

QUESTION #03

Explain the doctrine of prophet hood and its importance in human life.

1- Introduction:-

Imagine living in a world without guidance, where moral compasses are skewed and spiritual connections are fragmented. The doctrine of prophet hood in Islam offers a beacon of light in such a world, illuminating the path of righteousness and divine guidance. The essential tenet of Islamic faith is to believe in the Prophet hood of Muhammad (PBUH), to accept the religion which he presented and to follow his commands. Prophets serve not only as divine messengers but also as role models, advocates of social justice, and harbingers of spiritual enlightenment. They play a critical role in shaping moral and ethical standards, and nurturing a profound connection with Allah. The doctrine of Prophet hood is not merely a historical concept but a living, dynamic force that directs believers towards righteousness and spiritual fulfillment. It provides a framework for leading a purposeful life, enriched with moral clarity and divine connection, ultimately guiding humanity toward a path of everlasting peace and enlightenment.

The overall discussion is structured as follows. The concept of ^{doctrine of} prophethood in Islam, Prophets attributes, characteristics of finality of Prophethood are the subject matter of first section. The second part examines the importance of doctrine of Prophethood in human life.

2- Concept of Doctrine

of Prophethood in Islam:-

We talk about the idea of doctrine of Prophethood in Islam from a couple of angles: its literal and terminological meanings.

2.1 Literal Meaning:-

The term "Prophethood" in Arabic is "nubuwwah" derived from the root word "naba'a", which means "to inform" or "to convey news". Literally it refers to an individual chosen by Allah to deliver His messages to humanity.

2.2 Terminological meaning:-

In the context of Islamic theology, the doctrine of prophethood encompasses the belief that Allah selects specific individuals known as Prophets, to serve as intermediaries between Him and humanity.

"OR"

To believe in prophet means to believe in his message, to accept the law which

he gave and to follow the Code of Conduct which he taught.

3- Key Aspects of the Doctrine of Prophethood:-

The key aspects related to Doctrine of Prophethood are as follows:-

3.1 Prophet must be a human being-

In Islamic theology, it is essential that prophets are human beings. This concept ensures that they can serve as reliable and practical role models for humanity. Being human allows Prophets to experience and navigate the same trials, tribulations, and more dilemmas that ordinary people face, thus making their guidance and examples more meaningful and attainable.

However, the more direct evidence of the necessity of Prophets being human can be found ^{also} in Quran verse -

“ Say, I am only a man like you to whom has been revealed that your god is one GOD. So whoever would hope for the meeting with his Lord - let him do righteous work and not

associate in the worship of his Lord anyone".

This verse remind believers that Prophets including Muhammad (PBUH) are human and require patience and Perseverance in the face of Challenges, similar to any other human being.

3.2 Divine Selection:-

Prophets are chosen by Allah based on divine wisdom. A man can become virtuous and wali by his own will, but he cannot become a prophet.

Allah (SWT) clearly mentioned in Quran which means that:

"Prophets are the people chosen by Allah Almighty and Prophecy is the Bounty of Allah".

This verse is a clear evidence that people cannot become prophet by his own desires.

3.3 Knowledge bestowed by Allah:-

Prophets receive revelations from Allah, which include both verbal messages and inspired guidance. The Prophet acquired all of his knowledge from Allah and never learnt anything from this world.

"Nor does he speak from (his own) inclination. It is not but a Revelation Revealed." (Al-Quran)

This verse is a true picture of origin of the knowledge and messages conveyed

by Prophet Muhammad (PBUH). This highlights that Prophet does not speak out of personal desire or whim; rather, his words and teachings are based on revelations directly received from Allah.

3.4 Prophet must be Characterful:-

The character of Prophet is a critical aspect of their role as messengers of Allah. Their exemplary moral and ethical qualities enable them to effectively convey divine guidance as ^{role} models for humanity. The Quran provides numerous references to the noble character of Prophet.

“And we have not sent you [O Muhammad] except as a mercy to the worlds.”

“And indeed, you are of great moral character.”

Allah directly attests to the noble character of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) in this verse underscoring his exceptional moral and ethical standards.

3.5 Prophet must be worthy of obedience:-

Prophet must be an exemplary personality / influential personality. He is a true source of guidance in every aspect of life.

As Michael Hart in his Book "The 100: A Ranking of the most influential Persons in history".

"My Choice of Muhammad (PBUH) to lead the list of world's most influential persons may surprise some readers and may be questioned by others, but he was the only man in history who was supremely successful on both the religious and secular level." (Michael Hart)

Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) was the best judge. The whole world would testify this. As a head of state he would also be an influential personality. No one imagine an orphan child rose up in Arabian desert and build a state not only a state but also a welfare state.

4- Finality of Prophethood:-

Finality of Prophethood is an essential component of doctrine of Prophethood. We discussed this concept from the perspective/viewpoints of different religions.

4.1 Christianity:-

a) In Christianity, its famous Book :-

The Book of Isaiah:- Clearly explains that Muhammad (PBUH) is the last Prophet. This argument is well supported by the fact that

the final Prophet refused to read and write when we asked him to do so.

b) Waraqah-Bin-Naufal: - Mostly people believed that he will be the last Prophet but he denied and said:-

“It is very unfortunate I am not the last Prophet?”

According to Christianity Muhammad (PBUH) is the Seal of Prophets.

4.2 Buddhism:-

In Buddhism there is a concept that may be Gautama Buddha was a Prophet. In “gospel of Buddha” famous religious book of Buddhism a well known incident is mentioned in it which is a clear indication that Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) is the seal of Prophet.

A person came to Lord Buddha and said:

“You are so merciful is there anyone else more than you?” Buddha replied

“Neither I am the first one nor I am the last one. After me, He will come in Arabia and He is so merciful?”

We know very well Hazrat Muhammad (PBUH) came in Arabia and in Quran Allah gave him a title of “Mercy to the worlds” or “Mercy to all creations”.

4.3 Hinduism:-

Some famous religious books of Hinduism also highlight the Prophecies of last Prophet. They said that "GOD will send his best Avatar in Arabia."

A famous Hindu scholar, Dr ved Parkash described in his Book "Kalki Avatar":

"The Kalki avatar who was anticipated even in modern Hinduism is no other than Muhammad (PBUH).

According to Hinduism Muhammad (PBUH) is the seal of Prophet.

4.4 Judaism:-

Verses that was revealed to Hazrat Masum also discussed about Prophecy of last Prophet.

A Book of deuteronomy clearly shed light that Muhammad (PBUH) is the seal of Prophet:-

"I will raise up for them a Prophet like you from among their fellow Israelites, and I will put my words in his mouth. He will tell them everything I command him".

4.5 Parsi scripture:-

In zendavesta, discussed 3 prophecies related to Holy Prophet.

- 1- last Prophet will be from Arabia
- 2- whose follower will conquer Persian
- 3- At the time of conquer Persian

must be arrogant.

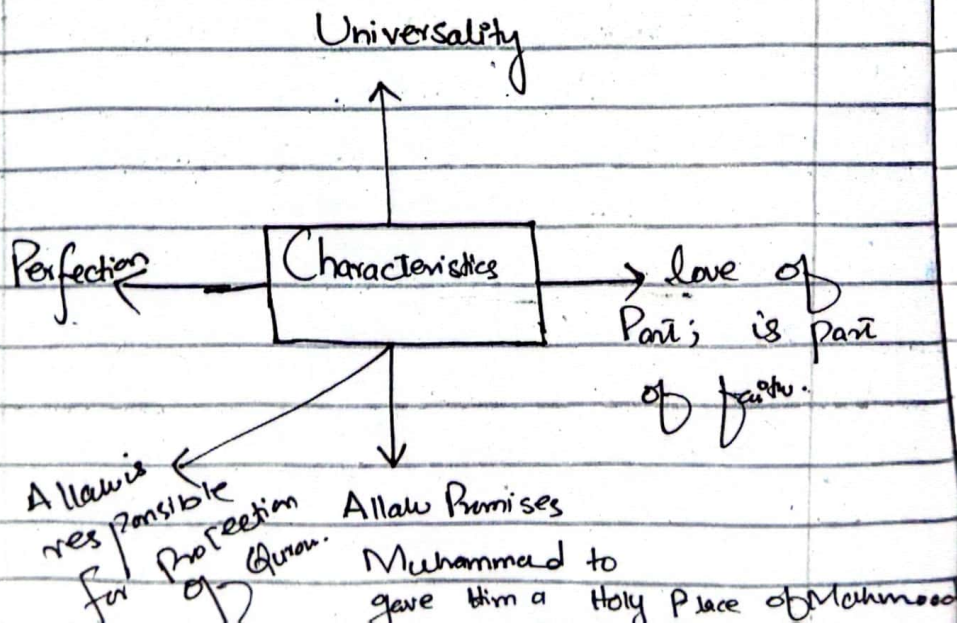
iii these three prophecies is a clear indication that Muhammad (PBUH) is the last Prophet.

All these arguments taken from different religions clearly depicted that Muhammad (PBUH) is the seal of Prophets.

Allahu Almighty also said in Quran which means that: -

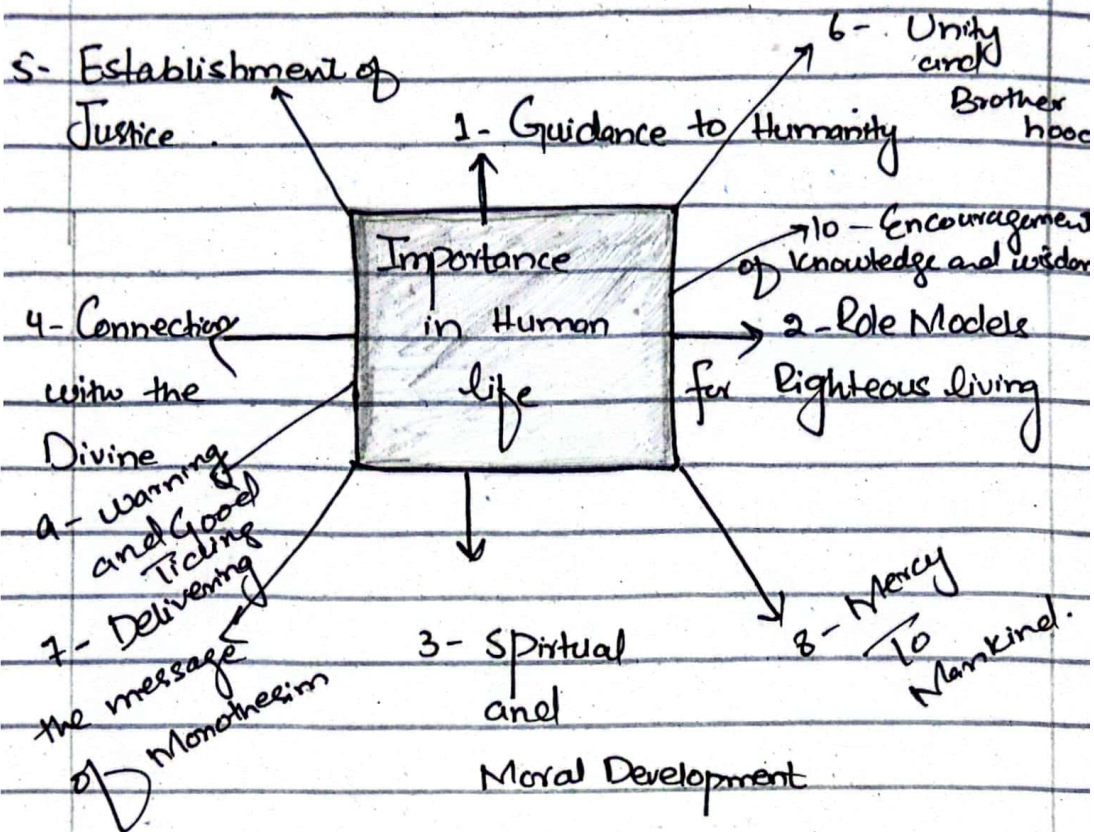
"Muhammad is not the father of anyone of your men and he is the seal of Prophets."

5- Characteristics of Finality of Prophethood:-



6- Importance of Doctrine of Prophethood

in Human life:-



6.1 Guidance to Humanity:-

Prophets serve as direct conduits of divine guidance, delivering revelations that help humanity understand the will of Allah. They offer practical instructions and ethical guidelines to lead a life that aligns with divine expectations.

"Indeed, we have sent down to you the Book in butu so

you may judge between the people by that which Allah has shown you?"

This verse underscores the role of prophets in providing Judicial and moral guidance, ensuring that societies are governed by principles of justice and righteousness derived from divine wisdom.

6.2 Role Models for Righteous Living.

Prophets exemplify the highest standards of moral and ethical conduct. Their lives are practical demonstrations of how to implement divine teachings in everyday life, making them ideal role models for believers.

"There has certainly been for you in the Messenger of Allah an excellent pattern for anyone whose hope is in Allah and the Last Day and (who) remembers Allah often."

This verse highlights that the Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) is an exemplary figure whose life provides a template for righteous living, encouraging believers to emulate his actions and character.

6.3 Spiritual and Moral Development:-

Prophets Purify and elevate the spiritual and moral character of individuals. Their teachings inspire believers to cultivate virtues such as honesty, compassion, patience, and humility.

“ He it is who has sent among the unlettered ones a Messenger from among themselves, reciting to them his verses and purifying them and teaching them the Book and wisdom.”

The emphasis on purification and wisdom in this verse shows the transformative impact prophets have on their followers, guiding them towards spiritual enlightenment and moral excellence.

6.4 Connection with the Divine:-

Prophets act as intermediaries between Allah and humanity, delivering His messages and facilitating a deeper connection with the Divine. Obedience to Prophets is seen as obedience to Allah.

“ And we did not send any messenger except to be obeyed by permission of Allah.”

This verse establishes the authority of Prophets, emphasizing that following their guidance

is a means of fulfilling Allah's commands and strengthening one's relationship with Him.

6.5 Establishment of Justice:-

Prophets are sent to establish justice and equity in society. They bring divine laws that ensure fair treatment for all individuals, addressing issues of injustice and oppression.

“We sent aforesaid our messengers with clear signs and sent down with the Book and the balance that people may stand forth in justice.”

The concept of the “balance” in this verse signifies the equitable principles delivered by Prophets, which are essential for maintaining societal harmony and justice.

6.6 Unity and Brotherhood:-

Prophets promote unity and brotherhood among their followers. Their teachings encourage believers to overcome divisions and build cohesive, supportive communities.

“And hold firmly to the rope of Allah all together and do not become divided.”

This verse advocates for unity under divine guidance suggesting that adherence to Prophetic teachings is crucial for maintaining communal harmony and solidarity.

6.7 Delivering the Message of Monotheism:-

Prophets call people to worship Allah alone, rejecting all forms of idolatry. Their message of monotheism is central to their mission, guiding humanity towards a pure and sincere devotion to one God.

“And we certainly sent into every nation a messenger, (saying), 'worship Allah and avoid Taghut'.”

This verse highlights the universal message of monotheism delivered by Prophets, which serves as a fundamental principle of faith and guidance for all people.

6.8 Mercy to Mankind:-

Prophets are embodiments to Allah's mercy, offering compassion, guidance, and the opportunity for salvation to humanity. Their presence is a sign of Allah's care and concern for His creation.

“And we have not sent you, (O Muhammad), except as a mercy to the worlds.”

This verse encapsulates the merciful nature of the Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) and his mission, which extends beyond just Muslims to all of humanity and creation.

6.9 Warning and Good

Tidings:-

Prophets serve as warners and bearers of glad tidings. They caution people about the consequences of sin and disbelief while offering hope and promise of reward for the righteous.

“And we sent not the messengers except as bringers of good tidings and warners.”

This verse highlights the dual role of prophets in providing balanced guidance encouraging adherence to divine commandments through warnings and incentives.

6.10 Encouragement of Knowledge and Wisdom:-

Prophets emphasize the importance of knowledge and wisdom. They encourage believers to seek knowledge as a means to understand divine will and apply it in their lives.

“Read in the name of your Lord who created?”

The first revelation to Prophet Muhammad (PBUH)

underscore the significance of knowledge, marking the beginning of a tradition that values learning and intellectual pursuit as paths to spiritual growth.

These arguments and their corresponding Quranic verses illustrate the profound impact and importance of Prophethood in guiding and shaping human life across various dimensions, including moral, spiritual and social aspects.

7- Conclusion:-

The doctrine of prophethood holds a central place in Islamic theology, serving as a beacon of divine guidance and a source of moral and spiritual illumination for humanity. Prophets are chosen by Allah to deliver His messages, providing clear examples of righteous living and establishing justice within society. Through their teachings they foster unity, compassion and a deep connection with the Divine. In essence, the prophets are not only spiritual leaders but also embodiments of Allah's mercy and testament to His concern for human welfare. Their legacy continues to inspire and guide millions. The doctrine of Prophethood remains a cornerstone of faith, reminding believers of their purpose and the path to true fulfillment in both this world and the hereafter.