

The esteemed status of Prophet Muhammad ﷺ In the light of the Qur’ān and Hadith

Allah the Almighty is the creator and sustainer of all the worlds. He has sent His Apostles and revealed books to guide mankind in every era. Prophet Muhammad ﷺ is His last and final Messenger, and the Qur’ān is His last preserved book for the edification of all humanity till the Last Day. All the Apostles of Allah are blessed with esteemed status but Prophet Muhammad ﷺ is the Imam of all these Prophets. Allah the Almighty has venerated him with unique status and ranks. He is the only moderator by whom we have received all the blessings from Allah the Almighty. As his obedience means the obedience of Allah and his disobedience is the disobedience of Allah.

Allah the Almighty has made an obligation on us to love and follow him. We should learn his esteemed status in light of the Qur’ān and Hadith so that we can love him. Without his love, we will not be able to love Allah and follow His commandments. The unique status of Prophet Muhammad ﷺ is discussed comprehensively, which will help to induce his love in our hearts.

Prophet Muhammad’s ﷺ status in the Qur’ān

١. قُلْ إِنَّ كُفُّرَنَا تُحِبُّونَ اللَّهَ فَاتَّبِعُونِي يُحِبِّنِي اللَّهُ وَيَغْفِرُ لَكُمْ ذُنُوبَكُمْ ۖ وَاللَّهُ غَفُورٌ رَّحِيمٌ

Say, [O Muhammad], "If you should love Allah, then follow me, [so] Allah will love you and forgive you your sins. And Allah is Forgiving and Merciful." (Surah No. 3 - Ayah No. 31)

٢. فَلَا وَرِبَّكَ لَا يُؤْمِنُونَ حَتَّىٰ يُحَكِّمُوكَ فِيهَا شَجَرَةٌ يَهُمْ ثُمَّ لَا يَجِدُو فِي أَنفُسِهِمْ حَرَجًا مِّمَّا قَضَيْتَ وَيُسَلِّمُوا تَسْلِيْمًا

But no, by your Lord, they will not [truly] believe until they make you, [O Muhammad], judge concerning that over which they dispute among themselves and then find within themselves no discomfort from what you have judged and submit in [full, willing] submission. (Surah No. 4 - Ayah No. 65)

٣. وَمَا أَرْسَلْنَاكَ إِلَّا رَحْمَةً لِّلْعَالَمِينَ

And We have not sent you, [O Muhammad], except as a mercy to the worlds. (Surah No. 21 - Ayah No. 107)

4. إِنَّ اللَّهَ وَمَلِكُوكَتَهُ يُصَلِّوْنَ عَلَى النَّبِيِّ طَيْأَيْهَا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا صَلَوَاتٌ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلِّمُوا تَسْلِيمًا

Allah and His angels send blessings on the Prophet: O ye that believe! Send ye blessings on him, and salute him with all respect. (Surah No. 33 - Ayah No. 56)

5. يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا لَا تُقْدِمُوا بَيْنَ يَدِي اللَّهِ وَرَسُولِهِ وَاتَّقُوا اللَّهَ إِنَّ اللَّهَ سَمِيعٌ عَلَيْهِمْ يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا لَا تَرْفَعُوا أَصْوَاتَكُمْ فَوْقَ صَوْتِ النَّبِيِّ وَلَا تَجْهِرُوا أَلْقُولَ كَجَهْرٍ بَعْضُكُمْ لِيَعْضُ آنَ تَخْبِطَ أَعْمَالُكُمْ وَآنْتُمْ لَا تَشْعُرُونَ

O you who have believed, do not put [yourselves] before Allah and His Messenger but fear Allah. Indeed, Allah is Hearing and Knowing. O you who have believed, do not raise your voices above the voice of the Prophet or be loud to him in speech like the loudness of some of you to others, lest your deeds become worthless while you perceive not. (Surah No. 49- Ayah No. 1&2)

Prophet Muhammad's ﷺ status in the Hadith

We will not be able to attain the essence of Iman until and unless we love Holy Prophet ﷺ more than every relation of our life. As we cannot learn anything without effort and sacrifice, similarly his love also can't be induced automatically we have to learn and strive for his love. That is why Holy Prophet said:

“By Him in Whose Hands my life is, none of you will have faith till he loves me more than his father and his children.”

(Sahih al-Bukhari # 14)

All the Prophets will show the way of Muhammad ﷺ on the Day of Judgment.

It is stated in a hadith of Bukhari that on the Day of Judgment when all the people will go to Adam ﷺ then Nouh ﷺ then Ibrahim ﷺ then Musa ﷺ then Isa ﷺ but all of them will say we are afraid today that what will happen with us. Today only one man can intercede in the court of Allah the Almighty. Go to Prophet Muhammad ﷺ.

The Holy Prophet ﷺ said;

The people will come to me, and I will prostrate myself underneath Allah's Throne. Then I will be addressed: O Muhammad ﷺ! Raise your head; intercede, for your intercession will be accepted, and ask (for anything) for you will be given.

(Sahih al-Bukhari # 3340)

This hadith shows the esteemed status of Prophet Muhammad ﷺ in the court of Allah. When everyone will be afraid of Allah the Almighty only Prophet Muhammad ﷺ will be allowed to speak with Allah directly. Allah the Almighty will not only listen to him but also accept his intercession. Prophet Muhammad ﷺ will not ask for his forgiveness, he will ask for the forgiveness of humanity.

Question of the Grave

As a Muslim we all know that we are going to die one day and in the grave we are going to spend infinite time. We have to answer some questions in the grave. The status of our grave's life will depend upon the answers of these questions. Prophet Muhammad ﷺ has informed us about these questions in his several narrations. One hadith regarding this question is mentioned as follows:

Allah's Apostle ﷺ said, "When (Allah's) slave is put in his grave and his companions return and he even hears their footsteps, two angels come to him and make him sit and ask, What did you use to say about this man (i.e. Muhammad)? The faithful Believer will say, I testify that he is Allah's slave and His Apostle. Then they will say to him, Look at your place in the Hell Fire; Allah has given you a place in Paradise instead of it. So he will see both his places." (Qatada said, "We were informed that his grave would be made spacious." Then Qatada went back to the narration of Anas who said;) Whereas a hypocrite or a non-believer will be asked, "What did you use to say about this man." He will reply, "I do not know; but I used to say what the people used to say." So they will say to him, "Neither did you know nor did you take the guidance (by reciting the Quran)." Then he will be hit with iron hammers once, that he will send such a cry as everything near to him will hear, except Jinns and human beings.

(Sahih al-Bukhari # 1374)

In light of this Hadith, it is quite evident that this will be the first and compulsory question in the grave. We won't be able to succeed in the grave if we don't establish a personal connection with Prophet Muhammad ﷺ. We should have a personal opinion regarding his status and we should put the

effort in this life to learn this. Otherwise we will have to face the consequences.

The intense love of Companions for Prophet Muhammad ﷺ

After the Holy Prophet ﷺ, blessed Companions are successful people among the whole Ummah in the sight of Allah. They were the direct students of Prophet Muhammad ﷺ that is why their status is incomparable. One of the most significant reasons for their status was their intense love for Prophet Muhammad ﷺ. That is why Allah the Almighty has mentioned their unique status in the Qur'ān and Hadith repeatedly. We should learn from their practices. I would like to quote some ahadith that will depict the love of Prophet Muhammad ﷺ in the sight of Companions.

"Whenever the Prophet a, performed ablution, his Companions were nearly fighting for the remains of the water."

(Sahih al-Bukhari # 189)

This was not the act of a single Companion rather it was the practice of all the Companions.

Companions were looking at Prophet Muhammad ﷺ during Prayer

The following hadith shows the esteemed status of Prophet Muhammad ﷺ. in the sight of his Companions. They can sacrifice everything for a single glimpse of Prophet Muhammad ﷺ.

Narrated Anas : The Prophet ﷺ did not come out for three days. The people stood for the prayer and Abu Bakr ﷺ went ahead to lead the prayer. (In the meantime) the Prophet Muhammad ﷺ caught hold of the curtain and lifted it. When the face of the Prophet Muhammad ﷺ appeared we had never seen a scene more pleasing than the face of the Prophet ﷺ as it appeared then. The Prophet ﷺ beckoned to Abu Bakr ﷺ to lead the people in the prayer and then let the curtain fall. We did not see him (again) till he died.

(Sahih al-Bukhari # 681)

There are uncountable incidents of the Companions that show their utmost love and reverence for Prophet Muhammad ﷺ. I will just quote one incident of a single Companion.

Extreme Love and Reverence of Abu Ayub Ansari ﷺ

Aflah, the freed slave of Abu Ayyub Ansari ﷺ, reported: Allah Messenger ﷺ had alighted in his house (viz. of Abu Ayyub Ansari at the time of his emigration to Madinah) and he occupied the lower story, whereas Abu Ayyub Ansari ﷺ lived in the upper story. One night, Abu Ayyub Ansari ﷺ got up and said (to himself): (How unfortunate it is) that we walk above the head of Allah's Messenger ﷺ, so they went aside and spent the night in a nook and then told Allah's Apostle ﷺ about it whereupon Allah's Apostle ﷺ said: The lower story is more comfortable (for me). But he (Abu Ayyub Ansari) said: We (would not live) over the roof under which you live. One night water fell on our floor. We had only one cloth to cover ourselves. We started soaking water from it so that it might not fall on Prophet Muhammad ﷺ. We spent the whole night in this effort. So I requested again to Prophet Muhammad to please shift to upper story. So Allah's Messenger ﷺ shifted to the upper story, whereas Abu Ayyub Ansari ﷺ shifted to the lower story. He (Abu Ayyub Ansari) used to prepare food for Allah's Apostle ﷺ; and when it was brought (back) to him he asked (to locate) the part, where his fingers had touched (the food), and he followed his fingers on that part where his fingers (those of the Holy Prophet) had touched it. (One day) he prepared food that contained garlic, and when it was returned to him he asked (to locate) the part that the fingers of Allah's Apostle ﷺ had touched. It was said to him that he had not eaten (the food). He was distressed and went up to Holy Prophet ﷺ and said: Is it forbidden? But Allah's Messenger ﷺ said: No, (it is not forbidden), but I do not like it. and he said: I also do not like what you do not like or which you did not like.

(Sahih Muslim # 5358 & Musnad Ahmad 22471.)

We should also think before every act that either it is under the commandments of Prophet Muhammad or not. This is the essence of Iman to love Prophet Muhammad with whole heart, soul and mind.