

Lesson 14: MUHAMMAD ﷺ : THE LAST MESSENGER

We have learned that Allah سبحانه وتعالى has sent many prophets and messengers in the past. All of them taught the message of Islam. Some of them received the books of Allah سبحانه وتعالى. However, after some time, the message was lost or corrupted. People started committing *Shirk* and *Kufr*. The prophets came to teach *Tawhid*, but their followers started worshipping them as gods, or sons of God, or even incarnations of God.

Finally, Allah سبحانه وتعالى decided to send His final prophet and messengers, Muhammad ﷺ, to all humanity for all times to come. Muhammad ﷺ was born in Makkah on 12 *Rabi al-Awwal*, 13 Before *Hijrah* (22 April 571 CE). At the age of forty, Allah سبحانه وتعالى chose him as His messenger and gave him the revelation of the Qur'an. He preached thirteen years in Makkah, but only a few Makkans accepted Islam. After thirteen years, he was invited to migrate (make *Hijrah*) to Madinah. Most of the people of Madinah accepted Islam and accepted him as their leader. For ten years, he struggled against the *Kuffar*, the *Munafiqun* and the Jews, who opposed and fought against him. Allah سبحانه وتعالى gave him a clear victory against His enemies and made Islam victorious.

Prophet Muhammad ﷺ taught the religion of Islam. It is the same religion which had been taught by all the prophets. The Islam taught by Rasulullah ﷺ completes the message brought by all the earlier prophets: Ibrahim عليه السلام, Musa عليه السلام, 'Isa عليه السلام. Allah سبحانه وتعالى has promised to preserve the purity of His message and make His *Din* (religion) victorious against all other ideologies.

While all the other prophets were sent primarily to their own people, Rasulullah ﷺ was sent for all humanity (*kaffatan li (a) n-Nas*). His message was full of mercy for all the worlds and all the creation, Allah سبحانه وتعالى named him *Rahmatun li (a) l-'Alamin*, (a Mercy for all humankind).

Allah **سبحانه وتعالى** gave him the most noble character. He was known as *Al-Amin* (the Trustworthy) and *As-Sadiq* (the Truthful). Even his enemies recognized the nobility of his life. The Qur’an says:

وَإِنَّكَ لَعَلَىٰ خُلُقٍ عَظِيمٍ ﴿٤﴾

You (O Muhammad) are given very high morals and manners.

(Al-Qalam 68:4)

Rasullullah **صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ** was sent as the best model for all human beings to follow. The Qur’an says:

لَقَدْ كَانَ لَكُمْ فِي رَسُولِ اللَّهِ أُسْوَةٌ حَسَنَةٌ

Indeed, in the Messenger of Allah you have a beautiful example.

(Al-Ahzab 33:21)

He practiced what he preached. Umm al-muminin ‘Aishah said,

“His morals were the Qur’an.” Rasulallah **صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ** personified in the practice everything he taught. His way of life and teachings are the *Sunnah* (traditions, way) for the ‘*Ummah* to follow. His teachings, his actions, and the actions that he approved are written and collected in many volumes. The written *Sunnah* is called *Hadith*. *Hadith* means a narration, story or incident. Before he passed away, he said:

I am leaving with you two things, if you will follow them you will never go astray; the book of Allah and my Sunnah.

(Transmitted by Muslim)

Rasulallah **صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ** struggled for the cause of Allah **سبحانه وتعالى** and brought us His message truthfully. He loved his ‘*Ummah* and asked Allah’s **سبحانه وتعالى**, forgiveness for its shortcoming. Allah **سبحانه وتعالى** has blessed him with the river *Kawthar* in *Jannah*. Rasulallah **صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ** would offer the water of *Kawthar* to his

'Ummah. Those who shall drink from it shall never go thirsty. On the Day of Judgement, he will be, with Allah's سبحانه وتعالى permission, the *Shafi'* (Intercessor) of his 'Ummah. He will plead to Allah سبحانه وتعالى to forgive their sins and admit them to *Jannah*. Allah سبحانه وتعالى in His Mercy, will accept the *Shafa'ah* of His beloved *Ras'ul* and honor his *Ummah* with *Jannah*.

Muslims love their prophet. They try to follow His *Sunnah*. They accept what he enjoined and reject what he forbade. The Muslims love his family, *ahl al-bait*, his *Sahabah* and respect his wives as their mothers. The Qur'an says:

النَّبِيُّ أَوْلَىٰ بِالْمُؤْمِنِينَ مِنْ أَنفُسِهِمْ وَأَزْوَاجُهُ أُمَّهَاتُهُمْ

The Prophet is closer to the believers than their own selves, and his wives are their mothers.

(Al- Ahzab 33:6)

Allah سبحانه وتعالى says about the messenger:

إِنَّ اللَّهَ وَمَلَائِكَتَهُ يُصَلُّونَ عَلَى النَّبِيِّ يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا صَلُّوا عَلَيْهِ وَسَلِّمُوا تَسْلِيمًا

Indeed, Allah and His angels send blessings on the Prophet. O believers send blessings on him, and salute him with all respect.

(Al-Ahzab 33:56)

Whenever we hear the name of Rasulallah صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ we must say:

صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ

May Allah's blessings and peace be upon him.