

Importance of stories in Hadith-e-Nabvi

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Abstract

Stories have an important effect on human psychology and thinking. A person became emotionally involved in stories. Our purpose of this research is to demonstrate the importance of stories in Hadith-e-Nabvi and to describe its importance in order to guide the reader towards right path. Initially we explain the importance of Quranic stories and Prophetic stories along with examples. Secondly the types of stories in Quran and Hadith-e-Nabvi are described in detail. A number of events are narrated in Quran and prophet's stories in order to guide the believers towards the righteous path of living. Events of Quran and Hadith are further defined by different writers; few of them are narrated in our research to indicate different perceptions of different writers. We can categorize stories into three major sections. One is Quran related; secondly Hadith related and third will be related to human beings. In our research, we categorized the prophet's stories based on their nature and discuss them separately according to their nature

Key words: *Demonstrate, Hadith-e-Nabvi, Hadith*

The story is considered one of the important things that corresponds to the thinking and psychological aspects of man, because the reader finds out what the actions are performed in the story and who are the main characters in it. It is also noticed that what actions influenced the character and what is affected by story's characters^[1]. So he builds statues in his mind for these characters, and being emotional while reading stories. These emotions can be restlessness, anxiety, mercy, surprise, etc. and these are the things that remain on it until the story is over. And the peak level of the story is determined by the writer, so considering these whole things, the definition of the story will be:

“This is a mirror which has many layers and each reader sees that layer which is according to his own circumstances. We can also say that story is like a large building with many windows, and every reader is able to peek from that window to which reader enjoys and according to his/her nature.”^[2]

When we look at the origin of this universe, we see that there is also a story behind the creation of Adam before the creation of the rest of the being. That story indicates towards firm decision of Allah to create this world. As Allah says:

“And when Allah said to the angels, "I am going to create a caliph in the earth, they replied “will you create a creature that cause riot and shed blood?, while we are here to praise You and pray in front of you” then Allah said “I know what you do not know”^[3].

Along with this event there are further more events occurred just like Adam's creation, that events happened with angels and a stage of being expelled from heaven due to the revelation of the devil similarly the issue of Hawa etc. And that message of Allah: “When thy Lord said to the angels, I am surely going to create a human being with the clay”^[4], and so do those events that lead to the birth of human beings and the details of different stages of human life

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related to which the revelations are made. He said: "Daood, I have made you a caliph in the earth, so do decisions with truth among people and do not follow you desire, otherwise that will mislead you from the way of Allah."^[5]

The most unique and most interesting type of stories is the Quranic and prophetic stories, which are narrated in the Quran or through the life of Prophet (Peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) which indicates towards the circumstances of previous nations. All these stories are based on the thinking of story teller and the consequences of the sins they committed. It is known that quranic stories, although they are the result of combination of different events faced by prophets and the Apostles with their nations. But the purpose of presenting them is to give invitation towards Islam and the Quran has chosen those events to describe in order to fulfill this purpose. These events are just like the time passed by the Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) in Makkah and the purpose of Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him)'s life, to give good news to the believers and to warn the people who are disbelievers, and to give evidence for the need of prophecy, to explain the importance of the message of Allah and to explain further more individual and collective purposes^[6]. Similarly, the other issues that have been put into considerations are: the issue of the al-Wahyat and the conditions for proving unification of God, confirmation for the need of Allah's messenger, and the need for argument against some people against whom it is must to be argued. From these stories: the story of Adam (A.S), the story of Mossa (A.S) and the story of the birth of Essa (A.S) , the story of Yusuf (A.S), and the story of maryam (A.S) are the stories about which scholars say that : "These stories are pearls that are perfect in the field of conciseness and description. They are the sea of knowledge and experiences for the soul and it provide the reason for living with hope for the future.

The story of the Prophet comes after that of Quran, and since the Quran is based on the words of Allah, the story of prophet is also majorly based on revelations of Allah. That is the reason behind same message by stories of prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) and stories mentioned in Quran. As prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) did not talk by his own will while his each message is based on Allah's revelations upon him. So as far as the goal is one, the path must also be same. The Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him)'s story is one of the most famous collection of knowledge which enhance the hadith with strong statements and more explanations. There are the demonstrations which are beneficial for the readers and also guide them for the right path. The story events create interest and force the reader to read it again and again, because Prophet (peace and blessings of Allaah be upon him) was blessed with complete knowledge, so it was not difficult for him to adopt words that would suit the reader's taste. As he always give such a law to follow that would provide a best way of living for all humanity^[7].

You can see how many thinkers, writers and researchers were involved with the prophet's story, his speech and his writings, and they saw how Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah upon him) used his prosaic art in hadeeth. They read it from different sides regardless of the fact that Quran is based on stories more than the hadith.

Literal Definition:

Literal meaning of any dissertation or any debate is of great importance. The writers of Lisaan-e-Arab define a story as, "It means news, and the describing story is related to that

news. The Faroese Abadi defines story as, "the news that has been followed", so its meaning in the Qamos al-Mahit as: "The meaning of the story is to walk on the signs of someone at night."^[8]

Terminological Definition:

The story is one of the most important art from belletristic art and if it is seen with respect to human life as well as evolution then it is not based on a specific, proven limited meanings. That is the reason behind different definitions given by different writers.

1- Story definition by Arab writers:

Dr. Muhammad Yusuf Najm believes: "The story is the name of a collection of events that some people have experienced. These events are either related to one accident or many accidents, and these accidents are related to different human personalities. Those personalities whose ways of lives and descriptions are as different as the lives of different people on earth and these personalities have different parts in the story."^[9]

Syed Qutb defines the story as: "To explain all the details and components of life that are happened in an era. Just like external events, internal feelings etc. Life did not begin from a certain point of view nor does it end at a certain point. The beginning and ending of story depends on particular era and it consists of any single accident or some accidents with in that particular era."^[10]

According to Shouqi Zeef : "Story is a great process in which life is spread with all its genuine and human elements."^[11]

2- According to west people:

Many of the researchers of the West who are involved in the story writing process have made many definitions about story. Each of these definitions is according to each of these writers. And the most famous definition from west writers is defined by English writer Tasharletan describes as: "A story is based on those words which can be portray in prosaic style and it is one of the activity from different activities performed by human being. The best form of story is based on real life of common man, just as the events happened in human life with the passage of time."^[12]

Types of stories:

The shortest definition of the story is: "A famous story that has been narrated or written, and is meant to be fun or beneficial to someone", and the story, news, tradition and storytelling are the same words having same definition. So, according to this understanding, we will say that the story is what the traditional and literary that is written with in books and its purpose is for reader's self enjoyment and benefit the reader with a the special purpose of the story. The story is very much related to the daily life of human being according to its particular understanding, and it has been with man since the beginning of human history, because it has been made a resource to describe the long history of man.^[13]

1. Defining the story of human being:

This is a story that originates from the human thinking which is according to his historical, political, even geographical achievements. This can be defined as: "Story is such a tale which has same sequence of inter-connected events just like small bones are inter-connected in spinal cord." It also consists of the evolution of the narrative of that time period in which the main actors of that story play their part" and in it: "Reality is not described according to its

actual origin, but rather that the idea is also combined with the real story. The heroes of the story are although ordinary people but their relations with described events in a story make them perfect personalities."^[14]

2- Defining the Quranic stories:

"They are the statements for preaching the heavenly respected books and their purpose is to root out the false beliefs and provide a complete system of life for humanity."^[15] These statements and stories point out the proven perceptions in the human mind. They also play a remarkable role to give invitation towards right path., as these stories enhance the ability of sense, improve the intellects and deepen the faith. Dr. Muhammad Qutb has tried to limit these statements in his words: "The real events described in Quran have a religious purpose. It is for the purpose of advising and training yet it also fulfills all the demands for a pure fiction art."^[16]

3- The Prophet's story:

The Sunnah has a collection of events that are in the form of a story, which has a purpose of guiding humanity towards the religion 'Islam'. As these stories play their part in the conversion of beliefs, worship and ethics. Similarly these play vital role for making perfect human and peaceful society. It is possible for any person to learn useful information about their religion or any guidance to live in this world from the prophets' narratives. It is not surprising that the Sunnah is a part of the Quranic story as well as the goal of prophet's story is similar to that of Quranic story. The human hearing is always directed towards an event that has different reasons and different conclusions. The incident involves events which has a lesson.^[17]

Efficacy of Prophet's story:

1.Representation of true and real event:

The Prophet's story always consists of the reflection of truth and reality, infact both the Quranic events and the Prophet's story interpret the story in the same way as it happen, there is no fiction in it. (And the Prophet does not speak anything by his desire; it is only the revelation that is revealed) (Surah Najm: 3-4), (and we have not taught him poetry nor is it worthy of it but only advice and message of Quran). (Surah Yaseen:69) This is the evidence that the Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) did not speak with his own will, but the prophet's story is based on the facts that cause the strengthening of faith (we tell you their news with truth) (Sourah Kahaf :13) As it is said in surah Al-Imran : (No doubt, these are true stories) (Al-Imran: 62).

All the stories in the Quran and the Ahadith-e- Saheeh are true such events are described in these stories that actually happened, whether it is historical news or predictions about the future or events can occur in future. When people are convinced that all the stories in the Quran and hadeeth are based on truth and reality, it will have a great impact on their hearts. Because these stories are a combination of beliefs, emotions, thoughts and real beauty so these stories make the self-esteem more civilized and soften the hearts.^[18]

2- Based on Mission:

One of the characteristics of the Prophetic story is that these have some mission. These stories are not only told as narratives, in fact the actual purpose of telling them is to advice

for good deeds and to prevent from evil deeds. Similarly the aim of sampling the examples of prophets is to implement religious commandment. One of their purposes is to train spirit, intellect and body.

3- The ease and clarity of words:

This is something that makes it easy to understand and makes it an artistic story, because artistic beauty makes it to influence human mind more easily and more deeply.

4- Use of Ethical words:

One of the main properties of Prophet's story is that it avoids the use unethical words, even in those statements where a wrong incident is being described, as in the story of Musa (A.S) and that stone which ran away with his clothes. In Sahih Muslim Hazrat Abu Huraira (R.A) said from sayings of Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah upon him): "The people of Israel used to bath nakedly and they looked at each other's pudendum while Musa (A.S) take bath alone. Then he said: By Allah! This is what forbids Musa (A.S) to take bath with us that he is ill by emasculation. It is said that: once upon a time Musa (A.S) was busy in taking bath and he placed his cloths on a stone. Stone ran away along with his cloths. Musa (A.S) ran behind that stone and said: O stone return my cloths. Within this time people of Israel saw his pudendum and said: "By Allah! Musa is not affected by any disease. Then the stone stopped and Musa (A.S) took his clothes and started to hit the stone. Abu Hurairah said: By Allah! The stone has six or seven marks due to hitting by Musa (A.S) ^[19]. So this story explains the chasteness of Musa (A.S) with in ethical limits without missing any information. Since if any writer explains such an event then the case would be totally different. ^[20]

5- Focus on stories rather than personalities:

One of the main properties for the Prophetic story is that it focuses on events and not on personalities: so the Prophetic stories do not focus on personalities except that there is a special benefit in mentioning a person. The example for this is the hadeeth which is described by Abu Hurairah (R.A). He said: (There was a hot day and a bad woman saw a dog walking around a well and his tongue was dry because of thirst. The woman extract water from well with the help of her shoe and she was forgiven due to that reason.) ^[21]

6- Prophet's story revealed by Allah:

Usually the Prophet's story is narrated by Allah. Allah also points out it in the Quran: (These are the news of clairvoyance that we reveal to you and you were not present with them when they were putting their minds down and deciding which of them will be the guardian of Maryam and you were not present when they were arguing) (Surah Al-Imran: 44). That is the thing which gives the Prophet's story that much praise and confirmation.

7- Overview, profoundness, easy words, clear expression and avoiding lengthiness:

So the text and the phrases of the Prophet's story are very short, and they also have a great link and are free from each of the types of orders. Yet the person hear or read it never face any difficulty to understand it. ^[22]

8-Enlargement of interpretation and Avoiding from ailments:

This enlargement makes the story more effective and creates attraction in it.

9- Use of interesting words:

It means using a tool that increases human's interest and it is also a very important factor that put focus on the narrative process.

Goals of Prophet's story:

The Prophet's story comes from the Quranic story according to its goals, and it focuses on the human spirituality. The most powerful argument in this regard is that edict of Allah: Allah has commanded the Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) in his book that you explain stories so that they may be guided and get lesson: (You tell the story may be they do excogitation) (Surah Araf : 176) that means they excogitate from these stories and to guide them to the truth and to lead them to a pure life in society.

The stories that were revealed on the Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) in the Quran have also conveyed to the people and many other stories that you have conveyed to the community in the form of hadiths. There is a great variety in prophetic stories, some of which are what you say that your Lord told you, some are what you describe after seeing in your sleep and some of what you actually saw, such as story of Miraj etc. Similarly some are those, which Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) describes about the former nations, and some that are going to happen in the future you tell those events as well.

The Sunnah has six types according to the nature of story:

1. Historical story:

This is a story that is based on different patterns of human psyche, and its historical means that this event has passed through the ages. And in the historical story, the purpose of describing these historical events is to tell the Sunnah in the creation of Allah and to explain the results of doing right and doing wrong deeds. It also contains the stories of all the prophets and the stories of those people who rejected the Messengers of Allah and what they were punished due to this. These are the stories in which the names of personalities and places are mentioned, such as story of Musa (A.S) and Firaon. Similarly, the story of people of Israel, Saleh and Samood, the story of Hood-o-A'ad and Shoaib and the people of Madeen, the story of Loot and his village and Noah and his nation's story etc. ^[23]

2- Delphic story:

These are stories that are based on the stories or events of divine, such as the observation of the Hereafter etc, and these events are hidden from human, but they are present in the knowledge of Allah. For Allah knowledge about anything is apparent nothing is hidden, last world is as apparent as this world, future is as clear as past and hidden as clear as declaration.

For example: Recommendation of the Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) and seeing Allah in Hereafter, similarly bridge of siraat and recommendations related Hadiths etc.

3- Illustrated Story:

It means every story that begins with something which tells us that this is an example that is described to match the situation of the audience with the story narration.

4- Real story:

It is a story in which events or stories have been narrated and described experiences that have experienced by Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) in different stages of his life. These stories are like memories that people have been told about the past events of their lives. **For example:** Story of Isra-o-Miraj.

5- Brief story:

This is the type of story that is based on anyone of the events, and this type of story reaches to its goal quickly and in attention-seeking way. It focuses on reaching its goal in the shortest possible time and through a short path. That's why it doesn't contain the associated events and details related to the story. **For example:** Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah upon him) said: "A woman was punished due to a cat who kept it captive even though it died,, neither she fed it, nor left it so that it can eat the parenchyma.

6- Long Story:

This is a story that covers different stages of life and a wide range of times, including personalities, their symptoms, their events and their feelings, and so on, and it mentions the events that are inter-related. **For Example:** The story of the leprosy, the scum and the blind, the story of the cavemen and the story of the trench.

The topics of the Prophet's story:

The Prophet's story have perfect foundations and meaningful targets that extracts from historical events, so that man can be brought to the state of being able to control the potential factor of good and fight against evil, so that each person takes benefit from these stories. The key topics that become part of Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah upon him)'s story as follows: **Strengthening and deepen belief in Allah:** Its example is in the story of that person who borrowed a thousand dinars.

Conclusion:

Story is the combination of such statements which affect the emotions of reader. Here our aim is to explain the importance of stories in Hadees-e-Nabvi. We also describe how these stories or events in Hadees-e Nabvi play vital role to guide the readers towards right path. Initially we explain the importance of Quranic stories and Prophetic stories along with examples. Further the types of stories in Quran and Hadees-e-Nabvi are described in detail to indicate the key role of stories. It is shown here that in Quran and prophet's stories a variety of stories related to different nations and stories of different messengers of Allah with their nations are narrated in order to make it easily understandable for readers. We also discussed about different definitions of stories proposed by variety of writers just like by writers of Arab including Dr. Muhammad Yusuf Najam, Syed Qutb and Shouqi Zeef. The West writers' perception about stories is also included in our research. We find there are three types of stories including stories of Quran, Prophets and human beings along with examples. We also find that the major properties of Prophet's stories are: **representation of true and real event, have an aim, ease and clarity of words, use of ethical words, focus on stories rather than personalities, prophet's story revealed by Allah, overview, profoundness, easy words, clear expression, avoiding lengthiness, enlargement of interpretation, avoiding from ailments and use of interesting words.** We discover that Sunnah can have six types of stories based on the nature of story. These can be historical story, Delphic story, illustrated Story, real story, brief story, long Story.

Endnotes:

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