

THE PROPHET MUHAMMAD (Sallallahu 'Alayhi wa Sallam) OF PEACE AND GUIDANCE "AN ANALYTICAL STUDY OF HIS DIVERSE ROLES"

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ABSTRACT

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The life of Prophet Muhammad (Sallallahu 'Alayhi wa Sallam) stands as an exemplary model for leadership, social reform, and spiritual guidance. His various roles not only helped shape the world but also imparted enduring principles of justice, compassion, and community that are still relevant today. As a leader, individual, peacemaker and educator, the Prophet (Sallallahu 'Alayhi wa Sallam) demonstrated humility, compassion, and honesty, offering a timeless standard for personal conduct and ethical leadership. His teachings and actions laid the groundwork for a unified society, uniting diverse groups and promoting a spirit of brotherhood. This study explores the complex roles of the Prophet (Sallallahu 'Alayhi wa Sallam), from his daily humility to his love for God, compassion towards non-believers, and respect for animals. His courage and modesty, along with his approach to family life, further reveal the depth of his character. Additionally, his role as an educator is examined, highlighting his innovative methods such as storytelling, questioning, and fostering a positive learning environment. The Prophet's (Sallallahu 'Alayhi wa Sallam) balanced approach to theory and practice, along with his emphasis on lifelong learning, continues to inspire both Muslims and non-Muslims alike.

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INTRODUCTION

To understand the diverse roles of the Holy Prophet Muhammad (Sallallahu 'Alayhi wa Sallam), it is crucial to place his life in the socio-political and spiritual context of **7th-century Arabia**. His (Sallallahu 'Alayhi wa Sallam) rise as a leader, social reformer, and spiritual guide laid the foundations of one of the world's major religions. The Prophet's (Sallallahu 'Alayhi wa Sallam) multifaceted contributions transcend religious teachings, embodying principles of justice, compassion, and community. Through his **actions** and **words**, he established models for **ethical conduct** and **interpersonal** relations, fostering unity and brotherhood among diverse tribes and groups. This framework not only addressed the immediate concerns of his (Sallallahu 'Alayhi wa Sallam) followers but also left a lasting legacy that continues to influence millions today. Thus, a comprehensive analysis of the Prophet's diverse roles reveals the profound impact of his life and teachings, which remain relevant in contemporary discussions on morality, leadership, and social justice.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The method used in this research paper is descriptive as well as analytical.

FINDINGS

Overview of The Holy Prophet’s (Sallallahu ‘Alayhi wa Sallam) Significance in Islam in Light of His Multi-Faceted Roles

Prophet Muhammad (Sallallahu ‘Alayhi wa Sallam) is venerated not only as the **final messenger of Islam** but also as an exceptional individual whose life provides valuable lessons in personal conduct. His character, deeply rooted in his connection with Allah, exemplifies virtues such as humility, compassion, honesty, and patience. As a role model, he sets an **example** for both Muslims and non-Muslims, embodying the values that define a life of righteousness. This essay delves into the multifaceted roles of Prophet Muhammad (Sallallahu ‘Alayhi wa Sallam), drawing insights from the Quran and Hadith.

Here are some perspectives from non-Muslims regarding Prophet Muhammad (Sallallahu ‘Alayhi wa Sallam):

Karen Armstrong Noted

"Muhammad was a man of extraordinary compassion. His life is a testament to the necessity of empathy and understanding."
(Armstrong, 1006)

Michael Hart Said

"He was the only man in history who was supremely successful on both the religious and secular levels." (Hart, 1993)

Gustav Weil Remarkd

"Muhammad (Sallallahu ‘Alayhi wa Sallam) is a bright example for humanity and an example of morality." (Weil, 1914)

Similarly,

Alphonse de LaMartaine in 'Histoire de la Turquie' said

"If greatness of purpose, smallness of means, and astonishing results are the three criteria of human genius, who could dare compare any great man in history with Muhammad (Sallallahu ‘Alayhi wa Sallam)?" (La Martaine, 1923)

THE PROPHET MUHAMMAD (Sallallahu ‘Alayhi wa Sallam) AS AN INDIVIDUAL

Humility in Daily Life

One of the most remarkable qualities of the Prophet Muhammad (Sallallahu ‘Alayhi wa Sallam) was his **deep sense of humility**. Despite being chosen as the Messenger of Allah, he never considered himself **superior** to others.

He led a simple, modest life, often performing daily tasks himself, such as mending his own clothes, milking his goats, and assisting with household chores. This humility made him approachable, whether by his companions or ordinary people.

The Holy Quran (Furqan 25: 63) praises this attribute of humility, in following words:

"وَعِبَادُ الرَّحْمَنِ الَّذِينَ يَمْشُونَ عَلَى الْأَرْضِ هَوْنًا وَإِذَا خَاطَبَهُمُ الْجَاهِلُونَ قَالُوا سَلَامًا"

"And the servants of the Most Merciful are those who walk upon the earth gently, and when the ignorant address them [harshly], they respond with [words of] peace."

His personal attendant, Anas ibn Malik, narrated a beautiful example of the Prophet's (Sallallahu ‘Alayhi wa Sallam) humility:

((خَدَمْتُ رَسُولَ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ تِسْعَ سِنِينَ فَمَا أَعْلَمُهُ قَالَ لِي قَطُّ لِمَ فَعَلْتَ كَذَا وَكَذَا وَلَا عَابَ عَلَيَّ شَيْئًا قَطُّ.))

"I served the Prophet for ten years, and he never said to me, 'Uff' (a word of displeasure). He never blamed me for anything. If I made a mistake, he would suggest, 'Perhaps it would have been better if you had done this,' but he never criticized me." (Muslim, 2309)

THE PROPHET'S REACTION TO THE CLEANING LADY'S DEATH

It is narrated in Sahih Muslim on the authority of Abu Hurarira that:

((أَنَّ امْرَأَةً، سَوْدَاءَ كَانَتْ تَقُمُ الْمَسْجِدَ - أَوْ شَايَا - فَفَقَدَهَا رَسُولُ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ فَبَسَّأَلَ عَنْهَا - أَوْ عَنْهُ - فَقَالُوا مَاتَ . قَالَ " أَفَلَا كُنْتُمْ أَذُنْتُمُونِي " . قَالَ فَكَأَنَّهُمْ صَغَرُوا أَمْرَهَا - أَوْ أَمْرَهُ - فَقَالَ " ذُلُّونِي عَلَى قَبْرِهِ " . فَذَلُّوهُ فَصَلَّى عَلَيْهَا ثُمَّ قَالَ " إِنَّ هَذِهِ الْقُبُورَ مَمْلُوءَةٌ ظُلْمَةً عَلَى أَهْلِهَا وَإِنَّ اللَّهَ عَزَّوَجَلَّ يَنْوِزُهَا لَهُمْ بِصَلَاتِي عَلَيْهِمْ "))

"A dark-complexioned woman (or a youth) used to sweep the mosque. The Messenger of Allah (Sallallahu ‘Alayhi wa Sallam) missed her (or him) and inquired about her (or him). The people told him that she (or

he) had died. He asked why they did not inform him, and it appears as if they had treated her (or him) or her (or his) affairs as of little account. He (the Holy Prophet) said: Lead me to her (or his) grave. They led him to that place and he said prayer over her (or him) and then remarked: Verily, these graves are full of darkness for their dwellers. Verily, the Mighty and Glorious Allah illuminates them for their occupants by reason of my prayer over them."

They had buried her without informing him, considering her of lesser importance. The Prophet (Sallallahu 'Alayhi wa Sallam) was upset and asked to be shown her grave. He went there, prayed for her, and emphasized that no one should be overlooked, showing his deep **humility** and respect for all individuals, regardless of their status. (Muslim, 956) This example illustrates how the Prophet (Sallallahu 'Alayhi wa Sallam) embodied patience and humility, even in his personal dealings with those around him.

LOVE OF GOD

Although the Prophet (Sallallahu 'Alayhi wa Sallam) was the **chosen one**, he always maintained the utmost reverence and love for Allah. His entire life was dedicated to **serving and pleasing** his Creator. The Holy Quran (Anbiya 21: 107) confirms his special status and mission, stating:

"وَمَا أَرْسَلْنَاكَ إِلَّا رَحْمَةً لِّلْعَالَمِينَ"

"And We have not sent you, [O Muhammad], except as a mercy to the worlds."

This verse signifies the Prophet's **deep connection** to Allah and his unwavering **commitment** to his divine mission.

Praying Until His Feet Swelled

It is narrated in Sahih Bukhari that:

((إِنَّ كَانَ النَّبِيُّ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ لَيَقُومُ لِيُصَلِّيَ حَتَّى تَرْمُقَ قَدَمَاهُ أَوْ سَاقَاهُ، فَيَقَالَ لَهُ فَيَقُولُ " أَفَلَا أَكُونُ عَبْدًا شَكُورًا))

"The Prophet (Sallallahu 'Alayhi wa Sallam) used to stand (in the prayer) or pray till both his feet or legs swelled. He was asked why (he offered such an unbearable prayer) and he said, "should I not be a thankful slave."

This incident demonstrates his profound love and dedication to Allah, even when he had already been assured of divine forgiveness. (Bukhari, 1130)

COMPASSION FOR NON-BELIEVERS

The Prophet Muhammad (Sallallahu 'Alayhi wa Sallam) demonstrated **immense compassion**, not only for Muslims but for all of humanity. His (Sallallahu 'Alayhi wa Sallam) kindness extended to **non-believers**, reflecting the Quranic principle

لَا إِكْرَاهَ فِي الدِّينِ

"There shall be no compulsion in [acceptance of] the religion." (Baqarah 2: 256)

In Madina, the Prophet (Sallallahu 'Alayhi wa Sallam) created a harmonious society where Muslims and non-Muslims, including Jews, lived together peacefully. He warned against oppressing others, saying:

((وَاتَّقِ دَعْوَةَ الْمَظْلُومِ فَإِنَّهُ لَيْسَ بَيْنَهَا وَبَيْنَ اللَّهِ حِجَابٌ))

"Beware of the supplication of the oppressed, even if he is an unbeliever, for there is no barrier between it and Allah." (Riyadh As Saliheen, 208)

Forgiveness for the People of Ta'if

When Prophet Muhammad (Sallallahu 'Alayhi wa Sallam) visited the town of **Ta'if** to spread the message of Islam, its people rejected him and subjected him to humiliation, throwing stones at him until he bled. Despite this harsh treatment, when the Angel of the Mountains offered to destroy the town, the Prophet (Sallallahu 'Alayhi wa Sallam) refused and instead prayed for their guidance, saying,

"أَرْجُو أَنْ يُخْرِجَ اللَّهُ مِنْ أَصْلَابِهِمْ مَنْ يُعْبُدُ اللَّهَ وَحْدَهُ لَا يَشْرِكُ بِهِ شَيْئًا"

"Perhaps their descendants will be among those who worship Allah."

This incident highlights his mercy even toward those who mistreated him. (Bukhari, 3231) This commitment to justice and kindness, even towards those who did not follow Islam, underscores the Prophet's (Sallallahu 'Alayhi wa Sallam) universal compassion.

KINDNESS TOWARDS ANIMALS

The Prophet's (Sallallahu 'Alayhi wa Sallam) kindness was not limited to humans but extended to animals as well. He frequently emphasized the importance of treating animals with mercy. It is narrated by Abu Huraira

أَنَّ النَّبِيَّ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ قَالَ " بَيْنَا رَجُلٌ بِطَرِيقٍ، اشْتَدَّ عَلَيْهِ الْعَطَشُ فَوَجَدَ بِئْرًا فَتَرَلَّ فِيهَا فَشَرِبَ، ثُمَّ خَرَجَ، فَإِذَا كَلْبٌ يَلْهَثُ يَأْكُلُ التُّرَى مِنَ الْعَطَشِ، فَقَالَ الرَّجُلُ لَقَدْ بَلَغَ هَذَا الْكَلْبُ مِنَ الْعَطَشِ مِثْلَ الَّذِي كَانَ بَلَغَ مِنِّي، فَتَرَلَّ الْبُئْرَ، فَمَلَأَ خُفَّهُ مَاءً، فَسَقَى الْكَلْبَ، فَشَكَرَ اللَّهُ لَهُ، فَغَفَرَ لَهُ ". قَالُوا يَا رَسُولَ اللَّهِ وَإِنَّا لَنَافِي الْمَنَائِمِ لَأَجْرًا فَقَالَ " فِي كُلِّ ذَاتٍ كَبِيرٍ رَطْبَةٌ أَجْرٌ "

The Prophet (Sallallahu ‘Alayhi wa Sallam) said, "A man felt very thirsty while he was on the way, there he came across a well. He went down the well, quenched his thirst and came out. Meanwhile he saw a dog panting and licking mud because of excessive thirst. He said to himself, "This dog is suffering from thirst as I did." So, he went down the well again and filled his shoe with water and watered it. Allah thanked him for that deed and forgave him. The people said, "O Allah's Messenger (Sallallahu ‘Alayhi wa Sallam)! Is there a reward for us in serving the animals?" He replied: "Yes, there is a reward for serving any animate (living being)." (Bukhari, 2466)

Before Islam, the mistreatment of animals was common in Arab society. However, the Prophet (Sallallahu ‘Alayhi wa Sallam) advocated for their ethical treatment, urging his followers to be mindful of their well-being. He (Sallallahu ‘Alayhi wa Sallam) advised

((اتَّقُوا اللَّهَ فِي هَذِهِ الْبَهَائِمِ الْمَعْجَمَةِ فَارْكَبُوهَا وَكُلُواهَا صَالِحَةً))

“Fear Allah regarding these dumb animals. Ride them when they are in good condition and feed them when they are in good condition.” (Dawood, 2548)

COURAGE AND MODESTY

The Prophet Muhammad (Sallallahu ‘Alayhi wa Sallam) was known for his exceptional balance between courage and modesty—traits that may seem contradictory but were harmoniously embodied in him. His (Sallallahu ‘Alayhi wa Sallam) extreme modesty was evident in his behavior. It is reported by **Abu Sa’eed Khudri** that when faced with something inappropriate, the Prophet (Sallallahu ‘Alayhi wa Sallam) would blush like a maiden, indicating his sensitivity and refined nature.

At the same time, the Prophet (Sallallahu ‘Alayhi wa Sallam) was incredibly courageous. His (Sallallahu ‘Alayhi wa Sallam) cousin, **Ali ibn Abi Talib (RA)**, praised his bravery

((كُنَّا إِذَا احْمَرَ النَّبَأُ وَلَقِيَ الْقَوْمُ الْقَوْمَ اتَّقَيْنَا بِرَسُولِ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ فَمَا يَكُونُ مِنَّا أَحَدٌ أَذْنَى مِنَ الْقَوْمِ مِنْهُ))

"When the battle grew fierce, we would look for the Prophet (Sallallahu ‘Alayhi wa Sallam) to find refuge behind him. We found no one closing in with the enemy like the Prophet (Sallallahu ‘Alayhi wa Sallam)." (Musnad Ahmad, 1347)

This description of the Prophet (Sallallahu ‘Alayhi wa Sallam) leading the charge in the **Battle of Badr** highlights his unmatched bravery. His (Sallallahu ‘Alayhi wa Sallam) courage, coupled with his modesty, earned him respect and admiration among his followers, enhancing his leadership and inspiring confidence in those around him.

GENTLENESS, COURTESY, AND PATIENCE

The Prophet Muhammad (Sallallahu ‘Alayhi wa Sallam) was the epitome of gentleness and courtesy. His (Sallallahu ‘Alayhi wa Sallam) interactions with people were always marked by patience and respect. He (Sallallahu ‘Alayhi wa Sallam) frequently reminded his companions of the importance of good moral conduct, saying

((إِنَّ مِنْ أَحْسَنِكُمْ خُلُقًا))

“The best among you are those who have the best manners and character” (Bukhari, 6029)

Muhammad (Sallallahu ‘Alayhi wa Sallam) moral strength and success were acknowledged by the historian Edward Gibbon, who remarked that the greatest success of Muhammad's (Sallallahu ‘Alayhi wa Sallam) life was achieved solely through moral force, without the use of a sword. (Gibbon, 1870) This acknowledgment reflects the Prophet's unparalleled ability to inspire change and lead through his exceptional character.

FAMILY VALUES

The Prophet (Sallallahu ‘Alayhi wa Sallam) was a loving and caring family man. His treatment of his wives and children was a model of kindness, affection, and respect.

This profound sense of family responsibility set an example for future generations, emphasizing the importance of maintaining strong, loving relationships within the family.

Helping His Wives with Household Chores

Despite his busy life, the Prophet (Sallallahu ‘Alayhi wa Sallam) would help his wives with household tasks. It is narrated by Al Aswad that he Asked Hazrat Aisha

مَا كَانَ النَّبِيُّ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ يَصْنَعُ فِي بَيْتِهِ قَالَتْ كَانَ يَكُونُ فِي مِهْنَةِ أَهْلِهِ. تَغِي خِدْمَةَ أَهْلِهِ. فَإِذَا حَضَرَتِ الصَّلَاةُ خَرَجَ إِلَى الصَّلَاةِ.

"What did the Prophet (Sallallahu ‘Alayhi wa Sallam) use to do in his house?" She replied, He used to do household work. And when the time for prayer came, he would go out for prayer." (Bukhari, 676)

This incident shows the balance he maintained between his responsibilities as a leader and his role as a loving and considerate husband. The Holy Prophet Muhammad (Sallallahu 'Alayhi wa Sallam) remains the ultimate role model for individuals in all aspects of life. The Quran (Ahzab 33: 21) highlights his exceptional character

((لَقَدْ كَانَ لَكُمْ فِي رَسُولِ اللَّهِ أُسْوَةٌ حَسَنَةٌ لِّمَن كَانَ يَرْجُوا اللَّهَ
وَالْيَوْمَ الْآخِرَ وَذَكَرَ اللَّهَ كَثِيرًا))

"There has certainly been for you in the Messenger of Allah an excellent pattern."

Through His profound humility, love for God, compassion for all beings, and his balance of courage and modesty, the Prophet (Sallallahu 'Alayhi wa Sallam) continues to inspire people of all backgrounds. His (Sallallahu 'Alayhi wa Sallam) life teaches us timeless lessons in humility, justice, and compassion, serving as a guide for addressing the challenges of today's world.

ROLE OF HOLY PROPHET (Sallallahu 'Alayhi wa Sallam) AS AN EDUCATOR

Questioning and Engagement

One of the hallmarks of Prophet Muhammad's (Sallallahu 'Alayhi wa Sallam) **teaching style** was his encouragement of **active participation** through questioning. He (Sallallahu 'Alayhi wa Sallam) understood that meaningful learning requires students to be involved in the process (Brown, 2011). The Companions were urged to converse by the Prophet (Sallallahu 'Alayhi wa Sallam). The Prophet (Sallallahu 'Alayhi wa Sallam) was able to further captivate his Companions' attention and cultivate in them a drive to find solutions by challenging them. Consequently, this prompted them to engage in a process of thought. The Prophet (Sallallahu 'Alayhi wa Sallam) would clarify and explain when they were unable to respond or follow up with an answer. This ultimately resulted in the companions' learning having a longer-lasting effect.

Muawiya ibn Al-Hakam's Mistake in Prayer

Muawiya ibn Al-Hakam once spoke during prayer, a practice that was discouraged. Rather than reprimanding him, the Prophet (Sallallahu 'Alayhi wa Sallam) patiently explained the appropriate behavior during prayer. Muawiya later remarked,

"I have never seen a teacher, before him or after him, who taught me more gently."

This incident exemplifies how the Prophet (Sallallahu 'Alayhi wa Sallam) created an environment that encouraged learning through mistakes and questions.

Stories and Parables

The Prophet (Sallallahu 'Alayhi wa Sallam) frequently used stories and parables to convey deeper meanings and complex ideas in ways that were easily understandable to his audience. These stories often involved historical events, parables, or examples from daily life that made his lessons relatable and memorable. Providing examples is one of the finest ways to teach since people remember tales and examples better. Through these stories and instances, man can see the truth's face and more readily perceive it. When presented as a story, the material has greater mental weight and is retained for a longer period of time. "What would you say if there were a river in front of a man's house and he bathed in it five times a day, would he remain dirty?" is the metaphor the Prophet (Sallallahu 'Alayhi wa Sallam) used to emphasize the importance of the prayer. "No, no dirt would remain on that man," the people present retorted. The Prophet (Sallallahu 'Alayhi wa Sallam) responded to this by saying, "This is how the five daily prayers work. Through them, Allah (SWT) atones for sins (Armstrong, 2006).

The Story of the Cow

Once, the Prophet (Sallallahu 'Alayhi wa Sallam) narrated the story of a man who purchased a cow for sacrificial purposes. The story emphasized honesty and integrity, demonstrating how stories could convey ethical teachings. By incorporating stories into lessons, modern educators can make learning more engaging and relatable.

Group Learning and Collaboration

Prophet Muhammad (Sallallahu 'Alayhi wa Sallam) strongly encouraged group learning and collaboration. He (Sallallahu 'Alayhi wa Sallam) believed that education was a communal activity, and knowledge was to be shared. His (Sallallahu 'Alayhi wa Sallam) teaching circles, where he taught his companions together, fostered a sense of community and mutual support.

The Suffah of the Mosque

In Madina, a platform was built in the Prophet's Mosque known as the "Suffah," where those dedicated to learning stayed to receive education

directly from the Prophet (Sallallahu ‘Alayhi wa Sallam). This group-based setting allowed students to learn from the Prophet and from each other, promoting teamwork and collaboration in the pursuit of knowledge.

Balancing Theory and Practice

The Prophet (Sallallahu ‘Alayhi wa Sallam) taught his companions both the theory and practice of faith. His(Sallallahu ‘Alayhi wa Sallam) teachings were not limited to abstract concepts but included practical applications to ensure that his companions lived by the teachings of Islam.

Teaching Prayer Through Demonstration

The Prophet (Sallallahu ‘Alayhi wa Sallam) didn’t just tell his companions how to pray; he demonstrated it, showing them the correct movements and words. His(Sallallahu ‘Alayhi wa Sallam) famous saying underscores his method of balancing theory with practical, real-life demonstrations.

((وَصَلُّوا كَمَا رَأَيْتُمُونِي أُصَلِّي))

"Pray as you have seen me praying,"
(Bukhari, 631)

Education without Bias

Teachers frequently divide the strong students from the weak in classes across the globe. While the "smarter" pupils are given every chance to succeed, the later are assigned to less demanding classes that do little to develop the mind. Prophet Muhammad (Sallallahu ‘Alayhi wa Sallam) did not categorize students according to IQ or any other factor that divides people in society. (Ghazali, 1999). Similarly, one of the most revolutionary aspects of Prophet Muhammad’s (Sallallahu ‘Alayhi wa Sallam) educational approach was his emphasis on educating everyone, including women and the marginalized. At a time when education was largely reserved for men, the Prophet(Sallallahu ‘Alayhi wa Sallam) advocated for the right of women to learn. The Prophet (Sallallahu ‘Alayhi wa Sallam) set aside specific days to teach women. His(Sallallahu ‘Alayhi wa Sallam) wives, particularly Aisha (RA), played a significant role in educating women in matters of religion and daily life. This highlights his commitment to inclusive education, ensuring no one was left behind.

Lifelong Learning

Prophet Muhammad (Sallallahu ‘Alayhi wa Sallam) emphasized the importance of seeking knowledge throughout life. He (Sallallahu ‘Alayhi wa Sallam)

inspired his companions to continue learning regardless of their age or position in society.

The Prophet (Sallallahu ‘Alayhi wa Sallam) said
((طَلَبُ الْعِلْمِ فَرِيضَةٌ عَلَى كُلِّ مُسْلِمٍ وَوَاضِعُ الْعِلْمِ عِنْدَ غَيْرِ أَهْلِهِ
كَمُقَلِّدِ الْخَنَازِيرِ الْجَوْهَرِ وَاللُّؤْلُؤِ وَالذَّهَبِ.))

“Seeking knowledge is an obligation upon every Muslim.” (Ibn Maja 224)

This directive instilled a deep sense of duty among his companions, urging them to pursue education continuously. This lifelong learning approach encourages modern educators to foster a love for knowledge that extends beyond formal schooling. The educational approach of Prophet Muhammad (Sallallahu ‘Alayhi wa Sallam) offers timeless lessons for modern educators. His(Sallallahu ‘Alayhi wa Sallam) emphasis on engagement, storytelling, collaboration, and inclusivity—combined with his passion for lifelong learning—demonstrates that education is not just about transmitting information but about nurturing understanding, character, and community. By following his example, teachers today can foster environments where learners thrive academically and morally.

PROPHET MUHAMMAD (Sallallahu ‘Alayhi wa Sallam) AS A LEADER

Forgiveness and Tolerance

One of the key traits of Prophet Muhammad’s (Sallallahu ‘Alayhi wa Sallam) leadership was his remarkable capacity for forgiveness and tolerance. The Quran (Al Imran 3: 159) speaks of the importance of leniency and kindness in leadership, emphasizing that harshness would drive people away

فَبِمَا رَحْمَةٍ مِّنَ اللَّهِ لِنْتَ لَهُمْ وَلَوْ كُنْتَ فَظًّا غَلِيظَ الْقَلْبِ
لَانْفَضُّوا مِنْ حَوْلِكَ فَاعْفُ عَنْهُمْ وَاسْتَغْفِرْ لَهُمْ وَشَاوِرْهُمْ فِي
الْأَمْرِ فَإِذَا عَزَمْتَ فَتَوَكَّلْ عَلَى اللَّهِ إِنَّ اللَّهَ يُحِبُّ الْمُتَوَكِّلِينَ

“So, by mercy from Allah, [O Muhammad], you were lenient with them. And if you had been rude [in speech] and harsh in heart, they would have disbanded from about you”

This principle was demonstrated during the conquest of Makkah when the Prophet (Sallallahu ‘Alayhi wa Sallam) entered the city victorious after years of persecution by its people. Instead of seeking revenge, he (Sallallahu ‘Alayhi wa Sallam) forgave his enemies. This act of mercy stands as one of the most powerful examples of leadership rooted in forgiveness and tolerance, teaching that a true leader wins hearts through compassion, not coercion.

Firmness in Upholding Justice

While Prophet Muhammad (Sallallahu ‘Alayhi wa Sallam) was lenient and forgiving, he was also unwavering in upholding justice. He (Sallallahu ‘Alayhi wa Sallam) demonstrated that leadership requires a balance of mercy and firmness, particularly when it came to the application of the law. Justice was applied consistently, regardless of a person’s social status or relationship to the Prophet (Sallallahu ‘Alayhi wa Sallam). One well-known incident involved a noblewoman from the **Makhzum** tribe who was caught stealing. Some companions suggested that she be pardoned due to her high status, but the Prophet (Sallallahu ‘Alayhi wa Sallam) responded firmly

إِنَّمَا هَلَكَ مَنْ كَانَ قَبْلَكُمْ أَنَّهُمْ كَانُوا يُقِيمُونَ الْحَدَّ عَلَى الْوَضِيعِ،
وَيَتْرَكُونَ الشَّرِيفَ، وَالَّذِي نَفْسِي بِيَدِهِ لَوْ فَاطِمَةُ فَعَلَتْ ذَلِكَ
لَقَطَعْتُ يَدَهَا

"The people before you were destroyed because they used to inflict the legal punishments on the poor and forgive the rich. By Him in Whose Hand my soul is! If Fatimah (the daughter of Muhammad) did that (i.e., stole), I would cut off her hand" (Bukhari, 6787).

This incident exemplifies how the Prophet (Sallallahu ‘Alayhi wa Sallam) upheld justice, making it clear that no one was above the law. His (Sallallahu ‘Alayhi wa Sallam) commitment to justice, even in the face of difficult decisions, demonstrates the importance of fairness and equality in leadership.

Taking Advice and Consultation

A successful leader is one who recognizes the importance of collective decision-making. Prophet Muhammad (Sallallahu ‘Alayhi wa Sallam) often consulted his companions on matters of governance, military strategy, and community welfare. This practice is highlighted in the Quran

وَالَّذِينَ اسْتَجَابُوا لِرَبِّهِمْ وَأَقَامُوا الصَّلَاةَ وَأَمْرُهُمْ شُورَى بَيْنَهُمْ
وَمِمَّا رَزَقْنَاهُمْ يُنفِقُونَ

"And whose affair is [determined by] consultation among themselves" (Ash-Shura, 42:38).

One significant example of consultation occurred during the **Battle of Uhud** when the Prophet (Sallallahu ‘Alayhi wa Sallam) sought advice from his companions on whether they should fight within the city of Madina or go out to confront the enemy. Despite his personal preference to stay within the city, He (Sallallahu ‘Alayhi wa Sallam) followed the majority’s decision to fight outside, showing his respect for the collective will of the people (Mubarakpuri, 1996). This practice of **Shura** (consultation) fostered a sense of responsibility and ownership among the Prophet’s followers, building stronger bonds of trust between the leader and his community.

Reconciling Hearts and Removing Grudges

Prophet Muhammad (Sallallahu ‘Alayhi wa Sallam) was also a master at reconciling hearts and removing enmity between individuals and tribes. His (Sallallahu ‘Alayhi wa Sallam) leadership brought together warring tribes, such as the interaction with Safwan ibn Umayyah (Abu Sufiyan), a chief who had been a staunch opponent of Islam. Safwan harbored deep enmity toward the Prophet and even planned harm against him during the early days of Islam. However, after the conquest of Mecca, the Prophet (Sallallahu ‘Alayhi wa Sallam) offered Safwan a gesture of forgiveness and protection, despite his previous hostilities. This act of mercy profoundly impacted Safwan, softening his heart and ultimately leading him to accept Islam., as illustrated in the following Hadith

مثل المؤمنين في توادهم وتراحمهم وتعاطفهم، مثل الجسد إذا

اشتكى منه عضو تداعى له سائر الجسد بالسهر والحمى

"The believers, in their mutual kindness, compassion, and sympathy, are like one body: when one limb suffers, the whole body suffers" (Bukhari, 224).

His (Sallallahu ‘Alayhi wa Sallam) leadership approach emphasized that a united community is the foundation of a strong and just society.

Assignment of Tasks and Roles

Another key aspect of Prophet Muhammad’s (Sallallahu ‘Alayhi wa Sallam) leadership was his ability to recognize the strengths and talents of his companions and assign them tasks accordingly. He (Sallallahu ‘Alayhi wa Sallam) understood that effective leadership involves delegating responsibilities based on individual abilities.

For example, when it came to writing down the revelations:

- The Prophet (Sallallahu ‘Alayhi wa Sallam) assigned **Zaid ibn Thabit** due to his proficiency in **writing**.
- Similarly, **Khalid ibn al-Walid**, known for his military expertise, was given command of the **Muslim army**.

This delegation of roles ensured that each person’s unique talents were utilized to benefit the community.

Paying Attention to People and Appreciating Them

Compassion and attentiveness were hallmarks of Prophet Muhammad’s (Sallallahu ‘Alayhi wa Sallam) leadership. He (Sallallahu ‘Alayhi wa Sallam) was deeply concerned for the well-being of his companions and the larger community. He (Sallallahu ‘Alayhi wa Sallam) would visit the sick, console those in distress, and personally care for the needs of the vulnerable. His (Sallallahu ‘Alayhi wa Sallam) humility and service to others earned him the trust and loyalty of his followers.

One of the most touching **examples** of this occurred when a **young boy** who used to serve the Prophet (Sallallahu ‘Alayhi wa Sallam) lost his pet bird. The

Prophet (Sallallahu ‘Alayhi wa Sallam) visited the boy and consoled him, showing genuine care and affection for even the youngest members of his community (**Sahih al-Bukhari**).

This act of kindness teaches modern leaders that paying attention to the small details and showing appreciation to individual’s fosters loyalty and strengthens community bonds.

Prophet Muhammad (Sallallahu ‘Alayhi wa Sallam) set the highest standard of leadership through his empathy, wisdom, and dedication to justice. His (Sallallahu ‘Alayhi wa Sallam) life demonstrates that true leadership is not merely about authority but is rooted in compassion, patience, and the sincere desire to uplift and unify the community. His (Sallallahu ‘Alayhi wa Sallam) ability to forgive, reconcile hearts, and bring peace even in times of discord exemplifies a rare kind of moral strength and integrity (Watt, 1961).

The Qur’an highlights the Prophet’s (Sallallahu ‘Alayhi wa Sallam) unique leadership qualities, noting,

لَقَدْ كَانَ لَكُمْ فِي رَسُولِ اللَّهِ أُسْوَةٌ حَسَنَةٌ لِّمَن كَانَ يَرْجُوا اللَّهَ
وَالْيَوْمَ الْآخِرَ وَذَكَرَ اللَّهَ كَثِيرًا.

"Indeed, you have in the Messenger of Allah an excellent example for whoever hopes for the Meeting with Allah and the Last Day and remembers Allah often" (*Qur'an* 33:21).

HAZRAT MUHAMMAD (Sallallahu ‘Alayhi wa Sallam) AS A PEACE MAKER

Promoting Peace Between Tribes

One of the most significant aspects of Prophet Muhammad’s (Sallallahu ‘Alayhi wa Sallam) peacemaking efforts was his success in resolving tribal conflicts. Arabia, during his time, was plagued with **violent feuds** between tribes that often lasted for generations.

THE CHARTER OF MADINA: A HISTORIC PEACE TREATY

One of the most notable instances of his peacebuilding was the mediation between the Aws and Khazraj tribes in Madina. These two tribes had been at war for years, and tensions were high. After the Prophet (Sallallahu ‘Alayhi wa Sallam) migrated to Madina, he successfully reconciled the two tribes by forming the famous Charter of Madina (also known as the Constitution of Madina). This was an unprecedented peace treaty that established rights and duties for both Muslim and non-Muslim communities, ensuring mutual cooperation and peaceful coexistence (John L., 2016).

The success of the Charter of Madina demonstrated Prophet Muhammad’s (Sallallahu ‘Alayhi wa Sallam) skill in diplomacy and his commitment to

creating unity among diverse groups. This peace accords not only ended years of enmity but also laid the foundation for a strong, united Muslim community in Madina, which was vital for the early survival of Islam.

THE TREATY OF HUDAYBIYYAH

Another significant example of the Prophet’s (Sallallahu ‘Alayhi wa Sallam) peacemaking abilities was the Treaty of **Hudaybiyyah**. In 628AD, the Prophet (Sallallahu ‘Alayhi wa Sallam) and his companions attempted to perform the pilgrimage to **Makkah**, but they were prevented by the Quraysh tribe, who controlled the city. Instead of engaging in conflict, the Prophet (Sallallahu ‘Alayhi wa Sallam) negotiated a peace treaty with the Quraysh, known as the Treaty of Hudaybiyyah (Gibbon, 1870)

Though the terms of the treaty seemed unfavorable to the Muslims at first—such as a temporary ban on Muslims performing pilgrimage—the Prophet (Sallallahu ‘Alayhi wa Sallam) saw the long-term benefits of maintaining peace. This treaty ensured a decade of peace between the Muslims and the Quraysh, allowing Islam to spread peacefully across the Arabian Peninsula. This incident highlights the Prophet’s (Sallallahu ‘Alayhi wa Sallam) foresight and wisdom in opting for peaceful resolutions, even when faced with immediate challenges.

The Treaty of Hudaybiyyah is a classic example of how compromising and patience in negotiation can lead to greater long-term success. As the Quran mentions regarding this event

"إِنَّا فَتَحْنَا لَكَ فَتْحًا مُّبِينًا"

"Indeed, We have given you, [O Muhammad], a clear conquest" (Surah Al-Fath, 48:1).

THE CONQUEST OF MAKKAH

Perhaps one of the most striking instances of Prophet Muhammad’s (Sallallahu ‘Alayhi wa Sallam) commitment to peace and forgiveness was during the Conquest of Makkah in 630AD. After years of persecution by the Quraysh, the Prophet (Sallallahu ‘Alayhi wa Sallam) returned to Makkah with a large army. However, instead of seeking revenge, he entered the city peacefully and proclaimed a general amnesty for all the people of Makkah, including his former enemies. He (Sallallahu ‘Alayhi wa Sallam) asked the **Quraysh**, “What do you think I am going to do to you?” They replied, “You are a noble brother and the son of a noble brother.” To which the Prophet (Sallallahu ‘Alayhi wa Sallam) responded, “**Go, for you are free.**” (*Sahih Muslim*). This act of mercy and forgiveness not only secured the loyalty of the people of Makkah but also demonstrated that the Prophet’s (Sallallahu ‘Alayhi wa Sallam) ultimate goal was peace, not retribution.

This incident serves as a powerful reminder that true strength lies in the ability to forgive and that peace is the ultimate aim of any conflict resolution.

Peacemaking in Interpersonal Conflicts

Prophet Muhammad (Sallallahu ‘Alayhi wa Sallam) was not only a peacemaker in large-scale conflicts but also in smaller interpersonal disputes. He (Sallallahu ‘Alayhi wa Sallam) frequently intervened to resolve disagreements between individuals, always promoting forgiveness, understanding, and reconciliation.

A Dispute between two companions

One notable example involved a dispute between two companions, Abu Dharr and Bilal ibn Rabah. Abu Dharr had made a derogatory remark towards Bilal, and Bilal complained to the Prophet (Sallallahu ‘Alayhi wa Sallam). Rather than punishing Abu Dharr, the Prophet (Sallallahu ‘Alayhi wa Sallam) advised him to apologize and reconcile with Bilal. Abu Dharr immediately sought Bilal’s forgiveness and placed his head on the ground, asking Bilal to step on his head as a sign of his regret. Bilal forgave him, and peace was restored between the two companions. (Haykal, 1995).

Reconciliation with Non-Muslim Communities

Prophet Muhammad (Sallallahu ‘Alayhi wa Sallam) also played a significant role in promoting peaceful relations between Muslims and non-Muslims.

Treatment with the Christian community of Najran

One of the most important examples is his treaty with the **Christian community of Najran**. This treaty ensured that the Christian community would be able to practice their religion freely and be protected by the Muslim state in exchange for paying a **small tax** (Ramadan, 2007). The Prophet’s (Sallallahu ‘Alayhi wa Sallam) willingness to accommodate the religious practices of non-Muslims and guarantee their safety demonstrated his commitment to peaceful coexistence.

Treatment with Jewish tribes of Madina

Similarly, the Prophet’s (Sallallahu ‘Alayhi wa Sallam) interactions with the **Jewish tribes** of Madina show his dedication to fostering peace. Despite some of the conflicts that arose, the Prophet (Sallallahu ‘Alayhi wa Sallam) always sought diplomatic solutions and treated the Jewish tribes with fairness and justice as long as they abided by the terms of their agreements. These actions reflect the Quranic principle of maintaining peace with those who are not hostile

وَأَنْ جَنَحُوا لِلسَّلَامِ فَاجْنَحْ لَهَا وَتَوَكَّلْ عَلَى اللَّهِ إِنَّهُ هُوَ السَّمِيعُ الْعَلِيمُ

"And if they incline to peace, then incline to it [also] and rely upon Allah" (Surah Al-Anfal, 8:61).

Conclusion

Hazrat Muhammad (Sallallahu ‘Alayhi wa Sallam) stands as a monumental figure in the history of peace

and reconciliation. His (Sallallahu ‘Alayhi wa Sallam) life and teachings exemplify the profound principles of compassion, justice, and forgiveness. Throughout his mission, he emphasized the importance of resolving conflicts through dialogue and understanding rather than violence. The treaties he established, such as the Treaty of Hudaibiyyah, demonstrated his strategic acumen in promoting peace while maintaining the dignity and rights of all parties involved.

The life of Prophet Muhammad (Sallallahu ‘Alayhi wa Sallam) provides timeless lessons for individuals and communities. As a leader, educator, and moral guide, he exemplified values such as compassion, justice, and resilience. His (Sallallahu ‘Alayhi wa Sallam) teachings transcend religious, ethnic, and social boundaries, offering insights for modern leadership and community-building. His enduring legacy continues to guide millions, contributing to a more just and peaceful world.

DECLARATION OF COMPETING INTEREST

All authors declare no competing interests.

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