

Arab Republic of Egypt

Ministry of Awqaf

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Prophet Muhammad as a Teacher and Educator

All praise is due to Allah, the Lord of all worlds, Who says in His Ever Glorious Book, **“By an act of mercy from Allah, you [Prophet] were gentle in your dealings with them.”** I bear witness that there is no god but Allah, and that Muhammad is His Servant and Messenger. May Allah’s Peace and Blessings be upon him, his Household, Companions and upon those who follow their path to the Day of Judgment.

Our Prophet (PBUH) was the best example of humanity in terms of excellent education and teaching. He (PBUH) was a teacher blessed with his mercy, and an educator blessed with his kindness. He (PBUH) said, **“Allah did not send me to be harsh or cause harm, but sent me to teach and make things easy,”** and said, **“Compassion is not to be found in anything but that it adorns it and it is not withdrawn from anything but it disfigures it”**

When contemplating the life of our Prophet (PBUH) one finds that he was the best teacher for his Companions and for all of humanity, and that he (PBUH) was the most merciful person to all creatures. He was

compassionate towards those whom he learns and guides. Mu'awiyah Ibn al-Hakam once reported, "While I was in Prayer with Messenger of Allah (PBUH), a man in the congregation sneezed and I responded with: '*Yarhamuk-Allah* (May Allah have mercy on you).' People stared at me with disapproving looks. So I said: "May my mother lose me. Why are you staring at me?" Thereupon, they began to strike their thighs with their hands. When I saw them urging to me to remain silent, I became angry but restrained myself. When Messenger of Allah (PBUH) concluded his Prayer, I have never before seen an instructor who gave better instruction than he, may my father and mother be sacrificed for him. He neither blamed me, nor beat me, nor abused me. He simply said, "It is not permissible to talk during Prayer because it consists of glorifying Allah, declaring His Greatness as well as recitation of the Qur'an."

Abu Umamah reported, "A young man came to the Prophet (PBUH) and he said, "O Messenger of Allah, give me permission to commit adultery." The people turned to rebuke him, saying, "Be quiet! Be quiet!" The Prophet (PBUH) said, "Come here." The young man came close and he told him to sit down. The Prophet said, "Would you like that for your mother?" The man said, "No, by Allah, may I be sacrificed for you." The Prophet said, "Neither would people like it for their mothers. Would you like that for your daughter?" The man said, "No, by Allah, may I be sacrificed for you." The Prophet said, "Neither would people like it for

their daughters. Would you like that for your sister?" The man said, "No, by Allah, may I be sacrificed for you." The Prophet said, "Neither would people like it for their sisters. Would you like that for your aunts?" The man said, "No, by Allah, may I be sacrificed for you." The Prophet said, "Neither would people like it for their aunts." Then, the Prophet placed his hand on him and he said, "O Allah, forgive his sins, purify his heart, and guard his chastity." After that, the young man never again inclined to anything sinful.

All praise is due to Allah, Lord of the Worlds; may Allah's Peace and Blessings be upon Prophet Muhammad (PBUH), his companions and followers: -

When studying the life of our Prophet (PBUH) one finds that he used to diversify his techniques in education and Da'wah, using the all communication skills in order to reach the recipient's mind and heart. He (PBUH) sometimes used numbers for mental comprehension such as his saying, "There are three qualities whoever has them, will taste the sweetness of faith: To love Allah and His Messenger (PBUH) more than anyone else; to love a person only for (the sake of) Allah; and to abhor returning to infidelity after Allah has saved him from it as he would abhor to be thrown into the fire (of Hell)."

Sometimes he (PBUH) would use giving illustrative examples such as his saying, “The similitude of good company and that of bad company is that of the owner of musk and of the one blowing the bellows (i.e., the blacksmith). The owner of musk would either offer you some free of charge, or you would buy it from him, or you smell its pleasant fragrance; and as for the one who blows the bellows, he either burns your clothes or you smell a bad smell.”

Other times he (PBUH) would use the interrogative style by giving a question to attract the listeners’ attention such as his saying, “Do you know who is the bankrupt?” They said: “The bankrupt among us is the one who has neither money with him nor any property.” He said, “The real bankrupt of my nation would be he who would come on the Day of Resurrection with Prayer, Fasting and charity, (but he will find himself bankrupt on that day as he will have exhausted the good deeds) because he reviled others, brought calumny against others, unlawfully devoured the wealth of others, shed the blood of others and beat others; so his good deeds would be credited to the account of those (who suffered at his hand). If his good deeds fall short to clear the account, their sins would be entered in his account and he would be thrown in the (Hell) Fire.”

Moreover, he (PBUH) used to choose the appropriate days and times for giving instruction to refresh the minds of the recipients, and to ward off boredom, as Abd Allah Ibn Mas’ud said, “The Prophet (PBUH) used to

take care of us in preaching by selecting a suitable time, so that we might not get bored.

How much we are in need following the example of our Prophet (PBUH) as teachers and learners in order to disseminate his message, showing his guidance and sharing his knowledge and Tradition.

May Allah grant us to knowledge and ethics, and guide us to follow the example of our Prophet (PBUH)!