

Discuss the Status and Grade of "Tolerance and Forgiveness" in the life of the Holy Prophet<sup>ﷺ</sup>?

وَمَا أَرْسَلْنَاكَ إِلَّا رَحْمَةً لِّلْعَالَمِينَ . سورة انبيا 107

"And we have not sent you but as a mercy to the worlds."

During the life <sup>of the Prophet<sup>ﷺ</sup></sup> The status and Grade of <sup>his</sup> tolerance and forgiveness ~~of the Prophet~~ tops the list. The word tolerance means to bear. <sup>other meaning is</sup> The acceptance and respect of different cultures and their expression. It is the basic principle of Islam. It emphasizes the importance of tolerance to maintain peace in the world. The word forgiveness is to pardon someone despite having the power to take revenge or retaliation. Allah says in the Holy Quran about forgiveness that:

وَجَزَاءُ سَيِّئَةٍ سَيِّئَةٌ مِّثْلُهَا فَمَن عَفَا وَأَصْلَحَ فَأَجْرُهُ عَلَى اللَّهِ

The reward of an evil deed is its equivalent. But whoever pardons and make reconciliation, then their reward is with Allah. <sup>(42:40)</sup> Surah Ash-shura

Undoubtedly, these virtues are hard to inculcate but their reward is doubled and once they are inculcated, ~~they~~ have the power to transform the world into an ideal and peaceful place to live in.

This was the reason how Islam spread by the Prophet. He was the <sup>Practitioner</sup> of tolerance and forgiveness.

## Tolerance and forgiveness of the Holy Prophet ﷺ

Before the announcement of prophethood, the status of Holy Prophet ﷺ in the eyes of the people of Arabia was that of Sadiq and Ameen (truthful and trustworthy). When Holy Prophet received his first revelation, he gathered the people on the hill and asked them what if he said the enemies ~~were~~ <sup>were</sup> behind the mountains will they accept it? All responded in one voice: Yes, we will believe. So, the Holy Prophet said: I am here to tell you that I am the messenger of Allah, the only one God to be worshipped. <sup>Suddenly,</sup> People changed their ~~tone~~ <sup>tone</sup> and declared him a liar. From here, the hardships of the Prophet ﷺ began.

### Response to violence with tolerance and forgiveness

For 13 long years, Holy Prophet had been tortured by the people of Makkah. Non-believers used to throw trash at his doorsteps which he tolerated in a beautiful manner, continued preaching Islam, and prayed for their forgiveness from Allah. An old lady would throw garbage on him when he would walk to masjid, but not a single word of disrespect was uttered by

the Prophet <sup>ﷺ</sup> to the lady. Until, one day, when he did not receive any letter onto him, ~~he~~ he visited the lady to ask after her and prayed for her well-being. The merciful act of the Holy Prophet <sup>ﷺ</sup> turned her heart and she embraced Islam as she realized that ~~one~~ <sup>no</sup> one other than a true Prophet of Allah can have such attribution.

### Treatment of Abu Lahab and his wife.

The uncle of the Prophet, Abu-Lahab, was his nextdoor neighbor who bitterly opposed him and declared him mad before the people. Abu-Lahab's wife made it a practice to throw thorns at the doorsteps of the Prophet so, whenever he or his children would leave <sup>the house</sup> at dawn, they should get injured by the thorns. <sup>not</sup> Only this, but she would throw the filth from the wall at the cooking pot of Holy Prophet when they <sup>would</sup> <sup>a</sup> cook meal. ~~The~~ Our beloved Prophet was not left to take relief even at home. But he showed much patience in the way of Allah.

### Clapping and whistling of the enemies during Salah.

The value of Salah was much in the eyes of the Holy Prophet. He called Salah as *mairaj* of Muslims or the believers where they stand in front of their Rab with humility and

expressed their need before the Almighty and All-knowing. He said

وَجَعَلَ قُرَّةَ عَيْنِي فِي الصَّلَاةِ

Prayers are coolness of <sup>my</sup> his eyes.

During the time of his standing before his Lord, when the non-believers would disturb him with the sounds of claps and whistles, The Holy Prophet <sup>ﷺ</sup> never showed his anger even at such acts.

### The Boycott of Banu Hashim

Banu Hashim's ~~not~~ support to the Holy Prophet displeased the people of Makkah, they made a social boycott with the tribe for 3 years, leaving them in isolation and starvation. The 10th of Rabi' marked the saddest year in the life of ~~the~~ our clearest Prophet <sup>ﷺ</sup> when his beloved uncle and wife were no more. ~~But~~ No one consoled him, but the Prophet never complained.

### The inhumane treatment of the people of Taif with the Prophet <sup>ﷺ</sup>

After the death of Hazrat Abu Talib, Quraish treatment towards the Holy Prophet <sup>ﷺ</sup> turned worse, as his protector was no more to defend him. Holy Prophet <sup>ﷺ</sup>

decided to have a visit to Taif where he was ridiculed and called crazy <sup>by the people</sup>. One said "were you the only one whom God sent to be a Prophet?". The other said "I must be naive or a thief if I consider you a Prophet". And to stop the Prophet from preaching, they gathered a group of mischievous children who pelted stones at him which caused him to bleed seriously from tip to toe. Jibreel came down to ask the Prophet to grind these people between the mountains. The Holy Prophet responded; "I am sent as a Prophet of mercy and not to punish the people".

### ~~The~~ The conquest of Makkah

At the time of the conquest of Makkah, when the Holy Prophet entered into his conquered city. The people who humiliated and tortured him were puzzled what the Prophet would do to them to take his revenge. The Holy Prophet <sup>ﷺ</sup> asked the people what they expect from him. They all responded in one voice that they expect nothing but mercy and forgiveness. The Holy Prophet <sup>ﷺ</sup> smiled and said you all are free and forgiven. He ordered his army to fight against only those who would rise in opposition.

## The Jew and the Holy Prophet

Holy Prophet borrowed some money from a Jew one day. A few days later, the Jew arrived to demand the payment of the debt which was not present to the Holy Prophet at that time. The furious Jew made the Holy Prophet captive for 2 days and nights. At that time, the Prophet was the ruler of Madina state, the companions wanted to rebuke the Jew and chased him off which our dear Prophet forbade saying "Allah has prohibited to wrong anyone". Moved by the Prophet's tolerance the Jew embraced Islam and agreed to spend all his wealth in the way of Allah. Holy Prophet responded to spend it as he pleased.

## Treatment of the Holy Prophet with Anas Malik.

Though Anas Malik served the Prophet for 10<sup>long</sup> years, he was never rebuked ~~by~~ <sup>by him</sup> the Prophet even when he failed to do something he was never questioned ~~by the Prophet~~ about his failure.

"Holy Prophet was the most good-natured of all men" he said.

The Present day and Critical Analysis.

In this modern <sup>time</sup> world, where the world ~~had~~ <sup>has</sup> been facing much violence at the hands of one another, the reason is the absence of tolerance and forgiveness. Even Muslim world is facing many challenges due to lack of forbearance among the muslim fellows - based on their sectarian biases and interpretation. Islamic dominance, which was at its peak during the time of the Holy Prophet and the caliphates, has lost its effective power as a result of sectarian prejudice and lack of leniency. The Muslim world can be strengthened with the practice of forgiving others and endurance. This is a type of Ibadah.

والعصر ان الانسان لفي خسر. الا الذين امنوا  
وعملوا الصالحات وتواصوا بالحق وتواصوا بالصبر  
سورة العصر

By the time, Indeed mankind is in loss. Except for those who have believed and done righteous deeds and advised each other to truth and advised each other to Patience.

Q2 Give a general estimate of the Prophet's character in the battlefields as commander.

لقد كان لكم في رسول الله  
أسوة حسنة  
سورة الاحزاب<sup>21</sup>

Surely, in the Messenger of Allah, there is an excellent example for you.

The Holy Prophet is an ~~apt~~ apt example for the world to be followed. Islam has repeatedly claimed as the Deen of peace and its evidence is in the life of the Prophet. The military strategies of the Prophet and commanding his army ~~was~~ were totally different from that of the people of Arab. War before the Prophet was completely based on violence and bloodshed, plundering and looting, harming the weak - women, children, old people, animals, plants, and prisoners. The war was being fought for pride, revenge, and show-off, of power. It was the age of Jahiliya when the brightest light was sent by Allah to His slaves in the name of Mohammad, who overturned the tradition of devastating wars and showed the world the strategies for fighting without much violence and minimum loss. Where negotiation and treaty could be made, ~~he~~ he preferred them to combat.



Holy Prophet, like in all other fields, also proved himself incomparable as a commander. With a few wars and losses, he conquered the whole Arabian Peninsula of 2 million square km within 8-10 years. With smaller number of soldiers, Rasool Allah defeated larger armies. The rules he set, the way he behaved with his opponents and the results of all these was the true victory of Islam.

انا فتينا لك فتىً مبيهاً سورة فتح 1

"Verily, we have granted you <sup>manifested</sup> true victory"

Islam was not spread by sword, but by the best manners of the Prophet of Allah.

### Jihad.

The battles in which Muslims participated <sup>are</sup> ~~were~~ called Jihad. It is the concept of war in Islam - a noble sacred war fought in the way of Allah which is defensive in nature. The purpose of Jihad is to protect Islamic State from the opponents' attack, free Muslim society from oppression, to ensure safety and independence for Muslims to live their lives according to Islam, and <sup>to</sup> strengthen Muslim's belief in the Akhirah.

وقتلوا في سبيل الله الذين يقتلونكم ولا تعتدوا ان الله لا يحب المعتدين سورة بقره 190

"Fight in the way of Allah, those who fight <sup>you,</sup> but do not transgress. Indeed, Allah does not like transgressors"

Holy Prophet as a commander.  
\* He was the superior commander, who moved the hearts of many prisoners and soldiers to embrace Islam through his kind and compassionate strategies. He used many innovative and confidential strategies to make the opponents blown away in the battlefield. Before the battle occurred, Rasool Allah would boost the Iman of Muhajedeen about Allah's help and remind them of the Jannah awaiting them.

ولينصرون الله من ينصروه، ان الله لقوى  
عزيز 22:40.

"And indeed, Allah will help those who help His cause. Allah is All-powerful, Al-Mighty"

The principles of war set by Rasool Allah  
Initially, the Prophet used to train the Muslim soldiers a strict discipline and educate them about their opponents' strength and the equipments they would carry. Secondly, he would appoint the leader of the army whom he <sup>considered</sup> thought the most capable, and reminded him to fear Allah and be kind to the Muslim army. Thirdly, plundering, looting, <sup>and</sup> war booty

were banned. <sup>Furthermore</sup> Fourth, the Muslim soldiers were strictly forbidden to mutilate any dead body of the opponents in the war.

The torture on the weak was banned such as women, children, old men, plants, animals, prisoners even if the injured opponent sat somewhere during the combat, he was prohibited to be killed, as he was no longer a threat to Muslims. It was the war of kindness which was meant to attack those who attacked them but if any of the opposite soldiers withdrew from the battlefield, he was also saved from the harm. Moreover, public property's destruction was also banned.

The other rule of war that the Prophet <sup>ﷺ</sup> set was that he never attacked his opponents at night, <sup>instead he</sup> but waited for the day to come to invade it such as Fatah-e-Makkah. He used to divide Muslim army into different units - infantry, cavalrymen, archers, etc. The Prophet <sup>ﷺ</sup> treated every member equally.

### Strategies used by the Prophet <sup>ﷺ</sup>

#### Battle of Badr

The Prophet <sup>ﷺ</sup> aligned the army of 313 into different units and before the battle got started, he instructed to block the

major wells of Badr, making sure that thirst would lead the enemies to the well and there the Prophet led the forces of his close companions from the front lines. Seeing their leader fighting on the front lines, the Muslim's faith boosted and they successfully made the Quraish flee away after the loss of their 70 soldiers.

### Ghazwa-e-Khandaq.

A new strategy was adopted by the Prophet on the advice of Hazrat Salman Parsi, to dig the trench. <sup>3000</sup> Muslims participated in digging and finished the task within 6 days to protect Madina and keep the opponent warriors out of the city in bitterly cold ~~and~~ weather. The city remained besieged for 27 days and due to lack of entrance, the Quraish withdrew from the battle.

### ~~Diplomatic tactics~~ - Conclusion.

Islam is deen of Allah which covers all aspects <sup>of life</sup>. His peace is the one of the main concerns of Islam, Holy Prophet proved himself matchless <sup>in every field</sup>. His kind rules and efforts for peace was the true victory.

of Islam. With the arrival of the Prophet, the age of Jahiliya ended, and the true divine message of Islam spread across the world. With his principles, the present condition of the world can be transformed. The rules are simple yet powerful.

Sir/Ma'am, please guide my shortcomings and I have a question to ask. Is this answer also fit for "Holy Prophet is the Prophet of peace and safety" and Describe the characteristics of military strategists in the light of Sirah of Mohammad with arguments"?

And <sup>answers</sup> are these question correct or need improvement?