

Holy Prophet as Peacemaker

Outline

1. Introduction
2. Islam signifies peace & its Apostle is Prophet of Peace
3. Proof that Prophet (PBUH) remains as ^{the} greatest peacemaker in the world
 - 3.1 Membership of Hilf-ul-Fadal
 - 3.2 Mediation over hijr-e-Aswad Issue
 - 3.3 No retaliation against aggressors of Ta'if
 - 3.4 Establish brotherhood between Muhajreen and Ansaar
 - 3.5 Charter of Madina and Jews
 - 3.6 Treatment of prisoner of Badar
 - 3.7 Making peace through treaty of Hudaibiya
 - 3.8 Dhimmi status of Jews of Khybar after conquest
 - 3.8 Conquest of Meca & forgiving the Transgressors
 - 3.7 Diplomatic and friendly ties with neighboring states
 - 3.10 Respect of all religion leads to peace.
 - 3.11 Maintenance of distinction between combatants and non-combatants
 - 3.12 Promoted peace in His last sermon at Hajj
4. Conclusion

Introduction

The Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) lived a life filled with tribulation and opposition, but he never let it become a reason to deviate from its peaceful nature. The Quran highlights this through the following ayat,

"Had we made you strict and tempered in nature, they would have moved away from you."

There are numerous incidents in the life of Holy Prophet (PBUH) where He exemplified peace irrespective of color, creed and cast. He signed treaties and peace agreements with Jews, Christians, and pagans. He preferred migration toward Madina over war. The wars in His era are ^{also} seen as defensive wars not the offensive wars.

Islam Signifies peace & its Apostle is Prophet of Peace

The word "Islam" is derived from the word "silm" which means peace. According to a tradition of the Prophet (PBUH) "Peace is Islam". Therefore peace is one of the constituents of Islamic faith. This constituent in the practical shape is seen in the Holy Prophet (PBUH). Allah says in surah Al-Anbiya - 107,

"And we have not sent you but as mercy for all worlds"

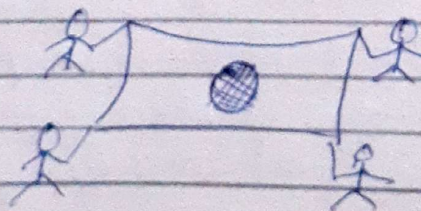
Proof that Prophet (PBUH) remains the greatest peacemaker in the world

- Membership of Hilf ul Fadal

The Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) had a peaceful nature even before his prophethood. He was the member of Hilf-ul-Fazul, which was an alliance created by the various Makkans. It pledged to respect the principle of justice, collectively intervene in conflicts and establish justice, and to make the pact imperative and sacred.

- Mediation over Hijre-Aswad Issue

In 605 AD, the Kaaba had been reconstructed and there arose a dispute among the tribes as to who would have the honor of planting Hijra-e-Aswad in the wall. The Holy Prophet (PBUH) resolved it by saying that put the Black Stone in the middle of a piece of cloth, and asked a representative of each clan to hold one of the edges of cloth, then He himself picked it up and placed it in the wall.



- No retaliation against aggressors of Ta'if

After the pagans of Ta'if had opposed and persecuted the Prophet (PBUH), Hazrat Jibreel (AS) asked him if he wanted them to be cursed and ruined under God's wrath. The Prophet (PBUH) said;

"I am the Prophet of peace, not the prophet of wrath"

- Establish brotherhood between Muhajireen and Ansar

Immediately after reaching Medina, the Prophet (PBUH) establish a bond of brotherhood which united every one of the Muhajir to the Ansars as siblings. Ansar shared their money and farms with their brothers thus setting an example of brotherhood, peace and prosperity.

- Charter of Medina and Jews

Perhaps the event that changed the history of Madinah and its relations within was the charter of Medina. The charter of Medina brought about peaceful revolution in Yathrib. The Muslims were for the first time in a pact with the Jews. The Holy Prophet equate Jews ~~not~~ with Muslim in worldly matters.

• Treatment of prisoners of Badr

After the Battle of Badr, some prisoners were executed for their earlier crimes in Mecca but the rest were given options: They could convert to Islam and thus win their freedom; they could pay ransom and win their freedom; they could teach 10-Muslims to read and write and thus win their freedom.

• Making peace through treaty of Hudaibiya

In 6AH, the Prophet (PBUH) made peace with the pagans of Mecca through the treaty of Hudaibiya. He always stood by it. It were the Meccans who broke the peace. He even accepted harsh conditions of treaty just to avert war.

• Dhimmi Status of Jews of Khyber

After defeating Jews in Ghazwa-e-Khyber, the Prophet (PBUH) did not expel nor retaliate against them despite their intrigues. He allowed them to stay there on condition of paying Jizya.

• Conquest of Mecca & Forgiveness of Transgressors

After conquest of Mecca in 8AH, the Prophet (PBUH) asked the Meccans how they

would like to be treated. They said, "You are an honourable brother and the son of an honourable brother". The Prophet replied:

"Go! You are free. Today, there is no blame on you"

- Diplomatic and friendly ties with neighbouring states

Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) sent out a number of letters through diplomatic channels to several heads of states, including the Great Ruler of Rome, the King of Abyssinia, and the great ruler of Persia, inviting them to Islam. The end result was, that the King of Abyssinia accepted Islam.

- Respect of all religion leads to peace and harmony

Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) ~~was~~^{is} a great example and role model when it came to tolerance of other people belonging to different faiths. Not only did the Christians debate with the Prophet in his own mosque, saying such things as Jesus was God, and the son of God, they were also allowed to pray in his mosque.

- Maintaining distinction between combatants and non-combatant

Islam has first drawn a clear line of distinction between combatant & non-combatant of the enemy. For non-combatant population such as women, children, ^{the} old, Holy Prophet said that:

Do not kill any old person, any child or any women

Do not kill the monks in monasteries or don't kill the people who are sitting in places of worship.

The Prophet even went on say to not mutilate the corpse or burn the enemy alive. The Holy prophet always went on defensive war and even in such wars such peaceful steps were taken.

- Promoted peace in his last sermon at Hajj

To ensure peace and harmony in the society, Islam does not distinguish between two races, or two groups of people on basis of color. Holy Prophet addressed the people during his last Hajj:

O people! Your God is one; your father is one; no preference of an

Arab neither over non-Arab nor of
a non-Arab over an Arab or ~~red~~ white
over black or black over white except
for the most righteous. Verily the
most honored of you is the most
righteous.

Conclusion

These incidents show that the Prophet
(PBUH) was not only peaceful in his
public life but his private life as well.
This is why Simon Dakley wrote that:

It was the sheer moral character
of the Prophet (PBUH) and not
the sword, that brought the
greatest success to Islam