

Discuss the status and grade of tolerance and forgiveness in the life of Holy Prophet (P.B.U.H) ? CSS - 2020

Introduction:

Tolerance and forgiveness were integral aspects of the life of Holy prophet. He exemplified these virtues and adopted these as a way of life. He was best known for reconciling people at war and forgiving his opponents in conflict. Because his motto was the establishment of peace all over. Quran itself declares these attributes of Prophet Muhammad as "We have sent you (Muhammad) as a mercy to mankind"

(Al-Anbiya: 21: 107)

a) Tolerance & Forgiveness; message of Islam:

The word Islam is derived from "slm" which means peace.

Islam demands peace and brotherhood which is possible only by tolerance and forgiveness. After attaining the prophethood, the Holy Prophet's conquest was full of tolerance, prescience and peace.

b) Promoted culture of immunity and forgiveness:

The Prophet was a great advocate of the culture of impunity and forgiveness. Once a man named Musaylima claimed himself as a messenger of Allah along with prophet Muhammad (PBUH). When envoy reached the Prophet delivering the Prophet Musaylima's message, the prophet exclaimed "If you were not an envoy, I would've sentenced you to death"

c) Instead of war, he bore the pangs of migration:

The Holy Prophet (PBUH) had to endure twelve years of

brutal adversary from his own kin until he could take it no more and had to eventually migrate to Medina. He preferred hardships of migration but avoided to fight his own people.

d) Embodiment of blessing in words and deeds:

This shows the distinctive quality of Prophet that he was a blessing incarnate in word and deed. According to a tradition recorded in Sahih Muslim; when the prophet's opponents greatly increased their persecution, his companions asked him to curse them. At this he replied; "I have not been sent to lay a curse upon men but to be a blessing to them."

e) No vengeance against aggressors of Taaif:

The Prophet went to Taaif to call them toward Islam. But

the people of Ta'if proved to be cruel and intolerant. They set street urchin upon him who attacked him and when he was bleeding from head to foot, an angel was sent and presented him with an option to destroy the valley of Ta'if. But he restrained the Angel and prayed for their salvation.

f) Peace as priority:

The Prophet said: "Forgive him who wrongs you, Join him who cut you off, Do good to him who does evil to you and speak truth although it be against yourself." These words reflect themselves how much the prophet opted to keep peace as a first and foremost priority.

He also said: "The best of Islam is to behave with gentleness and tolerance?"

g) Forgave the murderer of his beloved uncle:

The mercy of Holy Prophet was even extended to those who killed his beloved ones. Hamza was one of the earliest to accept Islam and one of the most beloved people to Prophet. An Abyssinian slave of wife of Abu Sufyan, Hinda killed Hamza in battle of Uhud and mutilated his body. When she came to Holy Prophet and accepted Islam, he recognized her but said nothing.

h) Tolerance of Prophet during victory of Makkah:

The people of Makkah were his worst enemy. They taunt, mock, and beat him. They even plotted to kill him. When he entered Makkah victorious with army of 10000 he did not take revenge on anyone.

The prophet said to Qurayish
"O people of Qurayish! what

do you think I will do to you?" Hoping for a good response they said; "you will do good. You are a noble brother, Son of a noble brother?" The Holy Prophet then said. "I say to you what Joseph said to his brothers; There is no blame upon you; Go! For you all free".

i) Prophet always promulgated the Lesson of Tolerance & Forgiveness:

The Prophet said "A true believer is one with whom other feel secure" He manifested these words with action and was not fast to revenge or rebuke a wrong doer.

A Bedouin once entered the mosque and started to urinate in it. Mosque at that time had no walls and carpeted floor and the ceiling were palm leaves held up by palm stems. People

ran to prevent him. The Prophet (PBUH) said: "Do not interrupt his urination (let him finish) Then the prophet asked for a pitcher of water to be poured over the place of urine." (Al-Bukhari)

The Prophet suffered a great deal in the path of preaching Islam but he always advised his companions and his ummah to remain tolerant.

j) Tolerance towards minorities:

The tolerance he depicted towards minorities in his time the clear elicitation of tolerance is expressed from the following verse of Quran: "For you is your religion, for me is my religion" (Al-kafirun 109:06). The Holy Prophet signed charter of Medina. It was first pact with Jews. Holy Prophet gathered all religions of state into one nation.

Holy Prophet; a hallmark of tolerance:

Holy Prophet was a hallmark of justice tolerance. Such manners of tolerance gained him high respect even of his enemies.

As a former president Nixon said "The greatest honour history can bestow is that of a peacemaker". The non-muslim people of west was impressed by teachings of Prophet. As George Bernard Shaw states; "I have studied him (Muhammad), the wonderful man and in my opinion far from being an anti-christ. He must be called saviour of mankind".

Muslim philosopher lays stress on tolerance. "Moderation and tolerance are unique qualities of a muslim an beauty of Islam. Intolerance and extremism are against the teaching of Prophet"

(Dr. Tahir ul Qadri)