

Q → Concept of Prophethood and its importance. (20)

Introduction

The concept of Prophethood, cornerstone of Islam, encapsulates the divine appointment of chosen individuals to convey His guidance to mankind. All the messengers and prophets are moral exemplars for mankind, guiding humanity towards the path of righteousness and morality. From Prophet Adam to Prophet Muhammad (PBUH), all of them truly guided humanity towards right path. Therefore, this concept holds immense importance by providing moral, spiritual and social guidance. Thus, it is a source of inspiration and guidance for all mankind during complexities of life.

Concept Of Prophethood

Literal Meaning:

the term "Prophethood" comes from the root word prophet which refers to someone who tells news or information.

Contextual Meaning:

In the context of Islamic doctrine, it means the institution through which God send His guidance to humanity.

Definitions of Prophethood:

⇒ Prophethood is the Divine choice ^{selection} of an individual to whom divine teachings are revealed in order to guide people to the path of perfection and happiness.

— ~~Wahid~~ ^{Wahid}

⇒ Prophethood refers to the role of prophet as a messenger and intermedicator between God and mankind, tasked with teaching guidance.

— World Religions View

Quranic Reference

ليس البر ان تولو وجوهكم قبل المشرق

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والمغرب ولكن البر من امن بالله واليوم
الاخر وسلا ثلثه فاكتب كتاب والنبيين-

Righteousness is not that you turn
your faces to the East and the West.
But righteousness is that one
should believe in Allah, and the
Day of Judgment and the angels
and the Book and the messengers.

(Al-Baqara: 177)

Hadith Reference

ما كان محمد اباً احد من رجالكم ولكن الرسول
وخاتم النبيين-

Muhammad is not the father of
any of your men but the Messenger
of Allah and the seal of the
prophets.

(Al Ahzab: 40)

لا نبى بعدى انا خاتم النبيين
"There will be no prophet after me
and I am the Last Prophet".

Scholarly Reference

Muhammad was a shining
example for people. His character
was pure and stainless. He

was acceptable for everyone.
He visited sick and poor.

— Dr. Gustav Well
(Book: The Islamic History of Peoples)

Prof. Ramakrishna Rao regarded Holy Prophet in his booklet, Pro Muhammad, Prophet of Islam as:
"the best model for mankind."

Concept of Prophethood in Islam

a. Belief in all Prophets:

It is the vital concept of Islamic doctrine. A believer must have to believe in all prophets in Islamic faith. As all prophets preach divine guidance, guiding humanity towards righteousness. Therefore, it is a crucial aspect of fundamentals of Islam.

لا نفرق بين انبيائنا -
"We make no distinction between any of them". (Al Imran: 85)

b. Finality of Prophethood:

Finality of Prophethood
refers to the seal of prophets
as Holy Prophet (PBUH) declared:
لَا بَإِثْنِي بَعْدِي أَنَا خَاتَمُ النَّبِيِّينَ

It represents completeness and
universality of Divine messages.
Thus, it fosters a sense of
unity in society as all people
have received uniform message.

c) Infallibility of Prophets

It is a vital
component of Islamic faith which
encapsulates that all messengers
and prophets are infallible.
Furthermore / However, human
beings commit mistakes while
prophets are pure and clean.

إِنَّا لَا وَحْيَ لِي - وَمَا يَبْقَىٰ عَنِ الْهَوَىٰ -

It is only a revelation sent down
"to him". And he does not speak
of his own whims.

(An-Najm: 3-4)

a) Divine Guidance is derived from Revelation

Holy Quran is
an ultimate source of guidance.

therefore, all Muslims seek guidance and wisdom from the scriptures of Allah Almighty such as Gospel, Psalms, Torah and Holy Quran. However, the eternal and perfect source of guidance is Holy Quran.

إنا نحن نزل القرآن وإننا لحنافلون

- 2 - (Surely We are its guardian)
 1 → Surely We have sent down and (Al Hujr: 9)

e) Prophets As Role Models and Exemplars

The ultimate objective of Islam is to make a man morally virtuous. To him, the exemplars of virtue are prophets and messengers. Thus, in order to seek guidance, it is vital to learn from prophets. Moreover, they exemplify compassion, integrity and virtue.

لقد كان لكم في رسول الله أسوة حسنة

"There was indeed the best model for you in the Messenger of Allah (Al Ahzab: 21)"

f) Mission of Prophets for Monotheism

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the mission of Prophets is to preach teachings of Islam, reinforcing the concept of tawheed. Therefore, all of the prophets underscored the belief in tawhid: a belief in the unity of Allah.

انى انا الله لا اله الا الله فاعبدني

Indeed, I am Allah. There is no deity except me so worshipping me.
(Al-Quran)

Importance of Concept Of Prophethood

Give individual and collective life importance

1). Ethical Guidance and Role Models:

The belief in prophethood encapsulates that divine wisdom and guidance is provided by prophets to humanity. Moreover, they acted as a perfect guide to humanity, capturing the essence of Islamic values.

Thus, the believers can attain true wisdom and guidance by following the footsteps of Prophets.

وَمَا أَرْسَلْنَاكَ إِلَّا رَحْمَةً لِّلْعَالَمِينَ

We have sent "O Prophet" only as a mercy to all the world.

(Al Anbya: 107)

b). Divine Revelation for Spiritual Enlightenment:

The ultimate goal of prophethood is to enlighten hearts and minds of mankind. Therefore, the divine guidance acts as a means to transform an individual spiritually. Before the advent of Islam, people were living in ignorance. Allah has sent prophets and messengers to show humanity the right and virtuous path.

يس - القرآن الحكيم

Ya Sin, by the Quran, rich in wisdom!
(Surah Ya Sin: 1-2)

c). Social Justice and Equality:

The belief in prophethood teaches lesson of social justice and equality. In the Treaty of Hudaibiyyah, the Holy Prophet

(PBCH) exemplified equity. Thus, all people are considered equal in the eyes of Allah. Moreover, in a just society, all people are equal before laws which are equal compassion, integrity and justice.

- إن الله يأمر بالعدل والإحسان
Indeed, Allah orders justice and good conduct.

d). Solace, Satisfaction and Hope in Adversity:

(Surah An-Nahr: 90)

The belief in Prophethood encapsulates peace, satisfaction and hope in adversity. The Holy Prophet serves as a true example who faced multiple difficulties during his life but always expressed hope and determination.

- إِنَّ اللَّهَ مَعَ الصَّابِرِينَ
Indeed, Allah is with those who are patient. (2:143)

e) Firm Faith By Accepting Prophethood:

It is an important doctrine of Islamic teachings. Therefore, a believer's faith strengthens after accepting the fidelity of prophethood and concept of prophethood. Furthermore, it brings inner peace as a believer gets divine guidance from prophets and messengers. It reinforces his belief in Allah and His prophets.

90) لا اله الا الله
There is no prophet after me.

Conclusion

In a nutshell, the concept of Prophethood is the cornerstone of Islam which encapsulates the Divine selection of chosen individuals to convey His guidance to mankind. It holds significant importance by providing moral framework, social justice and spiritual growth. So, it is a source of Divine wisdom and guidance.