

'PART - II'

QUESTION: 02

Explain the doctrine of Prophethood in Islam. Describe its importance in individual and collective life.

RISALAH OR RISALAT:

The doctrine of Prophethood, or Risalah is a foundational belief in Islam, emphasizing that Allah has communicated His guidance to humanity through chosen prophets.

The revealed message that the prophets preach is called revelation "wahi".

Belief in Risalat or prophethood is part of the foundational belief or "Imaan-e-Mufassal";

"I believe in the Allah, His angels, His Books, His Messengers, the Last day, and in Taqdir, that all good and bad is from Allah, the most High and I believe in the resurrection after death."

Allah commissioned Prophets from time to time to remind humans of the purpose of their creation and thus enabled

0201

them to live according to that purpose.
The first man Adam, was the first Prophet,
act in accordance to the teachings of
Allah and acknowledge God as your
Lord.

The process of providing divine guidance to
humankind through the prophets continued
in the course of history and finally
culminated in the mission of the last
Prophet and Messenger of God, Muhammad
P.B.U.H, "Seal of the Prophets"

Nature of Prophethood:

Prophethood is not something that can be
acquired by effort, it is bestowed by
Allah and is His special blessing on His
chosen ones, Allah himself chooses persons
for this task.

In Quranic terminology it is termed
as 'Istafa' which means "To choose the best
out of a large number of things"

The task of Prophethood in Islam was
filled with challenges as revealed in
various verses of the Quran and Hadees
of Prophet P.B.U.H, highlighting the trials
faced by Prophets while guiding people
toward truth.
"And indeed messengers were denied

1020

before you, but they patiently
endured rejection until Our
help came to them”

(Surah Al-An'am)

Similarly, in a Hadith, Prophet Muhammad
P.B.U.+I said,

“The most severely tested people
are the Prophets, then the next
best, and then the next best...”

(Sunnah Ibn Majah)

Its the divine essence of Prophethood that
knowledge and perception of man is unable
to understand Prophethood in its depth.

Distinct Qualities of the Prophets:

Humility:

The Prophets were essentially human beings.
They were neither angels nor jinns, it
is for the reason that every aspect of their
life becomes a source of learning and
guidance for ordinary human beings. This
was necessary so that ordinary man
would not think that following the
commands of Allah is not possible.

“Say, I am only a mortal
like you, it is revealed to,
me that your God is one”
(Surah al-Kahf)

1020

Supported by Miracles:

Prophets were supported by miracles to prove that they were not imposters. Those miracles were granted by the power and permission of Allah and were usually in the field in which his people excelled.

Moses' contemporaries or Hazrat Musa (A.S) contemporaries were excellent in magic, so his major miracle was to defeat the best magicians of his day.

Hazrat Esa (A.S) contemporaries were recognized as skilled Physicians so his miracle was to raise the dead and cure the incurable diseases.

The Arabs were eloquent in poetry, so Hazrat Muhammad (P.B.U.H) major miracle was Quran, the poets and orators could not produce such a timeless work.

Knowledge bestowed by Allah:

Whatever a Prophet presented in terms of knowledge was from Allah. The personal wishes of the Messengers did not interfere with their messages, and they spoke and acted according to the commandments of Allah.

"He does not speak according to personal desires but says only what is revealed to him"
(Surah An-Najam)

Importance of Prophethood in Individual life:

Prophethood holds immense significance in an individual's life in Islam, as it provides guidance, a moral compass, and a connection to Allah.

Source of Guidance and Purpose:

Prophets guide individuals on how to worship Allah correctly and fulfill life's purpose.

"Indeed we sent forth to every community a messenger; Worship Allah and avoid [all false deities]"

(Al-Nah)

Model for moral and ethical living:

Prophets exemplify virtues such as patience, humility and compassion.

"I was only sent to perfect good character"

(Al-Muwatta)

Connection with Allah and Path to Salvation

Following the Prophets teachings individual can connect to Allah and find 'Sirat-e-Mustaqeem', or the path to salvation.

"Say, if you love Allah, then follow me Allah will love you, and forgive your sins"

(Al-Imraan)

1/20
1/20

Infallibility:

A Prophet did not err in judgement or thought, neither was his conduct or morals open to the slightest criticism. Their souls, feelings, thoughts and conduct were safe from satanic temptations by virtue of divine protection especially due to their mission.

five

only held

as social ss.

Worship of Obedience:

The Quran says that the complete obedience/allegiance and the ~~ex~~ example of the Prophets is a prerequisite of faith. Their commands are obligatory to follow.

"And we did not send any messenger but that he should be obeyed by Allah's permission"

(An-Nisa)

es
ich

Leader and role model:

Allah has ordained Prophets to be the leaders and Guides whose purpose is to guide people, prevent them from straying and lead them to salvation.

"Verily for you is the best example in the messenger (P.B.U.H) of Allah for those who look into Allah and the Last day, and remembered Allah much"

(Al-Ahzab)

- Isukhrai Hadees

1020

Importance of Prophethood for Collective Life:

The doctrine of Prophethood is not only significant for individuals but also holds profound importance for collective life, as it provides a cohesive framework for social values, governance and community wellness.

Establishing Justice and Social Order:

Prophets were sent to guide communities toward justice and social equality, which are essential for a harmonious society.

"We have set sent our messengers, and with them we have sent down the scripture and the balance that the people may maintain [their affairs] in justice"

(Al-Haqq)

Fostering Unity and Collective Identity:

Prophet's teachings provides a sense of unity and identity within the Muslim community known as the 'Ummah'. h:

The Prophet (S.A.W) also emphasized unity; "The believers are like a single body, if one part feels pain, the rest of the body responds with sleeplessness and fever"

(Sahih - Bukhari Hadees)

Encouraging Social Welfare and mutual responsibility:

Prophets instructed their followers to care for their vulnerable, fostering a community where everyone shares a responsibility for each other's welfare.

In one Hadith Prophet emphasises mutual care by saying,

"He is not a believer whose stomach is filled while his neighbour goes hungry"

(Hadees)

Conclusion:

In conclusion, the doctrine of Prophethood in Islam is pivotal not only in guiding individuals towards moral and spiritual growth but also in fostering a strong sense of ethical society. Prophets serve as a model for personal conduct, teaching values of patience, humility, and devotion to Allah. Collectively their guidance establishes Justice and social equality in a society. By following the teachings, both individuals and society can cultivate a life that aligns with divine principles.