

ISLAMIATQ. How is the life of the Holy Prophet as a model of Excellence?A. Introduction:

The Holy Prophet (pbuh) is the only man and messenger of Allah whose entire life has been recorded. Not only the important events that happened during his prophethood, but also details of his private as well as public life are preserved and written. His 'Sirah' covers all aspect of his life and provides muslims with an excellent example to follow.

. Sirah:→ Literal meaning:

It literally means "a path or way, journey or a life journey of a person."

→ Shariah meaning:

According to Shariah, it

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covers five aspects:-

- (i) lifestyle of the Holy Prophet (pbuh)
- (ii) his actions or sunnah
- (iii) his words or hadith
- (iv) his silent approval
- (v) character of the Holy Prophet (pbuh)

• Holy Prophet (pbuh) as a model of excellence:

(a) Perfect Example:

The Holy Prophet (pbuh) has the best character and is an epitome of perfection. His presence is free of sins and he has indeed set the best example.

According to the Holy Quran,

‘You have indeed in your messenger, a beautiful code of conduct.’

(b) Mercy for all worlds:

It is the supreme quality of the Holy Prophet (pbuh) that he has been sent as a:

‘رحمت للعالمين’

Allah Almighty says in the Holy Quran,

'We have sent you but as a mercy for all creatures'

(C) Mercy for Ummah:

The Holy Prophet (pbuh) was sent as a mercy for the Muslims. He made sure to not to act in a way that would be difficult for the people to follow. For example, he used to use Miswak regularly but skipped it sometimes so that people would not find it obligatory.

Similarly, it is reported by one of his wives that the Holy Prophet (pbuh) would cry and pray the entire night for forgiveness of his Ummah.

On the occasion of the death of his son Qasim, he was very sad. Angel Gibrael told him that he had a chance to make dua to bring his son to life. To this he replied,

'I will keep this prayer for my Ummah!'

(d) Exemplary character:

The Holy Prophet (pbuh) had an exemplary character. He reflected some of the best qualities there are to find in a human as well as in a Muslim. Allah says in the Holy Quran,

‘Indeed, you (stand on) an exalted standard of character.’

At another occasion, someone inquired about his character from Hazrat Aisha, to which she replied:

‘The Quran is his character.’

(e) Honest and Truthful:

He was a very honest man. Even after attaining prophet hood, pagans used to keep their things with him as they knew he was honest. Because of his honesty, he was given the titles of AL-Sadiq and AL-Amin.

Even as a child, the Holy Prophet (pbuh) had never lied. When he stood on the mountain to preach to the

people, he asked:

“If I tell you people that there is an army on the other side of the mountain, will you believe me?”

To this, the pagans of Makkah replied:

“Yes! Because we have never seen you lie.”

(f) Perfect Example in Private Life:

The Holy Prophet (pbuh) sets the standards of what it means to be a perfect example even in the private affairs of life.

(i) As a husband:

He was truly the best definition of a husband. Not only did he help his wives with the housework but also took care of each of them equally. He was just and had divided his time equally among his wives. Hazrat Aisha is reported to have said,

“The Holy Prophet (pbuh) said: The best among you is the one who is best with his wife.”

(ii) As a father:

He loved his children very much. Not only that but he also treated them with utmost respect. Whenever Hazrat Fatima (R.A) entered the room, he would stand up. Moreover, he was the guardian of Zaid bin Sabit and treated him equally as his other children.

(iii) As a grandfather:

He had great love for his grandchildren Hz. Hasan, Hz. Hussain and Hz. Usamah bin Zaid. He used to play with them and spend quality time with them.

(iv) Simplicity:

He led his life in great poverty and simplicity. He used to stitch up his torn clothes and ate only little. He used a brick for pillow and a sack as a sheet. The Holy Prophet (pbuh) said:

‘The one who adopts the middle way will never be a beggar.’

(g) Public or Professional Life:

(i) As a trader:

Islam is a business oriented religion. All the laws about business teaches one to be honest and truthful in his dealing. It teaches us to not cheat or lie while selling goods. Whenever the Holy Prophet (pbuh) sold something, he would always mention their faults first.

Allah says:

“O ye Messengers! Enjoy (All) Things good and pure and work righteousness?”

(ii) As a head of state:

The Holy Prophet (pbuh) launched a democratic state for the first time in Arab land. His basis of administration was democracy. He believed in solving issues diplomatically. One such example is the Charter of Madinah that was signed in order to maintain peace.

(iv) As an educator:

The Holy Prophet (pbuh) had not received any formal education, but taught others various subjects like Quran and Science. He is reported to have said:

‘The ink of a scholar is more sacred than the blood of a martyr.’

and also,

‘It is binding on every muslim male and female to receive education.’

(v) As an epitome of justice:

He is thought to be the most just person. Even the non-believers came to him with their disputes because they knew that the Holy Prophet (pbuh) would solve them fairly and justly. Once, an Arab girl, Fatima, had committed theft. The Holy Prophet (pbuh) said:

‘I would have cut the hand of my own daughter (Fatima) if she had committed theft.’

According to Lincoln Inn:

‘He was the best lawgiver and was just.’

(h) Kindness:

He was very kind and gentle to all creatures.

(i) To women:

Before Islam, women were treated poorly. They were considered to be property. Girls were buried alive on the account of hunger, poverty and discrimination. The Holy Prophet (pbuh) rose the status of women. He said:

‘Paradise lies under the feet of your mother.’

(ii) To children:

He loved children greatly. He treated them with kindness and respect. He said:

‘He is not ^{from} among us who is not kind to the young and does not respect the older.’

(iii) Master of Slaves:

He directed people to be kind towards the slaves and don't overburden them. He is reported to have said:

‘They are your brothers; give them to eat what you eat and give them to wear what you wear.’

(iv) Kindness towards Animals:

The Arabs used to treat animals with cruelty. The Holy Prophet (pbuh) banned certain practices that were painful for animals. He asked the people to brand the animals on the non-sensitive parts. He forbade sports that allowed shooting at them. He said:

‘Fear Allah in your treatment of animals.’

(i) Environmentalist:

The Holy Prophet (pbuh) taught the believers to preserve nature. He is reported to have said:

'Donot waste water even if you are at a running stream'

and

'Donot cut trees during war.'

• Conclusion:

Indeed, the character of the Holy Prophet (pbuh) is the most exalted one. He is the best example to follow in the private and public matters of life. Surely, he is a model of excellence. According to Micheal Hart in his book (The 100), he said the following words about the Holy Prophet (pbuh)

He said, the Holy Prophet (pbuh) is at the top of the list. He said, he was supremely successful both at religious and secular levels.
