

# Islamic Studies

## Topic: Finality of Prophethood

### 1. Introduction:

The concept of the finality of prophethood, known as "Khatam-e-Nubuwwat" in Islamic terminology, holds a central place in Islamic doctrine. It asserts that the Prophet Muhammad (P.B.U.H) is the last and final prophet sent by Allah, and that no new prophet will come after him. This belief is foundational to the Islamic faith and is deeply rooted in the teachings of the Quran, Hadith, and the consensus of the Companions (Sahabah) and Islamic scholars throughout history.

### 2. Meaning of Finality:

In Islamic context:

Finality  $\Rightarrow$  Completion of prophethood

Khatam  $\Rightarrow$  Seal or end

These terms refer to the fact that Prophet Muhammad (P.B.U.H) is the last in the line of prophethood and that his prophethood seals and completes the prophetic mission initiated by Hazrat Adam (C.B.A). This also indicates that no divine revelation will come after him, and his teachings will remain relevant until the end of time.

### 3. Khatam-e-Nubuwwat in Light of the Holy Quran

The Quran mentions this doctrine in 99 verses.

#### 3.1 Surah Al-Ahzab (33:40)

"Muhammad is not the father of any of your men, but he is the Messenger of Allah and the Seal of the Prophets. And Allah has full knowledge of all things."

This verse clearly states that Muhammad (P.B.U.H) is the last prophet, and no new prophet will follow him. The term "Seal of

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"The Prophets" signifies the completion of the prophetic chain.

### 3.2 Surah Al-Maidah (5:3),

"This day I have perfected for you your religion and completed My favour upon you and have approved for you Islam as religion." This verse indicates the completeness of the Islamic faith with the prophethood of Muhammad (P.B.U.H.), implying no further need for additional prophets or revelations.

### 3.3 Surah Al-An'am (6:19)

"Say, 'What thing is greatest in testimony?' Say, 'Allah is witness between me and you. And this Quran was revealed to me that I may warn you thereby and whomever it reaches.' This verse implies that the Quran, revealed to Muhammad (P.B.U.H.), serves as a complete and final warning to humanity, underscoring the

Finality of his prophethood.

#### 4: Khatam-e-Nubuwwat in Light of Hadith

Hadith provides ample evidence supporting the finality of prophethood. As per accounts 200 Sahih Hadith are related to finality of prophethood.

##### 4.1 Sahih Bukhari (3535):

Prophet Muhammad (P.B.U.H) said, "My similitude in comparison with the other prophets before me is that of a man who has built a house completely and beautifully except for a place of one brick. So I am the brick, and I am the last of the Prophets."

This hadith metaphorically describes Prophet Muhammad (P.B.U.H) as the final piece completing the structure of prophethood, indicating that no further prophets are needed.

##### 4.2 Sahih Muslim (30:5666):

"The Messengers of Allah (P.B.U.H)

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Said: 'The line of Prophets has come to an end with me. There will be no Prophet after me.' This Hadith explicitly states the chain of prophet hood ended with Muhammad (PBUH).

43 Jami' at-Tirmidhi (2219):

"There will arise thirty imposters among my Ummah, each of whom will claim that he is a prophet, but I am the Seal of the Prophets; there will be no prophet after me." This Hadith warns of false prophets and reaffirms the Singularity of Muhammad (PBUH) prophethood.

5. Ijma-e-Sahabah (R.A) on this Topic and Their Efforts

The Companions (Sahab<sup>ha</sup>) of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) unanimously upheld the doctrine of Khatam-e-Nubuwwat and their consensus is well documented in Islamic history. The Sahabah took a firm stance against any claimants to prophethood after Muhammad (PBUH). For example,

during the caliphate of Abu Bakr (R.A),  
false prophets like Musaylimah and  
Tulayhah were confronted and defeated  
in the Ridda wars, demonstrating  
the Sahaba's commitment to preserving  
the Singularity of Prophethood.

In regards to this doctrine, Abu  
Bakr (R.A) said, "If anyone worships  
Muhammad, let them know that Muhammad  
is dead. But if anyone worships Allah,  
let them know that Allah is living  
and never dies." Umar ibn Al-Khattab (R.A)  
also provided a statement regarding  
this topic by saying that the  
Singularity of Muhammad's (PBUH) was  
a fact and he emphasised upon this  
in his public addresses and policies.

## 6. Characteristics of Prophethood of The Holy Prophet (PBUH) as Compared to Other Prophets in Islam

Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) holds  
a unique and elevated position among  
all prophets due to several distinct  
characteristics:

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a) Universal Mission:

Unlike previous prophets who were sent to specific nations or communities, Muhammad (PBUH) was sent as a mercy and guidance for all of humanity. The Quran refers to this as "We have sent you [O Muhammad] not but as a mercy for the 'Alamin [mankind, jinn, and all that exists]." (21:67)

b) Final Revelation:

The Quran, revealed upon Muhammad (PBUH), is the final and complete revelation, encompassing all previous scriptures and providing comprehensive guidance for all aspects of life. In this regard the Quran says, "It is He who has sent His Messengers with guidance and the religion of truth to manifest it over all religion, although they who associate others with Allah dislike it." (9:33)

c) Perfect Exemplar:

Muhammad (PBUH) serves as the

perfect role model for all Muslims, his life embodying the principles of Islam in every aspect. The Quran says, "There has certainly been for you in the Messenger of Allah an excellent pattern for anyone whose hope is Allah and the Last Day and (who) remembers Allah often." (33:21)

#### d). Seal of the Prophets:

Surah Al-Ahzab, (33:40), testifies the finality of Muhammad (PBUH) prophethood, making him the last and ultimate prophet.

These characteristics stand as evidence and proof of the status of Muhammad (PBUH) among other prophets, hence; this proves that Allah sent him to complete His message.

### 7. Logical Reasoning Behind The Concept of the Finality of Prophethood

#### a) Completion of Divine Guidance:

Islam provides a complete.



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and comprehensive system of life, addressing all aspects of human existence.

With the Quran and Sunnah, Muslims have all the necessary guidance to lead righteous lives, eliminating the need for further prophets.

### b) Preservation of Teachings:

The Quran has been meticulously preserved in its original form, and the teachings of Muhammad (PBUH) have been documented extensively in Hadith compilations. This ensures that the final message remains unaltered and accessible to all.

### c) Unity of the Ummah:

The finality of prophethood prevents the emergence of new sects and divisions within the Muslim Ummah based on claims of new prophets, thereby maintaining unity and coherence in the practice of Islam.

#### d) Historical Evidence:

Events such as Ridda wars and The consensus of Sahabah along with scholars, reinforce the belief in the finality of prophethood and demonstrate its acceptance and implementation throughout Islamic history.

#### 8. Conclusion

The finality of prophethood is a cornerstone of Islamic belief, affirming that Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) is the last and final messenger of Allah. This doctrine is supported by direct references in the Quran and Hadith along with the consensus of the Sahabah, and the logical reasoning behind the comprehensive and complete nature of Islamic teachings. By understanding and upholding this belief, Muslims can ensure the preservation and continuity of the true message of Islam for all time.