

Doctrine of Prophethood in Islam:

Introduction:

There is no denying the fact that Muhammad (PBUH) is the last Prophet of Allah as it is the most important part of our belief system. Those who do not believe in the doctrine of prophethood are not considered Muslims. The evidence of last prophet can be found in other religious scriptures as well. The Doctrine of Prophethood has several characteristics including; universality, perfection, and annulment of previous sharia. Allah does not ~~bestow~~ ^{bestow} everyone with Prophethood. Allah knows best who is perfect for it. The doctrine of prophethood has several positive impacts on the life of individual as well as society.

1) Prophet Definition:

“Those people who

all chosen by Allah to send His commandments to people"

4) Belief in the Finality of Prophethood:

Belief in the finality of Prophethood is a pre-requisite for entering the fold of Islam. It means Muhammad (PBUH) is the last Prophet and there will be no prophets after him. Quran has testified the fact in the following words.
 "Muhammad is the last of prophets" [Al-Quran].

5) Testimony of the Last Prophethood from the past scriptures:

(i) Christianity:

The important book of Christians - Isaiah - has testified the arrival of Last Prophet:

"The last Prophet will not know how to read and write."

→ Bahira Radi had foretold the fact that Muhammad (PBUH) will be the last Prophet.

(ii) Judaism:

Deuteronomy - the important book of Judaism - validates the arrival of last Prophet in the following words:

"The last Prophet will be from Arabia and he will be the brother of Bani Israel."

(iii) Budhism

Gospel of Budha - a highly praised ancient book of Budhism - quoted Budha when he said that there ~~will~~^{would} come a person who would be more merciful than me.

2) Characteristics of the Finality of Prophet hood:

(i) Universality:

Just as Islam is a universal Deen; Similarly, Holy Prophet is the source

of guidance for the whole
 universe. As it has
 been said by the Prophet:

"I'm the Last Prophet
 and you are the last
 Ummah." [Hadith]

(ii) Perfection:

The last Prophet is
 the epitome of Perfection.
 People from all over the
 world can seek guidance
 from his life.

(iii) Perfection of Sunnah:

Allah has not preserved
 the life of any prophet
 but Muhammad (PBUH) because
 he was the last Prophet.
 The life of Holy Prophet
 (Sunnah) is preserved in
 the form of Sih-i-Sita.

(iv) Awarded the Holy Place of Mehmood:

Allah has promised
 the Holy Prophet to bestow

the most important or
revered place of Mehmood.
As, it has been mentioned
in the Quran:

“Hopefully, Allah
will place you on the
holy place of Mehmood.” [Al-Qura

(v) Love of Prophet is essential part of Faith:

It is incumbent
upon all Muslims to
love the Holy Prophet.
It has been mentioned by
the Holy Prophet as:

“You can not be
a Muslim until you love
Holy Prophet (PBUH) more
than your children and
wealth.” [Hadith.

(vi) Annulment of the Previous Shari'ah:

Allah has made
all the other Shari'ahs
null and void. He enjoined
people to follow ^{only} the Shari'ah
of Holy Prophet.
“The one who select

religion other than Islam, will not be accepted and he will be at lost in the after-life." [Al-Quran].

3- Nature of Prophethood:

Allah had chosen people for prophethood. No body could acquire it by his own will. It has been mentioned in the book "Islam at a Glance", "Prophethood is not something that can be acquired by an effort. It is bestowed by Allah".

4- Evidence of the Doctrine of Prophethood from Quran:

Allah has said in the Quran:

"Muhammad is not the messenger of any of your men. But he is the seal of Prophets."

5, Importance of the Doctrine of Prophethood in the

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life of an individual and society:

(i) Ethical Guidance and Role Model:

Belief in the last Prophethood is important as it is the source of ethical guidance. Moreover, Holy Prophet is the best role model for humans. As it has been stated by Syed Qutb:

"In the ethical tapestry of Islam, the life of Holy Prophet is a guide for humanity in ethical and virtuous living."

(ii) Spiritual Enlightenment of individuals:

The teachings of Holy Prophet act as a light in the dark. As it has been mentioned in the Quran:

"Indeed there has come to you from Allah a light and a clear message" (Al-Quran)

(iii) Strengthening of Faith Through Acceptance:

Believe in the Doctrine of Prophethood helps in the strengthening of one's faith. Because people tend to follow Holy Prophet in their day to day life.

"Muhammad (PBUH) is the last Prophet" [Al-Quran].

(iv) Advocacy for Social Justice and Equity

Belief in the Doctrine of prophethood helps in the establishment of social justice and equality. It has been mentioned in the Quran:

"We have sent our messengers with signs, book and balance, so that the believers may stand forth in justice" [Al-Quran].

Conclusion:

In a nutshell, belief in the doctrine of prophethood is the pivotal part of the faith. The evidence of this doctrine can be found in the Quran and all other scriptures.

Therefore, it is incumbent upon Muslims and all humans to follow Holy Prophet in all aspects of life.
