

LOVING THE HOLY PROPHET MUHAMMAD (PEACE BE UPON HIM)

Culture of peace is a set of values, attitudes, traditions, modes of behavior and ways of life based on respect for life, and practice of non-violence through education and spiritual practices; full respect for all human rights; and, adopting the principles of tolerance, co-operation, cultural diversity, dialogue and understanding at all levels of society and among nations. In today's testing times that is filled with challenges and tribulations there is more than ever an urgent need to follow a role model who can help us establish peace, tolerance, and harmony among our inner selves and among today's global society with different backgrounds and cultures.

God Almighty has sent the Holy Prophets and Messengers (peace be upon them) such as Prophet Abraham, Prophet Jacob, Prophet Isaac, Prophet Moses, Prophet Jesus and finally Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon them all) to different nations to achieve the same purpose i.e. to recognize our Creator and seek His pleasure by serving humanity. We can receive this Divine solution and implement it in our lives only if we open up our hearts and minds to love, respect and honor of these pure personalities.

The Holy Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him), as a final Messenger, has taught us code and ethics of life through a set of instructions called, Islam (Peace), in the form of the Holy Quran and His (peace be upon him) noble character, that we should adopt in our lives. There are several verses of the Holy Quran and Sayings of the Holy Prophet (peace be upon him) about the necessity of Loving and respecting the Holy Prophets and specially the Holy Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him). As the Holy Quran says:

"And he speaks not of his own desire, That is not but the revelation that is revealed to him" [An-Najm:3-4]

Loving the Holy Prophet (peace be upon him) is our belief (*Iman*), in fact it is the core of our belief (*Iman*). The Holy Prophet (peace be upon him) has said, "No one among you can be a true Muslim (*Mu'min*) until he loves me more than his parents, children and anyone else."

In another Hadith the Holy Prophet (peace

be upon him) has said, "Teach your children three things: Loving their Master (peace be upon him), loving the family of the Holy Prophet (peace be upon him) and Recitation of the Holy Quran."

Allah's Love for the Holy Prophet (Peace be upon him):

It's not only that believers are instructed to Love the beloved Prophet (peace be upon him) but Allah (Most Glorified and Exalted) who is The Lord of the Universe has chosen the Holy Prophet (peace be upon him) as His beloved one. This is seen in various verses of the Holy Quran such as, in At-Tauba-61: "And those who hurt the Messenger, for them is the painful torment." Also, in Al-Fatha-10: "Those who swear allegiance to you, swear allegiance to Allah. The Hand of Allah is over their hands." Also as mentioned in An-Nisa-80: "Whosoever obeys the Messenger, has indeed obeyed Allah."

This way of expression of the love for the Holy Prophet (Peace be upon him) is not expressed anywhere else in Quran, that it's not said that whoever obeys Allah Almighty has obeyed the Holy Prophet (peace be upon him) but instead He (Most Glorified and Exalted) included His obedience into the obedience of the Holy Prophet (peace be upon him) and then has given good news for those who obey the Holy Prophet (peace be upon him), "O beloved! Say you, 'O people! If you love Allah, then follow me; Allah will love you and forgive your sins and Allah is Forgiving, Merciful."

Love of the Noble Companions (may Allah be pleased with them) for the Holy Prophet (peace be upon him):

In Sahih Bukhari it is narrated that once Hadhrat Umer (may Allah be pleased with him) said that he loved the Holy Prophet (peace be upon him) more than anything except his life. Then the Holy Prophet (peace be upon him) said, "By the Lord who has my life in His hands you cannot be true believer (*Mu'min*) unless you love me more than even your life." Then Hadhrat Umar (may Allah be pleased with him) said, "now I love you more than even my life."

Once a person came to the Holy Prophet (peace be upon him) and asked when would be the Day of Judgment. The Holy

Prophet (peace be upon him) replied to him, "What have you prepared for it?" He said, "Ya Rasool Allah (peace be upon him), I have not done much extra prayers and nor have given much charity. But yes, for sure, I love Allah Almighty and His Messenger, peace be upon him." Then, the Holy Prophet (peace be upon him) replied that "You will be with whom you love on the day of Judgment."

Animal's Love for the Holy Prophet (peace be upon him):

In an example of how animals used to love the Holy Prophet (peace be upon him), at the time of the Last Pilgrimage 100 camels were sacrificed and out of them 63 camels were slaughtered by the Holy Prophet (peace be upon him). When groups of 5 and 6 camels were brought forward, they each used to push one another extending their necks, eager to be sacrificed by the beloved Prophet (peace be upon him). Glory be to Allah, instead of fearing being slaughtered and running away, these animals wanted to benefit from the honor of being touched by the blessed hands of The Holy Prophet (peace be upon him).

Paying Respect, a pre-condition for Love:

Love for someone cannot be achieved without having the respect for that person in the heart. Allah The Exalted has taught us how to respect the beloved Prophet (peace be upon him).

In Al-Maida-12: "and believe in My Messengers and pay them respect." Also, mentioned in Al-Fat'h, "So you can believe in Allah Almighty and His Messenger (peace be upon him) and pay respect to His Messenger (peace be upon him)." In Al-Nur-63: "Make not the summoning of the Messenger among yourselves, like one calls the other among you." The ones that do not pay the proper respect to the beloved Prophet (peace be upon him) are the hypocrites as mentioned in Al-Munafiqoon-8: "whereas the honor is for Allah, and His Messenger and Muslims, but the hypocrites know not." These people may follow Islamic Law (*Shariah*) and apparently do all forms of religious and charity work but are rejected due to the sickness of their hearts that stops them from respecting the Holy

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Prophet (peace be upon him) and the ones that are associated with him (peace be upon him).

Respect by the Companions of the Holy Prophet (peace be upon him):

Now let us see how the Companions of the Holy Prophet (Peace be upon him) used to show respect. Hadhrat Usama (May Allah be pleased with him) narrates that I came to the gathering of the Holy Prophet (Peace be upon him) and saw that the companions of the Holy Prophet (peace be upon him) were sitting around him (peace be upon him) such that if there were birds perched on their heads, they would not even stir out of respect for that sitting.

Once Hadhrat Bilal (May Allah be pleased with him) brought out the water that was used by The Holy Prophet (peace be upon him) for ablution. The companions (May Allah be pleased with them) scrambled to get even a drop of that water and whoever did not get a drop of that blessed water touched the wet hands of the other companion and rubbed it on his face.

Hadhrat Ubaida (May Allah be pleased with him) used to say that having a blessed hair of the Holy Prophet (peace be upon him) is of much more value than the whole world.

Warnings for those who do not pay proper respect to the Holy Prophet (peace be upon him):

Allah (Most Glorified and Exalted) has given warnings to those who do not give proper respect to the Holy Prophet (peace be upon him). "O believers! Raise not your voices above the voice of the Communicator of unseen (the Prophet) and speak not aloud in presence of him as you shout to one another, lest your works become vain while you are unaware." [Al-Hujarat: 2] Also, it is mentioned in the Holy Quran that "Undoubtedly, those who annoy Allah and His Messenger, Allah's curse is upon them in the world and in the Hereafter and Allah has kept prepared for them a degrading torment." [Al-Ahzab: 57]

Hadhrat Ali (may Allah be pleased with him) narrates a Hadith about it, that, once the Holy Prophet (peace be upon him) holding his blessed hair in his hand, said, "whoever disrespects even a hair of mine, Heavens would be forbidden on him."

Examples of the affection of righteous ones (Saliheen) with the Holy Prophet (peace be upon him):

The personalities who loved the Holy Prophet (peace be upon him) and showed respect and honor just like they were in His

*If you are loyal to
Muhammad
(peace be upon him),
We are yours
This universe is nothing,
the Tablet and
the Pen are yours*

(Peace be upon him) presence, they have achieved success in this life and hereafter. A few such personalities are like the blessed light of the family of the Holy Prophet (peace be upon him), Hadhrat Imam Zain ul Abideen (May Allah be pleased with him) who, on his return from Karbala recited a Qaseeda:

"Ya Rahmatal LilAlameen Adrik LiZainil Abideen, Mahboosin Aidiz Zalimeena fi Maukibil Mutradham"

O Mercy of all the worlds, help Zainil Abideen who is confined and surrounded by the transgressors.

Similarly, Hadhrat Imam Abu Hanifa (May Allah be pleased with him) says in one of his Qaseeda:

"Ya Syed AsSadaate J'ituka Qasida, Arju Ridaka Wah-Tame BiHimaka"

O the Leader of the Leaders! I came to you with pure intention to give myself into your protection.

Hadhrat Imam Busairi (may Allah have mercy on him) says:

"Ya Akramal Khalqi Ma Li Mun Alooze Bihi, Siwaka 'inda Huloolil Hadithil-Amami"

O the most respected among all of the creation, there is no one except you that I can seek refuge in, in times of calamities.

Hadhrat Maulana Jami (may Allah have mercy on him) says:

"Zi Mahjoori bar amed jane alam, TarHam Ya Rasool Allah sallAllahu alayhi wa sallam! TarHam"

This world cannot live without you, O Prophet of Allah have mercy on us; have mercy on us.

Hadhrat Haji Imdadullah Sahib Mahaji Makki (may Allah have mercy on him) wrote:

"Jahaz Ummat Ka Haq Ne Kar Dia Hai Aap ke Haathon, Tum Ab Chaho Dubao Ya Taraao Ya Rasool Allah sallAllahu alayhi wa sallam"

Allah The Exalted has appointed you the captain of the ship of the *Ummah*, now, O Prophet of Allah, it's up to you that you let it sink or take it ashore.

This shows how the renowned scholars and Awliya Kiram (May Allah's Mercy bestow upon them) use to love the Holy Prophet (peace be upon him) and used to ask him for help and guidance which in real sense (*Haqiqah*) is from Allah Most Glorified and Exalted, and is according to the Hadith that, "Allah Almighty is the One Who gives and I (peace be upon him) am the one who distributes."

Also the great Sufi Saint and Poet Hadhrat Allama Iqbal (may Allah have Mercy on him) has said:

*Ki Muhammad se wafa toonay to ham teray hain
Ye jahan cheez hai kiya lauho qalam tere hain*

If you are loyal to Muhammad (peace be upon him), We are yours
This universe is nothing, the Tablet and the Pen are yours.

May Allah Most Glorified and Exalted give us capability (*taufeeq*) to understand His blessings and specially the biggest blessing i.e. the personality of the Holy Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him), so we can follow and spread the true message of peace just like our ancestors like Hadhrat Syedena Shaykh Abdul Qadir Jilani (May Allah be pleased with him), Hadhrat Data Ganj Baksh (may Allah have mercy on him), Hadhrat Khawaja Moinuddin Chishti (may Allah have mercy on him), Hadhrat Khawaja Naqshband (may Allah have mercy on him), Hadhrat Khawaja Suhurward (may Allah have mercy on him) and Hadhrat Syedena Imam Ahmed Kabir Rifai (may Allah have mercy on him) have done before and served humanity.

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