

C.B.S.-2023
Islamic Studies

PART-II

Question no. 3:
Answer:

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Introduction: The Holy Prophet Hazrat Muhammad (P.B.U.H.) is a role model for human beings across the globe. He (P.B.U.H.) is a luminous candle in socio-political, economic, and educational aspects even in the contemporary era. Like other facets, the military aspect of the personality of the Holy Prophet (P.B.U.H.) is also unique. During his whole life, the Holy Prophet (P.B.U.H.) took part in as many as 26 wars, and in all, he (P.B.U.H.) exhibited bravery and excellent military skills. He (P.B.U.H.) always led the Muslims from the front and preached that martyrdom was better than turning back on the battlefield. Moreover, he (P.B.U.H.) was careful and cognizant of the military preparedness of Muslims and made arrangements for imparting military training to Muslims during peace time. The most

important thing is that He (P.B.U.H.) has well-defined military tactics about reconciliation with the enemy, attitude towards combatants and non-combatants, and strategies before, during, and after the war. Additionally, the Holy Prophet (P.B.U.H.) used some strategies towards the division of battalions and their arrangement and positioning. In a nutshell, he (P.B.U.H.) is considered a role model for military strategists, for his military tactics to execute the necessary evil of war in a very peaceful way; even these strategies are still valid in contemporary times across the globe.

Holy Prophet (P.B.U.H.) as a Role Model: Hazrat Muhammad (P.B.U.H.) was the last prophet of Allah Almighty and he (P.B.U.H.) was sent for the guidance of humanity. He (P.B.U.H.) provided a complete code of life to human beings through his advice and actions. He (P.B.U.H.) is an everlasting role model for people in all aspects. It has been mentioned in the Holy Quran:

لَقَدْ كَانَ لَكُمْ فِي رَسُولِ اللَّهِ أُسْوَةٌ حَسَنَةٌ

"You have indeed in the Messengers of Allah a beautiful pattern (of conduct) for anyone."

— (Surah Al-Ahzab)

Similarly, it is also mentioned in Quran that Holy Prophet (P.B.U.H.) is also a symbol of kindness and mercy for humanity across the world. So, everyone can get benefits from the teachings of the Holy Prophet (P.B.U.H.). It is stated in Quran by Allah Almighty:

وَمَا أَرْسَلْنَاكَ إِلَّا رَحْمَةً لِّلْعَالَمِينَ

"O Muhammad, We have not sent you, except as a mercy to the worlds."

— (Surah Al-Anbiya)

Characteristics of the Holy Prophet (P.B.U.H.) as Commander or Soldier:

★ Leadership Skills: The most important quality to fight and win a war is the leadership skills of an army commander. The organization

and strategies to arrange and
divide the army mostly and
formulated by the commander in
chief and Hazrat Muhammad (P.B.U.H.)
has leadership skills and he (P.B.U.H.)
did not panic even in critical
situations. **Ghazwa Hunain** case study of
in this regard when the enemy
attacked suddenly and forces of
the Holy Prophet (P.B.U.H.) fled
away, but the Holy Prophet (P.B.U.H.)
fought bravely and spoke loudly,
"I am the messenger of Allah,
I am not an imposter, I am
a descendent of brave Abdul
Muttalib."

★ Kind Heartedness: Hazrat Muhammad (P.B.U.H.)
was a kind-hearted man towards his
companions and even towards his
enemies. He (P.B.U.H.) always advised his
companions and soldiers not to kill
and humiliate women, aged persons,
children, and those who were
non-combatants. After the loss of
70 men in the **battle of Uhud**,
the Holy Prophet (P.B.U.H.) wept and
prayed for every soldier that died
in the way of Allah.

Consultation with Advisory Council

In all matter of war, except the expedition of Hudabiyah, affecting the common interest of the Muslims, the Holy Prophet (P.B.U.H.) always held counseling with his illustrious companions and accepted their advice even when it was contrary to his view, for instance, he (P.B.U.H.) did on the eve of the battle of Uhud, similarly the consultation with his companions in the case of digging a trench in Ghazwa Ahzab and the idea was given by Hazrat Suleman Farsi (R.A.).

Respect of Treaties: He (P.B.U.H.)

always obeyed the conditions of treaties, which he has done with his enemies. An example of the treaty of Hudabiyah is in front of us when some conditions were not in favour of Muslims, but the Holy Prophet (P.B.U.H.) respected the treaty and its conditional ties. He (P.B.U.H.) always focused on fulfilling his promises.

Military Strategies of the Holy Prophet (P.B.U.H.): The Holy Prophet (P.B.U.H.)

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has always adopted three different strategies to tackle the situation peacefully. These include:

1. Military tactics before the war.
2. Strategies during the war.
3. After-war principles.

These military strategies are the model tactics for military strategists at all times. By adopting these strategies, the Holy Prophet (P.B.U.H.) has made wars less destructive. He (P.B.U.H.) fought almost 26 wars, and only 259 Muslims were martyred, and approximately 1018 non-Muslims were killed in these wars. The testimony has been given by Dr. Abdul Rauf Zafar in his book **USWA-E-KAMIL** as:

"The study of wars fought by Hazrat Muhammad (P.B.U.H.) elaborates that wars are not being fought by an excess of army persons and vast resources, but by the determination, courage, proper leadership, and efficient usage of weapons and resources. The

Holy Prophet (P.B.U.H.) has provided the best example about it that the combination of spiritual and materialistic powers helped to win the wars. In the 21st century, despite having abundant resources, there are still many fault lines in wars that have caused brutality and chaos across the globe and this lack is actually of the military strategies of Prophet (P.B.U.H.) and piouness. If someone wants to be victorious, he has to follow the military principles of the Holy Prophet (P.B.U.H.)"

(Statement has been taken from book USWA-E-KAMTL by Dr. Abdul Rauf Zafar)

1. Military Tactics Before War:

The Holy Prophet (P.B.U.H.) has always defined some military tactics before the war to settle issues peacefully or to prepare his army for war.

*Inclination Towards Reconciliation:

Hazrat Muhammad (P.B.U.H.) gave education about adjustment and reconciliation towards the enemy if he wants reconciliation.

A case in point in this regard is the example of the treaty of Hudaibiyah of 6th A.H. This act according to the order of the Quran which states that:

وَإِنْ جَنَحُوا لِلسَّلَامِ فَاجْتِنِحْ لَهَا

"And if they incline to peace, then incline to it also."

— (Al-Quran)

★ Economic Blockade of Enemy:

The tribe of Makkah - an active enemy of the mission of the Holy Prophet (P.B.U.H.) and the state of Madina always tried to prevent Muslims from migrating from Makkah to Madina. The Holy Prophet (P.B.U.H.) countered their moves by threatening an economic blockade. When the people of Makkah learned about the threat to their economic lifeline from Syria, they sent an army to counter the forces of Madina.

★ Espionage and Surveillance of Enemy:

It is considered a crucial war strategy for the preparation of war and

risk assessment. The Holy Prophet (P.B.U.H.) also took practical steps to get information about enemy moves and remained updated about the enemy moves. For this purpose, he (P.B.U.H.) deployed his detectives in Arabian Peninsula who provided information about enemies. A case in point in this regard is that Holy Prophet (P.B.U.H.) sent people to get information about the return of the caravan of Abu-Sufyan at the time of **Badr-e-Kurba**.

*** Training of Army:** The most important thing before the war for a commander is to invest in the training of his army and to establish a strong army with advanced military tactics. In this regard, the Holy Prophet (P.B.U.H.) sent his soldiers to neighbouring states of Syria and Ethiopia to learn different military tactics and fighting skills.

2. Strategies During the War: The Holy Prophet (P.B.U.H.) set certain rules to deal with enemy during the war and also used some

strategies to defeat the enemy. These include:

★ Positioning of the Army: The Holy Prophet (P.B.U.H.) always arranged different groups of army persons at different points and advised them not to move away from it. These positions are specified following the self-defence and attacking positions of the army. According to the Holy Prophet (P.B.U.H.) there will be five parts of the army which include:

| | | |
|------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| | FRONT ROW | |
| LEFT WING | MIDDLE ROW | RIGHT WING |
| | BACK ROW | |

★ Division of Battalions: According to the military strategy of the Holy Prophet (P.B.U.H.), battalions were divided into five groups based on their capabilities and military skills. These include:

- a. Infantry,
- b. Cavalry regiment,
- c. Archers,
- d. Luggage,

e. security personnel.

* Rights of Non-Combatants:

Non-Combatants are the people who do not participate in war, for example, women, children, aged people, sick men, worshippers, idiots, etc. He (P.B.U.H.) was not in favor of killing them, and also advised his commanders, including Khalid bin Waleed not to kill them.

"Never kill women and workers in wars."

— (Al-Hadees)

Specific prohibitions were given by the Holy Prophet (P.B.U.H.) on the methods of warfare to Muslim warriors as they went into battle. Before departing for the conquest of the Deccan, Caliph Abu Bakr (R.A.) told his warriors:

"When you meet your enemies in the fight, behave yourself as betis good Muslims. If Allah gives you victory, do not abuse your advantages and beware not to stain

your swords with the blood of
one who yields, neither you touch
the children, the women, nor the
infirm, also men, whom you may find
among your enemies."

—(Advice From Holy Prophet And
Caliphs)

★ Rights of Combatants: Combatants
are the people who participate
in wars and fought actively
against Muslims. These people, it is
allowed to use weapons, but the
Holy Prophet (P.B.U.H.) also drew
boundaries towards dealing with
combatants. It has also been
decreed that Muslim troops do
not have unlimited authority to
deal with combatants as they
like. There are certain bounds
with which they must deal with
the combatants of the enemy.

★ Prohibition of Night Assault:
The Holy Prophet (P.B.U.H.) abolished
the custom of night assault which
the Arabs used to deliver and
laid down the rule that the
enemy was not to be attacked

before dawn.

★ Prohibition of the Immolation of the Enemy: Before the time of the Holy Prophet (P.B.U.H.), the troops took revenge by burning the enemy alive. The Holy Prophet (P.B.U.H.) declared these barbaric practices. He (P.B.U.H.) said that:

"No one has the right to put anyone to the torment of fire except He, who (Allah) is the creator of fire."

— (AL-Hadees)

★ Ban on Destruction: It is a common habit of invading armies to destroy the crops, lay waste in the fields, massacre the population, burn the houses, etc. Islam, however, declares these practices as evil and unlawful and prohibits them strictly. As depicted in Quran by Allah Almighty:

وَإِذَا تَوَلَّى سَعَى فِي الْأَرْضِ لِيُفْسِدَ فِيهَا

"And when he goes away, he strives throughout the land to cause corruption therein."

— (Al-Quran)

وَيُهْلِكُ الْحَرْثَ وَالنَّسْلَ

"And destroy crops and animals."

— (Al-Quran)

وَاللَّهُ لَا يُحِبُّ الْفُسَادَ

"And Allah does not like acts of mischief."

*Mutilation of Dead Bodies:

Islam has strictly prohibited the mutilation of the dead bodies of enemies and to cut their body parts. When the Holy Prophet (P.B.U.H.) sent his army for any attack, he advised that:

"Do not break promises and never mutilate."

— (Al-Hadees)

* Minimizing Collateral Damage:

Prophet Muhammad (P.B.U.H.) is history's first major figure to condemn collateral damage. His advanced rules of war were established 1400 years ago and yet unmatched humanitarian standards. And herein is the solution to modern conflicts. The Holy Quran first describes when fighting is permitted, permission to fight is given to those against whom war is made because they have been wronged.

"Those who have been driven out of their homes unjustly only because they said, 'Our Lord is God and if God did not repel some men using others, there would surely have been pulled down temples and churches and synagogues and mosques.'"

— (Al-Quran)

3. After War Principles of the Holy Prophet (P.B.U.H.): After the war, whether the Holy Prophet (P.B.U.H.) won or lost, he (P.B.U.H.) followed

some principles, which are:

★ Ban on Killing of Prisoners of War: Generally, a prisoner of war could be, at the discretion of the military leader, executed, freed, ransomed, exchanged for Muslim prisoners, or kept as slaves. Women and children prisoners of war can not be killed under any circumstances, regardless of their religious convictions, but they may be freed or ransomed. Women who were neither freed nor ransomed by their people were to be kept in bondage. On the conquest of Makkah, the Holy Prophet (P.B.U.H.) commanded his army as:

"Do not kill any prisoner of war."

— (Al-Hadees)

★ Ban on the Killing of an Envoy: The Holy Prophet (P.B.U.H.) prohibited the killing of ambassadors. When Ubaidah bin Harith, the emissary of Mussaylimah Kazaab, the false prophet, came and delivered his message, the Holy Prophet (P.B.U.H.)

observed.

"Had it not been unlawful to
kill the emissaries, I would have
beheaded you." — (Al-Hadees)

Prohibition of Breach of Treaty: Breach of treaty is the worst crime according to the Holy Prophet (P.B.U.H.). He condemned mutiny, breach of the treaty, and assault on the partners in the treaty on several occasions. It is also commanded in Quran:

وَأَوْقُوا بِالْعَهْدِ

"And Fulfill (every) commitment."

إِنَّ الْعَهْدَ كَانَ مَسْئُولًا

"Indeed, the commitment is ever (that about which one will be) questioned."

— (Al-Quran)

★ Principle of the General Amnesty:

In most cases, when the Holy Prophet (P.B.U.H.) won the war, he (P.B.U.H.) mostly announced general amnesty to the defeated. An example of the conquest of Makkah in 8 A.H. can be seen when the Holy Prophet (P.B.U.H.) announced amnesty to the Quraish and forgave those who took refuge in the Kaaba and the house of Abu Sufyan.

Contemporary Time Analysis:

The military strategies of the Beloved Holy Prophet (P.B.U.H.) are still an excellent example and guideline for those who have to formulate military principles. Even in contemporary times, if these military tactics are followed, then the necessary evil of war can be executed peacefully. His military strategy is not only a role model for Muslims but also for non-Muslims across the globe. The disastrous incidents of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, the war on terror in

Afghanistan, the invasion and war by USA in Iraq, the war in Syria, Russia-Ukraine war can be either avoided or executed peacefully (less destructively) if the military strategy of the Holy Prophet (P.B.U.H.) was used as a role model. The destruction and chaos across the world are because countries are formulating violent and brutal military tactics to ~~win~~ conquer and destroy other military states.

Testimony by Muslims and Non-Muslims:

"The survival of the world is associated with the seerah of beloved Holy Prophet (P.B.U.H.), he (P.B.U.H.) is the panacea to all problems of the world."

— (Saying of Allama Iqbal)

"Holy Prophet (P.B.U.H.) is an illuminating candle and brightening magic for everyone in this world and

the world hereafter."

— (Saying of Dr. Hamid-u-Din)

"He [Muhammad] has made the necessary evil of war less brutal."

— (Saying of Professor Lara Wigler)

"I am surprised at the prominent achievements of the son of desert [Muhammad]. These are acts which can not be done by prophet Musa and Jesus."

— (Saying of Napoleon Bonaparte)

Conclusion: So it is concluded that history has witnessed that Holy Prophet (P.B.U.H.) has exhibited excellent military skills in all his wars. He (P.B.U.H.) always led the Muslims from the front and preached that martyrdom was better than turning back on the battlefield. He (P.B.U.H.) was careful and cognizant of the military preparedness of Muslims and arrangements for imparting military training to Muslims.

during peacetime as well. Muslims were sent to other areas for getting training in the use of weapons. He (P.B.U.H.) has fought many wars with minimum human life losses. As in the past, the protection of the world and peace lay in the teachings of the Holy Prophet (P.B.U.H.), even today it is possible only by following the teachings of Islam and the Holy Prophet (P.B.U.H.). If United Nations make a collective effort to implement the military strategies of Hazrat Muhammad (P.B.U.H.), then the world can be protected and become a peaceful hub to live with minimum loss.