

Foundations of Social stability in perspective of Seerah: A research study

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Abstract

The glorious life of the Holy Prophet (S.A.W) is a perfect guideline for the entire humanity till the Day of Judgment. He was sent as mercy for all the creatures. Form his lifestyle it reveals that he laid the foundations of society on broad based grounds. He treated even his enemies and the Non believers with kindness, mercy and forgiveness. He declared equal rights to all the inhabitants of society with out any discrimination. In the present era, we can follow these examples in resolving conflicts.

The article deals with the same and highlights the various aspects of the Prophet (S.A.W) life.

Key words: *treaty, patience, conflicts, harmony*

Allah the Almighty has created this universe in perspective of fulfilling a core objective and a key purpose that is to bow before His commandments and to acknowledge His supremacy. This confession is, in other words, called the worship. The holy Quran unveils this fact as:

وَمَا خَلَقْتُ الْجِنَّ وَالْإِنْسَ إِلَّا لِيَعْبُدُونِ¹

"I created the jinn and humankind only that they might worship me"

Before setting here the human being, all the basic needs were provided to him such as light, food, cloth, Oxygen and shelter etc. enabling him tackle his spiritual duties thoroughly. The Holy Quran has describes this fact on many places. For example, Allah says:

هُوَ الَّذِي خَلَقَكُمْ مِمَّا فِي الْأَرْضِ جَمِيعًا²

"He it is who created for you all that is in the earth."

The human being has been sent as the vicegerent of Allah and the ideal creature of the universe. The Holy Quran highlights this as:

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وَلَقَدْ كَرَّمْنَا بَنِي آدَمَ وَحَمَلْنَاهُمْ فِي الْبُرُوجِ وَالْبَحْرِ وَرَزَقْنَاهُمْ مِنَ الطَّيِّبَاتِ وَفَضَّلْنَاهُمْ عَلَى
كَثِيرٍ مِمَّنْ خَلَقْنَا تَفْضِيلًا³

Verily we have honored the Children of Adam. We carry them on the land and the sea, and have made provision of good things for them, and have preferred them above many of those whom we created with a marked preferment.

وَإِذْ قَالَ رَبُّكَ لِلْمَلَائِكَةِ إِنِّي جَاعِلٌ فِي الْأَرْضِ خَلِيفَةً⁴

And when your Lord said to the angels, I am going to place a vicegerent in the earth.

The human being besides this got the prestige to be prostrated by the innocent angles as Allah had ordered them to do so.

وَإِذْ قُلْنَا لِلْمَلَائِكَةِ اسْجُدُوا لِآدَمَ⁵

When We told the angels to prostrate before Adam

قَالَ يَا إِبْلِيسُ مَا مَنَعَكَ أَنْ تَسْجُدَ لِمَا خَلَقْتُ بِيَدَيَّ⁶

The Lord said, "O Satan, what prevented you from prostrating before what I have created with My own hands?"

Allah has, even from the first appearance of mankind on earth, managed for spiritual well-being by sending His messengers with divine books. The series of sending the prophets started from Hazrat Adam (bless be upon him) and was ended on Hazrat Muhammad (peace be upon Him). The prophets of Allah called the people to a common and collective ideology which the Holy Quran has elucidated as follows:

شَرَعَ لَكُمْ مِنَ الدِّينِ مَا وَصَّى بِهِ نُوحًا وَالَّذِي أَوْحَيْنَا إِلَيْكَ وَمَا وَصَّيْنَا بِهِ إِبْرَاهِيمَ

وَمُوسَى وَعِيسَى أَنْ أَقِيمُوا الدِّينَ وَلَا تَتَفَرَّقُوا فِيهِ⁷

"He decreed for you the same religion decreed for Noah, and what we inspired to you, and what we decreed for Abraham, Moses, and Jesus: "You shall uphold this one religion, and do not divide it."

The mentioned above verse of the Holy Quran identifies that all the prophets came with a common mission and the books revealed to them came from a similar origin.

The Holy Quran is the book which confirms and verifies the books that have revealed before it. This has been highlighted in Sura Ma'eda as under:

وَأَنْزَلْنَا إِلَيْكَ الْكِتَابَ بِالْحَقِّ مُصَدِّقًا لِمَا بَيْنَ يَدَيْهِ مِنَ الْكِتَابِ وَمُهَيِّمًا عَلَيْهِ⁸

And we have revealed to you the Book with the truth, verifying that which is before it of the Book and a guardian (watcher) over it.

As the Holy Quran is a universal guideline for the entire humanity likewise the Holy Prophet has been sent as a universal messenger by Allah. This has been illustrated by Allah as:

وَمَا أَرْسَلْنَاكَ إِلَّا كَافَّةً لِّلنَّاسِ بَشِيرًا وَنَذِيرًا⁹

And We have sent you to all the people, a bearer of good news, as well as a Warner.

The prophet hood of Hazrat Muhammad (peace be upon Him) is everlasting and final and He came to accomplish the mission of His pioneers. The Holy Prophet says:

The example of mine and the prophets before me is like a person who built a beautiful house except a corner incomplete with a brick. The people seeing this, got astonished with its beauty but say, "why did this place has remained incomplete? The Holy Prophet said, I am just like that brick which has made up the deficiency and I am the seal of the prophets.

It can be perceived from the Holy Quran that the Prophet (peace be upon Him) was commanded to call upon the people of the book to an equitable word. The holy Quran says:

قُلْ يَا أَهْلَ الْكِتَابِ تَعَالَوْا إِلَى كَلِمَةٍ سَوَاءٍ بَيْنَنَا وَبَيْنَكُمْ أَلَّا نَعْبُدَ إِلَّا اللَّهَ وَلَا نُشْرِكَ بِهِ شَيْئًا وَلَا يَتَّخِذَ بَعْضُنَا بَعْضًا أَرْبَابًا مِنْ دُونِ اللَّهِ فَإِنْ تَوَلَّوْا فَعُقُولُوا
اشْهَدُوا بِأَنَّا مُسْلِمُونَ¹⁰

Say, "O followers of the scripture, let us come to a logical agreement between us and you: that we shall not worship except GOD; that we never set up any idols besides Him, nor set up any human beings as lords beside GOD." If they turn away, say, "Bear witness that we are submitters.

The life of the Holy prophet (peace be upon Him) projects a picture of affection, tolerance, mercy and forbearance. He discarded every evil from society with the weapon of moral values and laid the foundations of society on love, honor, dignity and patience. Allah says in the Holy Quran:

وَلَا تَسْتَوِي الْحَسَنَةُ وَلَا السَّيِّئَةُ ادْفَعْ بِالَّتِي هِيَ أَحْسَنُ فَإِذَا الَّذِي بَيْنَكَ وَبَيْنَهُ
عَدَاوَةٌ كَأَنَّهُ وَلِيٌّ حَمِيمٌ¹¹

"The good deed and the evil deed cannot be equal. Repel (the evil) with one which is better than verily! He between whom and you there was enmity, (will become) as though he was a closed friend."

In these verses Allah has ordered His Prophet (peace be Upon Him) and the faithful believers to be patient at the time of anger and to excuse those who treat them badly.

The Prophet (peace be upon Him) gave a practical example and impressed the followers with his broad thinking and overwhelmed their hearts with love¹².

The Holy Prophet always remained in full control of his temper and did not revenge even from his personal enemies. Because he was sent a mercy for all creatures. The Holy Quran says:

وَمَا أَرْسَلْنَاكَ إِلَّا رَحْمَةً لِّلْعَالَمِينَ¹³

And we have not sent you O prophet Muhammad but as a mercy to the worlds.

His prophet hood is Allah's grace bestowed on believers and disbelievers alike.

Abu Huraira says: someone asked RasoolUllah (peace Be Upon Him) to curse on the disbelievers. He responded," I have not been sent to curse others but I am amercy for mankind.

The great American scholar Michael H.Hart says:
" Muhammad(peace be upon him) is the only person in the history who was supremely successful on both religious and secular levels¹⁴ ."

Before the advent of Islam,Arabia was not a political entity and every tribe was autonomous and independent under the supervision of a tribal chief.They were fastened in strict Inter- tribal hostility and the customs of forefathers. They had no soft corner to recognize the supremacy of others and so they remained engaged in tribal wars constantly. The Holy Quran says:

وَاذْكُرُوا اللّٰهَ عَلَيكُمْ إِذْ كُنْتُمْ أَعْدَاءً فَأَلَّفَ بَيْنَ قُلُوبِكُمْ فَأَصْبَحْتُمْ بِنِعْمَتِهِ إِخْوَانًا وَكُنْتُمْ عَلَىٰ شَفَا حُفْرَةٍ مِّنَ النَّارِ فَأَنْقَذَكُمْ مِنْهَا¹⁵

"And remember the favor of ALLAH which HE bestowed upon you when you were enemies and HE united your hearts in love, so that by HIS grace you became as brothers; and you were on the brink of a pit of fire and He saved you from it."

The Holy Prophet (peace be upon him), during his whole sacred life struggled for peace, solidarity and social integrity. The following is the brief description of the efforts the

Holy Prophet undergone for the uplift of society and assurance of harmony and unity.

Al –FudoulConfideracy

As discussed prior the Peninsula of Arabia was divided into many tribes which had created a state of mutual contradiction with after shakes in form of injustice and social violation.

At boyhood when the age of the Prophet (peace be upon him) was 15 to 16, a war broke out between Quresh and the other tribes of Arabia. This war continued for many years and left behind a sever bloodshed. This series of war is known as "The sacrilegious wars or Harb Al Fijar. In one of those battles the Prophet attended but did no traise arm against his opponents.

As this war had brought an enormous loss on every level especially man power and economy so it was followed soon after by a league of the Just called Half Al Fudoul.

In this treaty the eminent leaders from within the various tribes of Arabia including Zubair, uncle of the Holy Prophet (peace be upon Him) allied themselves into a league under an oath(Halaf). This treaty got the name "Half Al Fuoul" because its four leading members had the word Fazal in their names. This was resolved that rights of every oppressed, weak and distitute will be ensured and no violence and injustice will be practiced at all.

The Prophet (peace be upon him) attended this oath ceremony and commented on the occasion with very positive words:

"I was present during the oath made in the house of Abdullah bin Jada`an, to me which is more favorable than herds of cattle. If someone invite to such like treaty in Islam I shall positively respond¹⁶ .

Placement of Black stone

When the prophet (peace be upon him) was 35, the Quresh intended to rebuild the Ka`aba the House of Allah. For this purpose they gathered and started the construction of the sacred house. But at the time of placing the Black stone in the corner of the house, everybody was eager to have this honor.

A situation of dispute arose, but the prophet wisdom and broad vision resolved this issue. AbuUmayya bin Mugheerah AlMakhzumi suggested that the one who entered the House of Allah first in the morning will be deserving to get this prestige. All favored this proposal and appointed persons to observe who enters first. Fortunately the Holy Prophet (peace be upon him) entered the house of Allah earlier.

Seeing him the watcher cried that the trustworthy has entered. The Holy Prophet very cleverly tackle this issue and spread a sheet on the ground and placed the Black Stone on it. Then he asked the representatives of every tribe to hold the corners of the sheet and lifted the stone. The Holy Prophet (peace be upon Him) and laid it on its right position. The far reaching vision and deep insight of the Prophet (peace be upon Him) saved the inhabitants from a sever war¹⁷.

Charter of Madina

When The Holy Prophet (Peace Be Upon Him) migrated to Madina with his sincere followers, they left over all their property and assets in Makkah. They faced many financial and local challenges. The Prophet (peace be upon him) made a decisive solution and established a relation of brotherhood among the believers (The Emigrants and The Helpers) known as "Muakhat¹⁸" in Islamic History.

In the territory of Madina a lot number of the disbelievers (Jews) had located. The Holy Prophet (peace Be Upon Him) signed a treaty called the Charter of Madina with Jews and safeguarded the geographical and theoretical boundaries of all the inhabitants. This reveals that the Holy Prophet (peace be upon him) determined the rights and status of the local population¹⁹.

Conclusions

From the above discussion, it is clear that the Holy Prophet (peace be upon him) has, throughout his glorious life, struggled for maintaining peace, tolerance and solidarity. He played an exemplary role in his dealing with non-Muslims. Following his guideline, the Muslims in the present era can overcome the numerous socio-political problems.

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