

The Conduct of the Prophet ﷺ

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According to the narration of Abu al-Bukhtari, if he ever wronged anyone, the Holy Prophet ﷺ would compensate them and show kindness. He never cursed any woman or slave. On one occasion, during a battle, someone suggested that he curse his enemies. The Prophet ﷺ responded, "Allah ﷻ sent me as a mercy, not as a curser." Even when asked to curse a particular individual or an unbeliever, he refrained and instead prayed for their well-being. He never physically harmed anyone with his hand except in the path of Allah ﷻ. He did not seek personal revenge but would act to uphold the sanctity of Allah ﷻ.

When faced with a choice between two actions, the Prophet ﷺ would always select the easier option, provided it did not involve sin or severing ties. He was always willing to assist anyone in need, whether a slave or a free person. Hadhrat Anas رضي الله عنه testified, "By the One who sent him as a Prophet, he never questioned me, 'Why did you do this?' or 'Why did you not do that?' His wives never rebuked me except that he defended me." The Prophet ﷺ would sleep wherever he had a bed; if there were none, he would sleep on the ground. Allah ﷻ described the Prophet ﷺ in the Torah as "Muhammad, the Prophet of Allah ﷻ, His chosen servant, without harshness, not raising his voice, nor repaying evil with evil. He is inclined to forgive and pardon. His birthplace is Makkah, his migration is to Tabah, and his reign is in Syria. He and his companions wear an *izar* around their waists and call people to the Qur'an and wisdom. He performs ablution with water on his limbs." A similar description of him is found in the *Injil* (New Testament).

Another aspect of his character was his habit of being the first to greet those he met. He would wait patiently at a designated spot for someone he was to meet. He never withdrew his hand from a handshake until the other person did so first. When meeting any of his companions, he would shake their hands, hold them, intertwine his fingers with theirs, and grasp their hands firmly. He ﷺ never stood up or sat down without first remembering Allah ﷻ. If someone sat by him during his prayers, he would shorten the prayer and ask, "Do you have any need?" After attending to their needs, he would return to his prayer.

He ﷺ would often sit with both legs extended and hold them with his hands, similar to the sitting posture of a person in the "squatting" position. His sitting place was not distinguished from the sitting places of his companions and he would sit wherever the gathering ended. He was never seen with his legs extended towards his companions so as not to inconvenience anyone unless the space was large enough not to be cramped. Most of the time, he would sit facing the *qiblah* (direction of prayer). He would honour those who entered upon him to the extent that he sometimes spread his garment for someone with whom he had no blood or nursing relations, seating them

upon it. He preferred to give the newcomer the cushion he was sitting on; if they hesitated to accept it, he would insist until they did. No one interacted with him except they were the most honoured person in his presence. He would give each person sitting with him their due share of his attention. His sitting place, listening, conversation, gentle qualities, attentiveness to the person sitting with him, and demeanour were all marked by modesty, humility, and trustworthiness. Thus, all who interacted with him assumed themselves to be the most loved by him.

Allah ﷻ Ta'ala addresses him:

فَبِمَا رَحْمَةٍ مِّنَ اللَّهِ لِنْتَ لَهُمْ وَلَوْ كُنْتَ فَظًا غَلِيظَ الْقَلْبِ لَانْفَضُّوا مِنْ حَوْلِكَ

So, [O Prophet], it is through mercy from Allah that you are gentle to them. Had you been rough and hard-hearted, they would have dispersed from around you. (Surah Aal Imran, 159)

The Prophet ﷺ addressed his companions with respectful nicknames and even assigned nicknames to those who did not have one. He addressed women by the names of their children and called boys by the nicknames that endeared them to him. He was the last to become angry and was extremely gentle and kind in his interactions with people. In his presence, no one spoke loudly. He would often recite at the end of his gatherings:

سُبْحَانَكَ اللَّهُمَّ وَبِحَمْدِكَ، أَشْهَدُ أَنْ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا أَنْتَ أَسْتَغْفِرُكَ وَأَتُوبُ إِلَيْكَ

O Allah, You are pure. All praise is for You. I bear witness that there is no deity but You. I seek forgiveness from You and turn to You in repentance. (Sunan Abi Dawud, 4859)