

## **One Year Has Already Passed**

قال صلى الله عليه وسلم: اللهم اهد دوسا. رواه البخاري ومسلم. وقال: اللهم اهد ثقيفا. رواه أحمد والترمذي. وقال: ... إن الله لم يبعثني طعانا ولا لعانا، ولكن بعثني داعيا ورحمة... اللهم اهد قومي فإنهم لا يعلمون. رواه البيهقي في شعب الإيمان.

“O my Lord, guide my people along the true path, as they are ignorant of the truth.”

Many biased historians and bigots in the media even today portray the Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) as a bloodthirsty, ruthless person with a big hareem. This could not be any farther away from the truth. The nobility of his character and the truthfulness of his mission is plain for all to see if one is prepared to face up to the facts with an open mind discarding all pre-conceived false notions.

Referring to Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) Allah (the Most High) says,

“You (stand) on an exalted standard of character.” (The Holy Quran, Chapter 68, Verse 4)

“You can indeed find in the Messenger of Allah a beautiful pattern (of conduct) for any one whose hope is in Allah and the Final Day, and who engages much in the praise of Allah.” (The Holy Quran, Chapter 33: 21)

To properly see Prophet Muhammad's true character and genuine nature, let us look at him through how he acted or reacted in different circumstances throughout his life.

- Once the Prophet was so badly stoned by his enemies that he was bleeding all over his body. This happened when he went to Taif, to call its people to Islam. Instead of listening to his words of wisdom, they set the street urchins upon him, who kept chasing him till nightfall. Even at that point, when he was utterly exhausted and bleeding from head to foot, all he said was: “O my Lord, guide my people along the true path, as they are ignorant of the truth.”
- Prophet Muhammad's own example was testified to by Anas Ibn Malik, who was the Prophet's housekeeper for ten years. He said that Muhammad never once rebuked him. “When I did something, he never questioned my manner of doing it; and when I did not do something, he never questioned my failure to do it. He was the most good-natured of all men.”
- While the Hudaibiah treaty was being drafted with the Makkans, the Makkans engaged in a number of extremely provocative acts. For instance, the agreement mentioned Prophet Muhammad's name as “Muhammad the Messenger of Allah.” They insisted that the phrase “the Messenger of Allah” be taken out and replaced by “son of Abdullah.” Muhammad accepted their unreasonable condition and deleted the appellation with his own hands. Similarly, they made the condition that if they could lay their hands on any Muslim, they would make him or her a hostage, but if the Muslims succeeded in detaining any non-Muslim, they would have to set him free. Muhammad even relented on this point.

- A Hadeeth recorded by Bukhari narrates the following: A funeral procession passed us and the Prophet stood up for it. We said, but Prophet of God, this is a funeral of a Jew. The Prophet responded, rise out of respect.
- The time came when Muhammad and his companions entered Makkah victorious and the Quraysh surrendered to them. On that glorious day, Muhammad (peace be upon him), once again, displayed the ultimate example of forgiveness and great when he had the opportunity to retaliate for the painful years of persecution and oppression in Makkah. Instead, he showed an outstanding ability to forgive and overlook. He simply pardoned them and forgave their past misdeeds. Thus, Makkah was conquered without a single drop of blood being shed.
- The Prophet's uncle, known in the Quran as Abu Lahab, threw stones at him and forced his sons to divorce their wives who were two of Muhammad's daughters. Abu Lahab's wife, apart from shouting profanities at him, used to tie bundles of firewood and thorns and throw them in Muhammad's path. Neighbors threw goat dung on his back while he prayed. In all cases Muhammad would never return abusive language, slander or ridicule any of them. He would invoke God for help and justice, and in many cases, even ask God to guide them to Islam.
- Muhammad (peace be upon him) once said: "A traveler who was thirsty saw a well on the way. He got inside the well and when he came out he saw a dog licking mud because of thirst. The man thought to himself that the dog should be as thirsty as he was and so he got into the well again, filled his leather sock with water and carried it out holding it with his teeth. And thus he quenched the dog's thirst. Allah was pleased with this act of kindness and pardoned his sins." The Companions asked, "O Messenger of Allah, is there recompense in the matter of beasts and wild animals also?" Muhammad replied: "There is recompense in regard to every creature that has a living heart."

These are very little glimpses from the life of Prophet Muhammad (peace and blessings be upon him) which show his truthfulness and compassion. His character reflected none but the Quran. He walked and talked the Quran, and was indeed the best example and role model for humans of all time. May God help us draw from his life and his character as best we can so we may become more patient, more trustworthy, and more forgiving; so we can become better human beings, better friends, better parents, better community servants, and better caretakers of God's creation. Ameen.