

PROPHET MUHAMMAD (P.B.U.H)

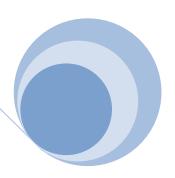
THE IDEAL EXAMPLE FOR ALL

delivered by

Imam Abdul Quddoos Al Azhari
at International Islamic Society of Hong Kong

on

16th March, 2010



Bismillah Alhamdu Lillah

Praise be to Allah, the Lord of the universe, Allah the Sole Creator of all that exists in heaven and earth.

He alone created the world with all its charm and fascination. He sent His Messengers and Prophets to guide the creation. He perfected this religion and completed His favor by sending down the last Messenger, Nabi Muhammad (s.a.w.) as mercy to the whole of humanity.

Peace and blessing of Allah upon the last Messenger of Allah, Who brought the final divine message and practical example, brought eternal salvation as a gift to the human race about whose practical example Rabbul Aalameen, the Lord of the universe says, "Wa Innaka La Ala Khuluqin Azeem" (you are on the greatest moral behavior).

Mr. Master of Ceremony's, distinguished guests, respected brothers and sisters it is indeed a great honor for me to be with you, to take part in the celebration of the Prophet's birthday anniversary 2010/1431. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the International Islamic Society of Hong Kong for giving me this opportunity to meet you and say a few words on the personality of Prophet Muhammad Rasulullah (s.a.w).

Al Quran describes Muhammad (s.a.w.) as being extraordinary in character and Muhammad (s.a.w.) himself says "I have been sent to make perfect the complete code of moral behavior".

It was his khuluq azeem that amazed the ordinary people of the day. It was his khuluq azeem that received enormous respect from the great rulers. It was his khuluq azeem that disarmed his enemies. It was his khuluq azeem that captured the hearts and minds of the ordinary people. It was his khuluq azeem that helped Islam to spread from all corner of the world in a short span of time. No religion,

civilization or any movement has ever witnessed such a rapid growth in such a short period of time.

Let us review and recall some of the outstanding characters of Nabi Muhammad (s.a.w.) which left such a lasting impression in the history of humanity.

"Sabaq Phir Pad Sadaqat Ka Adalat Ka Sujaatka Liya Jayega Tujsey Kaam Dunya Ki Imamat Ka."

Learn once again the lesson of Truthfulness and Justice and the lesson of Bravery, only then you will be called to lead the world once again.

Patience and forbearance are very important aspects of Nabi Muhammad (s.a.w.)'s Sira. In Mecca persecution multiplied and social boycott redoubled the suffering. The life became unbelievable and utterly unbearable for Nabi Muhammad s.a.w and his followers. He went to Taif to win some hearts. The episode of Taif illustrates his unshakable conviction and his determination in his mission, the whole body was bleeding from cruel treatment from people of Taif pelting with pebbles. The shoes were filled with the blood. Muhammad's complaint described his situation "Ya Allah I bring the complaint of myself to you for being weak and unimportant in the eyes of the people." After stating this fact, the Prophet, peace and blessings upon him, said something very interesting, enlightening and informative. He said: "If you are not wrath with me, then I will not worry or complain about what is happening". He, peace and blessings upon him, is teaching us how to be brave and courageous in the face of adversity. Then he says: "I seek refuge in your face which brings light to the Heavens and the Earth."

His answer to his uncle Abu Talib in the height of the unparalleled persecution that he faced shows his great conviction and commitment to his mission. "My dear uncle, Wallahi if they place the sun in my right hand and the moon in my left hand, I will not give up the message of Islam."

Justice is an important aspect to ensure peace in any society. Remember that famous statement when a tribal leader came asking forgiveness for his sister who had committed theft. "I swear by Allah if Muhammad's daughter Fatimah committed theft I will cut her hand.

In later days he became the sole master of whole Arabia but his lifestyle never changed. Aisha Siddiqui says, Muhammad's family had no barley bread for two consecutive days until he was taken to death.

You remember a Jew came to Muhammad (s.a.w) as his guest but he was an ill minded person. Rasulullah honored him and fed him and gave his bedding for him to sleep but that person intentionally made his bed najis and in the middle of the night he left the house and in a hurry he left his sword behind. In the morning when Nabi Muhammad (s.a.w.) noticed the bed, he felt sorry for him thinking that the food had caused him stomach problem, he started to clean the bed by himself. The Jew came to take the sword seeing the condition that Muhammad (s.a.w) himself had washed the bedding, he was utterly ashamed and speechless. On top of that Muhammad (s.a.w) asked him, I am very sorry that the food may have caused the stomach problem. Hearing that the Jew uttered the kalmia and became a Muslim.

Fateh Mecca illustrates the greatness of forgiveness of the Prophet, peace and blessings upon him. During Fatah Mecca Hind, wife of Abu Sofian-who had ripped open the chest of the Prophet's dear uncle Hamza and chewed his liver- she was standing there with fear putting a cloth on her face in order to secure immunity. She was never the less identified but the merciful messenger did not make any mention of her past deeds.

Hind was moved by the Prophet's great forbearance and forgiveness, she burst into spontaneous exclamation, "Oh Muhammad I could think of no place more detestable to me than this tent of yours, but now I feel that there is no place loveable more than this tent." Ikrima bin Abu Jahal, who was behind much

merciless persecution of Muslims was welcomed by the merciful messenger without any condition. Habbab bin Aswad who murdered Zainab, the pregnant daughter of Muhammad (s.a.w.) was unconditionally forgiven.

During the first thirteen years of Nabuwa, he and his followers endured the severest persecution and torture with dignity, courage and perseverance. In the end, the Prophet was commanded by Allah to leave Macca and make hijrah to Yathrib (Madina). Even after that his enemies still made efforts to oppose him. When the divine command to fight descended there eventuated several battles, the Prophet was a courageous and skilled warrior. He treated the prisoners of war with utmost hospitality giving them the same food and amenities as the Muslims. He set a great humanitarian example for generations of future Muslims to follow.

In his family life he was the most kind and gentle to his wives. He used to serve his family by helping his wives with their household chores. He would sweep the floor, milk the goat, patch his own garments, mend his own shoes and serve the food himself. He said: "The best of you is he who is kindest to his wife and I am the kindest to my wives".

He gave special honor to women, he advocated tenderness and leniency towards them, in the midst of a society that treated them like animals. He said that the one who supports the widow and the poor is like one who fights in the path of Allah. He again said, those who do not show mercy to our little ones, those who do not give respect to our elder ones and those who do not listen to our Aalim, such people are not of us.

The Prophet was very kind to children and loved them very dearly. Whenever he would pass a group of children he would tenderly pass his hand over their heads and sometimes even join in their games, he was very tender hearted and sweet tempered.

He was extremely respectful to the elderly and compassionate towards the disabled. He tended the sick by regularly visiting them and consoling them, he was very kind and compassionate. He would treat the Muslims as if they were his family members.

Prophet Muhammad was extremely modest. Abu Saeed Alkhudri reports that the Prophet was more modest than a virgin girl in her apartment. Whenever he disapproved of something that he saw, we could see it on his face.

Prophet Muhammad was so humble he stunned a huge assembly of his companions when he kissed the rough hand of the wood cutter.

His kindness extended not only to human beings but to animals as well. He remonstrated with those who ill treated their camels and he forbade the use of living birds as archery targets. He was very concerned that camels should neither be burdened with overload nor to be mistreated. He once reprimanded one of his companions who had taken some young birds from their nest and ordered him to return them to their mother.

The Prophet champions, the cause of the wronged and oppressed whether they were Muslim or non Muslim, he was graceful to his enemies and ultimately won their admiration. Many non Muslims left their belongings with him for safe keeping.

The Prophet always withheld himself from anger. He never struck anyone, or raised his hand against them out of personal reasons or revenge. If anyone ever treated him roughly he would return it with kindness. He used to say, come nearer to those who avoided you, forgive those who injured you and do good to those who did wrong to you.

Equity was an outstanding feature in everything that the Prophet did. He laid the foundation for a just and equitable society by establishing the institution of Shura that is coming to a decision based on the mutual consultation of all responsible

people involved. Administration is an important and essential aspect of the affairs of the Ummah and he thus showed the Muslims the most suitable way to implement the correct method of administration. The Prophet did not even place himself above this system of Shura.

Mr. Master of ceremony, distinguished guests, once Prophet said "Bada Al Islamu Gariban Wasaya Udu Gariban Fatuba Lill Guraba", that (Islam began in weakness and will again go to a situation of weakness). This is the full circle that we are experiencing today. And he said, Tuba Lil Ghuraba. Tuba for the weak scattered Muslims living under these difficult conditions. Tuba means goodness and it is also a special place in Jannat.

This is provided we hold on to our religion in this time of weakness and turbulences. When Muslims were weak in Mecca, the Prophet forbade them, he prevented them, he stopped them from even defending themselves against persecution. He told them to be patient and persevere. Today we are persecuted, our faith is attacked, our Prophet is abused in the media, just like he was abused in his life time. They attacked his integrity and honesty but our most beloved Prophet in the face of all this told us to be patient and to persevere and pray to Allah. He did not want a civil war to happen. He did not want terrorism, he did not want innocent people to ever be hurt, he wanted not only to save souls but also to save lives and to ensure a better quality of life for all living things. When he intended to migrate to the city of Yathrib, the first thing he did was to leave Ali r.a behind to return all the goods that were placed with him in trust to their rightful owners.

In Medina, he made sure that when others came to attack him that he would keep the fighting away from the civilians, away from the innocent women and children and the elderly. He did not want the innocent people to be hurt, he did not want collateral damage or friendly fire, he wanted to save lives, not to end them. When he came back to liberate Macca he forgave them from a position of power as we have seen earlier.

Remember when our Nabi went to Medina, the first thing he did was to make brothers between the migrants and the Ansars. Where do we see that today? We need our Masjids and Islamic Centers to create programs where we make brothers between new migrants and old ones, between those who have jobs and those who don't. I am not suggesting to share half of your belongings with them like the Sahaba did, all I am suggesting for this day and age is to help them find good jobs, help them find accommodation, help them learn about the services available for them. I know that many of you already do.

Yes, the life of our beloved Prophet provides many great examples for us in our lifetime of trials and tribulations in the 21st century. The most important lesson from it is to be patient and to rely on Allah and to strengthen our devotion to Allah and then to be united and that unity is Fard Ain, an individual obligation of every Muslim.

Respected brothers and sisters, as we have seen Nabi Muhammad s.a.w lived a full life, this presents before us all possible examples of goodness in all walks of life. He brought about a revelation in all areas of human conduct. He demonstrated the noblest way of living for all humanity. He was the ideal example for all people of all times. As a caller and a preacher, as a humanitarian, as a military man, as a family man and as a leader, in short a perfect example for every lawful walk of life is to be found in the example of the Prophet.

- If you are a preacher, orator, study the khutba and sermons of Prophet (s.a.w.)
- If you are a major, a general or a colonel, learn his strategy and bravery at Badar and many other battles.
- If you are a husband, look at Khadija's husband.
- If you are a father, learn from Fatima's father.

- It was his Khulk Azeem, personal character that transformed the most disorganized and weak people of Arabia into an honorable, successful and dynamic force.
- It was his personal outstanding character which transformed the sick and the superstitious people of Arabia to be the doctors and healers of the world.
- It was his personal character that transformed the ignorant and illiterate to become masters, teachers and scholars of the world.

Respected Brothers and Sisters, it is the Islam received by Prophet Muhammad, that we live, practice, demonstrate and convey.

- It is the Islam received by the Sahabah that spread out and developed a vast civilization and pioneered many inventions and scientific advancement.
- It is the same Islam we have today which was perfected and completed 1400 years ago.

Our Najat, our success, depends on how we follow the character of Nabi Muhammad s.a.w.

Muhammad Na Huwa Sayyed Na Fal Izzulana Li Ijabatihi Muhammad s.a.w is our leader, our salvation and honor depend on how we respond to his call.