

The Humility of Allah's messenger (PBUH) **BS Foad, M.D, 2011**

We are ordered to follow the example of Allah's messenger because of his noble character and high morals:

"You have indeed in the Messenger of Allah a beautiful example of conduct for those who believe in Allah, and in the Last Day, and remember Allah often"

Al-Ahzab 33: 21

We will describe how humble Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) was and that he never elevated himself over his companions and how kind, caring and merciful he was.

Allah ordered him in the Qur'an to be kind and humble with the believers:

And lower thy wing to the Believers who follow thee.

Ash-Shura'a 26: 215

And:

Strain not thine eyes, (wistfully) at what We have bestowed on certain classes of them, nor grieve over them: but lower thy wing (in gentleness) to the Believers.

Al-Hijr 15: 88

We will discuss the following noble characteristics of Allah's messenger:

- 1-His humility with his companions
- 2-His humility at home
- 3-His kindness, caring and mercy

His humility with his companions

1-Omar (may Allah be pleased with him) related that he heard the Prophet (PBUH) say:

(Do not praise me, like the Christians have praised and elevated Jesus the son of Mary, but say: "The servant of Allah and His messenger) Bokhari

We learn from this Hadeeth that Muhammad (PBUH) was humble and he did not want his companions to glorify him or elevate him. He stressed his humanity and that he is a servant of God and His messenger. We should not, therefore, attribute to him super human qualities or elevate him to be God or an angel.

2-Othman Bin Affan (may Allah be pleased with him) said: (By Allah we have accompanied the messenger of Allah in Madina and during travel, and he used to visit

our sick, and witness our funerals, and fight in battles with us, and help us with whatever he had, whether little or a lot) Ahmad.

We learn from this Hadeeth that as Muslims we should get involved and not isolate ourselves from the community. Rather we should reach out and help those who need our help, and give comfort to the sick and those who lost a loved one

Anas (may Allah be pleased with him) said:

When Allah's messenger (PBUH) saw a man and greeted him and shook his hand, he would not take his hand off, till the other man takes his hand first; and would not turn his face away from the other person till the other person turns away. He was not seen sitting with anyone pushing forward his knees)

Termedhi & Ibn Majja

We learn from this Hadeeth that we too should not turn our faces away from someone while engaged in conversation, and should not be in a hurry to leave, or give the impression that we are bored or that we do not care. We should be respectful of others and show humility, rather than arrogance. We should care for their feelings and not belittle them or look down at them.

4-He worked side by side with his companions: Bokhari related after Al-Bazzar that he said:

(I saw the messenger of Allah on the day of Ahzab (confederates) removing and carrying the dirt and the dust from the dirt concealed his axilla).

We learn from this Hadeeth that no Muslim should feel that work is beneath him or is not proper for his status in the community. The messenger of Allah participated in digging the trench when Madina was under siege by the confederate army. He worked hard, side by side his companions and shared their tiredness and hunger.

5-He allowed others to ride behind him on donkey. Ahmad & Muslim related that Abi Dhurr said:

(The messenger of Allah PBUH rode a donkey and allowed me to ride behind him on the donkey.

This shows his humility in two aspects:

-He rode a donkey not a horse and did not complain

-He allowed his companions to ride behind him

6-He used to go with the poor and needy and the widow and the slave woman to help them.

Ad-Daremy related that Allah's messenger (PBUH) used to remember Allah often, does not waste time in useless talk, prolongs the prayer and shorten his sermon and does

feel high above going with a needy or weak person or with a widow in order to help them

Ahmad & Bokhari & Ibn Majja related that Anas said: (The slave woman in Madina could take the hand of Allah's messenger and he would go with her any where she wishes, and he would not remove his hand from her hand)

We learn from these Hadeeth:

- Allah's messenger was kind and humble
- He would help the poor, needy, the weak and the widows and the slaves
- He would make them feel comfortable and would go with them any where they wished to help them

His humility at home

1-Aesha (may Allah be pleased with her) was asked: What did Allah's messenger (PBUH) do at home? She said: (He was like any other human being, cleaning and mending his garment, milking the goat, mending his shoes, serving himself, and be of service to his family, till he hears the call to prayer, then he goes out)

Bokhari, Muslim & Ahmad

We learn from this Hadeeth:

- A man should not feel high or mighty or above helping with the chores at home
- The man can and should attend to his needs and help his wife and family

2-Allah's messenger did not have someone to shield him or screen others who wanted to see him, and he did not walk with people to guard him or to show his authority. Ibn Mindah & Ibn Asaker related that Allah's messenger did not eat on a table, and did not walk accompanied by others as a show of authority and did not have a porter to screen those entering on him

2-He used to sit on the floor and eat on the floor:

Ibn Abi Shyba related that Allah's messenger (PBUH) said: I am only a servant, I eat like a servant or a slave eats, and I sit as any servant sits)

This does not mean that we must sit on the floor or eat our food with our fingers. Times and customs change. What we get of the Prophet's sayings is not that he sat on the floor or ate on the floor; rather it is his humility and lack of arrogance. He would sit and eat like the poorest of Muslims would sit and eat, to show that it is not our money that makes us better.

3-He used to eat with his servant from the same food and same plate. He never said bad words to his servant.

His kind caring nature and his mercy

The Qur'an states:

Now hath come unto you a Messenger from amongst yourselves: it grieves him that ye should perish: ardently anxious is he over you: to the Believers is he most kind and merciful.

At-Tawba 9: 128

He cared about his nation and prayed to Allah to forgive them. He recited the verse:

"If Thou dost punish them, they are Thy servants: if Thou dost forgive them, Thou art the Exalted in power, the Wise."

Al-Maeda 5: 118

One night several times and raised his hands towards heaven weeping and said: (O Allah my Umma, O Allah my Umma (nation or followers). The Angel Jibreel came and told the Prophet (PBUH) that Allah will make him pleased in the way that He will treat his followers (Muslim)

Bokhari & Muslim related that the Messenger of Allah (PBUH) said:

I enter in prayer intending to prolong it, then I hear the cry of the young child and I shorten my prayer because I know how much the child is upset and crying)

The Prophet (PBUH) kissed his grandson Al-Hassan. Al-Aqra' Bin Habis was sitting, and said: I have 10 children but have not kissed any of them. The messenger of Allah (PBUH) looked at him and said: (The person who does not show mercy will not receive mercy) Bokhari & Muslim

He did not want to make it difficult on his followers and said:

(If I was not fearful to make it difficult on my followers, I would have ordered them to use Sewak (clean their teeth) every time they do Wodou' and at every prayer) Malik

One night the messenger of Allah (PBUH) stood up in the Masjid to pray at night, and some of the men in the Masjid that night prayed with him. The next night more people came to the Masjid to pray with him. The next night a large number of people came to the Masjid and waited for Allah's messenger (PBUH) to come out and lead them in prayers and made noises to let him hear that. But he did not come out till it was time for Fajr prayer. After he completed the prayer, he said: (I was not unaware of your gathering in the Masjid last night, but I was afraid that such a prayer may become obligatory on you, and then you will not be able to do it. Therefore, pray optional prayers in your homes, the best prayer is what you pray at your home except the obligatory ones) Narrated by Bokhari, Muslim & Ahmad

The humility and kind caring, merciful nature of Allah's messenger (PBUH) **BS Foad, M.D 2011**

We are ordered to follow the example of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH). Two characteristics will be discussed: his humility and kind caring and merciful nature

The Prophet (PBUH) was humble with his companions following Allah's order:

"And lower your wing to the believers who follow you" Ash-Shura'a 26: 215

The Prophet (PBUH) never elevated himself over his companions, but was humble. He stressed his humanity. He said: (Do not glorify me like the Christians did glorify Christ, the son of Mary, but say: "The Servant and Messenger of Allah") Bokhari after Omar

The Prophet (PBUH) did not isolate himself but got involved and helped as much as he could. Othman said: (We accompanied the Messenger of Allah in Madina and during travel, and he used to visit our sick, and witness our funerals, and fight in battles with us, and help us with whatever he had, whether little or a lot) Ahmad

The Prophet (PBUH) worked side by side his companions. Al-Bazzar said: (I saw the Messenger of Allah on the day of Ahzab (Confederates) removing and carrying the dirt and the dust from the dirt concealed his axilla)

The Prophet (PBUH) was humble and used to go with the poor and needy, the slave and the widow to help them. Anas said: (The slave woman in Madina would take the hand of Allah's messenger (PBUH), and he would go with her any where she wishes, and he would not take his hand of from her hand)

Ahmad & Bokhari

His humility at home

Aesha was asked: What did Allah's messenger do at home? She said: (He was like any other man, cleaning and mending his garment, milking the goat, mending his shoes, serving himself, and be of service to his family, till he hears the call to prayer, then he would go out to pray) Bokhari & Muslim
Allah's messenger did not have someone to shield him or to screen those who wanted to see him, and did not walk with people who guard him or to show his authority (Ibn Mindah & Ibn Asaker).

Ibn Abi Shayba related that Allah's messenger (PBUH) said: (I am only a servant, I eat like a servant or as a slave eats, and I sit as any servant sits). This does not mean that we have to sit on the floor or eat with our hands on the floor. The Hadeeth only emphasizes humility and lack of arrogance

His kind, caring nature and mercy

"Now has come to you a messenger from amongst yourselves; it grieves him that you should perish.

Ardently anxious is he over you, to the believers he is most kind and merciful" At-Tawba 9: 128

He cared about his nation and prayed to Allah to forgive them. One night he wept and raised his hands towards heaven praying: (O Allah my Umma (nation or followers). The Angel Gabriel came and told him that he will be pleased in the way that Allah will treat the followers of the Prophet (PBUH) Muslim

The Prophet (PBUH) said: (I enter my prayer intending to prolong it, then I hear the cry of the young child and I shorten my prayer because I know how much the child is upset and crying) Bokhari & Muslim

One day the Prophet (PBUH) kissed his grandson Al-Hassan. One of his companions said: I have 10 children, but have not kissed any of them. The Messenger of Allah (PBUH) said: (The person who does not show mercy will not receive mercy) Bokhari & Muslim

The Messenger of Allah (PBUH) did not want to make things difficult on his followers. He said: (If I was not fearful of making things difficult on my followers, I would have ordered them to use Sewak (clean their teeth) every time they do Wodou'o and at every prayer) Malik

One night the Messenger of Allah (PBUH) stood up to pray and some men prayed with him. The next night more people came to pray at night with him. The next night a large crowd waited for the Messenger to come out and lead them in prayer, but he did not come till dawn. After Dawn prayer he said: (I was not unaware of your gathering in the mosque last night, but I was afraid that such a prayer may become obligatory on you, and then you will not be able to do it. Therefore, pray optional prayers in your homes.

The best prayer is what you pray at your homes except the obligatory prayers) Bokhari & Muslim