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ISLAMIC STUDIES

PART-II

ANSWER-I

DOCTRINE OF PROPHETHOOD IN ISLAM

The doctrine of Prophethood is one of the main postulates in different religion including Islam, Christianity and Judaism. Prophet acts as an intermediary between the divine authority and his believers or followers. Under Islamic law, belief in the prophethood and the finality of Prophet (PBUH) as the last messenger of Allah (SWT) forms the second basic component of Kalima Shohada. Prophets convey the divine message without making any alterations in it. They act as a torch-bearers and their lives are considered as role models for individual as well as collective life.

The Concept of Prophethood in Islam

"And we have made them exalted over others" - Al Quran

In Islam belief in the concept of Prophethood forms the second fundamental pillar and condition to become a Muslim.

لا اله الا الله محمد رسول الله

Islam was preached on the earth by Rasool and Nabi. There is a slight

difference between Rasool & Nabi. Where Rasool was sent for whole mankind and revealed with Divine Book; Nabi was sent for a specific community and only preached the previous message brought by the Rasool.

RASOOL

- Divine Book
- For all mankind
- Brings a new message

NABI

- No Divine Book
- For specific community
- Preach the previous message brought by Rasool

Nature of Prophethood

- Bestowed by Allah: Prophet (hood) is bestowed by Allah Almighty and not something that can be learned.
- "Allah (SWT) knows the best whom to trust with his mission."
- Preach the message of Allah Almighty
Prophets are the chosen people of Allah Almighty. They only convey whatever is taught to them by Allah Almighty. They act as representatives of the Supreme Authority i.e. Allah (SWT) on earth.
"And they do not speak anything from themselves, but only what has been revealed to them." Al-Quran.

Free from Error

Prophets are free from error as they are guided by Allah Almighty. They are the role models for all the individuals of all

times. "And their conduct is a role model for others." Al-Quran

IMPORTANCE OF PROPHETHOOD IN THE INDIVIDUAL'S LIFE

The life of the prophets act as a role model for the individuals in their spiritual, moral and social or collective life. As they're the representatives of Allah Almighty & guided by the Divine authority, they're free from errors, and can be followed by the individuals in their lives to attain success in this world & the Hereafter.

Spiritual Importance of Prophethood in the Individual's Life

1. Closeness to Allah Almighty

As prophets are bestowed by the institution of Prophethood by Allah Almighty, they are the chosen people of the Divine authority.

Belief in the prophethood & by following their examples, one can attain closeness with Allah Almighty.

2. Source of Guidance

Prophets only convey the divine message of Allah Almighty, they are considered as the second main source of guidance after the Quran. Prophets are the living examples of the divine message. By following their guidance in our lives, individuals can seek success not only in this world but as well as in the

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Life here-after.

"We have revealed our words to you so that you make clear to the people the guidance sent down to you for them". Al-Quran

3. Purification of the Soul

By following the examples set by the Prophets sent by Allah (SWT) one can purify his soul by shunning all the evil from his heart & replacing it with the love for Allah Almighty & His divine message.

"And in the remembrance of God's hearts find peace."

Moral Importance of Prophecy in the Individual Life

1. Role model for the Believers

Prophet (PBUH) in his last sermon of his last Hajj said: "I am leaving two things among you. The Book of Allah & my examples. Until you keep both in your grasp you'll never be misled."

Thus; by following the teachings of the Prophet (PBUH) one can never choose a wrong path.

2. Example as an Arbitrator & Judge.

The life of Prophet (PBUH) is a role model for individuals in all aspects. Prophet (PBUH) always made justice between the people as He was guided by the Quran.

Following the examples set by Prophet (PBUH) is

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similar to following the Qur'an. Allah & His messengers always taught us to make justice and never stand with injustice.

"And when you're to judge between people, judge with fairness." Al-Quran.

IMPORTANCE OF PROPHETHOOD IN THE COLLECTIVE LIFE

1. Prophet (PBUH) preached the message of Brotherhood

The charter of madinah serves as a great example for establishing good relations with muslim believers but with non-believers as well.

"Believers are but brothers." Surah Al-Hujrat.

2. Establishment of peace in the society

All the prophets preached the message of peace i.e Islam. By following the commands & examples from their lives, believers can establish communal peace.

3. Establishment of Justice

Prophets were the advocates of Justice. They inspired communities to work hard towards justice, eradicating oppression & uplifting the vulnerable.

4. Promotion of Education & Knowledge

All the prophets put great emphasis on acquiring education & making the society well-educated to eradicate poverty & crimes.

"I have been sent as a teacher." Prophet (PBUH)