

Question:

Discuss Holy Prophet (Peace be upon him)'s role as a peace maker.

Introduction:

The Prophet Muhammad was undoubtedly a greatest peacemaker of all time. Islam is the religion of peace so Prophet was the Prophet of Peace. He always referred conciliatory efforts, diplomatic channels, and compromising tactics over ^{waging} wars that resulted in huge loss of human life and property.

All of the wars of Prophet were motivated by self defence and were limited in nature. Even during wars, he issued such principles of warfare which reduced the human losses in the battles. He asked Muslims to not to kill the women, the children, the aged, the unarmed and the non combatants.

According to **Montgomery Watt** (1909-2006) the intensity of war waged by and under Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) was the least in the history, which ^{can} be estimated.

from the fact that only 1058 casualties happened in 100 wars led by or fought under the prophet from migration to Madinah to his death. He never harmed Makkans and they used to call him Al-Sattiq, Al-Amin before prophethood. Similarly in Madinah he created a just Islamic society and brought harmony between Aws and Khizraj. Similarly Pact of Madinah and Subah e Hudaibis are true examples of his peace making. Therefore Quran says that:

« ما ارسلناك الا رحمة للعالمين -

"We have sent you mercy for all the worlds".

(Al-Anbiya 21:07)

1) Prophet Muhammad as a peacemaker before prophethood:

Prophet Muhammad had great qualities of conflict management even before prophethood. His peace tactics during rebuilding

Karbah:

When Prophet (PBUH) was 35

years, the Karaba was rebuilt. It was the time before his prophethood. The dispute of fixing (Hirj e Aswad) holy black stone emerged and all the tribes were willing to do it by themselves. The issue changed into bloody conflict. Prophet Muhammad resolved the conflict by keeping the stone on a sheet and then asked every chief of the tribe to hold this. And then he erected the stone with their hands. This shows that he has all the qualities of bringing peace in the society.

Dr Hameedullah says that Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) was the ambassador of Peace.

(ii) Prophet (PBUH) as a member of peace committee after Hark al-Fijar: Hilf ul Fudul

During the sacred months in which fighting was not allowed, two tribes Hawazin and

kinsmen fought a battle. Prophet Muhammad used to collect swords and arrows from the ground.

After war a peace committee was arranged to settle the disputes. Prophet Muhammad was of the 15 years age that time. He also became member of conflict resolution committee. In this committee oath of peace building was taken. This is called Hif ul Fiday.

Prophet Muhammad said that he would rather participate in this type of peace agreement than accept an offer of a precious gift of red camels.

b) Prophet Muhammad as a peacemaker in Makkah after prophethood:

(i) No force for acceptance of Islam:

Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) after getting prophethood did not force anyone to accept Islam. He peacefully

preached the religion. Quran also says that

لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا فِي الدِّينِ
"There is no competition in religion"
(Al-Baqarah : 256)

Even prophet Muhammad secretly preached Islam in his initial days of prophethood.

(ii) Sufferings in Makkah:

Prophet Muhammad was boycotted after he announced himself as last prophet. People used to spit and throw dust on him. His own uncle Abu Lahab was his enemy and the leader of his opponents. But prophet (PBUH) used to pray for them and never took revenge.

Abu Hurairah R.A. narrates that a bedouin urinated in the mosque and some people rushed to beat him. The prophet said, "Leave him alone and pour a bucket of water over it. You have been sent to make things easy and not to make them difficult." (Shah Bukhari)

In this way he used to prevent conflict and ensure harmony.

(iii) Mistreatment during Journey Towards Taif:

Prophet Muhammad travelled towards Taif to invite people towards Islam, but the people ridiculed against him, threw stones, wounded his hands and feet. Hazrat Jibril asked prophet to permit him so he set aside mountains, banded Taif to punish people but prophet refused him.

(c) Prophet Muhammad as a peace maker in Madinah:

Dr Khalifa Abdul Hakim in his opus Islamic Ideology writes that

"The prophet continued his peaceful efforts in Madinah for establishment of a peaceful community where in there was no discrimination on the basis of color, creed, race, etc. While in Madinah he adopted following peaceful methods of resolution of various issues:

with which the nascent muslim community and state was faced."

(ii) Prophet establishes peace at Madina :

Prophet Muhammad after the advent of Madina ended deadly conflict between the Ansar and Khazraj. The surrounding tribes of Madina among whom the influence of Quraish was supreme were arrayed in all their desert ferocity against Madina. He comprehended Jews and Christians in his little commonwealth and planted germs of cordial relation among all his believers. He promised the security of life, liberty and property to everyone regardless of religion.

(iii) Charter of Madina:

The Prophet made a peace alliance between all tribes and religions of Madina. Muslims and Jews were given equal rights, and were united under this pact to prevent further conflicts. Both parties were given religious freedom, security,

ensuring of protection of state and harmony and balance in society. This charter of Madinah helped build peace in newly formed state.

(iii) Treaty of Hudaibiyya:

After migration to Madinah, Prophet saw a dream to perform Tawaf in 6 AH. He along with 1500 companions started journey but as Makkans heard about their journey they started preparations to stop them. Muslims changed their route to avoid conflict and stopped at place of Hudaibiyya and sent a messenger towards Makkah's chiefs. They killed him, so prophet took oath of revenge. But as hardship came upon Quraysh they requested for deal. So Treaty of Hudaibiyya was signed. Prophet accepted the terms and conditions of Makkans for the sake of peace building.

Al-Bayhaqi Ibn Azib narrates that "when Allah's Apostle

concluded a peace treaty with people of Hudaibiyya. Ali Ibn e Abu Talib wrote the document and he mentioned in it, "Muhammad, Allah's Apostle". The Pagans said "dont write Muhammad, Allah's Apostle. For if you were an apostle we would not fight with you. Allah's Apostle asked Ali to sub it out, but Ali said "I would not be the person to sub it out". Allah's Apostle subbed it out and made peace with them on the condition that the prophet and his companions would enter Makkah and stay there for three days, and that they would enter with their weapons in cases".

Conclusion:

Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) being the messenger of religion of peace, played a significant role in peacemaking in Makkah and Madinah. History of Arabs was full with conflicts and wars, intolerance and hate. Prophet Muhammad's conflict resolution methodologies are

source of inspiration for the world. He suffered a lot and sacrificed everything for the cause of Islam but never took the path of conflict. He was boycotted and insulted in his early days of prophethood. But when he became the ruler of Madinah and then Makkah he forgave everyone and initiated social welfare and peace based constitution. He established a state where minority and majority were all equal and peace conditions were maintained even in the situation of war. For building peace he also signed treaties with the rulers of other countries. Therefore He is called as the best peacemaker the world has ever witnessed.
