

# The Holy Prophet (SAW) As A

## Role Model for an Individual

### Introduction

The Holy Prophet (SAW) is a perfect embodiment for an Individual. Individuals of any age can follow him to lead a good life. He (SAW) was a man of high moral values and was even praised by Quran. He was called 'Truthful' and 'Honest'. He performed his every role, either He is in home with his family or outside the home with his companions, very appropriately.

A person of high moral values as acknowledged by Allah.

Prophet Muhammad (SAW), the founder of Islam, regarded as the last messenger of Allah, was by nature gentle and kind-hearted, always inclined to be gracious and to overlook the faults of others. Politeness and courtesy, compassion and tenderness, simplicity and humility, sympathy and sincerity were some of the keynotes of his character. Allah confirmed his morals in the Quran as:

"And you are surely on an excellent standard of character."



A person asked Aisha R.A about the character of the Prophet SAW. She said:

"Don't you read the Quran?" The person replied in positive. Upon this she said: "The character of the Prophet SAW was the Quran"

"Truthful" and "Honest" as declared by the pagans of Makkah.

Muhammad SAW proved by his living example that he was the most truthful and honest person of his age. He was a poor orphan who had started<sup>d</sup> trading with his uncle, but in a very short time, owing to his honest and fair dealings with all people, he became well-known and respected. Every Makkah, rich or poor, knew him as **As-Sadiq** (the truthful)

**Al-Amin** (the trustworthy). When Muhammad was a yet a young man, the Ka'bah was rebuilt. A dispute arose among the various tribes of Makkah as to who should have the honour of laying the Black Stone in its place in the Kabah. They decided that the first one to enter the Kabah the next morning would settle the



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dispute. Muhammad was the first person to enter that morning and when the people saw him, they were all very happy that Al-Amin and As-Sadiq had come and would be the one to decide. He put the black stone on a cloth and help to lift the stone, which he then set in place.

The prophet once gathered together all the people of the Quraysh near Mount Safa and asked them, "O Quraysh! If I say that an army is advancing on you from behind the mountains, will you believe me?" All said in one voice, "Yes because we have never heard you telling a lie." All the people of Makkah, without any exception, swore to his truthfulness and honesty, for he had lived an unblemished and extremely pious life among them for forty years.

### A Kind Father and Grandfather

Prophet Muhammad SAW was a kind and loving father and grandfather. He was unique in every way. He treated his children and grandchildren with great compassion, and always directed them



towards goodness and hereafter. He smiled at his children, loved them, but did not allow them to neglect matters related to the afterlife. In worldly matters he was extremely open, but when it came to maintaining their relationship with God, he was dignifiedly serious.

Aisha (R.A) said, "When Prophet Muhammad's daughter Fatima R.A entered upon Prophet Muhammad SAW, Prophet Muhammad SAW used to stand for her, kiss her and make her sit where he was sitting. And when Prophet Muhammad SAW entered upon her, she would stand up, kiss him and make him sit where she was sitting."

It is a well-known fact that He (SAW) would place on his shoulders his dear grandchildren Hazrat Imam Hassan and Hazrat Imam Hussain (R.A), but He also did the same to Umama, his granddaughter. Only a decade earlier than this sacred action of His, infant and young girls were buried alive by the people then. So, such a behaviour by Prophet Muhammad's (SAW) towards his granddaughter - such a paternal love - was never seen in his time and place ever before.



## An Ideal Husband.

Prophet Muhammad's (SAW) wives were 11. His first wife was Khadija Bint Khwaylid (RA). His last wife was Maymuna Bint El Harith (R.A). Prophet Muhammad (SAW) was a role model and inspired man in all aspects of life.

Bibi Aisha narrated that The Prophet (SAW) used to mention Bibi Khadija very often, and whenever he slaughtered a sheep, he would cut its parts and send them to the friends of Bibi Khadija.

Prophet Muhammad (SAW) was a cooperative husband at home. He used to serve himself in many household duties without depending on his wives. He served himself by sewing up his clothes, milking his ewe, and washing his clothes.

After his death, there was much yearning and a great deal of grief. Abu Bakr and Umar found the Messenger's wives weeping whenever they visited them. Their weeping seemed to continue for the rest of their lives.

## A Considerate Neighbour

The Holy Prophet (SAW) always treated his neighbours with extreme kindness and consideration. He said,



"Jibreel kept recommending me about treating neighbours in a kind and polite manner so much so that I thought he would make them heirs." - Bukhari

The Prophet (SAW) said,

"He whose neighbour is not safe from his misconduct <sup>shall</sup> will not enter Paradise."

The Prophet (SAW) used to often advise his followers to be good to their neighbours, encouraging them to take care of their needs and settling down their rights. He said: "O Abu Dharr! when you prepare the booth, add water to that and give that (as a present) to your neighbour" - Muslim.

A perfect friend:

The Holy Prophet (SAW) had good relations with his companions. He (SAW) used to visit with his companions after offering Ishraq and listening to their conversation.

The Holy Prophet (SAW) was gentle and easy with his friends and joking with them.

He used to solve misunderstandings b/w his companions and also fulfill their needs.

He used to praise his companions and highlight their good traits. He used to defend his companions and he opposed



those who mocked them. He would take care of his companions during ease and difficulties. He used to visit his companions when they were ill. Abu Bakr was the dearest friend of the Prophet. The prophet used to speak about Abu Bakr remarking how he was the only person who never hesitated to accept Islam once.

### Grateful and Patient.

The Holy Prophet (SAW) throughout his life had been patient and grateful towards Allah. Whenever He faced an difficulty, he dealt with it patiently. He never complained about any such difficulty. During his journey to Taif, the people of Taif treated Him inhumanely, but He never said anything about them, instead, he prayed for them. He said: "I have been tortured for the sake of Allah as no one else has, and I have suffered fear for the sake of Allah as no one else has" - - Al-Hadith

He had been, in every situation, grateful to Allah. He taught to say *Inshallah*.

"He who does not thank the people is not thankful to Allah" - Al-Hadith



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A caring Human Being.

The Prophet (SAW) was very kind and caring towards everybody. He always cared for other people either they were Muslims or Non-Muslims. Once he said to his wife:

"O' Aisha! Never turn away any needy man from your door empty-handed."

He always took a great interest in the welfare of all people and had great compassion for people in trouble. He was also very kind towards his slaves. He made Zaid bin Haritha, who was his slave, his son.

"No one of you becomes a true believer until he likes for his brother what he likes for himself".  
Al-Hadith.

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Took utmost care of his Hygiene:

The Prophet (SAW) always took care of his Hygiene. He was never careless in his hygiene.

He said: "purity is half the faith". He would regular use Miswak. He would regularly

oiling and combing his hair and beard.

White color <sup>of clothes</sup> was his favourite and he used to keep his clothes clean.



## Role Model for an Educator

### Importance of Education in Islam.

Education has been greatly emphasized in Islam. The first verse of the Quran to be revealed to the Prophet Muhammad (SAW) indicates the importance of education in Islam; the first word started with the word "Iqra", it is a command that means 'read' in Arabic, and that implies the concepts of 'learning', 'exploring' and 'seeking enlightenment'.

"Read! In the name of your Lord who has created (all that exists). He has created man from a clot (a piece of thick coagulated blood). Read! And your Lord is the Most Generous. Who has taught (the writing) by the pen. He has taught man that which he knew not."

In Quran, Allah states that prophets are obliged to deliver His messages and describes prophets as an "instructor" and "trainer".

Allah said: "He is the One Who raised for the illiterate people a messenger from among themselves - reciting to them His revelations, purifying them, and teaching them the Book and wisdom, for indeed they had previously been clearly astray."



## The Holy Prophet (SAW) as an Educationist:

When the Prophet (SAW) was 40 years old, the angel, Gabriel, appeared to him to deliver a message from God, an event which was to recur many times throughout the rest of the Prophet Muhammad's life.

This began the process by which God directed the Prophet to establish the Islamic preaching. The prophet (SAW) emphasized that His primary duty as a Prophet was to teach. "I have been sent as a teacher."

The Holy Prophet (SAW) strove to convey the key principles of Islam to his companions. One book of the Prophet's hadith, A-Bukhari contains over 90 chapters dealing with such areas as knowledge, health, prayer, the environment, good manners, support for one's family, politics and government, and finance. These ahadith are the guidelines for how to conduct one's life as a member of cohesive society. Emphasizing the importance of education, He said, "It is a necessity for every Muslim to seek knowledge."

Moreover, the Prophet (SAW) taught ways to increase knowledge, such as:



"O Allah! I ask you for knowledge that benefits"

"O Allah! I seek refuge with You from knowledge that is of no benefit"

## 1. Education without gender discrimination

Islam affirms the right to education for all without gender discrimination. There is no discrimination in genders for acquiring education. As the Prophet (SAW) him said: "Seeking knowledge is obligatory on every Muslim".

The primary reason of the Prophet (SAW) to marry Aisha (R.A) was to expand knowledge to women. The role of <sup>Aishah</sup> Ayesha in promoting education, particularly education of women in the laws and teachings of Islam, is a hallmark in female education in Islam. Because of the strength of her personality, she was a leader in every field of knowledge, in society and in politics.

## 2. Encourage contemporary education.

The Prophet also encouraged his companions to learn contemporary education beside Islamic education. His wife Aishah was



so gifted in Fiqh and Muslim sciences besides letters, poetry and medicine that the Prophet is said to have remarked that he mastered half of the human sciences. The Prophet instructed Zaid bin Thabit (R.A) to learn the Syriac language and he learned it. He was the secretary of the Prophet in the court. He also studied Persian, Hebrew and Roman. Similarly, other companions of the Prophet had specific knowledge in their respective fields. For instance, Umar R.A was expert in the knowledge of stars (Navigation).

Abubakr R.A was expert in family trees.

3- Promoted Writing as a part of learning.

The Prophet along with learning knowledge, also underscored the need to write. At that time, the writing down of the wahy (revelations), political treaties and conventions were also being done by the Prophet and His followers. He said: "Preserve knowledge with the help of your hand". Ubaidah ibn al-Samit relates that he taught the Quran and the art of writing in Suffah.



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### Encouraged Physical Education

The Prophet instructed the children and his companions to practice swimming, archery and horseriding. The Prophet enjoined instruction in shooting (of arrows) and swimming. He said: "The stronger believer is better and more loved to Allah than the weak believers, although both are good" ~ Al-Hadith

Kids used to wrestle in front of Him.

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### Taught Manners and Etiquettes.

The prophet also taught manners and etiquettes to his followers.

"Umar bin Abi Salama says: I was a boy under the care of Allah's Messenger and my hand used to go around the dish while I was eating. SO Allah's Messenger said to me, 'O boy! Mention the Name of Allah and eat with your right hand, and eat of the dish what is nearer to you'". ~ Al-Hadith.

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### Taught by Action:

The Prophet SAW also taught by his actions. If He wanted some action to be followed, he would first perform it himself. Then his companions used to imitate his actions as much as they could. No one would find any contradiction.



between his sayings and his actions.

"The character of the Prophet SAW was the Quran".

7- Always took a gradual approach in imparting knowledge.

The Prophet was mindful of the circumstances of his companions. The Prophet SAW never burdened his students and used gradual and systematic approach of teaching. A gradual and systematic approach would help the student to absorb and understand better before moving on to the next part of the lesson. A heavy input might break the person or worse, create more confusion. A companion, Jundab ibn Abdullah <sup>(R.A)</sup> said: "We learned faith before we could learn Quran. Then we learned Quran and our faith increased thereby."

8. Encouraged Mutual Questioning and Dialogue.

The Prophet SAW encouraged his companions to engage in discussion. At times he would pose questions to them so that they could think over them themselves. This technique also helped in capturing their attention.