

RELIGIOUS FOUNDER'S DAY
Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) the Perfect Exemplar

Since creation of humanity on earth, there were over 124,000 Prophets before Prophet Muhammad (PBUH). He was also a part of that chain of historical Prophets. Each of those 124,000 prophets also served as Ambassadors of God. Prophet Muhammad was the Final Prophet; he was also the final Ambassador of the Most High. ***"Muhammad is not the father of any of your men, but he is the messenger of Allah and the Seal of the prophets. And Allah is ever Knower of all things."*** (Qur'an 33:40). In his dual capacity as Final Prophet and Ambassador of the Most High, throughout his lifetime, Prophet Muhammad was the most perfect exemplar the world has ever known.

He led by example in: his personality; his character; his successes; as a teacher of religion; and as an expounder and putting together of virtues.

In his own lifetime, the Prophet moulded the character of his fellow Arabians. He reformed them, changed their thoughts, put new ideals before them and gradually steered them to better path. All this happened at a time when the Prophet was surrounded by the worst behaviour of Arabians. They had drunkenness and immorality as natural as daily life. With Divine guidance, the Prophet led them by example and reformed his followers into becoming excellent citizens who recognised the existence of One God and finally began to worship that One God.

In his personality, The Prophet was simple as any ordinary Arabian. Although he had reached the status of the King of Arabia, he continued to live in a simple house, made out of stones, mud and branches of date palms. He had very little possessions. The day he died, the clothes he was wearing, was full of patches. The Prophet believed and practised honesty. He was so honest that all the people gave him the title of "*Al-Amin*," which means the Honest One.

His character was put to test. After the Holy Prophet received his first revelation in the cave, through Angel Gabriel (Chapter 96 *Al-Alaq*), he went to his wife in a terrified frame of mind. For three years after that event he was determined to wean the Arabians to stop idol worshipping and to believe in One God. The Prophet faced every kind of hardship the Arabs could put up against him.

Prophet Muhammad was most successful, considering the level of civilization at that time, 1500 years ago. He constantly preached to Arabs the word of

God. He saw what sufferings his people were put through; but nothing changed his character and he held steadfast to preach the word of God.

Wealthy and prominent people offered all sorts of bribes and corruption to Prophet Muhammad to persuade him not to preach to them about One God. They wanted to carry on with their wicked way of life. The more the aggressive Arabs tried to overcome him, the more Prophet Muhammad held fast to his impeccable character and he finally won them over to his side.

Prophet Muhammad's success can be summed up in the Holy Qur'an revelation: **"This day I have perfected for you your religion and completed My favour to you and chosen for you Islam as a religion."** (Qur'an 5:3). Some prophets were raised in a background of wealth. Some were brought up in palaces. Prophet Muhammad was brought up in a background of poverty and simplicity. He understood and experienced the difficulties of poverty. For 23 years he struggled day and night as the Ambassador, Prophet and Servant of God, to successfully carry out His mission. The Prophet's success stands victorious today with around 1.6 billion Muslims.

As a teacher, by modern standards, he was not educated at all. His knowledge was all by Divine Assistance. According to the *Encyclopaedia Britannica*, the Holy Prophet was the most successful of all the Prophets and religious personalities. He worked out political, social, mental and theological transformation in his days; as never been seen in any other country or at any other time, by any other person.

As an expounder, the Holy Prophet had the gift of God in faculty of reason. He told us to live a worldly life, in a way, which will take us to our goal of Heavenly bliss. He told us to divide our time between worldly deeds and time for God. He said every minute of our life belongs to God. He stressed on fundamentals of One God, prayer five times daily, charity, fasting and pilgrimage.

Of all men, the Prophet was the meekest, the bravest, the gentlest and the most admirable. He always gave money to the poor and those who needed it most. He only kept what he needed and no more. Whenever some asked for anything the Prophet had, he will give it away, saying that person needs it most. The Prophet always wore clean white clothes. Whenever his clothes got damaged, he would repair and mend his own clothes. He had no fear or shame in wearing old clothes with some patching. This is supported in the Qur'an: **"O children of Adam, attend to your adornment at every time of prayer, and eat and drink and be not prodigal, surely He loves not the prodigals."** (Qur'an 7:31). He was the world's Perfect Exemplar.