

Imam Al Ghazali has gathered many reports of the excellent qualities of the character of the Prophet of Allah (*peace and blessing of Allah be upon him*) in his book ‘Ihya ‘Uloom Ad Deen’, and having mentioned those reports said, ‘He (the Prophet of Allah (*peace and blessing of Allah be upon him*)) was the most forbearing of people, the most courageous of people, the most just of people and the most chaste of people. His hand never touched the hand of any woman unless he owned her as a slave or was married to her or was closely related to her by blood. He was the most generous of people, who never kept a gold coin or a silver coin with him overnight. If he had anything left over and he could not find someone to give it to before night came, he would not go home until he had donated it to someone who needed it’.

‘He was never asked for anything but he gave it. He used to repair his own sandals and mend his own clothes, and he would help his family in the home and cut meat for them. He was the most modest of the people and would not look at anyone straight in the eye. He would respond to the invitations of the slave and free alike, and accept a gift even if it was a cup of milk, and he would reward a person for it. He would not eat food that had been given in charity, and he would respond to the slave woman and the poor when they asked him for something. He got angry for the sake of his lord, but did not get angry for his own sake. He would adhere to the truth even if that resulted in harm for himself or his companions. He never ate his fill of bread for three days in a row until he met Allah, as he would prefer to give away what he had, rather than eat his fill, not because of poverty or miserliness. He would accept invitations, visit the sick and attend funerals. He walked alone among his enemies without a guard. He was the most humble and quiet of people without

being arrogant, the most eloquent without being long-winded and the most cheerful of countenance. He did not worry about worldly matters. He wore whatever he found, and let his slave or others ride behind him on his mount’.

‘He loved perfume and hated foul smells. He would sit with the poor and offer food to them, and would also eat with the needy, honoring the virtuous and softening the hearts of the people of status by treating them kindly. He upheld ties of kinship without favoring his relatives over those who were better than them, and he did not treat anyone harshly. He accepted the excuses of those who apologized to him, he would joke but he only spoke the truth and he would smile without laughing out loud’.

‘When voices were raised against him, he bore that with patience. He did not waste time without striving for the sake of Allah or doing that which was essential to better himself. He did not look down on any poor person because of his poverty or chronic sickness, and he did not fear any king because of his power’. (*Ihya Uloom Ad Deen*)

These are only a few of the noble characteristics of the beloved Messenger of Allah (*peace and blessing of Allah be upon him*) which he was adorned with. He was certainly sent by Allah to bring perfection and completion to good conduct and beautiful traits as he said, ‘I have been sent to complete noble conduct and to perfect beautiful actions’. (*Ahmad, Sharh As Sunnah*)

Truly, the Prophet (*peace and blessing of Allah be upon him*) left for his followers the most perfect way of behavior, the best conduct and the most beautiful traits. As followers of the great Prophet of Allah (*peace and blessing of Allah be upon him*), we must pattern ourselves in accordance to what he has left for us from his noble traits and characteristics.

# THE NOBLE CONDUCT OF THE MESSENGER OF ALLAH

(*peace and blessing of Allah be upon him*)

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Every Muslim believes in the finality of the Prophet Muhammad (*peace and blessing of Allah be upon him*), and also believes that he/she must accept and follow his teachings. On account of this, a Muslim knows that he must be obedient to the Prophet (*peace and blessing of Allah be upon him*) and adhere to the teachings which are known to be from the ‘Sunnah since this is what Allah Has commanded in the Holy Quran by saying ‘O you who believe, obey Allah and obey His messenger and those in authority from among you’. (*Surah An Nisaa, Verse 59*)

Therefore, obedience to the Prophet of Allah (*peace and blessing of Allah be upon him*) is extremely important and essential for every Muslim, male and female.

However, besides this, Allah Has also informed the believers that they must pattern their lives in accordance to the conduct and manners of the Prophet (*peace and blessing of Allah be upon him*). He has made it very clear that He granted the Prophet (*peace and blessing of Allah be upon him*) the best conduct and manners, and that he (the Prophet (*peace and blessing of Allah be upon him*)) was upon a very high and exalted conduct. About this, Allah says. ‘And you are upon an exalted conduct’. (*Surah Al Qalam, Verse 4*)

In this verse, Allah testifies that the Prophet (*peace and blessing of Allah be upon him*) possessed the best traits and manners, and was upon an exalted and illustrious conduct, having the most beautiful attributes and characteristics.

On account of this, the believers have been exhorted to adopt the excellent conduct of the Prophet (*peace and blessing of Allah be upon him*) in their lives so that they can be recognized as people with lofty ideals and morals. Regarding this, Allah states; ‘Verily in the Messenger of

Allah, you have the most perfect example’. (*Surah Ahzab, Verse 21*)

Here, the believers have been told by Allah that the Prophet (*peace and blessing of Allah be upon him*) possessed the most perfect example for everyone, and so, they must adopt his characteristics in their lives so that they would also become beautified with good conduct.

While describing the outstanding conduct of the Prophet of Allah (*peace and blessing of Allah be upon him*), the mother of the believers, Aisha (may Allah be pleased with her) said, ‘The character of the Prophet of Allah (*peace and blessing of Allah be upon him*) was the Quran’ (*Muslim*). While expounding on this statement of Aisha (may Allah be pleased with her), the great scholar, Qadhi Ayadh said, ‘It means his attitude embodied everything that was contained in the Quran. Whatever it considered as good, and commendable, or encouraged, was his attitude, and whatever it regarded as bad, unfavorable and forbidden, he would refrain from these. So the Quran described his character’.

Imam An Nawawi also said, ‘This means that he acted in accordance with the Quran, adhering to its limits, following its etiquettes, paying heed to its lessons and parables, pondering its meanings and reciting it properly’ (*Sharh Muslim*).

Regarding the notable behavior of the Prophet (*peace and blessing of Allah be upon him*), Husain (may Allah be pleased with him) said, ‘I asked my father, Ali (may Allah be pleased with him) about the conduct of the Messenger of Allah (*peace and blessing of Allah be upon him*) in his assemblies. He replied, ‘The Messenger of Allah (*peace and blessing of Allah be upon him*) was always happy and easy mannered. There was

always a smile and a sign of happiness in his blessed face. He was soft-natured and when the people needed his approval, he easily gave consent’.

‘He did not speak harsh tone nor was he stone-hearted. He did not scream while speaking, nor was he rude or spoke indecently. He did not seek other’s faults’.

‘He never over praised anything nor exceeded in joking, nor was he a miser. He kept away from undesirable language’.

‘He completely kept himself away from three things, from arguments, pride and senseless utterances. He refrained from three things from people. He did not insult, criticize or blame anyone. He did not look for the defects of anyone, and he did not seek the faults of anyone. He only spoke that from which he expected rewards. When he spoke, those present bowed their heads in such a manner, as if birds were sitting on their heads. When all laughed for something, he would laugh too. The things that surprised the people, he would also show his surprise regarding that. (He would not sit quietly and keep himself aloof from everyone, but made himself part of the gathering)’.

‘The Prophet (*peace and blessing of Allah be upon him*) exercised patience at the harshness in the speech of others and their questions. He would say, ‘When you see a person in need, then always help that person’. (*Shama’il Muhammadiyah – Imam Tirmidhi*).

These are some of the outstanding characteristics of the Prophet of Allah (*peace and blessing of Allah be upon him*) which won the hearts of even his enemies. He was loving and kind to all, and was always forgiving even to those who caused harm to him. It is this conduct which he was adorned with, that Allah exhorted the believers to adopt in their lives.

