

Lecture No. 16: Sirah of the Holy Prophet PBUH - I

(Module 1 (68): Introduction to the “Sirah” of the Holy Prophet PBUH)

Meaning of Seerah:

Seerah (سيرت) in Urdu and Seerah (سيرة) In Arabic. Derived from "Seir" (سير). It means to walk, to take a path, to adopt an attitude or a method, etc. Seerah is singular and its plural is "Seyar" (سَيَر). Thus the meaning of Seerah is state, attitude, method, gait, character, trait, and habit. In the Holy Qur'an, the word "character" is used in the meaning of character and condition.

سَنُعِيْنُهَا سَيْرَتَهَا الْاَوَّلَى (سورة طه: 21)

We will return it to its former condition.

According to Professor Usman Khalid Yursh, "Seerah is the name for defining the life conditions, morality, and practices of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH)."

Sources of the Prophet's (PBUH) Biography: The sources are the books in which a piece of knowledge is first discussed or information on some particular subject is first collected in it. The primary source of information about a historical figure will be a book or books written during his life or in the subsequent period in which as much material as possible has been gathered or scholarly work and research have been done for the collection of relevant material.

- The Qur'an is the first authentic source of the Prophet's life. The authentic biographers of the life account of the prophet (PBUH) have declared the Quran as the main source of the biography of the prophet (PBUH). The biographers have found the biography of the prophet (PBUH) in the perspective of chronological order of the Quranic verses and Shaan e Nuzul (background of the revelation of Quranic verses). It is a fact that the Holy Quran was revealed step by step in different circumstances and events and continued to guide the Prophet (PBUH) and his Ummah.
- Exegeses (Tafseer) of Qur'an, books of hadith, interpretations of hadith, books of Maghazi and suraya (مغازی و سرايا) (the accounts of the Battles), books of Shumiles (attributes of the prophet) (شمائل), books of proofs of prophethood and miracles (دلائل نبوت و معجزات), books on account of narrators of hadith (اسماء الرجال), books on history, books on Pre-Islamic literature (ادب جاهلی), books on history of Harmaen-e-Sharifin (the two holy cities: Makkah and Madina) (تاریخ حرمین)

(شريفين), books of knowledge of genealogy (علم الانساب) and books of the traditions of the Companions (آثار صحابه) are counted as the sources of Seerat.

The Importance of the Prophet's Biography for Muslims: Religious teachings basically consist of two things: 1. Quran Majeed 2. Sunnah of the Prophet (PBUH)

The Divine Word, which means the Holy Qur'an, was received in the language of the Holy Prophet (PBUH). Its explanation and details are received from the prophet (PBUH). Therefore, it is not possible to know the religion without the awareness of the character of the Prophet (PBUH).

- The life of the Prophet ﷺ is the only practical form of love of and obedience to God. Allah says:

مَنْ يُطِيعِ الرَّسُولَ فَقَدْ أَطَاعَ اللَّهَ (النساء، 4 : 80)

“Whoever obeys the Messenger (blessings and peace be upon him) obeys (but) Allah indeed,”

The obedience to the Prophet (PBUH) is not possible without knowledge of his character.

- The Holy Qur'an has clearly declared obedience to the Prophet (PBUH) as the only means of obtaining divine guidance:

وَإِنْ تُطِيعُوهُ تَهْتَدُوا وَمَا عَلَى الرَّسُولِ إِلَّا الْبَلَاغُ الْمُبِينُ (النور، 54)

“And if you obey him, you will be guided. And nothing is (obligatory) for the Messenger (PBUH) but to convey (the commands) clearly.”

- The life of the Prophet (PBUH) is an eternal example of moral perfection for humanity. Allah Says:

لَقَدْ كَانَ لَكُمْ فِي رَسُولِ اللَّهِ أُسْوَةٌ حَسَنَةٌ (الاحزاب، 33)

“In truth, in (the sacred person of) Allah’s Messenger (blessings and peace be upon him) there is for you a most perfect and beautiful model (of life)”

So, the achievement of good morals and perfection in it is not possible without guidance from his noble character.

- The biography of the Prophet (PBUH) is the only way for mankind to gain knowledge and knowledge of the truth. Because human sources of knowledge are very limited, while the source of knowledge and knowledge of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) is divine revelation. Allah says:

وَمَا يَنْطِقُ عَنِ الْهَوَىٰ - إِنْ هُوَ إِلَّا وَحْيٌ يُوحَى (النجم، 3)

“And he does not speak out of his (own) desire His speech is nothing but Revelation, which is sent to him.”

And they do not speak of (their) desire. His statement is a complete revelation that is given to him. Therefore, knowledge of self and knowledge of God is not possible without the charity of Mustafa (peace be upon him).

- Allah has declared the person of the Holy Prophet (PBUH) as the center and axis of faith and Islam. It is said:

فَالَّذِينَ آمَنُوا بِهِ وَعَزَّرُوهُ وَنَصَرُوهُ وَاتَّبَعُوا النُّورَ الَّذِي أُنْزِلَ مَعَهُ أُولَٰئِكَ هُمُ الْمُفْلِحُونَ (الأعراف، 7 : 157)

“So those who will believe in this (most exalted Messenger [blessings and peace be upon him]) and venerate and revere him and serve and support him (in his Din [Religion]) and follow this light (the Qur'an) that has been sent down with him, it is they who will flourish and prosper.”

Therefore, the relation with the Holy Prophet (PBUH) is not possible without getting acquainted with his noble character.

(Module 2 (69): Birth of the Holy Prophet PBUH)

Arhasat (ارہاصات): Events that appeared as precursors to the birth of the holy prophet (PBUH).

Hazrat Amina (RA), the mother of the Holy Prophet (PBUH), said that at the time of birth, she felt that a light emitted from her. In that light, the palaces of Syria could be seen and at the time of his birth, he was completely clean [Tabaqat Ibn Saad (طبقات ابن سعد), 102:1]

At the time of the birth of the Prophet (PBUH), the fourteen pillars of the House of Chosroes (کسری) fell down. The great fireplace of magus (مجوس کا آتشکده) went extinguished.

Date of Birth: The date of birth of the Holy Prophet (PBUH) is 12 Rabi-ul-Awwal (ربیع الاول). 22nd April is 571 AD, according to the Gregorian calendar. According to Hindi calendar it was 1 Jaith (جیٹھ) 628 Bikrami (بکرمی).

Time of Birth: The Prophet (PBUH) was born soon after the early morning. According to Pakistan's timetable, the time of the early morning was 4:20 am in Makkah on that day.

Birthplace: The birthplace of the Holy Prophet in Makkah is a well-known house located near the Haram-e-Kaaba (Souq Al-Lail) سوق اللیل. Today there is a public library (Maktaba Makkah al-

Mukramah) at this place. This library was built by Sheikh Abbas Qattan (شيخ عباس قطان) late, with the permission of His Majesty Shah Abdul Aziz.

Name of Muhammad (PBUH): The grandfather of the prophet (PBUH) suggested his name Muhammad (PBUH). Muhammad is derived from [Hamd] حمد, Hamd means to praise, "Muhammad" is the passive form of the noun which means: He who is to be praised abundantly and repeatedly.

Nursing and Infancy: Feeding an infant is called nursing. There are mentions of 6 women including the real mother of the prophet (PBUH) who nursed him:

1. Hazrat Amina (RA)
2. Abu Lahab's concubine Thawaiba (ثويبة)
3. Three women of Banu Salim (بنو سليم) tribe, all three were named Ataka (عاتكة).
4. Khula bint al-Munzar (خولة بنت المنذر)
5. Hazrat Halima Saadia (full name was Halima bint Abi Dhubayb (حليمة بنت أبي ذؤيب). Her husband's name was Harith bin Abdul-Azza (حارث بن عبد العزى) and the tribe was Banu Saad bin Bakr (بنو سعد بن بكر).

The Honor of His Care: Umm Ayman (ام ايمن) was the nurse of the Holy Prophet (PBUH) who took care of the Holy Prophet (PBUH) in Makkah. When Prophet (PBUH) came to Hazrat Halimah, Hazrat Halimah's daughter Sheema (شيماء) took care of him.

(Module 3 (70): Foster care (Raza'at) of the Holy Prophet PBUH)

Reason of the Foster Care: Arabs preferred to raise their children in the pure environment of villages. It was common to raise and educate children in the rural tribes because of their eloquence and language skills they could attain from there. Banu Saad (بنو سعد) tribe was famous for its eloquence, bravery, nobility, and valuable human qualities.

- At the beginning of spring, according to tradition, the women of Banu Saad came to Makkah to adopt the children of rich families for adoption. One of them, Hazrat Halimah, was entrusted with the responsibility of bringing up the Holy Prophet (PBUH), which later became the source of incalculable blessings for her.
- With the blessed arrival of Hazrat Halimah at Banu Saad, blessings from God began to appear. The whole area became lush and green. Animals became fat and healthy, wealth

became abundant. In Hazrat Halimah's house, the milking animals were filled with milk, and they drank to their full, but the milk did not finish.

- The growth of the Holy Prophet (PBUH) was completely different from that of normal children. In Hazrat Halimah's house, he started walking on his hands and feet in the second month. In the third month standing, in the fourth month with the support of the wall, and in the fifth month without any support. In the eighth month, he began to speak, and in the ninth month, he began to speak eloquently.
- After two years, Halimah brought back the Prophet (PBUH) to Hazrat Amina. But because of the blessings of the Holy Prophet (PBUH), he requested to keep him for more time, which was accepted by Hazrat Amina (RA).

At the festival of Banus Saad, a priest recognized him and told the people that he was going to be a prophet. He encouraged people to kill him.

- Meanwhile, the splitting of the chest (شق صدر) incident took place. His foster siblings saw that his chest was chalked and then closed back to the same position. These were actually the angels sent by Allah who came at Allah's order to split his chest to clean it from evil. Hazrat Halimah was afraid of these incidents and decided to return the Prophet (PBUH) out of fear.

Death of Hazrat Amina: The Holy Prophet (PBUH) was **six years** old when he traveled with his mother and Umme Ayman to Madinah. On the way, he visited the grave of his father Hazrat Abdullah (RA). At that time Madinah was called **Yathrib (يثرب)**.

- The Holy Prophet (PBUH) along with his mother Hazrat Amina stayed at Dar-ul-Nabgha (دارالنبغة) in Yathrib for about a month.
- Hazrat Amina (RA) fell seriously ill on her return journey and at the age of twenty left the world at the top of a hill in **Abwa (ابواء)** and was buried there.
- He (PBUH) came back to Makkah with Umm Ayman to Hazrat Abdul Muttalib.

(Module 4 (71): Makkan life of the Holy Prophet PBUH)

Hazrat Abdul Muttalib's Patronage: Hazrat Abdul Muttalib had a special love for the Holy Prophet. He was the only sign of his father, because of which he was very dear to his grandfather. Hazrat Abdul Muttalib was also aware of the blessing and nobility of the Holy Prophet (PBUH).

- Hazrat Abd al-Muttalib bequeathed to Abu Talib, the uncle of the Prophet (PBUH), about the Prophet (PBUH) that after him, he will be responsible for the guardianship of

Muhammad (PBUH). The blessed age of the Holy Prophet was eight years two months and ten days, when Hazrat Abdul Muttalib passed away.

Prophet (PBUH) Under the Care of Hazrat Abu Talib: Hazrat Abu Talib also had a special love for the Prophet (PBUH). Hazrat Abu Talib fulfilled his duty well as the guardian of the prophet. He considered him as one of his children rather he took care of him more than his children. He defended him for more than forty years. He kept friendship and enmity with people for his sake.

First Trade Trip Abroad: At the age of 12, the Prophet (PBUH) went on his first trade trip to the country of Syria with his uncle Abu Talib.

- There was an incident of meeting with a monk named Bahira (بھیرا) residing at the place of Basra. Bahira the monk prophesied that that child was a prophet and feared that the Jews would recognize him and try to harm him, so he asked Abu Talib to send him back to Mecca.

The Battle of Fujjaar (حربِ فجار): He was 15 years old when the battle of Fujjaar occurred. The sanctity of the Haram and sacred months was violated.

The Agreement of Fadhul (حلف الفضول): This agreement was made after the battle of Fujjaar, which said, "Whoever is seen oppressed in Makkah, he will be helped and supported and he will be given his right."

Second Trade Trip: Hazrat Khadijah (RA) was the richest woman and widow of Makkah who was looking for a righteous and trustworthy person to take her trade goods to Syria. The life of the Holy Prophet (PBUH) was 25 years and he was known for his honesty and trustworthiness, understanding of business transactions, and good dealings. So Hazrat Khadijah requested the Holy Prophet (PBUH) that if he (PBUH) took her merchandise to Syria with her slave Mesra (میسرہ), she would give him double the compensation. Uncle Abu Talib convinced the Holy Prophet (PBUH) and the Prophet (PBUH) to leave for the country of Syria with Khadija's merchandise. Hazrat Khadija's slave Mesara was with him on his trade journey and was observing his good manners, high character, honesty, and integrity. Profits in this trade trip also exceeded expectations. On her return, Maysara narrated all the affairs of the journey to Hazrat Khadijah. So Hazrat Khadijah (RA) sent a proposal for marriage to the prophet (PBUH) through her friend Nafisa.

Marriage Ceremony: After consulting Uncle Abu Talib, preparations for the wedding began. Hazrat Khadija's cousin, who was a scholar of the previous divine books, welcomed the procession. On behalf of the Holy Prophet, his uncle Abu Talib, Hazrat Hamza, and other most respectable Qurayshied elders were there.

The marriage sermon was pronounced by uncle Abu Talib and the dower of 20 camels was paid to her. Except for his son Ibrahim, all other children were born from the womb of Hazrat Khadijah (RA).

(Module 5 (72): Reconstruction of “Ka’ba”)

- From the beginning, Allah had chosen Kaaba for the gathering as a center for humanity. Therefore, the Prophets (PBUH) had been performing the duty of its construction and repair in every age. Allah ordered Hazrat Adam (AS) and Hazrat Hawa (AS) to build a house for Him. Hazrat Jibrael (AS) told Hazrat Adam (AS) and Hazrat Hawa (AS) a place for the purpose. After Adam (AS), Noah (AS) and then Abraham (AS) rebuilt the Kaaba in their times. Then Amalekah (عمالة), then centuries later, Banu Jarham (بنو جرهم) built it.
- Holy Prophet (PBUH) was 35 years old when Quraish decided to rebuild Kaaba.

Reasons for the New Construction: A woman's carelessness caused a fire in Kaaba. The upper part of the building was also damaged due to flood water. The walls were not very high and there was no roof. Therefore, it was decided to build it on solid foundations so that they would not be affected by floods and the precious gifts would also be safe inside.

- The various parts of the Kaaba were divided among the tribes for construction which is as follows:
 1. The eastern wall and the door of the Kaaba came under the control of Banu Abd Manaf (بنو عبد مناف) and Banu Zahra (بنو زهرة).
 2. The western wall was divided into Banu Sham (بنو سهم), Banu Jah (بنو جح) and Banu Adi (بنو عدي).
 3. The southern wall came under Banu Makhzoom (بنو مخزوم).
 4. The northern wall belonged to Banu Asad (بنو اسد) and Banu Abd al-Dar (بنو عبد الدار).
- A Roman architect named Baqum (باقوم) was appointed to oversee the rebuilding of the Kaaba on Abrahamic foundations.

Controversy over the Installation of the Black Stone (حجر اسود): The construction work was going on smoothly that when the issue of the installation of the Black Stone came up. There was a dispute among the chiefs. Each tribe wanted to install the black stone itself. However, on this occasion, Abu Umayyah bin Mughirah (أبو أمية بن مغيرة) a Qureshid chieftain suggested that the next day the first person who entered the Haram through the gate of Haram would make the decision and everyone would accept his decision. It was a good coincidence that the next morning, the Holy Prophet (PBUH) entered the Holy Kaaba first. Everyone was ready to accept the decision with satisfaction. The Prophet (PBUH) decided to share the honor among all. He

spread his blessed cloak and placed a black stone on it, and then the head of each tribe lifted one corner of the cloak and approached him. With this composition, all the chiefs were happy and the way of a bloody war was closed.