

Question

Analyze the life of prophet Muhammad (PBUH) as a role model for individuals, focusing on his character traits, personal struggles, and his approach to ethical and moral conduct. Discuss how his life can inspire and guide individuals on their personal and spiritual development.

1. Introduction: Prophet Muhammad (PBUH)

As A Role Model For Individuals

"The Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) was an extremely simple in his habits. His mode of life, his dress, and his belongings retained to the very last a character of patriarchal simplicity."

Syed Amir, 'The Spirit of Islam'

The Holy Prophet (PBUH) is an excellent example for humanity. His character, personal struggles and approach to ethical and moral conduct were such that people of every era can follow him as a role model. The character of Holy Prophet (PBUH) included modesty, moderation, courage, mercy and consideration. His personal struggle included patience, persistence, giving love for hatred, trust in his fellows and his journey to

being a ruler. The life of Muhammad (PBUH) was such a perfect example that it is a guide for moral and spiritual guidance.

II. The Exemplary Character of Prophet (PBUH)

"His character was the Quran."

Ayesha (RA)

A. The Modesty of Muhammad (PBUH)

In the words of prophet (PBUH), "modesty brings nothing except good." He was thus modest himself, always humble and constantly called himself the servant of God despite being a Prophet.

B. His Character Was Marked By Moderation

The character of Muhammad (PBUH) was distinguished by his temperateness and moderation. He avoided excessiveness and kept on the middle path. The prophet (PBUH) said:

"Religion is a faculty, but if anyone overdoes it, it wears him down; so take to moderation and steer an even course."

C. The Prophet (PBUH) Was A Courageous Man

The Apostle (PBUH) of Allah showcased courage throughout his life. Once a frightening sound shook the city. As people looked towards the sound, they saw prophet (PBUH) coming from that direction saying, "Do not fear, do not fear."

D. The Prophet (PBUH) showed Mercy to people and Animals

The Messenger of Allah showed mercy to everyone and everything. He was gentle at home, outside and to animals. The prophet (PBUH) once reprimanded a man who had kept his camel thirsty saying, "Do you not fear Allah that Allah has appointed you over it and given you its control?"

E. Consideration and Empathy

The prophet of Allah was very sensible and considerate. Syed

Ameer Ali in 'Spirit of Islam' writes,

"He never ^{first} withdrew his hand"

from another's palm, and turned

not before the other had turned."

III. The Personal Struggles of Prophet (PBUH): A Lesson for Humanity

The Apostle of Allah left behind a legacy for human beings to follow. GB Shaw writes,

"If a man like him were to assume dictatorship of the modern world, he would succeed in solving its problems in a way that would bring it the much needed peace and ^{happiness} humanity."

A. He Had an Optimism Despite Hardships Early in His Life

Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) lost his father before his birth. When

he was only six years old, he lost his mother. At the age of eight, he lost his grandfather. Having lost most of his close ones, he never complained.

B. The Holy Messenger (PBUH) Was Persistent in His Cause

When he (PBUH) received prophethood and when he began to preach Islam, the Holy Prophet (PBUH) and his followers were persecuted. He was littered with the carcass of camel once when he was praying in front of Kaaba. Sumayyah (RA) and Yasir (RA) were brutally murdered. Bilal (RA) was tortured, and Abu Bakr (RA) was beaten. He saw all this but never gave up.

C. Prophet (PBUH) Returned Hatred With Love

The prophet (PBUH) did not even hate his staunchest enemies like Abu Jahal and Abu Lahab. The

woman who used to block the path of Muhammad (PBUH), one day got sick. The prophet (PBUH) paid a visit to her. This was the level of mercy of prophet (PBUH).

D. The Apostle (PBUH) Dealing With Poverty

Muhammad (PBUH) never led a well-off life. Even when he was a leader, he led a humble life. The companions of prophet (RA) have mentioned that at times when he (PBUH) was very hungry, he would tie stones to his stomach to have the feeling of fullness.

E. The Journey From a Shepherd to a Ruler

Muhammad (PBUH) like most prophets was a shepherd in his early youth. He would take care of the flock that included Khadija's sister. Then Khadija (RA) appointed him for

her trade. After Islam, prophet (PBUH) faced persecution and rejection. His support was his followers. His faith then made him the victor of Badr and then the ruler of Medina. Today, more than 2 billion people are his community, a remarkable achievement.

Add more arguments

IV. Critical Analysis: Life of Muhammad (PBUH) As An Inspiration And Guide

The life of Muhammad (PBUH) is a perfect example for the humanity to follow. As the Quran says,

لقد كان لكم في رسول الله أسوة حسنة

"Indeed in the Messenger of Allah you have an excellent example." (Al Quran)

Every action of the Messenger (PBUH) and every word that he uttered are an example for the world to follow. One can learn in the following ways:

- Lead a humble life even when one is the ruler of a state

- Have patience in face of trials and hardships.
- Believe in Allah in times of delay - like when prophet (PBUH) received no wahy for six months after the first one.
- Love everyone. Have no contempt even for your enemy.
- Stay with the truth even if the world offers you moon in one hand and the sun in other.
- Be empathetic and considerate for everyone.

Good attempt!!

V. Conclusion

The character of prophet Muhammad (PBUH) was perfect in all senses. Its quintessence has been testified in the Quran. His modesty, moderation, courage, mercy and consideration makes his character unique and worthy to be followed. Moreover, his personal struggles in form his gratitude and patience gave the way for humanity to follow an excellent example.

Question

Analyze the prophet Muhammad (PBUH)'s leadership in the context of military strategy. Discuss his approach to warfare, focusing on his emphasis on justice, restraint, and compassion. Explain how his military leadership provides valuable insights into ethical and moral considerations in the conduct of war.

I. Introduction: Muhammad (PBUH) AS A Military Strategist

Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) set an example for every aspect of human life. This included his philosophy and strategy of war. His philosophy of war was defensive, under necessity and a last resort. He was an exceptional military commander, had an excellent war strategy that focused on justice and restraint before, during and after warfare. His methodology set an ethical precedent for people to follow in their conduct of war.

II. A Comparison of The pre-Islamic Wars And Islamic Wars

Messenger of Allah altered the way

The wars were fought in the 'Jahiliya' era. He changed the objectives of warfare, the philosophy and the strategy for the conduct of warfare.

A. The Objective of Warfare

Pre-Islamic	Islamic
Robbing and Plundering	Defense of Islam

B. The Philosophy of War

Pre-Islamic	Islamic
Offensive and Power-seeking	Defensive and the Last Resort

C. The Strategy of Warfare

Pre-Islamic	Islamic
Hit and Run - The Nomadic Style	Flank Arrangement - Modern Warfare

III. Characteristics of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH)'s Military Leadership

The Apostle of Allah was an exceptional military leader. Under his leadership, the Muslims fought the most humane wars.

In the history of humanity. He had leadership skills, would consult with his advisory council, respect treaties and followed the principles of ethical war.

His Exceptional Leadership Skills

Consultation with Advisory Council

Mohammad (PBUH)
As a Military Strategist

Followed principles of Ethical War

Respect for Treaties

A. His Exceptional Leadership Skills

Prophet (PBUH) was a leader. He would never run away or even feel frightened in face of difficulty. One such example is the Battle of Hunayn when half of the muslims left in fear and he stayed firm. Professor Joel Hayward in 'The Warlike Prophet' mentions,

"Muhammad was an astute, situationally aware and self-reflective man who created and communicated a believable strategic vision."

B. Frequent Consultation With Advisory Council

Despite being a leader, he would always consult his people about the war. Such instances were witnessed first in Uhud where on the insistence of the young companions he chose Uhud as the battle field. Similarly, in Ahrab, he took the advice of Salman Farsi (RA) for digging a trench.

C. His Profound Respect For Treaties

Prophet (PBUH) always adhered to treaties and never broke them. The Treaty of Hudaibiyah, was although against the Muslims, still it was the non-Muslims who broke it. Likewise, for Hilt al Fuzool, a pre-Islamic treaty, the prophet (PBUH) said that "it was better than a herd of red camels". Moreover, when Abu Jandal came to prophet's camp for help after Hudaibiyah, he returned him saying, "We cannot break the agreement."

D. Following Principles of Ethical War

The war of Juhayfi period had no rules and ethical considerations.

The victor used the losing men as slaves, killed their children and dispersed their women. Prophet (PBUH) strongly condemned these practices. He honoured the losing side, even their crops and animals. He said:

اغزوا باسم الله في سبيل الله

"Let your war be in the name of Allah,

وقاتلوا من كفر بالله

"Fight those who disbelieve in Allah,

اغزوا ولا تغدروا ولا تفلوا

"Invade but do not plunder nor conceal booty,

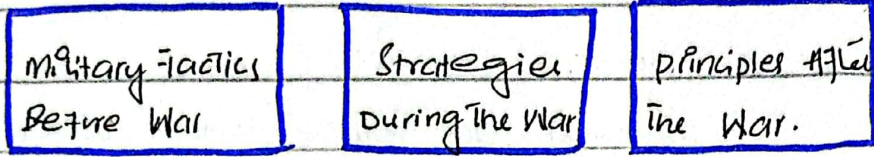
ولا تمكروا ولا تقتلوا وليدا

"Do not defame a corpse, nor kill a child."

IV. The Approach of Warfare of The Apostle of Allah

The military strategy of the prophet (PBUH) was sophisticated and modern. Additionally, it was modern based on ethical end

morality. The strategy of prophet (PBUH) in conducting war had three phases:



Abdul Rauf Zafar in 'Uswe e Kamil' writes,

"The study of wars of the Holy prophet elaborates that wars are not being fought by an excess of army & persons and vast resources, but by determination, courage, and efficient usage of weapons and resources."

A. Military Tactics Before War

The tactics of ^{before} Islamic wars were:

1) prefer peace over war

War was the last resort. The Quran enunciates,

وان جنوا ناسلم فابغ لنا

"And if they incline towards peace, then incline to it."

2) Training of the army

The Prophet (PBUH) would

send his men to Syria

and Ethiopia to learn military tactics.
3) preparation of the war

The prophet (PBUH) conducted proper surveillance, prepared resources and made all the men ready.

B. Strategies During the War

1) positioning the army

The position of the army was in the following way



2) Dealing with combatants

The Apostle (PBUH) asked to treat them in a humane way. Thus he said:

"No one has the right to put anyone to torment except he."

3) prohibition of Assault at Night

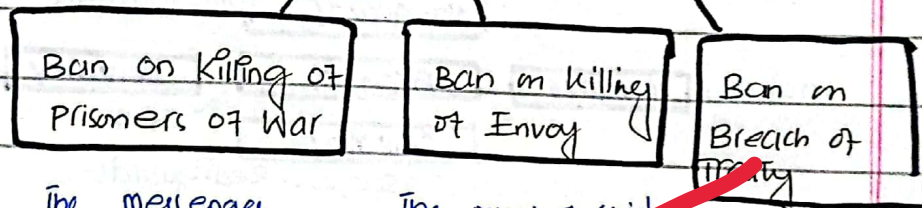
The Prophet (PBUH) of Allah believed in fair war. In Khyber, when they reached at night,

They waited till dawn
night to initiate
the war.

4) The Ban on Destructivism

The prophet (PBUH) strictly
prohibited destroying animals
or crops. He said, do not burn
crops. The Quran called the
"destructivism of crops and animals"
corruption.

C. The principles After The War



The messenger
clearly said
"Do not
kill prisoners
of war"

The prophet said
whoever kills an
envoy would not
smell paradise
even though it
can be smelled
at 40 years distance.

The Apostle
strictly
followed
treaties
after war.

Add more
arguments

Conclusion

In conclusion, the war strategies under
prophet (PBUH) revolutionized warfare.
He gave moral and ethical backing to
war. For him war was not a choice
but the last resort, defensive and never
offensive.