

Prophetic Character

PodSeries - Vol 20



Achieve Noble Character

Prophetic Character

PodSeries, Volume 20

ShaykhPod Books

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PROPHETIC CHARACTER

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All praises are for Allah, the Exalted, Lord of the worlds, who has given us the inspiration, opportunity and strength to complete this volume. Blessings and peace be upon the Holy Prophet Muhammad whose path has been chosen by Allah, the Exalted, for the salvation of mankind.

We would like to express our deepest appreciation to the entire ShaykhPod family, especially our little star, Yusuf, whose continued support and advice has inspired the development of ShaykhPod Books.

We pray that Allah, the Exalted, completes His favour on us and accepts each letter of this book in His august court and allows it to testify on our behalf on the Last Day.

All praise to Allah, the Exalted, Lord of the worlds and endless blessings and peace be upon the Holy Prophet Muhammad, on his blessed Household and Companions, may Allah be pleased with them all.

Compiler's Notes

We have tried diligently to do justice in this volume however if there are any short falls found then the compiler is personally and solely responsible for them.

We accept the possibility of faults and shortcomings in an effort to complete such a difficult task. We might have unconsciously stumbled and committed errors for which we ask for indulgence and forgiveness of our readers and the drawing of our attention thereto will be appreciated. We earnestly invite constructive suggestions which can be made to ShaykhPod.Books@gmail.com.

Introduction

As good character will be the heaviest thing in the Scales of Judgement Day it is vital for all muslims to adopt it. This has been confirmed in a Hadith found in Jami At Tirmidhi, number 2003. In fact, the Holy Prophet Muhammad, peace and blessings be upon him, once confirmed that he was sent by Allah, the Exalted, to perfect good character. This is confirmed in a Hadith found in Imam Bukhari's, Adab Al Mufrad, number 273. Even though, the Holy Prophet Muhammad, peace and blessings be upon him, was blessed with countless virtues and favours the one which Allah, the Exalted, directly complemented was His noble character. Chapter 68 Al Qalam, verse 4:

“And indeed, you are of a great moral character.”

A Hadith which summarises the blessed character of the Holy Prophet Muhammad, peace and blessings be upon him, is found in Sunan Abu Dawud, number 1342. It advises that his character was the Holy Quran. This means the Holy Prophet Muhammad, peace and blessings be upon him, adopted all the good characteristics mentioned in the Holy Quran and avoided all the evil characteristics mentioned in it. There was no good quality but he acted on it in the highest possible way and there is no evil characteristic which he did not avoid to the utmost. The Holy Prophet Muhammad, peace and blessings be upon him, fulfilled all the commands of the Holy Quran and avoided all its prohibitions.

Therefore, this book will directly mention the noble characteristics of the Holy Prophet Muhammad, peace and blessings be upon him, so that muslims can strive to adopt them as adopting his noble character is not possible without knowing them.

Prophetic Character

A Hadith found in Shama'il E Tirmidhi, number 215, mentions the following characteristics. The Holy Prophet Muhammad, peace and blessings be upon him, always seemed to be worried as he spent much time pondering over the hereafter and the fate of his followers. He was always deep in thought. Because of this he never seemed fully relaxed. When he spoke he spoke clearly and slowly so he could easily be understood. He spoke concisely meaning, his few words contained an ocean's worth of knowledge. In fact, this was one of the miracles Allah, the Exalted, gifted him. This is confirmed in a Hadith found in Sahih Muslim, number 1167. The Holy Prophet Muhammad, peace and blessings be upon him, was not short tempered nor did he insult or disgrace others. He was always grateful for all the blessings of Allah, the Exalted, even if they appeared small. He never criticized food. He was never angered over worldly things. But he was greatly angered when the limits of Allah, the Exalted, were crossed but even then he always remained just and merciful. The laugh of the Holy Prophet Muhammad, peace and blessings be upon him, was a smile.

In a Hadith found in Shama'il E Tirmidhi, number 227, the Holy Prophet Muhammad, peace and blessings be upon him, confirmed that he sometimes joked but always spoke the truth. Unfortunately, some muslims seem to believe that it is acceptable to tell small lies which are termed white lies. But this is not true. All lies must be avoided as the Holy Quran has cursed those who lie. Chapter 3 Alee Imran, verse 61:

“...and invoke the curse of Allah upon the liars [among us].”

In fact, in a Hadith found in Jami At Tirmidhi, number 2315, the Holy Prophet Muhammad, peace and blessings be upon him, declared three curses for the one who lies while joking. If this is the case for lying while joking can one imagine the consequences of lying while deceiving others? The one

who does not lie even when joking has been promised a castle in the middle of Paradise. This is confirmed in a Hadith found in Sunan Abu Dawud, number 4800.

Part of the noble character of the Holy Prophet Muhammad, peace and blessings be upon him, was his zeal for worshipping Allah, the Exalted. For example, a Hadith found in Sahih Muslim, number 7124, advises that the Holy Prophet Muhammad, peace and blessings be upon him, used to offer such extensive voluntary prayers at night that his blessed feet would become swollen. When questioned about this he simply replied that he desired to be a grateful servant. Even though, such ardent worship is not expected from muslims none the less each person should strive according to their own capacity to prove their gratitude to Allah, the Exalted. This is best achieved by using every blessing such as physical strength according to the teachings of Islam.

The great humility of the Holy Prophet Muhammad, peace and blessings be upon him, is very well known. It is a key characteristic of true servanthood and the opposite of it namely, pride, will be a cause of one entering Hell even if they only possess an atom's worth of it. This is confirmed in a Hadith found in Sahih Muslim, number 265. The Holy Prophet Muhammad, peace and blessings be upon him, demonstrated humility throughout his blessed life. For example, a Hadith found in Shama'il E Tirmidhi, number 315, advises that he visited the sick irrespective of if they were poor or not. He attended funerals and accepted the invitation of all especially, the poor. Throughout history these characteristics have always been looked down upon by those who possess pride. But Islam teaches muslims to fulfil these duties and others as they can become a cause of them entering Paradise. This is advised in a Hadith found in Sahih Muslim, number 2374.

A lengthy Hadith found in Shama'il E Tirmidhi, number 319, highlights the humility, and simplicity of the Holy Prophet Muhammad, peace and blessings be upon him. One should bear in mind simplicity is a part of faith according

to a Hadith found in Sunan Ibn Majah, number 4118. When the Holy Prophet Muhammad, peace and blessings be upon him, was at home he split his time into three portions. The first was dedicated to the worship of Allah, the Exalted. The second was dedicated to fulfilling the rights of his family members. And the final portion was for himself meaning, for rest. This last part he split into two and dedicated half of it to the general public and their needs. The Holy Prophet Muhammad, peace and blessings be upon him, always fulfilled the needs of the people even if it put himself in difficulty. He would always talk to people according to their level of knowledge and only discuss things which would benefit people. Whenever people gathered with the Holy Prophet Muhammad, peace and blessings be upon him, only beneficial things were discussed and all avoided vain talk. People always departed from his gatherings learning something new which benefited them. The Holy Prophet Muhammad, peace and blessings be upon him, only uttered words which were useful and necessary and disliked vain and pointless talk. Whoever visited him felt at ease and welcomed. The Holy Prophet Muhammad, peace and blessings be upon him, always showed respect to all and always avoided harming others in any way. The Holy Prophet Muhammad, peace and blessings be upon him, was always concerned about the affairs of others and strived to rectify their problems. He praised good deeds and encouraged them. He explained the negative effects of bad things and strived to remove them. He followed the middle path avoiding excessive behaviour and laziness in order to set a perfect example for mankind. The best person in the sight of the Holy Prophet Muhammad, peace and blessings be upon him, was the one who desired good for others and strived in helping them. The Holy Prophet Muhammad, peace and blessings be upon him, began and ended his conversations and gatherings by remembering Allah, the Exalted. When he attended a gathering he sat wherever there was space and never caused an inconvenience to others. But wherever he sat it became the head and focus of the gathering. He always fulfilled the rights of those he met and sat with. Each person believed that the Holy Prophet Muhammad, peace and blessings be upon him, honoured them the most. The Holy Prophet Muhammad, peace and blessings be upon him, would only leave a conversation when the other person's request was fulfilled to their satisfaction. He always fulfilled the needs of others. He always treated people with cheerfulness. All people were equal in his sight as far as their rights were concerned meaning, he did not give priority to some over others

for worldly reasons. His gatherings were about beneficial knowledge, modesty, patience and truthfulness. All were honoured and no one was embarrassed in these gatherings. He covered the faults of others and pointed out mistakes without naming people directly. One was only seen to have more virtue in his gatherings if they feared Allah, the Exalted, more than others. The young were shown mercy and love by him. The poor were treated kindly and their needs were fulfilled. Strangers and travellers were always taken care of by him.

A Hadith found in Jami At Tirmidhi, number 2015, advises that the Companion, Anas Bin Malik, may Allah be pleased with him, served the Holy Prophet Muhammad, peace and blessings be upon him, for ten years and in this time the Holy Prophet Muhammad, peace and blessings be upon him, never got angry with him if he failed to do a task he set him.

The wife of the Holy Prophet Muhammad, peace and blessings be upon him, and the mother of the believers, Aisha, may Allah be pleased with her, advised that the Holy Prophet Muhammad, peace and blessings be upon him, never spoke indecently nor did he use foul language nor did he speak loudly. Whenever he was offended by others he did not take revenge instead he forgave and overlooked. This is confirmed in a Hadith found in Shama'il E Tirmidhi, number 330.

The Holy Prophet Muhammad, peace and blessings be upon him, never struck a woman, a child or a male civilian. The only time he fought was for the sake of Allah, the Exalted, in self-defence against Male soldiers. This is advised in a Hadith found in Sahih Muslim, number 6050.

A lengthy Hadith found in Shama'il E Tirmidhi, number 334, discusses some of the blessed characteristics of the Holy Prophet Muhammad, peace and blessings be upon him. He was always cheerful with people and easy mannered. He often smiled. He was very soft natured. He never spoke

harshly to others nor did he possess a harsh heart. He never uttered vulgar or disrespectful words. He never sought the faults of others. He never criticised things nor did he over praise things. He rarely joked but never exceeded the limits. He was not stingy. If he disagreed with someone's wish he never disheartened them when explaining the better choice to them. He completely kept away from three things: from arguing with others, pride and vain talk. He did not dishonour or insult others nor seek the faults of others and only spoke about beneficial things. The Holy Prophet Muhammad, peace and blessings be upon him, always remained patient in the face of abuse and the harshness of others. He did not interrupt people when they were speaking.

A Hadith found in Shama'il E Tirmidhi, number 335, mentions the extreme generous nature of the Holy Prophet Muhammad, peace and blessings be upon him. Whenever anyone requested something beneficial from the Holy Prophet Muhammad, peace and blessings be upon him, he never denied them.

He was so generous that as mentioned in a Hadith found in Shama'il E Tirmidhi, number 337, he never stored any provisions for himself for the next day as he always gave it away in charity.

His generosity reached such heights that even when he possessed nothing to give to others he would advise the asker to take anything from the local market and tell the merchant that the Holy Prophet Muhammad, peace and blessings be upon him, will pay for the thing after. This is confirmed in a Hadith found in Shama'il E Tirmidhi, number 338.

The Holy Prophet Muhammad, peace and blessings be upon him, always repaid others for their acts of kindness and gifts. A Hadith found in Shama'il E Tirmidhi, number 339, mentions that once the Holy Prophet Muhammad, peace and blessings be upon him, was given a tray of fruits as a gift. In response the Holy Prophet Muhammad, peace and blessings be upon him, gave that person a handful of jewellery.

In a Hadith found in Jami At Tirmidhi, number 2472, the Holy Prophet Muhammad, peace and blessings be upon him, once declared that no one had been more terrorized for the sake of Allah, the Exalted, than him. He was subjected to such difficulties that for thirty days he could only obtain a few morsels of food. In fact, months used to pass and nothing would be cooked in the house of the Holy Prophet Muhammad, peace and blessings be upon him. He and his family would sustain themselves on water and date fruits. This is confirmed in a Hadith found in Sahih Bukhari, number 2567. This does not mean one should not eat. But Muslims should firstly appreciate what they have. Secondly, they should enjoy the material world within the limits of Islam by avoiding extravagance, waste and excessiveness.

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