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OUR PROPHET MUHAMMAD

صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ

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بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

In the Name of Allâh
the Most Gracious, the Most Merciful

“Indeed in the Messenger of Allâh (Muhammad ﷺ)
you have a good example to follow for him
who hopes for (the Meeting with) Allâh
and the Last Day, and remembers
Allâh much.” (V. 33:21)

Publishers Note

We praise Allâh and give Him thanks. We at Darussalam are always very pleased to publish any authentic book about our Prophet ﷺ. This present booklet is an excerpt from one of my favorite books about the Prophet Muhammad ﷺ.

Our business is information, knowledge, and wisdom. People read books for these reasons. If you only have information and knowledge about one human being in your life, knowing about the Prophet Muhammad ﷺ is the most beneficial. Everything that he did was beneficial. Everything he said was beneficial. Everything he showed his Companions and the rest of the world was beneficial. No one's life was studied closer and in more detail than his. He allowed his Companions to pose any question they had. He let his worship of God to be the subject of study. He let his private life, his family life and his business dealings be the subject of study. He let every aspect of his life even his tears be the subject of study. There is no figure in history whose life public and personal is so well documented by eyewitness reports. Allâh told him that he was to be an example and he submitted willingly to this.

If you are a student of life don't miss this subject. The history of the last 1,400 years is replete with great statesmen, scholars, scientists, military leaders, and peacemakers, all who have attributed their success to the teachings of this man. The people of the world with their innumerable experiences needed as a guideline an example that was pure and unpolluted. The lives of the great figures of our past Moses and Jesus were not documented to the extent that an average man could draw on their examples to satisfy his practical every day needs. From the sublime to the mundane, he showed us how to live and how to make the most out of life.

He was a man whose archenemies, those who plotted to assassinate him and eventually died fighting him, stated that they knew he was not a liar and was the most trustworthy among them. They held him in the highest respect, yet their vested interests and their pride did not allow them to follow him. They offered to make him their king, they promised him wealth greater than any one among them had, if he stopped his mission and allowed them to continue as leaders, of what he knew was a corrupt and oppressive society. His refusal to compromise the truth for personal benefit is just one of a multitude of examples we have to continuously draw upon. Many of his staunchest enemies, who swore to kill him, later became his most loyal Companions.

He was of such an evolved spiritual elevation that while in his company everyone could perceive an enhancing of their own state. Some of his Companions even doubted their own sincerity because they were not able to maintain their same condition when they left his presence. The Prophet Muhammad ﷺ instructed those who were with him on the pilgrimage to tell his message to those who were not present because they may grasp it better than those who were actually present. We at Darussalam continue to pass on this message and we pray that those who read it get the continuous benefit that this message contains.

Abdul Malik Mujahid
General Manager
Darussalam

Preface

Allâh ﷻ said:

“Indeed in the Messenger of Allâh (Muhammad ﷺ) you have an excellent example to follow.” (33:21)

Our Prophet Muhammad ﷺ was born on Monday, on the ninth of lunar month Rabi'-ul-Awwal in the year 570 or 571 AD, fifty-five days after Abrahah's invasion on Makkah.

The women of the Banu Bakr went to Makkah to look for suckling babies that the mothers of the city might wish to have nursed in a healthier climate. Halimah, who would become the foster mother of Muhammad ﷺ, was among them. She describes the difficulties of that year:

“It was a year of drought, we had nothing. I was riding on a she-ass. We also had a she-camel, but she didn't give even a drop of milk. My breasts were dry too. My hungry baby cried the whole night. In this condition we traveled bearing the pangs of hunger. I rode along on my weak donkey. Its slow progress kept us behind the others, until we reached Makkah.

“There was no woman among us who did not refuse the Messenger of Allâh when he was offered to us, because he was an orphan. We expected to receive a handsome reward from the children's fathers, so fearing the loss of this reward we rejected him.

“Finally, there remained no woman without a suckling except myself. When it was time for us to return, I said to my husband, ‘I hate to go home to our people without a suckling. I really would like to take that orphan.’ As soon as I took him to my bosom, milk started to ooze from my breasts. He and his foster brother, my son, sucked till they were satisfied. My husband went to

check on our she-camel and to his surprise she had milk. We all were very happy that night. After I mounted my she-ass taking Muhammad with me it went at such a stride that none of the other donkeys could overtake it. The others wondered at its pace and asked, 'Is that the same animal which you came with?' 'Yes, the very same.' They said that it had become an admirable beast."

Muhammad ﷺ grew up in his foster father's tent, in the highland region of Tâ'if. At the age of four, Muhammad ﷺ was brought back to Makkah and for the next two years he lived with his mother Âminah. When he was six years old, his mother and her maid took him to Yathrib (Al-Madinah) to spend some time there. As they were returning to Makkah through the desert, at a place called Abwa', Muhammad's mother Âminah suddenly died. His mother's maid brought him home and gave him into the care of his grandfather – Abdul-Muttalib. After two years, he too died. His uncle Abu Tâlib then brought up Muhammad ﷺ.

The Prophet ﷺ became a young man and Allâh protected him from the loose behavior of the pagans. From youth he emerged into manhood, people began to admire his handsome appearance, his fearless look and the grace of his fine manners. He was brilliant in repartee, truthful in every matter, and sincere in the smallest details of life.

His cousin Ali and others have described Muhammad's appearance:

"He was neither tall nor short, but of medium height common to his people. His shoulders were broad, his chest well developed and his waist slender. His skin was white tinged with red. There was a glow about it that caused his Companions to compare it to the pearly light

of the moon or the glow of silver. He was not fat, not round-faced, his forehead was high, his nose straight, his neck long. His eyes were large, black and long-lashed. His hands and feet were finely shaped. He walked rapidly and lightly, with long strides. His clothing generally consisted of two pieces of cloth, one of which he wrapped around his waist, while the other called *Rid?*, was thrown across his shoulders like a shawl."

Prophet Muhammad ﷺ was unlettered and never learned to read or write, even after receiving the Divine mission of Prophethood. He never had a chance or any occasion to keep the company of any scholar.

Every ambitious young man of that era learned the art of shaft fighting, lancing, fencing, riding and mastery over the subject of genealogy; these were the necessary skills of the time. Acquisition of these important contemporary skills was a must for upholding the family esteem and individual honor. Muhammad ﷺ did not show interest in these arts, nor did he ever try to get any formal training in these skills.

Sedew, a French scholar, writes about Muhammad ﷺ:

"He smiled readily and often, yet he was of a serious disposition. He was the most generous of his people, kind to his neighbors, courteous, faithful and trustworthy, so much so that he was known to his people by the name *Al-Amin* – the Trustworthy. He was the bravest of men and the most sensitive."

Muhammad ﷺ was social in nature. He was reserved and quiet, he never talked loosely or indulged in gossip or small talk. He remembered Allâh constantly. He was excellent in giving advice and was a man of the best lineage. Regarding justice, he treated everyone alike. His judgements were never affected by the nearness or the distance of a person in

relationship or having a higher social status in society. He loved the poor and loved to be in their company. He never thought of anyone as low and he never humiliated anyone because of their being poor. The kings with their worldly pomp never impressed him. He gave respect to everyone and was friendly to whoever came to him. Those who knew him became his devotees. He was able to understand the intentions of his visitors. He endured their shortcomings and the improper behavior of ignorant and uncivilized people. He never took leave from anyone present unless the visitors sought permission to leave on their own. He loved his Companions to the utmost extreme. He did all his own personal work. He would sit on the bare floor. He used to mend his shoes and patch his clothes himself. He always received his enemies with a pleasant countenance and was courteous to them.

Imam Ghazali writes:

“Muhammad ﷺ took care of his animals by himself. He milked the goats and she-camels, fed them and swept their enclosures. Ali says that Prophet ﷺ was the most open-hearted person. He was true to his word. He was soft-natured and kind, whenever any one invited him to a meal or offered him a present, he would readily accept it, however insignificant the present may have been, and he used to always reciprocate. He would accept an invitation to a meal even from a slave or a poor person. He used to eat with his servants, and always helped them in doing the household.”

Abu Sa'îd Khudri رضى الله عنه states that the Prophet ﷺ used to do his domestic chores himself and used to help his servants with the tough jobs. He would buy the household needs from market and carry them home himself. He always was the first to greet others, rich or poor, elder or younger. He was always

happy to be in the company of his Companions without making any distinction between master and slave. Rich and poor were equally respected and dear to him. He used to wear simple but neat clothes and used the same clothes for day and night use. He always accepted invitations extended to him no matter who extended it, poor or rich, a common man or a dignitary. Whatever food was presented he ate it with pleasure. He never saved the leftovers for another time. He was a pious, good-natured and cheerful person yet he was sober and serious. He was courteous, polite and decent in manners. His personality was awe-inspiring but not stern and hard. People loved him with respect and reverence. He was generous and gracious without being improvident or inappropriate. He was polite and showed kindness and never expected any favor or assistance from anyone.

Shah Waliullah رحمه الله notes that anyone who faced the Prophet ﷺ unexpectedly stood in awe, and anyone who met the Prophet ﷺ became his ardent devotee and respected him from the core of his heart.

People belonging to his clan, and his servants had his special favors. Anas رضى الله عنه served him for ten years, during this long period he was never rebuked nor did Prophet Muhammad ﷺ speak a single harsh word to him. Anas رضى الله عنه says, “I joined the service of the Prophet ﷺ at the age of eight, I served him for ten years. Not even once did he rebuke me for any fault of mine. If any member of his family ever talked to me harshly, the Prophet ﷺ would say, ‘Take it easy: Whatever is destined has to be.’”

His tongue was always busy in the praise of Allâh and he never uttered bad words or used abusive language with anyone. He tolerated with patience and endured blame and harsh behavior from others and never admonished or cursed anyone. He always had mercy on people. He never hurt or harmed anyone with his hand or word.