
by Imam Zafrullah Domun

We are already in the third month of the Islamic Year 1437, namely the month of Rabi ul awwal. In this month it has become common practice among some Muslims to celebrate the birth of the Holy Prophet (saw) which is commonly believed to have occurred on the 12th day of the month. No human being knows exactly on which exact date the Holy Prophet was born. We, Ahmadi Muslims do not find any cause for celebration neither on the birth nor on the death of anyone. According to the Books of Hadith we do not find any record that the Holy Prophet Mohammad (saw) did ever celebrate anything but the two Eids. Our relationship with the Holy Prophet (saw) as a Muslim is not at all temporary. It is a relationship that we try to consolidate day in and day out throughout our whole life. To us he is an ideal, an example on whom we try to mold our own life. He is not someone whom we remember for one day during the year. He is someone with whom we have an unbreakable bond throughout the year.

For us the following verses of the Holy Quran are ever present in our heart: *“Laqad kaana lakoum fi rasoulillahé ouswatoune hasatoune le man kaana yarjoullaha wal yawmil aakhera wa zakarallah kasira”* which is translated as “Verily you have in the Prophet of Allah an excellent model for him who hopes to meet Allah and the last Day and remembers Allah much.”(33:22). We translate the word *ouswatoune* as “model”; however it has a deeper meaning than this. According to a French dictionary that I have consulted it also means “consolation, remedy and support” as well. So the Holy Prophet (saw) is our consolation meaning his example, his teachings serve as a consolation, as a remedy and as a support in the face of the daily challenges of life. Furthermore Allah tells us in another verse *“Innallaha wa malaa’ekatahou yosallouna a’lan nabiyyé, Yaa ayyohallazina aamanou sallou alayhi wa sallemou taslima”* which we translate as “Allah sends down His blessings on the Prophet and His angels pray for him. O ye who believe, you too should invoke blessings on him and salute him with the salutation of peace.”(33:57). Allah continuously showers the Holy prophet with His Blessings and the believers for the past fourteen centuries have been praying for him several times in their daily prayers every day. This is that special bond that exists between Muslims and the Holy Prophet (saw). There are many Muslims who, besides making *Darood* in their prayers, regularly invoke additional blessings on the Holy Prophet Mohammad (saw) by reciting *Darood* outside the daily prayers. This is an action that is full of blessings and can bring plenty of added spiritual benefits to the one doing it. There are many Hadiths in which the believers have been asked to invoke blessings on the Prophet so that they might be blessed. Anyhow this is an important subject but we are leaving it for the time being.

I will now share with you some extracts from the writings of the Promised Messiah, Hazrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad (as) on the greatness of our beloved Prophet Mohammad (saw). He says:

“I always wonder how high was the status of this Arabian Prophet, whose name was Muhammad, (thousands of blessings and peace be upon him). One cannot reach the limit of his high status and it is not given to man to estimate correctly his spiritual effectiveness. It is a pity that his rank has not been recognized, as it should have been. He was the champion who restored to the world the Unity of God which had disappeared from the world; he loved God in the extreme and his soul melted out of sympathy for mankind. Therefore, God, Who knew the secret of his heart, exalted him above all the Prophets and all the first ones and the last ones and bestowed upon him in his lifetime all that he desired. He is the fountainhead of every grace and a person who claims any superiority without acknowledging his grace is not a man but is the pawn of Satan, because the Holy Prophet has been bestowed the key to every exaltation and he has been given the treasury of every understanding. He who does not receive through him is deprived forever. I am nothing and possess nothing. I would be most ungrateful if I were not to confess that I have learnt of the true Unity of God through this Prophet. The recognition of the Living God we have achieved through this perfect Prophet and through his light. The honour of converse with God, through which we behold His countenance, has been bestowed upon me through this great Prophet. The ray of this sun of guidance falls like sunshine upon me and I continue illumined only so long as I am adjusted towards it. [Haqiqat-ul-Wahi, Ruhani Khaza'in, Vol. 22, pp. 118-119]

Again another piece of writing whose worth cannot be fathomed unless one thinks deeply over it. The Promised Messiah who received so much from Allah makes it quite clear that whatever he got he received because of adjusting himself to the light of the Holy Prophet Mohammad (saw).

In another place he says:

The man who in his being and his attributes and his actions and through his spiritual and holy faculties set an example of perfection, in knowledge and action and in sincerity and steadfastness, and was called the perfect man was Muhammad [peace and blessings of Allah be on him].... The man who was most perfect as man and as Prophet, and came with full blessings, and who through a spiritual revival and resurrection manifested the first Judgement in the world and revived the dead world, that blessed Prophet, the Seal of the Prophets, the leader of the righteous ones, the pride of the Prophets, was Muhammad, the chosen one [peace and blessings of Allah be on him].

Our Lord, send down on that beloved Prophet that mercy and blessing that Thou hast not sent down on anyone since the beginning of the world. Had that grand Prophet not appeared in the world then we would have no proof of the truth of lesser Prophets like Jonah, Job, Jesus son of Mary, Malachi, John, Zechariah, etc. Though they were favorites and honoured and were beloved ones of Almighty God, they are under obligation to this Prophet that they were accepted in the world as true Prophets.

O Allah, send down Thy blessings on him and on his people and on his companions, all of them. Our last word is that all praise belongs to Allah, Lord of the worlds.” [Itmam-ul-Hujjah, Ruhani Khaza’in, Vol. 8, p. 308]

Again he says:

“There have been millions of pure-natured people in the world and there will be more in future, but we have found the best of all of them and the highest man of God, whose name is Muhammad [peace and blessings of Allah be on him].

We shall leave aside any mention of the holy ones from among those people whose circumstances have not been described in detail in the Holy Qur’an. We shall express our view only with regard to the Prophets who are mentioned in the Qur’an like Moses, David, Jesus and other Prophets [peace be on them]. We affirm it on oath, calling God to witness, that if the Holy Prophet [peace and blessings of Allah be on him] had not come into the world, and the Holy Qur’an had not been revealed, and we had not seen with our own eyes the blessings that we have witnessed, the truth of all past Prophets would have remained doubtful in our eyes. No reality can be gathered from mere stories, for it is quite possible that they may not be true and it is also possible that the miracles that are attributed to these Prophets might be exaggerations, for no sign of them is visible today. We cannot even ascertain for certain from the Books revealed in the past that God truly exists, or that He speaks to man. But through the advent of the Holy Prophet [peace and blessings of Allah be on him] all these stories became real. We now realize not merely as a statement, but as a matter of experience, what converse with the Divine means and how God's signs are manifested and how prayers are answered. All this we have discovered by following the Holy Prophet [peace and blessings of Allah be on him] and what other people relate as stories we have witnessed it all. We have attached ourselves to a Prophet who manifests God to us.

A poet has put it beautifully:

Muhammad of Arabia, King of both the worlds;

Whose threshold is safeguarded by the Holy Spirit.

I cannot call him God, but I do say;

To recognize him is to recognize God.

How shall we express our gratitude to God who bestowed upon us the good fortune to follow the Prophet who is a sun for the souls of the righteous as there is a sun for the bodies. He appeared in a time of darkness and illumined the world with his light. He was neither tired nor fatigued till he purified all parts of Arabia from associating partners with God. He is the proof of his own truth for his light is present in every age and true obedience to him purifies a person as the clear and transparent water of a river cleanses dirty linen. Who has come to us with a sincere heart and has not witnessed that light, and who has knocked honestly on that door for whom it has not been opened? But the pity is that most people prefer the lower life and do not desire that higher light should enter into them.” [Chashma-e-Ma‘rifat, Ruhani Khaza’in, Vol. 23, pp. 301-303]

Hazrat Masih Maood (as) was a lover of the Holy prophet Mohammad (saw) and it should not surprise us that he should have spoken so well of him. But there are many Non-Muslims who have studied the life of the Holy Prophet (saw) and who have spoken with great praise of him. Let us hear what George Bernard Shaw (1856-1950) who was an author, a playwright a Nobel Prize winner in literature in 1925 and a respected Englishman in his days say about him:

“If any religion had the chance of ruling over England, nay Europe within the next hundred years, it could be Islam.”

“I have always held the religion of Muhammad in high estimation because of its wonderful vitality. It is the only religion which appears to me to possess that assimilating capacity to the changing phase of existence which can make itself appeal to every age. I have studied him – the wonderful man and in my opinion far from being an anti-Christ, he must be called the Savior of Humanity.”

“I believe that if a man like him were to assume the dictatorship of the modern world he would succeed in solving its problems in a way that would bring it the much needed peace and happiness: I have prophesied about the faith of Muhammad that it would be acceptable to the Europe of tomorrow as it is beginning to be acceptable to the Europe of today.” (Sir George Bernard Shaw in ‘The Genuine Islam,’ Vol. 1, No. 8, 1936).

So if someone were to take the pain to study the life of the Holy Prophet he cannot but come to the conclusion that he was an exceptional character. Even Napoleon was quite captivated by him. He is reported to have said “I hope the time is not far off when I shall be able to unite all the wise and educated men of all the countries and establish a uniform regime based on the principles of Qur'an which alone are true and which alone can lead men to happiness.” (Christian Cherfils BONAPARTE ET ISLAM (PARIS 1914)

Incha Allah we will say more about him next week. May Allah help each one amongst us to take the Holy Prophet (saw) as our role model and may He enable us to tread on his footsteps. Ameen.