

Explain the doctrine of Prophethood and its importance in human life.

Answer

1) Introduction:-

The doctrine of Prophethood is one of the fundamental concepts of Islamic belief system. It enshrines the belief in all 1 lac 42 thousand prophets that were sent to the world for the guidance of man and in the finality of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH). The belief itself has great ethical and spiritual importance as these prophets serve as role models for the humans. Emulation of their teachings and conduct provides basis for spiritual enlightenment, spread of social justice and inspires steadfastness in the face of adversity.

2) Concept of Prophethood:-

The concept of prophethood encapsulates the appointment of chosen individuals of high moral and spiritual integrity to the task of conveyance of Allah's guidance to humanity.

a) Who are Prophets?

Prophets are the chosen men of Allah tasked with the guidance of their nation towards the right path.

We have sent to every community a messenger [saying], Worship Allah and avoid Taghut. (Al-Quran)

The words used to refer to prophets are Rasool, Nabi, Mursil and Basher.

There have been around 114,420 thousand prophets. Messengers ~~are~~ are chosen from among them.

313 Messengers were given scriptures.

b) Belief in All Prophets:-

An important aspect of this concept is to have firm belief in all prophets mentioned in Quran. According to Dr. Hammedullah.

"Be it what it may, it is a Dogma for every Muslim to believe not only in Quran but also in the divine revelations of pre-Islamic epoch."

In the Quran, Allah says:-

اِنَّا اَوْحَيْنَا اِلَيْكَ كَمَا اَوْحَيْنَا اِلَى نُوْحٍ وَالْبَنِيْنَ مِنْ بَعْدِهِ (4:163)

Verily! We have inspired you (O Muhammad) as We have inspired Nuh and prophets after him.

c) Finality of Prophethood

This aspect means that all Muslim must have belief in the finality of Prophethood and that there is no prophet after Prophet Muhammad (PBUH). According

to a Hadith by Muslim: "Verily, I am the Seal of Prophethood. There is none after me."

d) Revelation as Divine Guidance

The firm belief in the fact that all revealed guidance in Quran is from Allah is yet another important aspect. Other books have been changed after revelation so nothing can be said about their authenticity.

ولا ينطق من الهدى ان هو الا وحى يوحى (Al-Najam: 3,4)

e) Infallibility of Prophets

It is also paramount for us to have firm belief in the righteous morals and character of the prophets. It means to believe that all of them discharged their prophetic duties with full integrity.

f) Mission of Prophets for Spread of Monotheism

The mission of all prophets was to spread Monotheism.

The worldly aspects of their

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revealed ideologies may have varied with time and age but monotheism was a common factor in everyone's teachings.

2) Human Nature of All Prophets

Believing that all prophets were pious yet all were humans is another crucial aspect of this belief.

"Say! I am only human like you."
(Al-Quran)

3) Importance of Belief in Prophet-hood in Human Life:-

The belief in Prophethood has profound impacts on the life of believers. Below is a list of some of these impacts.

a) Ethical and Moral Guidance

The life and conduct of Prophets serves as a treasure trove for believers when it comes to ethical and moral guidance.

"In the ethical tapestry of Islam, the prophets stand as luminous threads; weaving a pattern of righteousness and moral virtue."

— Syed Qutb

b) Acts as Conduit of Spiritual Enlightenment

Prophethood provides us with a tried and tested ideology for obtaining spiritual enlightenment. We can be sure that the path that has been taught by so many prophets can not lead us astray and is a sure way to success.

c) Strengthens Faith

Belief in Prophethood strengthens man as it is one of the fundamental aspects of Islamic belief system.

مَا كَانَ مُحَمَّدٌ أَبَا أَحَدٍ مِنْ رِجَالِكُمْ وَلَكِنْ رَسُولَ اللَّهِ خَافَ
النَّبِيِّ (Al-Quran)

Muhammad is not the father of one

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of you men, but Messenger of Allah
and Last among all prophets

d) Advocacy of Social Justice

Belief in Prophethood urges us to
apply the blueprint of social justice
that has been promoted and propagated
by all prophets

e) Inspiration and Comfort in Adversity

Life of prophets inspires us to
stay steadfast in the face of
adversity. Sabr-e-Ayub is an
excellent example in this regard.

4) Conclusion:-

The doctrine of Prophethood
is an important aspect of Islam
and mandates muslims to
~~believe~~ believe firmly in all
prophets that were sent for
human guidance. But belief is not
the only requirement, it also demands
us to employ the lessons taught by Prophet
Muhammad (PBUH) in our lives also.