

ISLAMIAH

Q. Describe the characteristics of Military Strategist in the light of Surah of Muhammad (PBUH) with arguments.

1. INTRODUCTION

Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) demonstrated exceptional military strategist characteristics. He displayed prudence, caution, and adaptability in warfare, leading by example and inspiring his companions. His strong communication skills ensured effective coordination, while empathy and mercy guided his treatment of both friend and foe. The Prophet (PBUH) emphasized unity, strategic retreat when necessary, and the importance of preparation and training.

2. PRUDENCE AND CAUTION BY PROPHET (PBUH)

The Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) displayed prudence and caution in military matters, often preferring peaceful solutions when possible. He sought to avoid unnecessary bloodshed. This is exemplified in the Treaty of Hudaibiyyah, which was a peaceful agreement even though it appeared disadvantageous at the time. The Prophet (PBUH)

said, "Deliberation is from Allah, and haste is from Satan." (Ibn Majah). This can also be exemplified through the Quran, "So pardon them and ask for forgiveness for them and consult them in the matter. And when you have decided, then rely upon Allah. Indeed, Allah loves those who rely [upon Him]." (Surah Al-Imran, 3:159)

(Surah Al-Imran, 3:159)

3. TACTICAL ADAPTABILITY DURING WAR

The Prophet (PBUH) was adaptable and flexible in his military tactics, tailoring his strategies to suit the specific circumstances of each battle. For instance, the Battle of Badr demonstrated his ability to adapt to an unexpected situation. The necessity of tactical adaptability as a military strategist can be highlighted through the Prophet's saying, "War is deception." (Sahih - al-Bukhari)

The Quran says, "Prepare against them whatever you are able of power and of steeds of war by which you may terrify the enemy of Allah and your enemy and others besides them whom you do not know but whom Allah knows." (Surah Al-Anfal, 8:60)

4. LEADERSHIP BY EXAMPLE

Prophet (PBUH) led by example, showing great bravery and resolve on the battlefield. His presence inspired his companions to fight with courage and determination. In the Battle of Uhud, the Prophet stood his ground, displaying bravery and resolve despite facing adversity, inspiring his companions to carry on fighting.

"And be not like those who say, 'We have heard', while they do not hear."

(Surah Al-Anfal, 8:21)

5. SUPERIOR INTELLIGENCE GATHERING

The Prophet (PBUH) emphasized intelligence gathering and reconnaissance before engaging in battles. This was evident in incidents like the Battle of Uhud, where he was well-informed about the enemy's plans. Before the Battle of Khandaq (Trench), the Prophet (PBUH) received intelligence about the enemy's plan to attack, allowing him to prepare and defend the city of Medina effectively.

6. STRONG COMMUNICATION SKILLS

Effective communication was a hallmark of the Prophet's (PBUH) military leadership. He communicated his strategies clearly and ensured that his companions understood their roles and objectives.

During the **Battle of Khaybar**, the Prophet (PBUH) communicated a clear and coordinated strategy to his companions, resulting in the capture of the fortress.

7. EMPATHY AND MERCY

Even in the heat of battle, the Prophet displayed empathy and mercy toward both his own troops and the enemy. He forbade the killing of non-combatants, women, children, and religious leaders. This is in line with the Quranic principles of showing mercy (Surah Al-Anfal, 8:61). After the conquest of Mecca, the Prophet (PBUH) forgave many of his former enemies, demonstrating empathy and mercy even when in a position of strength.

8. UNITY AND COHESION

The Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) emphasized unity and cohesion within the ranks of his army. He promoted a sense of brotherhood among his companions, which was crucial for their success on the battlefield. The establishment of the "Brotherhood" among his companions in Medina fostered unity and cohesion, strengthening their bonds as they faced various challenges together.

"And hold firmly to the rope of Allah all together and do not become divided."

(Surah Al-Imran, 3:103)

9. STRATEGIC RETREAT WHEN NECESSARY

In some instances, the Prophet (PBUH) ordered strategic retreats to avoid unfavorable confrontation, which shows his better judgment as a military strategist. The Battle of Hunayn is an example where he ordered a retreat before regrouping and launching a successful winter attack. In addition, during the Battle of Uhud as well, the Prophet (PBUH) ordered a tactical retreat to regroup and avoid further casualties when the situation became unfavorable. The Quran says, "But perhaps you hate a thing and it is good for you; and perhaps you love a thing

and it is bad for you. And Allah knows,
while you know not."

(Surah Al-Baqarah, 2:216)

10. WISDOM IN PRISONER TREATMENT

The Prophet's (PBUH) treatment of prisoners of war was marked by fairness and kindness. He encouraged the humane treatment of captives, setting an example for just warfare (Surah Muhammad, 47:4). After the Battle of Badr, the Prophet (PBUH) treated the prisoners with kindness and allowed them to be ransomed, setting a precedent for humane treatment of captives.

"And they give food in spite of love for it
to the needy, the orphan, and the captive."

(Surah Al-Insan, 76:8)

11. CONCLUSION

On the whole, the military strategist characteristics demonstrated by Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) were grounded in wisdom, empathy, and adaptability. His approach to warfare was guided by Islamic principles of justice and mercy, as well as strategic acumen. These principles continue to

serve as valuable lessons for military leaders and strategists, emphasizing the importance of ethical conduct and effective leadership in times of conflict.