

Q. "The Last Sermon of the Holy Prophet (P.B.U.H) is the basic document for the awakening of consciousness of mankind for human rights." Discuss.

Introduction:

The last sermon of Holy Prophet (P.B.U.H) is not only known for its eloquence but also it contains messages for whole of the mankind. Those messages covers the basic rights of humans. It's significance is also the language and style, which is more of general not specific. This means it is not just for the Muslims but for all the humankind. Each word of the sermon is the breath of equality and brotherhood - without any diversification of colour, race, religion, backgrounds etc. The sermon's main purpose was to give a peaceful and just society to all without any injustice and oppression.

Last Sermon of Holy Prophet (P.B.U.H.):

The farewell sermon of Holy Prophet (P.B.U.H) was given on the last pilgrimage of the Prophet (P.B.U.H) in **632 A.D.** **10 A.H.** In Makkah, thousands of ^{people,} his (P.B.U.H) companions were there to perform Hajj. The Holy Prophet (P.B.U.H) gave a hint that this is going to be his last time addressing to them.

"O People! Listen to what I say. I donot know whether I will ever meet you at this place after this year."

The words by the Holy Prophet (P.B.U.H) made everyone attentive and emotional, as no one was possibly ready to accept what life would be without him (P.B.U.H).

Equal Rights for Humans:

"All of you are created from **Adam and Eve**, hence no Arab has any superiority over Non-Arab, nor any Non-Arab has any superiority over any Arab, same as no white has any superiority over black one nor any black has superiority over white except piety and goodwill."

The Holy Prophet (P.B.U.H) again and again told everyone to consider each other equal as all humans are equal in the eye of Allah.

Right of inheritance:

"O People! Allah, the Exalted and Almighty, has already assigned the due share of inheritance; no special testament is needed."

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The Holy Prophet (P.B.U.H) told the people about the right of inheritance to the heir, and how Allah Himself has done this so there is no need to write will of your choice and it is recommended to follow what Allah has assigned to you.

Right to sanctity of life, parentage, ^{property,} and wedlock:

"Listen People! Your blood and your property are as sacred as this month (9 zill Hijjah). You will surely meet your Lord and He will ask you of your works. I have told you. He who is entrusted with belonging of another person shall return it to whom it rightfully belongs."

The Holy Prophet (P.B.U.H)

advised people to not get hold of anything that doesnot belong to them as it is a wrong deed and surely each of you will be resurrected and will be held accountable for your deeds so it is your duty to return the belongings to whom it belongs.

Rights of women in marriage:

The Holy Prophet (P.B.U.H) asked people to be kind to women.

"People! Fear Allah concerning the women." said by Holy

Prophet as women they married are under the security of Allah. **"Verily, you have**

taken her with the permission of Allah," This means even

you have the rights over her but do not forget its because

of the permission of Allah

and you have to answer

Him by the end of this

world.

Holy Prophet (P.B.U.H) said:

It is true that you have rights regarding the women you married, but know that she has the rights too.

If she abide by your rights then to them

belongs the right to be fed and clothed with

kindness. Treat your women

well and be kind as they

are your partners and

committed helpers. And it is

your right that they donot

allow anyone enter your

house that you donot

approve as well as never

to be unchaste."

Right of society members:

The Holy Prophet (P.B.U.H) gave the message of brotherhood. Each human is the brother of

one another and it is important for you to be like brothers to live a life with prosperity.

"O People! Listen to what I say and keep it your heart. Each muslim is the brother of other muslims and all of the muslims are brethren-like the five fingers of the hand."

The Holy Prophet (P.B.U.H) told people not to take anything from anyone unless he gives you with his own will.

"It is not lawful to take any thing except what is given to you with own will and do not do injustice with one another."

Four Sacred Months:

The four out of the twelve

months were declared as sacred months in which war, or any kind of violence is prohibited. The Holy Prophet (P.B.U.H) mentioned the names of those months so that there should not be any ambiguity left in the minds of the people.

He (P.B.U.H) said:

"There are total twelve months, out of which four are the sacred months. Three of them are successive Dhul Qa'dah, Dhul Hijjah and Al-Muharram. The fourth is Rajab, that comes between Jumada and Shaban."

No Exaggeration in Religion:-

The Holy Prophet (P.B.U.H) told the people to be careful about the religion

and not to change anything by ownself and also always remember what happened with the people of the nations who tried to do so. They all were severely punished for their misdeeds.

"Avoid exaggeration in the religion matters as for the people before you were destroyed for such reasons."

Observance of Religious duties:-

"I recommend you to worship your Lord, pray the five prayers, fast in Ramadan, pay zakat, and visit the holy House of your Lord (Pilgrimage) and you will be rewarded by your Lord."

The Holy Prophet (P.B.U.H) recommended to fulfill all the duties that are obligatory

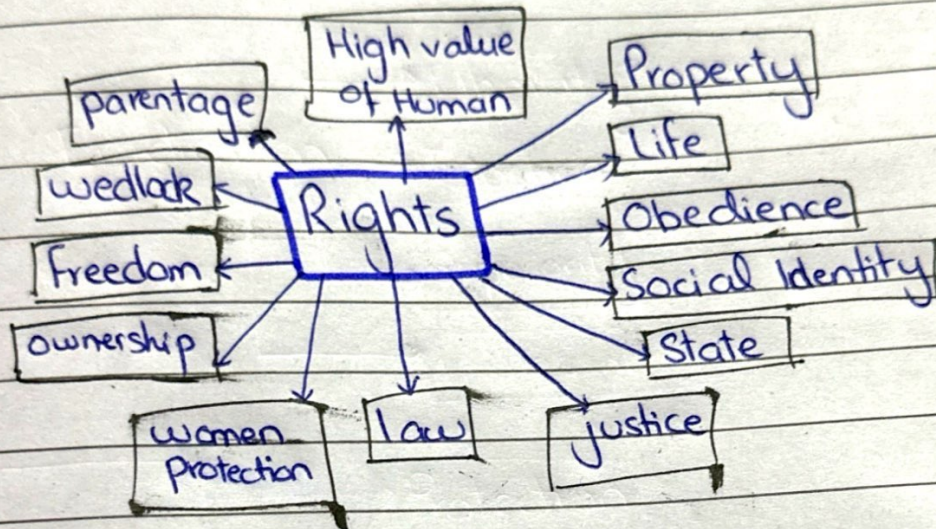
on them as all of these
duties will make them closer
to their religion and to
their God. Surely if they
follow the right path, Allah
will reward them beyond
their expectations.

Rights of Justice :

The Holy Prophet (P.B.U.H) clearly said that the responsibility of a crime should be only on the shoulders of the criminal not on his relatives. The offender is the only one who deserves the rightful punishment for his crime

"Any wrongdoer does not wrong another except himself. So, let no one be blamed for the acts of his father or his son."

Awakening of consciousness for Human Rights:



Conclusion:

The farewell sermon of Holy Prophet (P.B.U.H) is the foremost document for the human rights much older than magna Carta, Bill of rights, and UN Human Rights codes. It provides a figure, social order, freedom from oppression guaranteeing the basic human rights and needs for a truly free, peaceful and progressive society. If put into pieces in various aspects of life, can help us to a great extent in alleviating the miseries of the humanity.