

Q: 2020: The last sermon of Prophet (PBUH) is the basic document for awakening concerns of mankind for human rights.

1- Introduction

The last sermon of Holy Prophet (PBUH) can be called the first Universal Charter of Human Rights. Islam is a complete code of life; hence, as Maulana Maududi said, the human rights have been granted by Allah, they have not been granted by any king or legislative assembly. Thus, they are complete in nature.

2- A brief overview of the last sermon of Prophet (PBUH)

The Holy Prophet (PBUH) delivered his last sermon in the plain of Arafat, near the Jabal-e-Rehmat, the 'Mount of Mercy' on 9th Zil Hajja. This sermon is not only remarkable for its eloquence but it is also very significant because it contains an imperishable message to mankind.

3- Human rights with the conclusion of the farewell sermon of Prophet (PBUH)

i- The rights of women were protected

a) Rights of wives were protected

The Holy Prophet (PBUH) said, "O people! You have rights over your wives and your wives have rights over you. Treat your wives with kindness ..."

b) Right of inheritance was discussed in the last sermon

Islam has granted the right to inheritance to women, contrary to the historical norms prevalent in many societies before its advent. The Holy Prophet (PBUH) also mentioned in his last sermon about the right to inheritance for every person, irrespective of gender.

ii- Right to life and property in the light of last sermon

The Holy Prophet (PBUH) said, "Your blood and your property are as sacred as are this Day and this Month."

iii- Right of slaves and preservation of their dignity

The Holy Prophet (PBUH) said, "And feed your slaves as you

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feed yourselves and clothe your slaves as you clothe yourselves..."

The Holy Prophet (PBUH) raised the status of slaves and made them equal in the matter of food and clothing with their masters. He (PBUH) conveyed that the slaves should be treated with dignity and equality. He (PBUH) also ordered not to torment them if they commit a mistake, but, if cannot be forgiven, should be sold to someone else

iv. Right to equality and brotherhood was emphasized in the last sermon

The Holy Prophet (PBUH) said, **"All mankind is from Adam and Eve..."**

He said that we all are children of Adam and therefore equal and brother to one another.

v. The economic exploitation was abolished in the last sermon

The Holy Prophet (PBUH) said, **"Usury is forbidden..."**

He also announced that the amount of riba, which Abbas bin Abdul Muttalib has to receive, is remitted.

vi. The Holy Prophet (PBUH) warned against committing injustice

The Holy Prophet (PBUH) said to people in his final sermon not to go astray and kill one another. He also said it is unlawful for anyone to unlawfully take the fortunes of the other.

vii. Right of equality of all races and colors was proclaimed in the last sermon

The Holy Prophet (PBUH) said: "An Arab has no superiority over a non-Arab, nor does a non-Arab have any superiority over an Arab; white has no superiority over black, nor does a black have any superiority over white ..."

4- Conclusion

The last sermon of the Holy Prophet (PBUH) advocates the universal principles of justice, equality and dignity for all. It emphasizes on the rights of discriminated groups, such as, women and slaves. And Prophet (PBUH) emphasized on the compassion and brotherhood among the mankind. All these teachings of human rights hold timeless relevance.