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QUESTION

Explain doctrine of Prophethood and its importance in Human Life.

Islam is a divine religion. Being a divine religion, there is a need of communicator that can help with the communication between Allah and the human beings. Prophets are that string which helps in the communication of the creator and the creation. Prophets teach the humanity and provide leadership for the better understanding of divine commands. They not only communicate the ordinance of Allah but also prove the practicability of those decrees. They stand strong in front of the tyranny of society and ensure the protection of the rights of the weak. That is why following Prophets has been made necessary doctrine and believing them as a part of basic beliefs.

Explaining Doctrine of Prophethood

Meaning of Prophethood

Prophethood stands for the institution of Prophet. In Arabic, word 'Risalat' (رسالة) has been used to describe prophethood. It means message or the process of sending the message. The carrier of the message are called Rasool or Prophets.

It means that prophethood is related to prophets who carries divine message or wahi (Arabic word for message) to people. These prophets are the communication link between Allah and people.

Doctrine of Prophethood :-

Doctrine of Prophethood is to believe in the prophets. It is part of the basic beliefs without which Islam is not accepted by Allah.

Doctrine of Prophethood includes in it ;

- i- Belief in all Prophets
- ii- Belief in Khatam-e-Nabuwat

Belief in all Prophets:-

A muslim who believes and accept the doctrine of prophethood is required to believe all the prophets. All the prophets means all the true Prophets. Any person who will not believe in any true prophet will not be accepted in islam. And any person who will believe in false prophets along with the true prophet will not be accepted in islam either. So, 'Belief in all Prophets' stands for the belief in all true prophets and rejecting all false prophets.

Belief in Khatam-e-Nabuwat:-

Prophethood has been perfected with the arrival of Hazrat Muhammad (P.B.U.H). There will be no prophet after Hazrat Muhammad

(P.B.U.H) and he is the only prophet till the day of judgement. Finality of Prophethood and Muhammad (P.B.U.H) as the final prophet is the part of doctrine of Prophethood. Hazrat Muhammad (P.B.U.H) has been declared the Last Prophet or Khatim-un-Nabiyeen in Surah Ahzab Ayah 33.

It has been described in Quran that:

'Muhammad is not a father of any man among you but he is the prophet of Allah and seal of the Prophets.'

(Quran)

Importance of Doctrine of Prophethood in Life

Doctrine of prophethood impacts hugely on the life of people. Its vitality is evident from the way

that without doctrine of prophethood, people would not be aware of any other doctrine. Neither would they follow any ordinance from Allah nor would they believe in the existence of any doctrine or decree from God.

1. Prophets as communicator of Allah's commands

Believing in Prophets is the key to accept Allah's commands communicating through Prophets. Any one refusing the doctrine of Prophethood would be refusing the commands of Allah. It is important to note that Prophet communicate what Allah's says and he does not talk as per his desire. So, Prophet's communicate the message of Allah.

'Whatever Prophet bids you, accept it; whatever he forbids you, abstain from it.'

(Quran)

2. Essential For Guidance of Humanity :-

Doctrine of prophet-hood is essential for guidance of humanity. If one does not believe in the prophethood, it will be impossible to accept guidelines from that source.

Prophets came to guide the people who strayed from the right path.

Prophets - from Adam to Muhammad (P.B.U.H) were there to guide. As is stated in Holy Quran:

'For you, is the best example in the life of Muhammad (P.B.U.H), for those who believe and remember Allah much.'

(Quran)

3. Importance in Showing the Practicability of Ordinance :-

Doctrine of Prophet-hood is important in understanding the practicability of Ordinance. Prophets

did not just communicate the ordinance of Allah but also acted upon it. People can find example in their lives. It was to show that the ordinance is practical and not something ideal that can not be done in normal life.

It is proved through the saying of Hazrat Ayesha (R.A). When she was asked about the life of Holy Prophet (P.B.U.H), she said;

'Prophet (P.B.U.H)'s life is the practical manifestation of Suran.'

(Hazrat Ayesha)

Belief in Prophethood is essential to humanity. It also gives away the cry of impracticability of divine ordinance.

4. Prophethood to teach and lead People

Prophets are the leader and teacher of humanity. Doctrine of prophethood is important to avail the teachings and leadership of people.

Teachings of Prophets and learning from prophets are key elements that requires the beliefs of in Prophethood. Prophets are all teachers and teaches the doctrine of Islam.

'I have been sent to you as a teacher.'
(Hadith)

5. Prophets being the flag bearer of Human Rights :-

Doctrine of prophethood is important to avail the human right that are provided through the teachings of prophets. All the prophets stood for human rights against the tyranny of their time. Though Quran and other holy books described the rights but those rights were explained and given in broader way through the teachings of Prophets.

While describing the right to property, prophet Muhammad (P.B.U.H) stated;

'Your blood and your property is as sacred as this day. You will return to your Lord and He will ask you about it. Whoever is entrusted with someone else's property, he should return his trust to whom it belongs.'

(Hayat-ul-Wadaa Sermon)

Conclusion

In a nutshell, belief in prophets is among the basic beliefs of Islam. And, doctrine of Prophethood stands for the belief in all the prophets from Adam to Hazrat Muhammad (P.B.U.H) and finality of Prophethood on Hazrat Muhammad (P.B.U.H). Doctrine of Prophethood is important for human life as it is important to accept Allah's commandments through guidance of Prophets. Moreover, Prophets are the teachers of humanity and their lives are torch bearers for the people of Islam. They advocate for the

right of people. Doctrine of Prophethood is important belief of Islamic belief system and important for the life of people.