

KEY QUALITIES OF PROPHETS

Some qualities were necessarily found in Allah's messengers. All messengers were equal in those qualities. These qualities were necessary conditions for the prophethood. They were as under:

Truthfulness: All prophets and messengers were truthful. It was impossible to attribute telling a lie to them. Allah (Ta'ala) says.

﴿وَصَدَقَ الْمُرْسَلُونَ﴾ يَاسِينَ: ٥٢

Translation of Meaning:

"And the Messengers spoke truth!" (Yaseen:52)

The last prophet Hadrat Muhammad (*SallAllahu Alaihi Wasallam*) was named as truthful and trustworthy by the people of Quraish, prior to his prophethood.

Trustworthiness: All messengers were trustworthy. It was impossible the they should act the least degree of breach of trust They all were free from such acts overtly and covertly. AllahTa'ala says:

﴿وَمَا كَانَ لِنَبِيٍّ أَنْ يَغُلَّ﴾ آل عمران: ١٦١

Translation of Meaning:

It is not for any Prophet to take illegally a part of booty (Ghulul)[Aal-Imran:161]

Intellectuality and Intelligence: Allah's messengers' key responsibilities were to communicate to the people the message of Allah (*Ta'ala*). To this end they would have to deal with people of different ranks of the society. They would have to deal with all types of matters. Therefore, Allah (*Ta'ala*) bestowed them with qualities of intellectuality, intelligence and insight to render their duties in a perfect manner to overcome the problems.

Hadrat Muhamamd (*SallAllahu Alaihi Wasallam*) was still not a prophet when the people of Quraish differed as to who will lift the black stone and install it in the wall of the Holy Kabah. They were about to enter into a bloody fighting when the

prophet Muhammad (*SallAllahu Alaihi Wasallam*) with his intellectuality and intelligence solved this problem in a manner that all people accepted the solution. He (*SallAllahu Alaihi Wasallam*) put the black stone in a sheet of cloth and asked the chief of all the tribes to hold the sheet. When the black stone reached its destination, He (*SallAllahu Alaihi Wasallam*) lifted it and installed it in the wall.

We find an example of intellectuality and intelligence in the life of Hadrat Ibrahim (Alaihis Salam). There was an argument on the qualities of Allah (*Ta'ala*) with Namrood who claimed to be a god . Hadrat Ibrahim (Alaihis Salam) said "My Lord (Allâh) is He Who gives life and causes death." Out of his arrogance, the foolish Namrud could not understand what Hadrat Ibrahim (Alaihis Salam) said. To prove his foolishness, he brought two prisoners from prison. He killed one of them and released the other saying he was also competent over life and death. Hadrat Ibrahim (Alaihis Salam) with his God-gifted intelligence understood the extent of his foolishness and keeping his level of foolishness in mind he said: "Verily! Allâh causes the sun to rise from the east; then cause it you to rise from the west." So the disbeliever was utterly defeated. This story has been mentioned in the Holy Quran in the following aayah:

﴿ أَلَمْ تَرَ إِلَى الَّذِي حَاجَّ إِبْرَاهِيمَ فِي رَبِّهِ أَنْ آتَاهُ اللَّهُ الْمُلْكَ إِذْ قَالَ إِبْرَاهِيمُ رَبِّيَ الَّذِي يُحْيِي وَيُمِيتُ قَالَ أَنَا أُحْيِي وَيُمِيتُ قَالَ إِبْرَاهِيمُ فَإِنَّ اللَّهَ يَأْتِي بِالشَّمْسِ مِنَ الْمَشْرِقِ فَأْتِ بِهَا مِنَ الْمَغْرِبِ فَبُهِتَ الَّذِي كَفَرَ وَاللَّهُ لَا يَهْدِي الْقَوْمَ الظَّالِمِينَ ﴾ البقرة: ٢٥٨

Translation of Meaning:

Have you not looked at him who disputed with Ibrâhim (Abraham) about his Lord (Allâh), because Allâh had given him the kingdom? When Ibrâhim (Abraham) said (to him): "My Lord (Allâh) is He Who gives life and causes death." He said, "I give life and cause death." Ibrâhim (Abraham) said, "Verily! Allâh causes the sun to rise from the east; then cause it you to rise from the west." So the disbeliever was utterly defeated. And Allâh guides not the people, who are Zâlimûn (wrong-doers). (Al-Baqarah: 258)

Dawah (Call to Islam)

Allah (Ta'ala) selects a person from among the people to communicate to them His orders and ordinances, and confers him with the position of prophet and messenger. How is it possible that a person is appointed to render a duty and he fails to render his duty? It is impossible that Allah's messengers not communicate to the people His instructions or conceals a portion thereof or exercise the least degree of carelessness. Allah (Ta'ala) says:

﴿ مَا عَلَى الرَّسُولِ إِلَّا أَنْ يَبْلُغَ ۝ المائدة: ٩٩ ﴾

Translation of Meaning:

The duty of Messenger [i.e. Our Messenger Muhammad SAW whom We have sent to you, (O mankind)] is nothing but to convey (the Message). (Al-Ma'idah: 99)

At another place Allah (Ta'ala) says:

﴿ يَتْلُوهَا الرَّسُولُ بَلِّغْ مَا أُنْزِلَ إِلَيْكَ مِنْ رَبِّكَ ۝ المائدة: ٦٧ ﴾

Translation of Meaning:

O Messenger (Muhammad SAW)! Proclaim (the Message) which has been sent down to you from your Lord. (Al-Ma'idah :67)

The Holy Quran says about Hadrat Nooh (Alaihis Salam):

﴿ قَالَ يَتَقَوِّمُ لَيْسَ بِي ضَلَالَةٌ وَلَكِنِّي رَسُولٌ مِّن رَّبِّ الْعَالَمِينَ ۝ اٰلِیُّغٰثُكُمْ رَسَلْتُ رَبِّیْ وَاَنْصَحُ لَكُمْ ۝ وَاَعْلَمُ مِنَ اللّٰهِ مَا لَا تَعْلَمُونَ ۝ الاعراف: ٦١ - ٦٢ ﴾

Translation of Meaning:

[Nûh (Noah)] said: "O my people! There is no error in me, but I am a Messenger from the Lord of the 'Alamîn (mankind, jinn and all that exists)! (61) "I convey unto you the Messages of my Lord and give sincere advice to you. And I know from Allâh what you know not. (62) (Al-A'raf: 61-62)

When this aayah (verse) ﴿ وَاَنْذِرْ عَشِيرَتَكَ الْاَقْرَبِينَ ۝ الشعراء: ٢١٤ ﴾ “And warn your tribe (O Muhammad Sallallahu Alaihi Wasallam) of near kindred” (As-Shu'ara: 214)

was revealed to the Prophet Muhammad (Sallallahu Alaihi Wasallam), he (Sallallahu Alaihi Wasallam) addressed the people of Quraish saying:

" يَا مَعْشَرَ قُرَيْشٍ - أَوْ كَلِمَةً نَحْوَهَا - اشْتَرُوا أَنْفُسَكُمْ، لَا أُغْنِي عَنْكُمْ مِنَ اللَّهِ شَيْئًا، يَا بَنِي عَبْدِ مَنَافٍ، لَا أُغْنِي عَنْكُمْ مِنَ اللَّهِ شَيْئًا، يَا عَبَّاسُ بْنُ عَبْدِ الْمُطَّلِبِ، لَا أُغْنِي عَنْكَ مِنَ اللَّهِ شَيْئًا، وَيَا صَفِيَّةَ عَمَّةَ رَسُولِ اللَّهِ، لَا أُغْنِي عَنْكَ مِنَ اللَّهِ شَيْئًا وَيَا فَاطِمَةَ بِنْتَ مُحَمَّدٍ سَلِينِي مَا شِئْتَ مِنْ مَالِي، لَا أُغْنِي عَنْكَ مِنَ اللَّهِ شَيْئًا " . (رواه البخاري).

Translation of Meaning:

"O Quraish people! (or he said a similar word) Buy yourselves! I cannot save you from Allah (if you disobey Him) O Bani Abu Manaf! I cannot save you from Allah (if you disobey Him). O `Abbas! The son of `Abdul Muttalib! I cannot save you from Allah (if you disobey Him) O Safiya, (the aunt of Allah's Messenger (ﷺ)) I cannot save you from Allah (if you disobey Him). O Fatima, the daughter of Muhammad ! Ask what you wish from my property, but I cannot save you from Allah (if you disobey Him). (Al-Bukhari)

* * *