

## **The Qur'anic Discourse on Prophet Muhammad**

### **(Allah's Peace and Blessings be upon him)**

The Noble Qur'an talks about Prophet Muhammad (PBUH), revealing his status, moral and a lot of his (PBUH) characteristics and features. It clearly states that he (PBUH) is the Prophet of mercy; Allah, the Almighty, says: "It was only as a mercy that We sent you [Prophet] to all people." (The Quran, 21:107); " By an act of mercy from God, you [Prophet] were gentle in your dealings with them- had you been harsh, or hard-hearted, they would have dispersed and left you- so pardon them and ask forgiveness for them. Consult with them about matters, then, when you have decided on a course of action, put your trust in God: God loves those who put their trust in Him." (The Quran, 3:159); "A Messenger has come to you from among yourselves. Your suffering distresses him: he is deeply concerned for you and full of kindness and mercy towards the believers." (The Quran, 9:128); "And be aware that it is God's Messenger who is among you: in many matters you would certainly suffer if he were to follow your wishes. God has endeared faith to you and made it beautiful to your hearts; He has made disbelief, mischief, and disobedience hateful to you. It is people like this who are rightly guided" (The Quran, 49:7)

Highly praising his (PBUH) tongue, Allah, the Almighty, says: "He does not speak from his own desire" (The Quran, 53:3). Extolling his (PBUH) sight, He, Glorified is He, says: "His sight never wavered, nor was it too bold" (The Quran, 53:17). He, may He be exalted, also praised his (PBUH) heart, intellect and instructor, saying consecutively: "[The Prophet's] own heart did not distort what he saw." (The Quran, 53:11); "Your companion has not strayed; he is not deluded" (The Quran, 53:2) and "It was taught to him by [an angel] with mighty powers." (The Quran, 53:5) As for his moral character, He, the Almighty, lauds him, saying: "Truly you have a good moral character." (The Quran, 68:4) He, the Exalted, further praises everything in him (PBUH), saying: "The Messenger of God is an excellent model for those of you who put your hope in God and the Last Day and remember Him often." (The Quran, 33:21)

The Quran also tells that Allah, the Almighty, relieved Prophet Muhammad's heart for him; Allah, Glorified is He, says: "Did We not relieve your heart for you [Prophet]."

(The Quran, 94:1), and that He, may He be exalted, has forgiven all his sins, past and future, for him (PBUH); He, the Almighty, says: "Truly We have opened up a path to clear triumph for you [Prophet], so that God may forgive you your past and future sins, complete His grace upon you, guide you to a straight path." (The Quran, 48:1-2)

In the Quran, Allah, Glorified is He, even clearly states that giving *Bay'ah* (oath of allegiance) to him (PBUH) is but giving *Bay'ah* to Him, the Almighty, " Those who pledge loyalty to you [Prophet] are actually pledging loyalty to God Himself- God's hand is placed on theirs—and anyone who breaks his pledge does so to his own detriment: God will give a great reward to the one who fulfills his pledge to Him." (The Quran, 48:10)

The Quran records that Allah, Glorified is He, reproaches those people who raise their voices in his (PBUH) presence; He, the Almighty, says: "O you believers, do not raise your voices above the Prophet's, do not raise your voice when speaking to him as you do to one another, or your [good] deeds may be cancelled out without you knowing," (The Quran, 49:2) Yet, He, the Almighty, praises those who lower their voices in his presence, saying: "It is those who lower their voices in the presence of God's Messenger whose hearts God has proved to be aware—they will have forgiveness, and a great reward." (The Quran, 49:3)

As for his (PBUH) life, it was but a secure to his Ummah not to be afflicted with an immediate punishment or torture. Referring to this fact, He, the Almighty, said: " But God would not send them punishment while you [Prophet] are in their midst, nor would He punish them if they sought forgiveness." (The Quran, 8:33)

When he (PBUH) recited the Saying of Allah, the Almighty, previously uttered by Prophet Abraham (PBUH), "Lord, the [idols] have led many people astray! Anyone who follows me is with me, but as for anyone who disobeys me- You are surely forgiving and merciful." (The Quran, 14:36) and His, Glorified is He, Saying previously uttered by Prophet Jesus (PBUH), "If You punish them, they are Your slaves, and if You forgive them, verily, You, only You, are the All-Mighty, the All-Wise." (The Quran, 5:118). Then he (PBUH) raised up his hands and said, "O Allah! My Ummah, my Ummah," and wept; Allah, the Exalted, said: "O Jibril (Gabriel)! Go to Muhammad (PBUH) and ask him: 'What makes you weep?'" So Jibril came to him and asked him (the reason of his weeping) and the Messenger of Allah informed him

what he had said (though Allah knew it well). Upon this Allah said: "Jibril, go to Muhammad (PBUH) and say: 'Verily, We will please you with regard to your Ummah and will never displease you.'<sup>1</sup> Clearly expressing this fact, the Quran records the Saying of Allah, the Almighty, "Your Lord is sure to give you so much that you will be well satisfied." (The Quran, 93:5)

Even when He, Glorified is He, called upon him (PBUH), He honored him, that is, He, the Almighty, as recorded in the Quran called upon all Prophets and Messengers with their given names, as follows: "We said, 'Adam, live with your wife in this garden. Both of you eat freely there as you will, but do not go near this tree, or you will both become wrongdoers.' (The Quran, 2:35); "And it was said, 'Noah, descend in peace from Us, with blessings on you and on some of the communities that will spring from those who are with you." (The Quran, 11:48); "We called out to him, 'Abraham' (The Quran, 37:104); "David, We have given you mastery over the land." (The Quran, 38:26); "When he came to the fire, he was summoned, 'Moses! I am your Lord. Take off your shoes: you are in the sacred valley of Tuwa." (The Quran, 20:11-12); "Zachariah, We bring you good news of a son whose name will be John—We have chosen this name for no one before him." (The Quran, 19:7); "[We said], 'John, hold on to the Scripture firmly.' While he was still a boy, We granted him wisdom." (The Quran, 19:8); and "Then God will say, 'Jesus, son of Mary! Remember My Favor to you and to your mother'" (The Quran, 5:110), yet when He, the Almighty, called upon Prophet Muhammad (PBUH), He used the attribute of prophethood or any other attribute that shows his (PBUH) honor in the Sight of His Lord. Allah, may He be exalted, says: "Messenger, proclaim everything that has been sent down to you from your Lord" (The Quran, 5:67); "Prophet, We have sent you as a witness, as a bearer of good news and warning," (The Quran, 33:45); "You [Prophet], enfolded in your cloak! Stay up throughout the night, all but a small part of it, half, or a little less," (The Quran, 73:1-3); and "You, wrapped in your cloak, arise and give warning! Proclaim the greatness of your Lord; cleanse yourself." (The Quran, 74:1-4)

Yet, when He, the Almighty, explicitly mentions his given name in the Quran, He brings him together with the honor of prophethood; He, Glorified is He, says:

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<sup>1</sup> *Muslim, Sahih, Book of Iman (Belief), Chapter: Prophet Muhammad's (PBUH) Supplication to His Ummah, Hadith No. (202), ed. Muhammad Fua'd A'bd Al-Baqi (Beirut: Dar Al-Turath Al-A'Arabi)*

"Muhammad is the Messenger of God. Those who follow him are harsh towards the disbelievers and compassionate towards each other." (The Quran, 48:29) and "Muhammad is only a messenger before whom many messengers have been and gone." (The Quran, 3:144)

Allah, the Almighty, furthermore took the pledge of all the Prophets and Messengers that they should believe in him (PBUH) and support him, "God took a pledge from the prophets, saying, 'If, after I have bestowed Scripture and wisdom upon you, a messenger comes confirming what you have been given, you must believe in him and support him. Do you affirm this and accept My Pledge as binding on you?' They said, 'We do.' He said, 'Then bear witness and I too will bear witness.'" (The Quran, 3:81)

One of the Signs of honoring Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) is that Allah, the Almighty, made his message a universal one; all Prophets and Messengers before him (PBUH) were sent to specific nations and peoples, yet Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) was sent to the entire mankind. He, Glorified is He, says: "And We have not sent you except comprehensively to mankind as a bringer of good tidings and a warner. But most of the people do not know." (The Quran, 34:28) He, the Almighty, also made his (PBUH) message the seal of all messages "Muhammad is not the father of [any] one of your men, but [he is] the Messenger of Allah and last of the prophets. And ever is Allah, of all things, Knowing." (The Quran, 33:40)

He (PBUH) is the prayer of his grandfather "Prophet Abraham (PBUH)", the glad tidings of Prophet Jesus (PBUH). In this regard, he (PBUH) is reported to have said, "I am the prayer of my father Abraham, the glad tidings of my brother Jesus, and the dream of my mother, and the good dream of my mother who saw a light coming out from her and illuminated the palaces of Al-Sham."<sup>2</sup> Highlighting this point, Allah, Glorified is He, says: "Our Lord, and send among them a messenger from themselves who will recite to them Your verses and teach them the Book and wisdom and purify them. Indeed, You are the Exalted in Might, the Wise." (The Quran, 2:129) Conveying to us what Prophet Jesus (PBUH) said to his people about Prophet Muhammad (PBUH), Allah, Glorified is He, said: "And [mention] when Jesus, the son of Mary, said, "O children of Israel, indeed I am the messenger of Allah to you confirming what came before me of the Torah and bringing good tidings of a

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<sup>2</sup> See Ahmed, *Musnad* (Beirut: Mu'ssasat Al-Risalah), 28/395; Hadith No. (17163)

messenger to come after me, whose name is Ahmad." But when he came to them with clear evidences, they said, "This is obvious magic." (The Quran, 61:6)

Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) is the first intercessor and the first one whose intercession will be accepted on the Day of Resurrection. He (PBUH) is the owner of the praised position on the Day of Resurrection. Allah, the Almighty, says: "And from [part of] the night, pray with it as additional [worship] for you; it is expected that your Lord will resurrect you to a praised position." (The Quran, 17:79)

Allah, Glorified is He, Himself confers His Own Blessings upon him (PBUH) and orders the Angles and the believers to do the same "Indeed, Allah confers blessing upon the Prophet, and His angels [ask Him to do so]. O you who have believed, ask [Allah to confer] blessing upon him and ask [Allah to grant him] peace." (The Quran, 33:56) He, Most High, even made his (PBUH) prayers to the believers as mercy to them "...and invoke [Allah's blessings] upon them. Indeed, your invocations are reassurance for them. And Allah is Hearing and Knowing." (The Quran, 9:103)

Furthermore, Allah, the Almighty, makes people's prayers on him (PBUH) to serve as a wide door to deserve his (PBUH) intercession on the Day of Resurrection. He (PBUH) is reported to have said: "When you hear the Mu'adhdhin, repeat what he says, then invoke a blessing on me, for everyone who invokes a blessing on me will receive ten blessings from Allah; then beg from Allah *al-Wasila* for me, which is a rank in Paradise fitting for only one of Allah's servants, and I hope that I may be that one. If anyone who asks that I be given the *Wasila*, he will be assured of my intercession."<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>3</sup> See Muslim, *Sahih*, Book of Prayer; Chapter on "It Is Recommended For The One Who Hears The Mu'adhdhin To Repeat His Words, Then To Send Salat Upon The Prophet (saws) And Ask Allah To Grant Him Al-Wasilah"; Hadith No. (384)

