will not enter paradise.” (Bukhari, Muslim)

### **Mercy toward Children**

The prophet ﷺ said, “If anyone cares for two daughters until they grow up, he and I will come on the Day of Resurrection like thus,” and he joined fingers.’ (Muslim)

### **Mercy toward Orphans**

The prophet ﷺ said, “I and the one who takes responsibility for an orphan, whether his own kin or of others, will be in paradise like thus,” and he pointed his forefinger and the middle finger with a slight space between them.’ (Bukhari)

### **Mercy toward Women**

The prophet ﷺ said, “Act kindly towards women, for they were created from a rib and the most bent part of the rib is its top. If you attempt to straighten it you will break it, if you leave it alone it will remain crooked: so act kindly towards women.” (Bukhari, Muslim)

In this hadeeth the prophet forbids men from forcing women to be like them. The traits they have are most suitable for the functions of motherhood which requires emotions to be put in front of reason. The difference in the thinking processes between the two genders is scientifically established. That difference is necessary for them to complement each other.

### **Mercy toward the Poor**

The prophet ﷺ said, "Feed the hungry, visit the sick and free the captive." (Bukhari)

He made alms a right of the poor, not a favor from the rich.

He would never say no to any request for help. Al-Bukhari reported that one day, a woman gave him a garment as a gift after noticing that his garment was worn out, and he ﷺ liked it and wore it. However, upon his going out to meet his companions, a man asked him for it, and without hesitation, it was his. The man later explained that he wanted it to be his burial shroud.

He ﷺ liked the company of the needy, and would supplicate, “O Allah, grant me life as a poor man, cause me to die as a poor man, and resurrect me in the company of the poor.” (Tirmidhi, Baihaqi)

### **Mercy toward the Sick**

Abu Hurairah ؓ narrates that Muhammad ﷺ said, “Whenever a Muslim visits a sick brother or merely goes to meet his brother, then Allah says, ‘You are holy; your walking is holy; you have arranged your abode in *jannat*.’” (Tirmidhi)

## **Mercy toward Servants**

Anas رضي الله عنه said: "I served the Prophet ﷺ for ten years and he never said to me, 'shame!' or 'why did you do such and such?' or 'why did you not do such and such?'"

The prophet ﷺ said, "A person who has a female slave and takes steps to give her a sound education and etiquettes, and then frees and marries her, will be doubly rewarded." (Bukhari)

Also, "He who slaps his slave or beats him, there is no expiation for this but to free him." (Muslim)

## **Mercy toward the Outcasts and Lower Classes**

The prophet ﷺ gave a speech during the days of *tashreeq* in Hajj (11<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> of Dhulhijjah) and said, "O people! Know that your Lord is One and your forefather is one. Let it be known that there is no virtue for an Arab over a non Arab or for a black over white or white over black except by piety and righteousness." He then recited: "O people! We have created you from a single male and a single female and made you into nations and tribes that you may know each other. Verily the most noble of you before Allah is the most righteous. Certainly Allah is All- Knowing, All- Aware." (Reported by Ahmad after Jabir.)

This is the declaration of the end, not only of racism, but of all kinds of classism. The Prophet's message declared invalid and evil all forms of classism, and emphasized the equality of man, with piety being the only determining factor in ranking people before God. Within a few years, the entire social structure of Arabia, and thereafter Muslim lands, changed to allow the least privileged to move up to leading positions in the society. Only in the second generation, many of the leading scholars were freed slaves.

## **Mercy for the Community in General**

The prophet ﷺ is the one who conveyed the following beautiful speech of God, "O ye who believe! Let not a folk scoff a folk who may be better than they are. Let not women scoff women who may be better than they are; neither defame one another, nor insult one another by nicknames. Bad is the name of lewdness after faith. And whoso turneth not in repentance, such are evil-doers O ye who believe! Shun much suspicion; for lo! some suspicion is a crime. And spy not, neither backbite one another. Would one of you love to eat the flesh of his dead

brother? You would abhor that so abhor the other! And keep your duty to Allah. Lo! Allah is Relenting, Merciful."

What do you think of a society that abides by such noble etiquettes?

### **Mercy for His Ummah**

In the Holy Quran, Allah says, "The Prophet is closer to the believers than they are to their own selves." (Surah al-Ahzab: 6)

The prophet ﷺ said, "Believers are to one another like a building whose parts support one other." He then interlaced his fingers. (Bukhari, Muslim)

### **Mercy toward non-Muslims**

Abu Hurairah رضي الله عنه reported that when Allah's messenger ﷺ was asked to invoke a curse on the polytheists he replied, "I was not sent as one given to cursing; I was sent only as a mercy." (Muslim)

He ﷺ also said, "If someone entrusts a person with his life and then that person killed him then I am clear of the killer, even if the victim is a disbeliever." (Nasaei)

Also, he ﷺ said, "He who harms a non-Muslim harms me and he who harms me harms Allah." (Tabarani)

The prophet stated in his contract with the Christians of Najran: "No man from among them may be held accountable for the violations of another of his fellows." (Abu Yusuf in *Alkharaj*)

### **Mercy toward Animals**

The Prophet ﷺ truly was a mercy not only to all humanity, but even to animals, beasts and birds, alike. He once said: "There is a reward for all the good that you do for anything possessing a living heart." (Bukhari)

He ﷺ also mentioned to us the story of a prostitute who gave water to a thirsty dog and who was forgiven by Allah and admitted into paradise. Likewise, the prophet ﷺ informed us that another woman entered Hell because she imprisoned a cat without feeding it or letting it out to eat until it starved to death.

When the Prophet ﷺ saw a sparrow in her nest lamenting the loss of her chicks stolen by someone, he said: "Who has caused her to grieve over her chicks? May Allah curse the one who caused her to grieve over her chicks." (Note that cursing the unnamed doer/s of a particular evil act is different from cursing particular individuals or groups of people.)

The Prophet ﷺ said: “No sparrow is killed purposelessly except that it complains to Allah about it on the Day of Judgment.”

The Prophet ﷺ forbade the killing of any animal for mere sport, and he said about the hunting and slaughtering of animals for food, “Verily Allah has prescribed kindness and proficiency in all things. Thus, if you kill, kill well; and if you slaughter, slaughter well. Let each one of you sharpen his blade and let him spare suffering to the animal he slaughters.” (Muslim)

### **Mercy toward the Environment Including Inanimate Things**

“Uhud is a mountain that loves us and we love it” said the Prophet ﷺ to his companions after their defeat at the hands of the pagans by the mountain of ‘Uhud. (Bukhari, Muslim)

This is for the companions to not hold any negative feelings toward this piece of Allah's creation. The whole world is the creation of Allah, and it is in a state of submission to the will of the Divine. A Muslim, who submits by choice to His will, should be in complete harmony with the world.

### **Mercy for All**

Prophet Muhammad ﷺ said, “Allah will not show mercy to him who does not show mercy to others” (Bukhari, Muslim)

**May Allah bless him ﷺ abundantly and give him peace infinitely, for he ﷺ truly was sent as a mercy for all.**