

Mercy to the Worlds and an Excellent Example

Prophet Muhammad

(Peace be upon him and his progeny)

Bismillahir Rahmaanir Raheem

(In the Name of God, the Beneficent, the Merciful)

"We have sent thee not, but as a mercy to the worlds." (Qur'an Chapter 21, verse 107)

"And most surely you (Prophet) conforms to sublime morality." (Qur'an Chapter 68, verse 4)

"You have an excellent example in the Messenger of God for anyone who seeks God and the last Day, and remembers God frequently." (Chapter 33, verse 21)

An illuminating Lamp. (33:46)

The Prophet Muhammad (p) brought the message of *Tawheed* (Oneness or Unity of God), the religion of Islam, and the word of Almighty God, the Qur'an. In this article some other examples of the mercy of Prophet Muhammad (p), which is actually a manifestation of the Mercy of God, will be mentioned. What is amazing is that the mercy that he brought will continue till the Day of Judgment and the fortunate ones will be in a blessed place in the life in the Hereafter.

First let us examine the life of the Prophet and see what we can learn from the examples he set.

He was forgiving to a fault.

- He visited a sick woman who used to throw garbage on him as passed by her home.
- He pardoned the prisoners of war after the Battle of Badr, and set them free after they fulfilled the conditions.
- He declared general amnesty after the conquest of Makkah, and forgave even his bitterest enemies.
- He even forgave the enemy who had mutilated the body of Hamza, his martyred uncle.
- He prayed for his kin who had insulted and abused him.

He had a kind disposition.

- He had a tender spot in his heart for orphans and children. He empathized with the poor and the destitute.
- He smiled when greeting people. Hadith, "Your smile for your brother is charity." (At-Tirmidhi, 1879)

He was an impartial judge.

- He judged impartially, with due consideration to all the parties involved. His decisions were based upon justice, compassion, and strictly upon divine laws. He did not permit nepotism, favoritism, or partisanship to interfere with justice. The rich, the poor, the lowly, the mighty, the privileged, and the downtrodden felt safe and secure under his administration.

He had inexhaustible patience.

- Whether dealing with Ummah or dealing with his family, his patience was remarkable. In one instant when he was bothered by family concerns, Allah intervened on his behalf and chastised some family members.¹
- He listened patiently to concerns by individuals in the community, whether it was a wise person or an ignorant person, he did not interrupt the speaker. He made people feel important.

He served selflessly.

Prophet Muhammad never asked any personal favors or recompense in return for his lifetime of services to the community. He was charitable and generous. No seeker returned empty handed from his door.

He was a family man.

Besides his duties as a Prophet, a teacher, a law giver, an administrator, a judge & jurist, a ruler, a commander and a strategist, he was a devoted family man and loved to play with the children.

It must be understood that the Prophet's mercy is not confined to this world's life alone, which is short in duration and full of struggles. His real mercy will manifest in the life in the Hereafter, the eternal life. In order to understand and benefit from his mercy, one needs to keep in mind the permanent life in the Hereafter.

- The Prophet (p) was the teacher of the book of God, the Qur'an, the living word of God, a light and guidance to mankind².
- Reciting the chapter of Unity (*Surah Ikhlās*, Chapter 112 of the Qur'an) three times is like reciting the whole Qur'an. (Hadith)
- Tasbeeh³ of Fatimah S.A. is the formula of Glorification of God. Reciting it after obligatory prayers (Salaat) is like performing 1000 optional Rakat of Salaat that are accepted.
- Performing Wudu (ritual purification) before retiring at night is like worshiping God all night
- Reciting Kalimah⁴ *Arbaa'* before retiring at night is like performing one Hajj and one Umrah (Hadith).
- Three optional fasts every month of the year, is like fasting the whole year⁵ (Hadith).
- Establishing Salatul Shab (Tahajjud) might gain for the believer the "*Maqaame Mahmood*" (Exalted station) in the Hereafter. (Qur'an)
- Observing the acts of worship during the Night of Qadr⁶ during the month of Ramadan is better than worship of a thousand months
- Sending peace and blessings on Prophets and Messengers (Anbiya and Mursaleen) is receiving their blessings
- Praying for the forgiveness of the believers⁷ is making them all happy.

¹ Qur'an 66, Verses 1-5 (Surah At-Tahreem)

² Recitation of the scripture in Arabic washes away the sins, and pondering on its meaning bestows knowledge and wisdom according to Imam Ai bi Husain A.S. in his Saturday supplication.

³ Allahu Akbar (God is the Greatest) 34 times. AlhamduLillah (Praise be to God) 33 times. SubhanAllah (Glory be to God) 33 times.

⁴ This is a formula of praising God that is highly recommended. It is "SubhanAllah AlhamduLillah wa Laa ilaaha illa laah wallaahu Akbar." The meaning is, Glory be to God, and Praise be to God, and there is no god but God, and God is the Greatest.

⁵ (Each optional Fast gives reward equal to ten Fasts. 3 fasts x10 = 30 each month= 360 in a year)

⁶ This night is in the last one third of the Fasting month of Ramadan. Spending the night in worship of God is spiritually highly rewarding.

- Mustahab (Optional) acts like *nawafil* (optional) Salaat, reciting the Qur'an, acts of charity etc., bring the believer close (Qurb) to Allah. The *wajibaat* (Obligatory acts) must be performed first.

God says: "Lo, God and His angels shower blessings on the Prophet (Muhammad). O' ye who believe, send blessings on him and salute him with worthy salutation" (Qur'an 33: 56)

We respond thus: *Allahumma Salli A'laa Muhammadin wa Aali Muhammad.*

(O' Allah, send blessings on Muhammad and his family)

- In the above verse, God and His angels exalt the Prophet, so do the believers in obedience to the command of God. This is a unique situation where God, His angels and the believers are saying the same thing. The reward from God for this is beyond human estimation.

The above are but a few examples of the exemplary morality and the exalted character of the Prophet, the bringer of Mercy of God to mankind.

It is important to note that the Prophet Muhammad (p) was beloved of Almighty God. God invited Muhammad to the high heavens during the "Night of Ascension" or the night of Mi'raaj⁸. God declared him "the Seal of the Prophets," meaning there will not come another prophet from God after Prophet Muhammad. The Prophet Muhammad (pbuh&p) is regarded as the most honored of all the prophets of God.

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⁷ *Allahumagh-firilil Mu'mineen wal Mu'minaat.* O' God grant forgiveness to the believers, the men and the women.

⁸ According to the traditions, in 621 A.D. during the night the Prophet was taken from Makkah to Aqsa mosques in Jerusalem by the Angel Gabriel, and then to the heavens. From there he ascended to the highest heaven, before the thrown of God, where even angels could not dare go. He had conversation with the Almighty God and received privileged knowledge from the Lord. He returned back the same night.