

# Holy Prophet (PBUH) as a Model for Military Strategist.

## A. Introduction:-

The Holy Prophet (SAWW) is a role model for human beings across the globe. He is a luminous candle in socio-political, economic, and educational aspects even in the contemporary era.

Besides all other faculties as a military strategist too, He (PBUH) set the most perfect example of sagacity and prudence.

During his whole life, the Holy Prophet (PBUH) took part in as many as 26 wars, and in all, He exhibited bravery and excellent military skills.

He always led the Muslims from the front and preached that martyrdom was better than turning back on the battlefield. He (SAWW) had well-defined military tactics about reconciliation with the enemy, attitude toward combatants and non-combatants, and strategies before, during and after the war.

Additionally, The SAWW used some strategies toward the division of battalions and their arrangements and positioning. In a nutshell, He is considered a role

model for military strategies for his military tactics to execute the necessary evil of war in a very peaceful way, even these strategists are still valid in contemporary times across the globe.

## B. Holy Prophet (SAWW) as a Role Model:

Hazrat Muhammad SAWW was the last Prophet of Allah Almighty and he was sent for the guidance of humanity. He (SAWW) provided the complete code of life to human beings through his advice and actions. He is an everlasting role model for people in all aspects. It has been mentioned in Holy Quran:

لَقَدْ كَانَ لَكُمْ فِي رَسُولِ اللَّهِ أُسْوَةٌ حَسَنَةٌ

“You have indeed in the Messenger of Allah a beautiful pattern (of conduct) for anyone”

(Surah Al-Azhab)

Similarly, it is also mentioned in Quran that the Holy Prophet (PBUH) is also a symbol of kindness and mercy of humanity across the world. So everyone can get benefits from

the teaching of the beloved Prophet.  
It is stated in Quran by Allah  
Almighty.

وَمَا أَرْسَلْنَاكَ إِلَّا رَحْمَةً لِّلْعَالَمِينَ

"O Muhammad, we have  
not sent you, except  
as a mercy to the  
worlds."

(Surah -Al-Anbiya)

### C. Characteristics of the Holy Prophet as a Commander or Soldier:

#### ● Leadership Skills:

The most important quality to fight  
and win war is the leadership skills  
of any army commander. Hazrat Muhammad  
SAWW has leadership skills and did not  
panic even in critical situations. The  
case-study of Ghazwa: Hunain was  
an example in this regard when  
the enemy attacked suddenly and  
forces of Holy Prophet SAWW in  
commanding rows flee away, but  
Holy Prophet SAWW fought with  
bravery and spoke loudly, "I am  
the messenger of Allah. I am  
not an imposter. I am a  
descendant of brave Abdul-Muttalib."

## ● Kind Heartedness

The Holy Prophet (SAWW) was a kind hearted man towards his companions and even towards his enemies. He (SAWW) always advised his companions and soldiers not to kill and humiliate women, aged persons, children, and ~~other~~ those who were non-combatants. After the loss of 70 men in the battle of Uhud, the Holy Prophet (PBUH) wept and prayed for every soldier that died in the way of Allah.

## ● Consultation with Advisory Council:

In all matters of war, except the expedition of Hudabiyah, affecting the common interest of the Muslims, the Holy Prophet (PBUH) always held counselling with his illustrious companions and accepted their advice even when it was contrary to his view, for instance, He (PBUH) did on the eve of the battle of Uhud. Similarly, the consultation with his companions in the case of digging a trench in Uhazwan Azab, and the idea was given by Hazrat Sulaiman farsi (R.4)

## • Respect of Treaties

He (SAW) always obeyed the conditions of treaties, which he has done with his enemies. An example of the treaty of Hudaibiyah is in front of us when some conditions were not in favor of Muslims, but the Holy Prophet (SAW) respected the treaty and its conditional ties. He (PBUH) always focused on fulfilling his promises.

## D. Military Strategies of Holy Prophet (PBUH)

The Holy Prophet (PBUH)<sup>was</sup> always adopted 3 different strategies to tackle the situation peacefully. These include:

- ①. Military tactics before the war
- ②. Strategies during the war
- ③. After-war principles.

By adopting these strategies, the Holy Prophet SAW has made war less destructive. He fought almost 26 wars and only 259 Muslims were martyred, and approximately 1018 non-Muslims were killed in these wars. The testimony has been given by Dr Abdul Rauf Zafar in his book USWA - F - KAMIL as:

"The study of wars fought by the Holy Prophet elaborates that wars are not being fought by an excess of army persons and vast resources, but by the determination, courage, proper leadership, and efficient usage of weapons and resources. The Holy Prophet (SAW) has provided the best example about it that the combination of spiritual and materialistic powers helped to win the wars. In the 21<sup>st</sup> century, despite having abundant resources, there are still many fault lines in wars that have caused brutality and chaos across the globe and this lack is actually of the military strategies of Prophet (SAW) and poisoness. If someone wants to be victorious, he has to follow the military poinciples of the Holy prophet (SAW)."

USWA-E-KAMIL By Dr. Abdul  
Rauf Zafer -

## 1. Military tactics before the war:

The Holy Prophet (PBUH) has always defined some military tactics before the war, to settle issues peacefully or to prepare his army for war.

### • (Inclination towards Reconciliation):

Beloved Muhammad SAWW gave education about adjustment and reconciliation towards the enemy if he wants to get reconciliation.

For Example: Treaty of Hudaibiyah of 6<sup>th</sup> A.H.  
This act according to the Quran which states that:

"If they incline to peace,  
then incline to it also."

(AL-Quran)

### • (Economic Blockade of Enemy):

The Tribe of Makkah - an active enemy of the mission of the Holy Prophet SAWW and the state of Madina always tried to prevent Muslims from Makkah to Madina. The Prophet countered their moves by threatening an economic blockade. When the people of Makkah learned about the threat to their economic lifeline from

Syria & they sent an army to counter the forces of Madina.

### 1. Espionage and Surveillance of Enemy:

It is considered a crucial war strategy for the preparation of war and risk assessment. The Holy Prophet SAWW also took practical steps to get information about enemy moves and remained updated according to it.

For this purpose, He (PBUH) deployed his detectives in Arabian Peninsula who provided information about enemies.

The Holy Prophet SAWW sent a group of people to get information about the return of the caravan of Abu - Sufyan at the time of BADR - F. KUBRA.

### 2- Strategies During the War:

The Holy Prophet SAWW set certain rules to defeat the enemy during the war

#### • Division of Battalions

According to the military strategy of Holy Prophet SAWW, Battalions were divided into 5 groups according to their capabilities and military skills.



These include

- a. Infantry
- b. Cavalry Regiment
- c. Archers
- d. Luggage Carriers
- e. Security personnel.

### • Right of Non-Combatants:

"Never kill women and workers in wars."

(AL-HADEES)

Specific prohibition on the methods of warfare were given by the Prophet and the first Caliphs (rulers of the Muslim Community) to Muslims warriors as they went into battle. Before departing for the conquest of Levant, Caliph Abu Bakr told his warriors:

"When you meet your enemies in the fight, behave yourself as befits good Muslims.... If Allah gives you victory, do not abuse your advantages and beware not to stain your swords with the blood of who yields, neither you touch the children, the women, nor the infirm, also men, whom you may find among your enemies."

### • Prohibition of Night Assault:

The Holy Prophet PBUH abolished the custom of night assault which the Arabs used to deliver and laid down the rule that the enemy was not to be attacked before dawn.

Example: In the war of Khyber, when the Prophet of Allah approached a hostile people at night; he would not attack them till dawn.

### • Prohibition of the Immolation of the Enemy:

Before the time of Prophet of Allah the troops took revenge by burning the enemy alive. The prophet SAWW declared these barbaric practices. He stated that:

"No one has the right to put anyone to the torment of fire except he, who [Allah] is the creator of fire."

(AI-HADEES)

### • Ban on Destruction:

It is common habit of invading armies to destroy the crops, lay waste in the fields, massacre the population, burn the houses etc.

وإذا تولى سعى في الأرض ليفسد فيها

And when he goes away, he strives throughout the land to cause corruption therein."

ويهلك الحيات والنمل

"And destroy coops and animals."

والله يحب الفساد

"And Allah does not like acts of mischief"

(AL-CURAN)

### • Mutilation of Dead Bodies

When the Holy Prophet sent his army for any attack, he advised that:

"Do not break promises and never mutilate."

(AL-HAPEES)

### 3 - After War Principles of Prophet (SAHAB)

After the war, whether Prophet won or lost, followed some principles, which are:

#### • Ban on the Killing of Prisoner of War

Women and children prisoners of war can not be killed under any circumstances

regardless of their religious convictions.  
On conquer of Makkah, the Holy  
Prophet PBUH commanded his army as

'Do not kill any prisoner of war.'

Ban on the killing of an Envoy (AL-HADEES)

The Prophet PBUH prohibited the killing of ambassadors. When Ubaidah bin Harith, the emissary of Musaylimah Kazzab, the false Prophet came and delivered his message, the Prophet (PBUH) observed,

"Had it not been unlawful to kill the emissaries, I would have beheaded you."

(AL-HADEES)

Prohibition of Breach of Treaty:

Breach of treaty is a worst crime according to Holy Prophet (PBUH)

وَأَوْفُوا بِالْعَهْدِ  
"And fulfill [every] commitment"

إن الله كان مستوفياً  
"Indeed, the commitment is ever  
[that about which one will be]  
questioned"

(AL-Quran)

## Conclusion:

So, it is concluded that history is witnessing that Holy Prophet (PBUH) has exhibited excellent military skills in all wars. In the past, the protection of world and peace lay in the teaching of the Holy Prophet SAW, even today it is possible only by following the teaching of Islam and the Holy Prophet.

"The survival of the world is associated with the Seerah of beloved Holy Prophet, he is the penance to all problems of the world."

(Allama Iqbal)

"He has made the necessary evil of war less brutal."

(Professor. Lara Orlakshia Wigles)

