

Prophet Muhammad (S.A.W.W)

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Allah^{azwj}¹ has created this universe and beyond, to be governed by a defined set of principles. For instance, all celestial objects such as the Sun and the Moon etc follow a well-defined course and obey the will of Allah^(S.W.T) and his ‘chosen ones’ The question than follows: how could Allah^{azwj} leave one of His creations – that is the human race - unattended and unguided? Present day so called scholars miss guide us in such a way Because Allah^(S.W.T) cannot be perceived as a living entity, an object or a substance that changes its forms, He^{azwj} therefore decided “not to live” among us but to provide meanings for the guidance to human race. Hence, throughout the ages, He has ‘descended’ the Prophet and his Progeny^{sws}, as a true embodiment of His^{azwj} will and to convey the divine message while living among us as a guiding light. These shining lights (Noor) have either been in the form of various prophets (*Rasool* and *Naabi*) and/or the Imams^(sws) and Progeny^{sws}. Allah^{azwj} has blessed the human race, in total, with 124,000 prophets, and the last and most reverend among these is our Holy Prophet Mohammad^{saww}.

Prophet Muhammad^{saww} ‘s ‘Noor’ wrapped in human body, came down, as blessing to us in Mecca, Arabia, on the 12th Rabi’Al-Awwal (570 CE-Common Era). Prophet^{saww}‘s mother was Lady Amina^(sws) and his father’s name was Abdullah^(sws), (who passed away prior to the birth of Prophet). Prophet Muhammad^{S.A.W.W} was six years old, when his mother also passed away, and he was put under the care of his grandfather, Abdul Muttalib^(sws). However, two years later, his grandfather also passed away, and the Prophet was sent to live with his uncle, Abu Talib^(sws). Hazrat Abu Talib^(sws) devoted his entire life caring for Prophet Muhammad^(S.A.W.W) – protecting and defending him from anyone who meant to harm his nephew. As long as Hazrat Abu Talib^(sws) lived no one dared to harm Prophet Muhammad^(S.A.W.W).

Growing up, Prophet Muhammad^{S.A.W.W} lived a very simple life, as a child he cared for those who could not help themselves, he was a caregiver to sick, the elderly, the orphans and the widows. He lived among the Arabs like an ordinary youth but kept himself away from their every day practices, i.e., idol worshiping drinking, gambling and unlawful killings. He ^{S.A.W.W} was, considered by the Arabs, as the most entrusted person who was honest – and hence was known as ‘*saddiq*’ and ‘*ameen*’. People would leave their valuables objects and treasures with him, only to receive them back as they had left them with Prophet Muhammad^(S.A.W.W). He was always fair in his dealings with others and never took advantage of anyone.

Because of the Prophet’s noble personality, honesty and integrity, Lady Khadijah^(sws) the wealthiest woman in Arabia asked him to go into partnership, to manage her business. She entrusted upon the Prophet all of her business dealing and found him fair, honest, transparent and trustworthy. One night Lady Khadijah^(sws) had a dream in which the sun circled the sky of Mecca, slowly descending until it landed in her house. When she

¹ Az za wa Jallah

awoke, she told her uncle Waraqah about her dream. He interpreted to her that she were to marry a great man. Lady Khadijah^(sww) immediately knew who this man was and proposed to Prophet Muhammad. She asked the Prophet^(S.A.W.W) for his companionship in marriage, which he accepted. After a few years, they were blessed with a baby girl, Bibi Fatima Zehra^{sww}.

While prophet's mission throughout was to establish the worship of the one true God, and to abide by the morals ascribed in the holy books. Having established himself as a man of an infallible character, the time arrived when the Prophet Muhammad^(S.A.W.W) needed to declare and announce his Prophet hood and to establish the divine rule.

Prophet Muhammad^(S.A.W.W) used to spend considerable time in a small cave, called Mount Hira, where he worshiped Allah^(S.W.T) in private. He also used this time to contemplate about Allah^{azwj} and His creations, and His future mission. When he was 40 years old, one day in the cave the angel Jibraeel appeared to deliver the first "Waahi" – a message from Allah^(S.W.T) that it was time for the prophet to declare his prophesy openly to the world. Jibraeel began with the verses: " Read! Read in the name of your Lord, who created man from a clot, Read! And your Lord is most honorable, who taught (to write) with the pen. Taught man what he knew not!" This message did not imply that the Prophet^(S.A.W.W) could not read or write – only that the message for the conquest of knowledge was to be conveyed to the people. This message was meant to signify the value of knowledge – in an era when the entire Arab world was gloomed with illiteracy and ignorance.

The Prophet^(S.A.W.W) knew that the foundation of Islam were to rest on knowledge and that this announcement would bring tremendous hardship for him and his followers. One day, he gathered the people of Mecca and announced: " If I were to say to you that there hides a large army behind this rock – ready to attack you, would you believe me? They all responded, yes Muhammad we will, because you have never ever lied to us. The Prophet^(S.A.W.W) then told them that there was no god but Allah and that he was His messenger^(S.A.W.W). The Prophet's^(S.A.W.W) was supported only by His close ones, including Hazrat Abu Talib^{sww} Bibi Khadija^(sww) and Imam Ali Ibn-e-Abu Talib^(sww). Everyone else mocked Muhammad^(S.A.W.W) and walked away. This brought tremendous hardship to Muhammad^(S.A.W.W) and the family of Abu Talib^(sww) – but all remained steadfast. From bribes to attempted murders to a three years isolation and boycott – they endured everything. People in the streets were to call Prophet Muhammad^(S.A.W.W) names, throw rocks and filth, plant thorns on his path – but could not shake his resolve and of those who supported him.

As the hostilities increased, the Prophet migrated from Makkah to Medina where he was well received. Soon his other followers joined him. Imam Ali^{sww}, too migrated to Medina after returning people's belongings which was entrusted to Prophet. All noble ladies from Bani Hashim also accompanied with Imam Ali^{sww} to Medina. This migration was called the Hijra and was the beginning of Prophet Muhammad's 'worldly' leadership. Upon arrival in Medina, the prophet was well received by the people and this is where he setup the first Mosque. His message began to spread and so did Islam.

In the spring, Prophet Muhammad ^(S.A.W.W) received word from his reliable sources that a trade caravan, commanded by Abu Sufiyan ^(L.A) with 30-40 men was traveling from Syria back to Makkah, with Abu Sufyan as its leader. This caravan was to pass by a well know passage, called Badr. He was worried that if the Muslims found out, they would plan a surprise attack. The Quraish, therefore, prepared themselves an attack on Muslim based on Abu Syfyan's perception. Prophet Muhammad ^{S.A.W.W} was ready to defend Islam, he gathered an army of 313 men, and the Quraish had over 950 soldiers. The Muslims fought hard and Imam Ali ^(sws) was putting the enemy to death from all four corners of the battlefield. The Muslims, although heavily outnumbered, did not loose faith, thus the battle of Badr ended in favor of the Muslims, and for Islam, its first victory.

In the 3rd year of Hijra, the battle of Ohud took place. The Kuffars (infidels) did not like their defeat in Badr and began a plot to avenge. They came with 3000 men to fight. Prophet Muhammad's ^(S.A.W.W) army consisted of 700 men. He prepared them for battle, such that there was a mountain behind them. Archers were placed atop the mountain to protect the Muslims from an ambush. The prophet ^(S.A.W.W) told the archers not to leave their positions at any cost and to stay alert. As the battle began, Imam Ali ^(sws) and prophet's uncle Amieer Hamza took on most of the army and were heading towards a total victory. The enemies of Allah and His prophet ^(S.A.W.W) began to run from the battlefield and the Muslims started to chase them to get the bounty. Despite prophet's strict orders not to leave their positions, Abu Bakr ^(L.A), Umar Ibn Khattab ^(L.A) and other mischief mongers fled like cowards, the archers also left their positions and joined the bounty gatherers. Having seen this, Khalid Bin Waleed ^(L.A), one of the commanders of the Abu Sufiyan's army, ambushed them through the gorge that was abandoned by the archers. Only Imam Ali ^(sws) remained steadfast to defend and protect the Prophet ^(S.A.W.W) who was badly injured. In the end, Imam Ali ^(sws) – including prophet's beloved uncle Amieer Humza. Hinda ^(L.A), Abu Sufiyan's wife, managed to get hold of Amir Humza's body and cut out his liver to humiliate prophet ^(S.A.W.W) and to disgrace his noble body – a tradition that was repeated again by her grandson Yazied Bin Muawia ^(L.A) - on the day of Ashora in Karbala.

As the Prophet's ^(S.A.W.W) message spread, the people started to accept Islam and grew tremendously in number. They also defended themselves well against many subsequent attacks from the Infidels, and Imam Ali ^(sws) was the Prophet's right arm – defending not only the Prophet of Allah ^(S.W.T) at all occasions but also the Islam.

While the Muslim community in Medina was living happily and peacefully, many immigrants started to feel homesick and requested the prophet to visit Mecca for a pilgrimage. Ten thousand, Muslims started to march towards Mecca. Their sheer numbers had such an impact that the Qurash decided to surrender. Mecca was thus captured peacefully and prophet offered truce to all those who wanted to live in harmony with the Muslims. He then took Imam Ali to the Holy Kaba and placed him on his shoulders and Imam Ali destroyed all the idols and rid the house of God from man-made statues. This was the true dawn of Islam – when the sounds of *La-Ilaha-il-Lullah* began to echo in the Arabia and beyond. The Prophet of Allah ^(S.A.W.W) established the Islamic rule, which was

based on the worship of one God^(S.W.T), the teachings of the Holy Koran, and that of the Prophet^(S.A.W.W) himself and his Progeny^(sws).

The Prophet^(S.A.W.W) then performed his final pilgrimage, and upon return he announced Imam Ali^(sws) as his successor. A few months after the Hajj Pilgrimage, Prophet Muhammad^(S.A.W.W) was poisoned through goat meat by a Jew woman, which affected his health, while recovering, Prophet^(S.A.W.W) was poisoned again by the treacherous Abu Bakr^(L.A), Umar^(L.A), Aisha^(L.A) and Hifsa^(L.A) and met Shahadat on the 28th of Safar, Monday June 8, 632 C.E in Medina. His^(S.A.W.W) death gave an opportunity to Munafaqeen to lead back, newly converts, to kufr and its values, abandoning the wishes of the Holy Prophet^(S.A.W.W) to choose the righteous leader, as appointed by God and Him^(S.A.W.W) who was our first Imam Ali^(sws). Although Islam did spread rapidly after the Prophet's^(S.A.W.W) death – in almost all instances however, it was forced upon the people with the aid of the sword by Abu Bakr^(L.A) and especially Umar's^(L.A) disgraceful rule and not based upon the teachings of The Holy Prophet^(S.A.W.W) and his Progeny^(sws) and the Holy Koran. The conquest of Islam was however, short lived and those who pretended to be Muslims under such circumstances - did not fully comprehend the true values of Islam and the meanings of the Prophet's^(S.A.W.W) message. They began to interpret Islam according to their own preconceived notions. Allah^{azwj}'s Divine Messengers (Imams^{sws}), one after another tried to guide Muslims but they continued to ignore them and worship the idols of Qurah (Abu Bakr and Ummer) and eliminated them (through sword and/or poisoning). Finally, Allah^{azwj}, decided to safeguard His 12th Hujjat, through occultation. During major occultation, shia scholars, like sunnis, started striving to gain control, through exercising the principles of Ijthihad and Taqleed, following the foot steps of 'Sanam-e-Quraish' (Abu Bakr and Umar).

If Islam were to return to its original form, the people would need to follow the teachings of The Prophet^(S.A.W.W) and his Progeny^(sws).