

Islamic Studies 2024

Question Number 3

The main purpose of Ghazwat-e-Nabwi (SAW) was to establish peace. Explain.

Answer 3

1: Introduction

Islam is the religion of peace. The words' literal meaning has the root word 'S L M' which translate to peace. Prophet Muhammad (SAW) was the true embodiment of Deen-e-Islam, hence all his actions directed towards peace. In modern warfare it is hard to imagine, a military commander spreading the idea of peace but Prophet Muhammad (SAW) led by example. Not only did he use war as a last resort but even in the course of it, practiced the tenets of peace. For his wars were fought only when there was threat to Islam or for the sake of spreading it. Spreading Islam meant spreading peace, and he ensured that the mechanisms used is not counter to the main aim.

2: Prophets (SAW) War's and the Message of Peace

War aims before Islam were quite opposite. It was used as a tool to loot, plunder and humiliate the other party, whereas Prophet (SAW)'s aims were completely different. The wars he fought and the way he fought them explain it.

2.1 BADR AND UHAD: A FIGHT OF SELF DEFENCE

The muslim army under the Prophet's guidance was mobilized usually for self defense. He never opted for unarmed attack on civilians to defeat them. Uhad and Badr were also a result of provoking by the Kafar-e Makkah.

2.2 KHANDAQ: THE EPITOME OF PEACE AND INNOVATION

Ghazwa-e-Khandaq elaborates the beliefs of Prophet (SAW) towards war. The aim was never show of power and prolonged terror. Instead there was utmost effort to avoid active war and killing. Saving people was the thought behind it.

2.3 PEACEFUL FATAH MAKKAH

After years of unimaginable torment, the conquest of Makkah was not even used as a means to settle what the Prophet (SAW) had experienced. Muslims peacefully marched towards Makkah and people were given the option of taking refuge in Abu Sufyan's house.

3: Attributes of War that Spread Peace and Propagated the Message of Peace

3.1 DEFENSIVE WARS, NOT OFFENSIVE

Ghazwat-e-Nabwi were not offensive in nature. He never invited unrest. The Prophet's army ensured preparedness but were never the cause of aggravated trouble.

"And do not create mischief in the land of God"

- Quran

3.2 STRICTLY AGAINST DISHONOURING THE DEAD

The Prophet (SAW) had utmost respect for human dignity. He was strictly against

disrespecting and mutilating dead bodies even if they were of the other side. He ensured that nothing was done to the dead after Badr, he said:

"I do not sell bodies. Take your dead with you"

- Al Hadith (SAW)

3.3 REINFORCED THE TENENTS OF ENVIRONMENTAL INTEGRITY

Rusool - Allah (SAW) was the epitome of peace. Unlike any other military installation, he was extremely careful of environment as well. He strictly ordered his army to refrain from actions that harm the innocent biosphere.

"Do not cut trees"

- Al Hadith (SAW)

3.4 NO HARM TO WOMEN AND CHILDREN

Being an ardent supporter of social and humanitarian values, he didnt permit any thing in war that is frowned upon otherwise.

His love for children and humanity did not pause in the time of war. He did not want any innocent people to be harmed.

“ Do not harm women and children.
And do not cut trees ”

—Al Hadith

His emphasis on the values became a guiding principle for Muslims to follow.

3.5 PREFERRED TREATIES OVER BLOODSHED

He wanted to spread the message of peace and was not in the favour of fighting for the sake of it. The treaty of Huddabiya is a testament to his peace-loving nature. Even though some Sahaba-e-Karam were not initially happy with Prophet (SAW)'s foresight enabled them to see his peaceful vision.

3.6 ENCOURAGED COMMON COUNSEL AND INNOVATION

As peace was the purpose instead of a bloody fight, Prophet (SAW) always encouraged his companions to give their input. He was very

open to the idea of Innovation. Salman Farsi's idea of a trench was welcomed with open arms by the Prophet (SAW) during Ghazwa-e Tabuk.

3.7 DIGNIFIED TREATMENT OF WAR PRISONERS

The message of peace was further spread by the treatment of war prisoners by the Prophet (SAW). He did not humiliate them, instead he asked them to teach 10 muslim kids each to buy their freedom. This level of peace and intellectualism is even not present today.

3.8 REMEMBRANCE OF LIMITS

"Do not transgress your limits"

- Al Quran

No event or circumstances should make a person oblivious of their limits. Islam as a religion and the Prophet (SAW) were very mindful of that. Even after victory, there were certain standards of decency that could not be broken.

3.9 RAHMAT UL ILALAMEEN

" Muhammad: Peace for all
world "

- Al Quran

Prophet Muhammad (SAW) was not just peace for muslims. He was peace for the entire universe and for all mankind. The opponents in his battles were also not devoid of his peace.

4: Lesson for Muslim Ummah Today: Become Agents Of Peace

The muslim ummah today has gone astray. The extremist groups, spreading terror around the globe have forgotten that Islam and Sunnat-e-Nabwi is quite opposite to that. They are the followers of a man who would not even wish bad upon his enemies.

The ummah today must revitalize along the core principles of Rihazrat-e-Nabwi (SAW).

5: Conclusion

The principles of war practiced by the Prophet Muhammad (SAW) and the aims behind those wars both are a testament to his commitment to peace. Ghazwat-e-Nabawi were the true embodiment of spread of peace. In modern times, the Muslim Ummah must learn from his Sunnat which is the practical application of Quran.

“Muhammad was the only military commander of that time that discouraged extensive bloodshed”

- Karen Armstrong

Question Number 4

Explain the doctrine of Prophethood.....

Answer Number 4:

1: Introduction

Islam introduces a set of beliefs for muslims.

These beliefs keep muslims grounded in their faith and make sense of the purpose of life and ways to maneuver through life. Belief in Prophethood is such a core pillar as it satisfies the innate human need to look upto a role model. It also serves as a hope for people that despite trials of life a person can continue to live, believe and strive. Prophethood serves as the physical embodiment of Allah's message and is thus an important tenet of a human's life.

"Islam is the belief in Allah and Prophethood"

-Sadar Ud Din Islahi

2: The Doctrine of Prophet hood

The Quran emphasizes on the importance of Prophethood. There has been 21akh 24 thousands prophets sent by Allah Almighty. Four out of them are messengers, with books revealed to them.

Taurat to Prophet Moosa (A.S)

Zaboor to Prophet Dawood (A.S)

Bible to Prophet Eesa (A.S)

Quran-e Kareem to Prophet Muhammad (SAW)

None of the prophets differ in stature from each other. All were a part of congregational prayer led by Prophet Muhammad (SAW) on the night of Miraj.

"Verily he have sent a messenger for every community"

- Al Quran

3: Importance Of Prophethood in Human Life

3.1 ROLE MODEL

Prophets serve as a role model for humans

to live their life. They serve as an apt example in every sphere of life. Amongst the Prophets, some were rich, some were poor. Some got access to positions of power like Hazrat Yusuf and some baned people from fitna like Hazrat Nuh and Lut.

3.2 CLARITY OF ALLAH'S MESSAGE

The lives of the Prophets serve as an embodiment of Allah's message. God's commandments are practiced by Prophets which becomes easy for people to replicate and connect to.

"Prophet Muhammad (SAW) always led by example"

- Hazrat Umar (RA)

3.3 CARRIER OF DIVINE KNOWLEDGE

Prophets are the chosen people by Allah and they possess knowledge that Allah wants to share with His people. Ordinary humans do not receive divine orders from Allah.

The Prophets serve as a chain link for the

entire humanity.

3.4 INSTILLS THE PASSION FOR DOING MORE

"The Prophet would keep standing for prayer every night, to the point that his feet became swollen"

- Hazrat Ayesha (RA)

Prophet Muhammad (SAW), who was already guaranteed to go to heavens would pray this much. This serves as a guiding principle for humans to spend more time in Ibadat and the beauty of connecting with Allah, not just for the fear of here after.

"Why should n't I worship?"

- Prophet Muhammad (SAW)

3.5 ENDURED HARDSHIPS

Prophet Muhammad (SAW) a born orphan, lost his mother at the age of six. Prophet Yaqub lost his beloved son Yusuf when he was a

child, Prophet Eesa was crucified by his own people, Prophet Musa was thrown in the river and Prophet Yousaf spend nights inside a well as a child and was then sold in the slave market. These are all examples of turmoil not just limited to physical aspects but also extremely emotionally draining. Serves as a hope for people to not get intimidated by their hardships

"For every hardship, there is ease"

- Al Quran

3.5 EXAMPLE TO TACKLE INTERPERSONAL RELATIONSHIPS

Islam is not a religion, it is a deen which means it incorporates all social elements of life as well. Prophets led by example in their personal lives. This taught people the way to navigate their personal life.

"Prophet Muhammad (SAW) would help with housework, clean it, milk sheep"

Hadrat Ali (RA)

"Best amongst you is the one who
is best to their women. And I
am the best among you all"

-Prophet Muhammad

These examples set the standards for humans.
Human elements were also encouraged such
as love for children and show of emotions.
Prophet Yaqub cried so much for his son that
he lost his sight.

3.6 CREATES TRUE LOVE FOR ALLAH

Prophets lives and hardships, paired
with their contentment creates a love for
Almighty. It reiterates the concept that a
connection with Allah is greater than any
thing that comes ones' way.

"The world is nothing but a
jail for Momin"

3.7 TRUE LEADERSHIP IS IMPORTANT FOR HUMANS

Leadership is a innate requirement for

human beings in every sphere, whether it be religious, political or social. The Prophets serve as leaders for humanity in all these and more spheres. Humans have come to follow and look up to in every arena of life from birth to death.

4: Percieving Humanity Without Prophethood: People Would Fall Astray

Imagining a world without the belief in Prophethood would be an example of people falling astray. There would be ~~know~~ no one to look up to in any manner. People would manufacture wrong ideals and role models which would not be encompassing every element of human life. For example if a business man is looked up to, all his other nasty elements would also become glorified. Without Prophethood, people would also shy away from divine message under the perception of it being unachievable by normal humans.

5: Conclusion

The doctrine of Prophethood is extremely important in human life. It serves as the practical guiding principle for humanity. As all the Prophets were humans, people can relate and look up to them. Without the doctrine of Prophethood, humanity would be directionless and would fall astray.