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Prophet Muhammad (P)

A VOICE FOR THE OPPRESSED

18th Prophet Muhammad Interfaith Conference (pbuh)



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The Light Of Guidance: Prophet Muhammad's Eternal Message

M4P Board



Raza Mir

On behalf of Muslims4Peace, it gives us the greatest of pleasure to welcome everyone to the 18 th Annual Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) Interfaith Conference. Our theme this year is “Prophet Muhammad: A Voice for The Oppressed.” We have lined up a very distinguished list of speakers and awardees, and hope you enjoy and are inspired by our sessions.

In the vast tapestry of human history, few figures shine as radiantly as the Prophet Muhammad, peace be upon him and his pure progeny. His life was not merely a historical passage, but a transformative journey that illuminated the path of spiritual enlightenment for humanity.

Born in Mecca in 570 CE, Muhammad emerged from a lineage of nobility, descending from the blessed line of Ishmael. From his earliest days, he was distinguished by an extraordinary character that set him apart from his contemporaries. Known as “Al-Amin” - the trustworthy and “Al-Sadiq” – the truthful even before his prophetic mission, he embodied integrity, compassion, and wisdom.

The divine revelation that he brought with him Hira marked a pivotal moment not just for Arabia, but for all of humanity. The first revelation exemplifies the profound nature of his mission, as captured in the Holy Quran: “Read! In the name of your Lord who created” (Surah Al-Alaq, 96:1). This commandment was revolutionary, emphasizing knowledge, reflection, and spiritual awakening.

Central to understanding the Prophet's mission is recognizing his role as a universal messenger. He came not to divide, but to unite. His teachings transcended tribal boundaries, racial distinctions, and socio-economic hierarchies. He championed the fundamental equality of all human beings, declaring in his farewell sermon that no Arab has superiority over a non-Arab, and no white has superiority over a black, except through righteousness and good deeds.

One profound anecdote that illuminates his compassionate leadership occurred during the conquest of Mecca. After years of persecution and struggle, the Prophet could have sought revenge against those who had previously oppressed him and his followers. Instead, he declared a general amnesty, saying, “Go, you are free. This act of unprecedented mercy transformed potential enemies into allies and demonstrated the true essence of his prophetic mission.

The Prophet's familial connections were also pivotal to his spiritual legacy. His marriage to Khadijah, a respected businesswoman who was his first and primary supporter, showcased his respect for women's dignity and capabilities. Later, his profound love and respect for his cousin and son-in-law Ali ibn Abi Talib, whom he declared as his spiritual successor at Ghadir Khum, underscored the importance of righteous leadership rooted in divine wisdom.

Muhammad's life was a living testament to the principles of social justice, compassion, and spiritual elevation. He advocated for the rights of the marginalized - orphans, slaves, and the economically disadvantaged. His teachings emphasized that true wealth lies not in material possessions, but in the richness of character and spiritual consciousness.

The Prophet's commitment to knowledge was revolutionary. He encouraged learning, stating that seeking knowledge is an obligation for every Muslim. This principle transformed the Islamic world, ushering in a golden age of scientific, mathematical, and philosophical advancement that would influence global intellectual development for centuries.

His approach to governance was equally remarkable. In Medina, he established the first pluralistic state where different religious communities coexisted with mutual respect. Jews, Christians, and Muslims were guaranteed protection and religious freedom, a concept far ahead of its time.

The spiritual depth of Muhammad's message transcends historical and cultural boundaries. He presented a comprehensive worldview that integrated personal spiritual development with social responsibility. His teachings emphasized internal purification, compassionate action, and a deep connection with the divine.

One cannot discuss the Prophet without acknowledging his immense suffering and resilience. He faced tremendous opposition, personal losses, and societal challenges.

Yet, he remained steadfast, embodying patience, forgiveness, and unwavering faith. His life demonstrates that true strength lies not in physical might, but in moral courage and spiritual resilience.

The Prophet's final sermon at Arafat during his farewell pilgrimage encapsulates the essence of his message: a call for human dignity, equality, universal brotherhood, and ethical conduct. He dismantled centuries-old prejudices and established a framework of universal human rights that remains profoundly relevant today.



Muhammad's legacy is not confined to historical records but lives dynamically through the hearts of millions who seek spiritual guidance. He represents hope, transformation, and the potential for human beings to rise above their limitations and connect with divine wisdom.

As we reflect on his life, we are reminded that true leadership is about service, compassion, and inspiring positive change. The Prophet Muhammad stands as an eternal beacon, guiding humanity towards understanding, peace, and spiritual enlightenment.

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Dear Attendees,

Muslims for Peace, Inc. cordially invites you to our 18th Annual Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) Day Conference. With Allah's grace and your continued support, we have been able to promote peace, harmony, and unity through this annual event and other initiatives. We are truly grateful for your encouragement, generous donations, and prayers.

Founded in 2001, Muslims for Peace, Inc. aims to unite individuals from diverse faiths through education and community-building activities. We believe that fostering understanding and dialogue among different beliefs is essential for creating a peaceful world. By focusing on our shared values and experiences, we can build bridges of respect and understanding.

This year's conference theme is "Prophet Muhammad (pbuh): A Voice for the Oppressed". As a revered figure in Islam, the Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) is known for his teachings on compassion, justice, and human rights. His life and legacy offer valuable insights into the treatment of oppressed people, particularly in regions like Gaza, Palestine, and Lebanon, and the ethical considerations surrounding conflict.

This year's conference will focus on highlighting the voices of the oppressed around the world, particularly in Gaza, Palestine, and Lebanon. The event will feature an impressive lineup of speakers, including

Hajj Hassanain Rajabali
Rep. Ilhan Omar
Sami Shaban
Dr. Mehdi Husaini
Sarah Mokh

In addition, the conference will recognize the achievements of outstanding individuals who have made significant contributions to their communities. The 2024 MFP Award Recipients include:

Sami Shaban: Leadership with Ethics, Morals, and Values (2024 MFP Leadership Award)
Dr. Zaki Sadiq: Empowering Communities, Inspiring Generations (2024 MFP Young Leader in Philanthropy Award)
Syed Meesam Razvi: Leadership with Ethics, Morals, and Values (2024 MFP Leadership Award)

We are honored to welcome esteemed panelists who will discuss the role and message of the Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) in this context.

We encourage you to volunteer and become involved in our mission. Your support, no matter how small, is invaluable. Together, we can create a more peaceful and harmonious world.

Please visit our website to learn more about our organization and our past endeavors. We hope you will join us for this enlightening conference and consider supporting our work through a donation.

Sincerely,

Mustafa Abdi

Muslims for Peace Executive Board

Prophet Muhammad (P)

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18th Prophet Muhammad Interfaith Conference (pbuh)



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CONFIRMED SPEAKER



Dr. Mehdi Husaini
CONFIRMED SPEAKER



Sarah Mokh
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**Hajj Hassanain
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Sami Shaban
MFP Leadership Award



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Condemning Oppression & Restraint In Conflict.

Fatima Kermalli

Prophet Muhammad (SAW) has been reported as saying: “O son of Adam! Do what is good and give up what is evil! Injustice is of three kinds. The first is the injustice that is not forgiven, like associating anything with God. In this relation, God has said: “Surely Allah does not forgive that anything should be associated with Him. (4:48)” Second, the injustice which is forgiven is like the injustice one does against himself. Third, it is the injustice which is not forgiven, like the injustice which one does to another one.” Injustices run rampant at all levels. However, for the believer, injustices committed against another person may make a person more distraught, knowing that they cannot be forgiven unless the person who was inflicted forgives. Believers are even more apprehensive to cause transgressions when they are constantly aware that the Almighty Creator is ever present and vigilant, as stated in Chapter 2, verse 225 of the Holy Qur’an. “Allah! There is no deity except Him, the Ever-Living, the Sustainer of [all] existence. Neither drowsiness overtakes Him nor sleep. To Him belongs whatever is in the heavens and whatever is on the earth. Who is it that can intercede with Him except by His permission? He knows what is [presently] before them and what will be after them, and they encompass not a thing of His knowledge except for what He wills. .. “(2:255)

Therefore, for these reasons, and more, the interaction between two individuals must be met with harmony and mutual trust. Even in one’s absence, it is unlawful to oppress another be it through sins such as backbiting, slander, theft, etc. They too, are unforgivable actions when committed, unless one is redeemed through forgiveness. Yet, to go so far as taking the lives of innocent people is a crime of humanity. Almighty Allah states in the Holy Quran: ” That is why We decreed for the Children of Israel that whoever kills a soul, without [its being guilty of] manslaughter or corruption on the earth, it is as though he had killed all mankind...(5:32).

The crimes that the world is witnessing in Palestine, Lebanon, and other parts of the globe are unimaginable. Homicide, genocide, infanticide, and every other type of annihilation have occurred since the creation of man and continue to persist. It is not only reprehensible but horrific. What is more

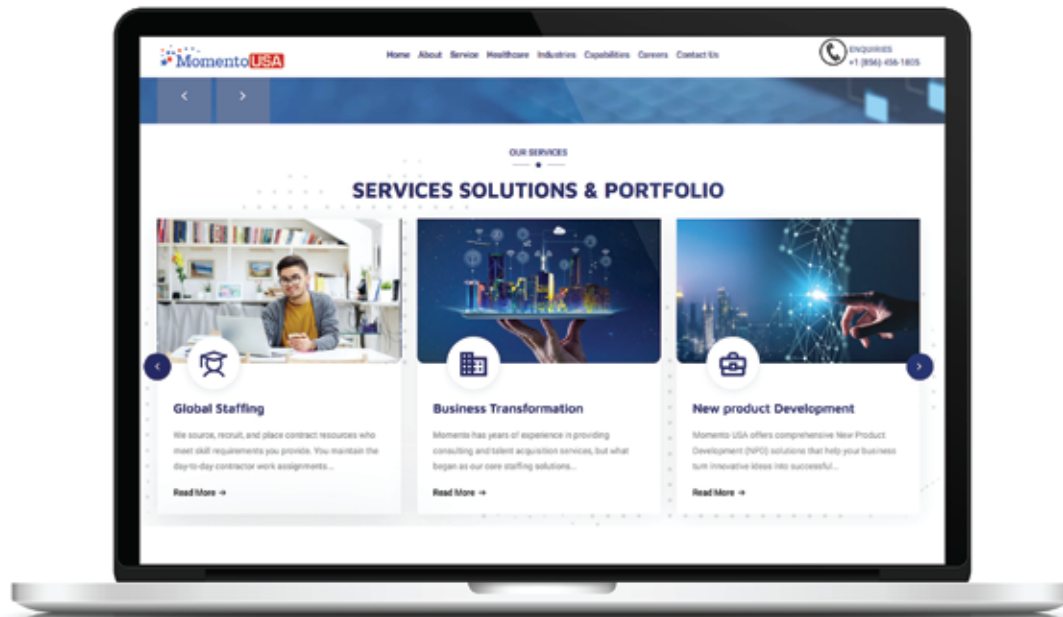
incredulous is not only the support that the superpowers are giving, which is enabling the oppressor but also from those who label themselves as believers of Islam. Prophet Muhammad (S) also stated, “If one knowingly goes to help an oppressor, he has apostatized from Islam.” The Almighty Lord stated clearly in the Quran in Chapter 11, verse 113: “And do not incline to those who are unjust.” Prophet Muhammad (S) was sent as a mercy to mankind, which he exemplified through his actions in times of war and peace. The wars that the Holy Prophet (S) fought were defensive, by which, he abided by humanitarian decrees as dictated by Islam. Prophet Muhammad (S) instructed his soldiers the following directives:

- 1 Do not kill any child, any woman, or any elderly or sick person.
2. Do not practice treachery or mutilation.
3. Do not uproot or burn palms or cut down fruitful trees
4. Do not slaughter a sheep, a cow, or a camel, except for food.
5. If one fights his brother, [he must] avoid striking the face, for God created him in the image of Adam.
6. Do not kill the monks in monasteries, and do not kill those sitting in places of worship.
7. Do not destroy the villages and towns, do not spoil the cultivated fields and gardens, and do not slaughter the cattle.
8. Do not wish for an encounter with the enemy; pray to God to grant you security, but when you [are forced to] encounter them, exercise patience.
9. No one may punish with fire except the Lord of Fire.
10. Accustom yourselves to do good if people do good, and do no wrong even if they commit evil.

Combat is never good, but when faced with circumstances that compel one to battle, showing restraint against conflict is noble. The Holy Qur’an testifies that ultimately the righteous will prevail in chapter 6, verse 21: “...surely the unjust will not be successful.” (6:21). These words of hope from the Master of the Universe only reiterate what the Lord Almighty has proclaimed when dealing with oppressors. Prophet Muhammad (SAW) relates: “Allah the Almighty says: My wrath is great against one who does injustice to someone who has no helper other than me.”



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Prophet Muhammad (P) Palestine:

A Cry For Justice

Fatima Kermalli

With the tragic death toll in Gaza surpassing 40,000, mostly women and children, and four months of relentless Israeli attacks, this week's Friday sermon focused on the pressing issue of oppression and injustice. There needs to be an unwavering vigilance against oppression in all aspects of life, & we need to draw inspiration from numerous verses in the Quran and the teachings of Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him).

Scholars define oppression (zulm) as displacing something from its rightful position, whether by lacking what is due or going beyond bounds. This encompasses a multitude of manifestations, all centered around the fundamental notion of placing something where it does not belong.

Oppression, often starting small, can accumulate over time, leading to societal destruction and even civilizational collapse. This principle is evident throughout the Quran and Prophetic tradition. Allah Almighty states:

'And your Lord [O Prophet] would never destroy a society unjustly while its people were acting rightly. (Surah Hud 11:117)

This clarifies that if people are standing up to injustices and oppression, Allah will not destroy them. When oppression spreads and people remain silent or accept it, total ruin may befall society, as was the case with past civilizations.

Furthermore, Allah, the Omnipotent warns:

& "Beware of a trial that will not only affect the wrongdoers among you." (Surah Al-Anfal 8:25)

The exegetes explain regarding this verse that previous nations were wiped out because they tolerated oppression and evil until it was rampant, with none speaking out.

The Prophet (peace be upon him) confirmed in an authentic narration that Allah, The Creator, can collectively punish all people for the sins of some people if transgression against the Almighty becomes widespread. The spread of oppression and the fate of a community are interconnected.

The Quran teaches us that oppression slowly weakens society and can eventually lead to its downfall if unchallenged.



Injustice not only inflicts suffering on the victims but also scars the entire community. The Quran stresses the importance of addressing oppression at its roots and preventing its proliferation in society.

Inner reflection is also needed to reflect upon oppression in one's personal life and society. Congregations and societies must be vigilant of their complicity in injustices through their silence and inaction. There are two primary types of oppression that one must be mindful of: Oppression against Allah, the Highest: As mentioned in the Quran, when Luqman advises his son. "O my son, do not associate [anything] with Allah. Indeed, association [with him] is a great injustice (zulm)." (Surah Luqman 31:13)

Mistreatment between people. This is seen in how we interact with children, spouses, colleagues, and strangers. When we mistreat others, it leads to various problems in our community, including broken families resulting from our oppressive actions and those of others around us.

When people tolerate oppression both within their communities and from external sources, inadvertently it facilitates its most extreme forms, as evidenced by the appalling crimes committed against innocent individuals today. The killing of Palestinians underscores the urgent need to courageously speak out against oppression and challenge injustice at its source.

Everyone has a responsibility to firstly, address the injustices we perpetrate and secondly, to stand up to the oppression we see around us. Moving forward, all people must uphold the rights others have with each other with honesty, and advocate justice for those who are oppressed.

The horrific oppression that the Palestinian brothers and sisters face today is but the latest example of the oppression that the ummah has suffered. Their suffering is a reminder of the time of the invasion of the Tartars, when the Mongols swept through Baghdad and other Muslim lands, massacring people and destroying homes, libraries, and mosques indiscriminately. Despite the devastation, such tragedies have historically strengthened our faith and united the Muslim Ummah.

While parts of society weep at the suffering of the Palestinians today, the consciousness always needs to be awoken to visibly examine the shortcomings within each self and remain vigilant that individuals do not become the sources of greater oppression within the ummah.

The brothers and sisters in Palestine and across the world have a right for humanity to honor them through far more than just sorrow and tears. The real battle against oppression begins with self-reflection and accountability. Their political liberation is inextricably bound to everyone's spiritual growth.

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Prophet Muhammad:

An inspiration to humanity

Muqtedar Khan

Throughout history, there have been many remarkable figures who have shaped the world, leaving behind legacies that transcend their lifetimes. Among these, Prophet Muhammad stands as a beacon of hope, justice, and compassion. His life and teachings continue to inspire millions of people across the globe, transcending the boundaries of religion, culture, and time. In an era where humanity often grapples with oppression, inequality, and injustice, the life of Prophet Muhammad serves as a timeless guide for those seeking a path toward justice, equality, and compassion.

A Beacon in an Era of Oppression

The era in which Prophet Muhammad lived was one marked by widespread injustice, tribal conflicts, social inequality, and moral degradation. Pre-Islamic Arabia, known as the "Age of Ignorance" (Jahiliyyah), was rife with corruption. The society was deeply patriarchal, women were treated as commodities, and the wealthy exploited the poor. Slavery was rampant, and the strong oppressed the weak without consequence. It was against this backdrop of turmoil and suffering that Prophet Muhammad began his mission, calling for a radical transformation of the social order based on the principles of equality, justice, and human dignity.

Prophet Muhammad's message, rooted in monotheism and moral righteousness, sought to uplift the oppressed and give voice to the voiceless. He spoke against the injustices of his time, calling for the protection of the weak, the fair treatment of women, and the abolition of slavery. His teachings challenged the existing power structures and the privileges of the elite, advocating instead for a society where every individual, regardless of their status or background, was treated with respect and dignity.

An Example of Justice: The Story of the Woman of Makhzum

One of the most compelling anecdotes from Prophet Muhammad's life that illustrates his commitment to justice is the story of the woman from the noble tribe of Makhzum who had committed theft. In the society of that time, the rich and powerful often escaped punishment for their crimes, while the poor and marginalized were swiftly punished. When the case of the Makhzumi woman reached Prophet Muhammad, some of his companions suggested that he should be lenient with her due to her high social standing. They even sent one of his close companions, Usama bin Zaid, to intercede on her behalf.

Prophet Muhammad's response to this plea for preferential treatment was powerful and unwavering. He declared: "By Allah, if Fatimah, the daughter of Muhammad, were to steal, I would have her hand cut off." This statement underscored his firm belief in the principle of justice, irrespective of social status or kinship. In an era when favoritism and corruption were rampant, Prophet Muhammad set a standard for impartial justice,

demonstrating that no one is above the law. His actions conveyed the profound message that justice should be blind to wealth, power, or privilege, and should be administered fairly to all members of society.

This story resonates deeply with the challenges of the modern world, where inequality and corruption still persist in various forms. In societies where the rich and powerful often evade accountability, Prophet Muhammad's stance serves as a reminder that true justice must be impartial, fair, and accessible to all.

Compassion and Forgiveness: The Conquest of Mecca

Another defining moment in Prophet Muhammad's life, which reveals his extraordinary character, is the conquest of Mecca. After years of persecution, Prophet Muhammad and his followers had been forced to flee Mecca and take refuge in Medina. The Meccan leaders had waged war against him, plotting to kill him and wipe out the nascent Muslim community.

Despite the years of animosity and violence directed at him, when Prophet Muhammad finally returned to Mecca as a victorious leader, he chose the path of mercy and forgiveness over retribution.

As he entered the city, the people of Mecca feared for their lives, expecting harsh punishment for their long-standing opposition to Islam. However, Prophet Muhammad declared a general amnesty for the inhabitants of Mecca. He asked them, "What do you think I will do with you?" When they responded, "You are a noble brother, the son of a noble brother," he replied, "Go, for you are free." This act of mercy, in the face of overwhelming power, demonstrated Prophet Muhammad's magnanimity and his commitment to forgiveness.

The conquest of Mecca is often cited as one of the most powerful examples of forgiveness in history. It serves as a reminder that true strength lies not in vengeance but in the ability to forgive. In a world often torn apart by conflicts and grudges, Prophet Muhammad's example of mercy offers a pathway to healing and reconciliation.

A Vision of Equality

Beyond these specific incidents, Prophet Muhammad's entire mission was centered on promoting the equality of all human beings. His final sermon, delivered during his farewell pilgrimage, is often seen as one of the most profound declarations of human rights in history. In this sermon, he emphasized that no person is superior to another based on race, ethnicity, or social status, stating: "All mankind is from Adam and Eve. An Arab has no superiority over a non-Arab, nor does a non-Arab have any superiority over an Arab; a white has no superiority over a black, nor does a black have any superiority over a white; none have superiority over another except by piety and good action."

This message of equality was revolutionary for the time and remains relevant in today's world, where issues of racism, discrimination, and inequality continue to plague societies. Prophet Muhammad's teachings call for a society where people are judged by their character and deeds, not by the color of their skin, their ethnicity, or their socioeconomic status.

Conclusion

Prophet Muhammad's life and legacy offer a timeless source of inspiration for humanity. In a world still grappling with the challenges of oppression, injustice, and inequality, his teachings serve as a guiding light. His unwavering commitment to justice, his compassion and mercy, and his vision of a society built on the principles of equality and human dignity continue to resonate across cultures and generations. As people today seek pathways to justice, equality, and peace, the life of Prophet Muhammad remains a profound example of how to live with integrity, compassion, and fairness in the face of adversity.



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What Palestinians in Gaza are teaching Muslims worldwide

Mustafa Abdi

The atrocities committed against Palestinians in Gaza have left us appalled and heartbroken. The brutal treatment and killing of innocent civilians is a blatant violation of human dignity and a grave injustice.

However, amidst this darkness, we have witnessed the unwavering resilience and faith of the Palestinian people. Despite being subjected to unimaginable suffering, they have refused to surrender or compromise on their values and beliefs. Instead, they have become even more resolute in their dedication to their faith and convictions.

We have seen numerous accounts of Palestinians in Gaza drawing comfort and strength from their beliefs, even in the most desperate of circumstances. They have reaffirmed their love for God and the Prophet Muhammad, using their faith as a beacon of hope in the face of unparalleled adversity.

While the people of Gaza should not be forced to endure such hardships in the first place, their resolve and strength in the face of oppression are a powerful lesson for Muslims worldwide. As Muslims in the United States face increasing hate crimes and Islamophobia, we can draw inspiration from the Palestinians' unwavering commitment to their faith.

Their example teaches us that even in the darkest of times, our faith can be a source of strength, courage, and comfort. It reminds us of the importance of patience, perseverance, and resistance in the face of adversity, as emphasized in the Quran.

The Palestinians' plight is a stark reminder of the injustices faced by Muslims around the world, from Kashmir to China, Myanmar, Somalia, Yemen, and Bosnia. Their courage and resolve serve as a powerful testament to the strength of the human spirit and a beacon of hope for Muslims worldwide.



As we stand in solidarity with the people of Gaza, we must also recognize the lessons they are teaching us. We must adopt a perspective of resilience and faith in the face of adversity, just as they have. We must refuse to be silenced or broken by the trials we face, and instead, find strength in our beliefs and values.

Ultimately, the people of Gaza are showing us that even in the midst of unimaginable tragedy, faith can be a powerful source of comfort, strength, and inspiration. Their unwavering resolve is a testament to the power of the human spirit and a reminder to all of us to stand strong in our convictions, even in the face of adversity.

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That man will only have what he has worked towards; that his labor will be seen and that in the end he will be repaid in full for it; that the final goal is your Lord; An-Najm, Ayah 39 - 42



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RAHMAH

Batul Murtuza

Muhammad, a beacon of light, a mercy to the worlds

Born in Makkah, raised in purity

A man of compassion, honesty, and unwavering faith

Received revelation from the divine,
the Quran A guide for humanity,

a teacher of truth His teachings,

a path to righteousness and peace He fought for justice,
equality, and the rights of the oppressed A role model for all,

a source of inspiration His legacy,

a testament to his character and message May peace and blessings be upon him forevermore.





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Combating Islamophobia In The United States

Mustafa Abdi

The tragic events of September 11, 2001 were a wake-up call for the community. In an atmosphere of increasing Islamophobia, we felt it was important to spread the message of peace and tolerance through the example and seerah of Prophet Muhammed (PBUH). Thus, we incorporated Muslims For Peace (muslims4peace.org). Established in 2001, Muslims for Peace, Inc. is an organization that aims to bridge people from different religious and ethnic backgrounds through interfaith activities, such as presentations, seminars, and discussions.

We strongly believe that educating each other about our differences is the best way to interconnect people, increase tolerance towards each other, and facilitate the peacemaking process all over the world.

We spread the message that Islam stands for non-violence, and we work towards developing a better understanding of Islam among all the people of the world, Muslim and non-Muslim alike.

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Charity and community work is stressed and emphasized as one of the essential responsibilities of a Muslim. A major part of this organization is partaking in community service activities, whether it is soup kitchens, clothing drives, or simply donating to provide care and education for someone who cannot afford it. Our members take initiative and organize events in which the community, as a whole, can give back.

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Muslims for Peace has a mission to transcend boundaries of faith and unite every community on the basis of education. Educating one man is dispelling ignorance from an entire generation.

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A Model of Tolerance:

Jewish Rights During the Time of Prophet Muhammad

The advent of Islam in the 7th century brought significant changes to the Arabian Peninsula. However, one aspect often overlooked is the treatment of Jewish communities in Medina, where Prophet Muhammad established his first Islamic state.

The Constitution of Medina: A Pact of Tolerance

Upon his migration to Medina, Prophet Muhammad recognized the diverse population of the city, which included various Arab tribes and Jewish clans. To ensure peaceful coexistence, he drafted the Constitution of Medina, a groundbreaking document that established a framework for interfaith harmony and mutual respect.

Key provisions of the Constitution of Medina regarding Jewish rights included:

Religious Freedom: Jews were granted the freedom to practice their religion without interference. They were allowed to build their own synagogues and observe their religious rituals.

Legal Autonomy: Jewish communities were permitted to have their own legal systems to govern internal matters, provided they did not violate the broader societal laws.

Protection and Security: The Constitution guaranteed the safety and security of Jewish citizens. Muslims were obligated to protect Jews from external threats and internal disturbances.

Economic Rights: Jews were allowed to engage in trade, commerce, and other economic activities without discrimination. **Mutual Defense:** Both Muslims and Jews were bound by a pact of mutual defense, pledging to protect each other from external aggression. **The Breach of the Pact** Despite the initial peaceful coexistence, some Jewish tribes in Medina, particularly the Banu Qaynuqa, Banu Nadir, and Banu Qurayza, violated the terms of the Constitution.



They engaged in hostile acts against the Muslim community, including spying, sabotage, and even armed attacks.

In response to these breaches, Prophet Muhammad took decisive action. However, it's important to note that these actions were taken as a result of specific violations of the treaty and were not a general persecution of the Jewish community.

The Legacy of Tolerance

The Constitution of Medina stands as a testament to Prophet Muhammad's commitment to religious tolerance and interfaith harmony. It provides a historical precedent for peaceful coexistence between different religious communities. The principles enshrined in this document continue to inspire efforts towards building a more just and equitable world.

Three Prophets With Intercession Authority

Jaffer Ali

Intercession, immunity for the people of justice and truth.
Their hearts are scanned at immigration's booth.
Greetings to Adam, humanity's first, chosen by the Lord.
A first human, parentless, worshipping the universal Lord.
Adam's Lord is Eve's Lord; we worship their same Lord.
Noah built the Ark, saving humanity, as directed by the Lord.
Abraham, a friend of God, survived the fiery pyre.
Moses, conversing with the Almighty on Mount Sinai.
Jesus, reviving the dead, as directed by the Lord.
Muhammad, the beloved final Prophet, the Lord's seal.

All three, intercessors for their followers, acclaimed.
Our greetings to the Prophets of Judaism, Christianity, and Islam, blessed and rewarded.
To walk with you towards eternal peace, a divine accord.
Your Prophet will guide you, guarding your reward.

To test your closeness to God, humility is the key.
One God, the only God, for all to see.
The sky acknowledges, without a doubt.
No bloodshed, God forbid, within God's devout.
No war, no bigotry, no hate, no fraud.
Birth leads to death, a destined, natural load.

Why not heed your inner call?
God's beauty, vast and all.
Countless bounties, seen and unseen.
Nature's beauty, a divine scene.
Earth rotates, a celestial machine.
Water, soil, and sun, a divine design.
Diverse fruits and crops, a heavenly sign.
All together, a harmonious design.



Prophet Muhammad's Timeless Rules Of War:

Prophet Muhammad's Eternal Message

Prophet Muhammad, a revered figure in Islam, established a comprehensive ethical framework for warfare over 1400 years ago. His teachings, rooted in the Quran and Sunnah, prioritize the protection of human life, property, and the environment, even in times of conflict.

Just War: A Defensive Response

Islamic law permits defensive warfare as a response to aggression and oppression. The Quran states, "Permission to fight is given to those against whom war is made, because they have been wronged..." (22:40). However, this permission is granted under strict conditions, emphasizing the importance of justice and proportionality.

Humanitarian Principles in Warfare

The Prophet's teachings outline specific rules for conducting war, including:

Protection of Civilians: Strict prohibitions against harming non-combatants, including women, children, and the elderly.

Preservation of Property: Restrictions on the destruction of property, especially agricultural resources.

Respect for the Environment: Avoiding unnecessary damage to the natural world.

Treatment of Prisoners of War: Humane treatment, including providing food, water, and medical care.

A Model for Modern Times In today's world, marked by frequent conflicts and humanitarian crises, the Prophet's teachings offer a valuable framework for conducting warfare with compassion and restraint. By adhering to these principles, nations and individuals can strive to minimize suffering and build a more just and peaceful future.





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Poem

THE BEACON

Sakina Murtuza

In desert sands, a beacon rose so bright, A light for all, both humble and oppressed,
Through ages dark, he brought the world to light,
A mercy sent to heal hearts dispossessed.

The Prophet, gentle guide, in truth's pure guise, Embraced the weak, the downtrod,
and the meek; With justice fierce and mercy in his eyes, He raised the low, gave
voice to those who seek.

His words, a balm for souls in sorrow bound, Like rain upon the thirsty earth they fell;
A timeless mercy, in his teachings found,
The world transformed by wisdom's sacred well.

O blessing vast, O mercy's radiant face, In him, humanity finds hope and grace.

Muhammad, mercy's light, a chosen guide A prophet sent, heavens open wide His words a
beacon, truth's eternal flame
A legacy of love, forever the same

(Daniya Ahmed)





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A Voice for the Oppressed: How Prophet Muhammad (PBUH)

Freed Humanity from the Chains of Ignorance

The Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) was more than a messenger; he was a liberator who spoke out against oppression in all its forms. When he was sent to humanity, the world—particularly the Arabian Peninsula—was entrenched in an era known as Jahilia, or the Age of Ignorance. This wasn't simply a lack of knowledge; it was a period marked by deeply ingrained social injustices, a devaluation of human life, and a moral decay that fostered violence, prejudice, and cruelty. Ignorance, in this context, was a form of oppression that enslaved people's minds, preventing them from seeing the truth, valuing life, or understanding justice. The Prophet (PBUH) came as a beacon of light, freeing humanity from these unseen chains and guiding them toward a life of wisdom, justice, and compassion.

Ignorance as the Greatest Oppression

In pre-Islamic Arabia, ignorance dominated every aspect of life. Society inflicted unspeakable injustices, from burying infant daughters alive to maintaining a ruthless system of slavery. Tribes engaged in endless, blood-soaked feuds over minor disputes, and mercy was a scarce virtue. The Prophet's (PBUH) arrival was not coincidental; he was sent as an antidote to a world gripped by moral darkness and intellectual bondage. His teachings were not merely religious decrees but revolutionary insights meant to awaken the mind and restore humanity's lost values. By addressing the ignorance of his time, he effectively attacked the root cause of all societal oppression.

Ignorance can be one of the most insidious forms of oppression, precisely because it blinds people to their own circumstances. When minds are veiled in ignorance, society cannot recognize or resist injustice. Whether it's self-imposed or fostered by societal lies and deceit, ignorance prevents people from questioning, learning, and ultimately growing. Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) taught that true liberation begins with the mind, with a commitment to truth and wisdom, and that ignorance was an enemy to both.

The Prophet as a Liberator of Minds

The teachings of the Prophet (PBUH) offered a path out of this mental and spiritual oppression. He championed knowledge as the highest pursuit, urging people to seek understanding and reflect deeply. The Quran, which he delivered as a message from God, repeatedly calls on humanity to use intellect, question the world around them, and seek the truth. By promoting knowledge and critical thought, the Prophet (PBUH) paved the way for justice, because only a mind unclouded by ignorance can truly understand and act upon the principles of fairness, mercy, and equality.

One of his central messages was that truth illuminates and frees the human spirit, while ignorance chains it down. The Prophet's wisdom empowered people to see through the false narratives of their society—to recognize the humanity in others, to treat all people with dignity, and to reject the evils of tribalism, classism, and cruelty. By freeing people from mental darkness, he not only advocated for justice but created a framework where justice could thrive.

Lessons for Today: Combating Modern Ignorance

Today, ignorance remains a form of oppression, though it manifests in different ways. In a world where "fake news," biased headlines, and social media echo chambers proliferate, truth becomes harder to distinguish, and narratives can be manipulated to serve the interests of the powerful. Oppressed communities are often marginalized further by the distortion of their stories, while the perpetrators of injustice escape accountability. In many ways, we are again in a battle against ignorance—one where misinformation and deceit can obscure reality and foster complacency.

The Prophet's (PBUH) teachings urge us to stay vigilant in seeking truth and clarity. He taught that actions based on emotion or assumption can lead to further injustice, and that true wisdom comes from knowledge and understanding. His example calls on us to resist the societal pressures that numb us to oppression, to actively seek out the truth, and to educate ourselves so that we may respond with integrity and purpose. Ignorance, as he showed, is a fertile ground for all forms of oppression. By cultivating wisdom, we build a foundation from which we can pursue justice and compassion.



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Reflection and Action: Living by His Example

The Prophet (PBUH) showed us that knowledge isn't just a personal endeavor but a social responsibility. In his life, he spoke out against injustice not just with words but with profound understanding and strategy, always prioritizing peace and mercy. Following his example today means reflecting on our own responsibility to educate ourselves, to see through the illusions of ignorance, and to act thoughtfully.

Our path forward may take different forms—joining protests, writing to government representatives, sharing stories of oppressed communities, or having open conversations to raise awareness. Each action, no matter how small, becomes significant when rooted in knowledge and truth.

Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) taught that staying idle in the face of oppression allows it to persist. It is through informed and deliberate action that we honor his legacy and his message of justice.

The journey toward justice is a journey of knowledge, one that begins with freeing our minds from ignorance. By seeking knowledge, reflecting deeply, and then acting justly, we embody the teachings of the Prophet (PBUH) and contribute to the ongoing fight against oppression. In a world filled with distractions and deceit, let us remember that true liberation, as the Prophet (PBUH) taught, starts with the courage to seek truth and the wisdom to act upon it.



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Prophet Muhammad:

A Mercy, Model And Guide For Humankind

Fatima Kermalli

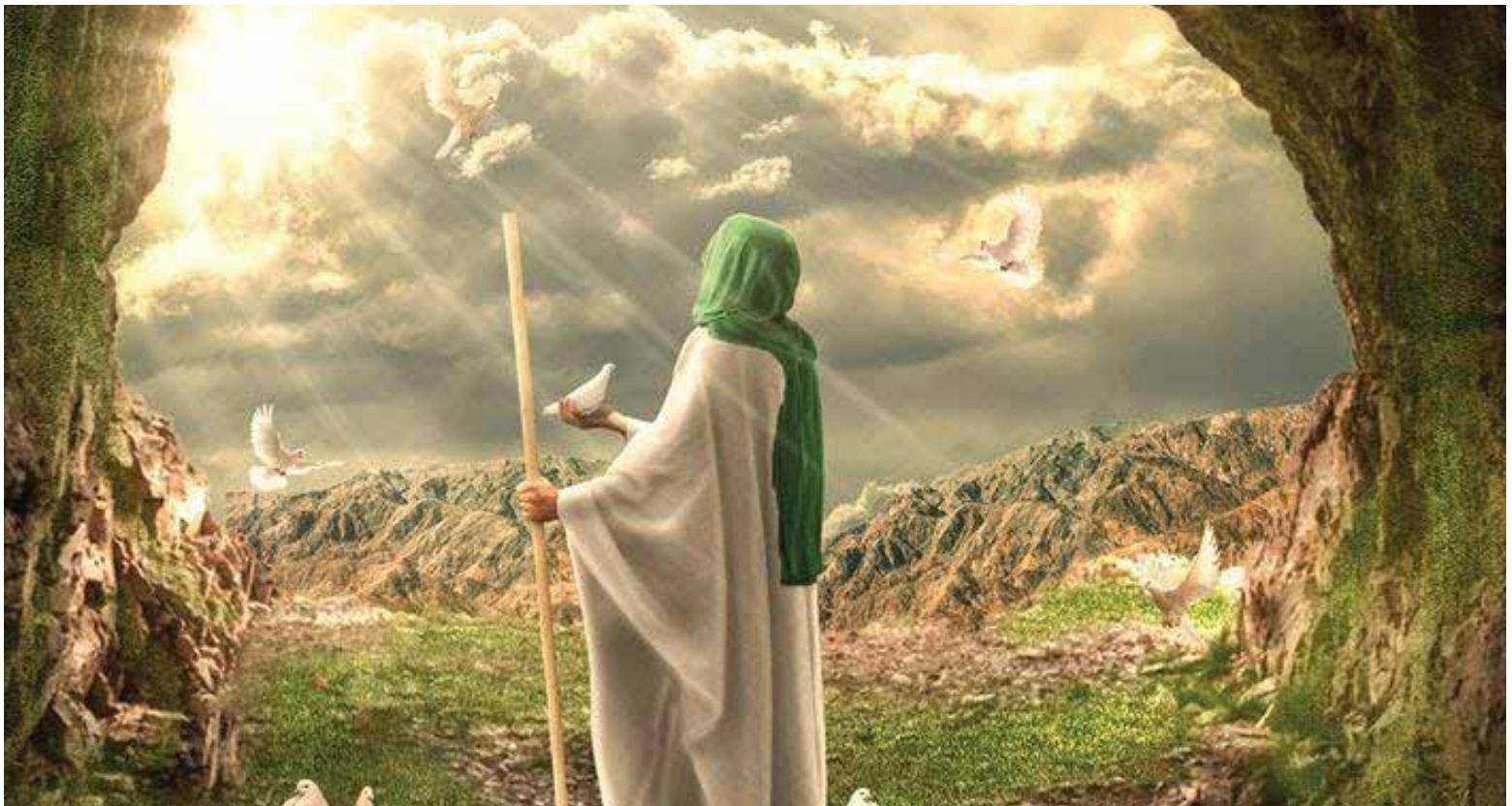
In this journey of life, the Benevolent Creator never left humankind without the tools to succeed, which would result in everlasting rewards. Thereby, the Almighty bestowed a two-fold guidance system: internal and external. The internal form of guidance is an instinctive instruction, which is innate in all beings.

The external guidance is the prophets, holy books, and their immaculate successors. From these leaders, people can learn the true purpose of their existence and the realization of their potential.

Therefore, before any creation was fashioned, the Lord created the “Noor” (Light) of Muhammad (pbuh). The Prophet’s greatness is illustrated in a tradition from Imam Ali (as) that when the Almighty created, foremost, the Light of Muhammad, He said to it: “You are My chosen one and the Trustee of My Light and Guidance. It is because of you that I am going to create the earth and the skies,

lay down reward and punishment, and bring into being the Garden and the Fire.” Furthermore, in the Holy Quran, chapter 33, verse 21 the Lord states about Prophet Muhammad, “Indeed there is for you an apostle from Allah (swt), an excellent role model. Hence, humankind has been given clear instructions to look toward the Messenger of God for guidance and as an example. Furthermore, he was sent as a mercy to all, as dictated in chapter 21, verse 107: “We have sent you ‘O Prophet’ only as a mercy for the whole world.”

Truly being the first of creation, he remains to be an exemplary model. It is narrated from al-Shaykh al-Tusi in al-Amali, the Holy Prophet (pbuh) said: “You must adopt an honorable character, for Allah (swt) has sent me with it. It is from the honorable character, for one to show forgiveness to the one who wrongs him, to give to the one who deprives him, to keep contact with the one who cuts him off, and to visit the sick one who does not visit him (when he is sick).” Thus, the Prophet exhibited and taught that possessing sublime character is part of being best to those who wronged you.



Similarly, he also propagated in assisting and defending those in need whether one was present, or not, and at whatever capacity. The Messenger of Allah (pbuh) affirmed: "If a person hears of the defects of his believing brother in an assembly and tries to defend him, Allah closes a thousand doors of evil from him in the world and the Hereafter. But if in spite of being capable, he does not refrain the one who is speaking about the defects of a believer; his sin will be equal to that of seventy backbiters."

Regarding social justice, the Holy Prophet always upheld equity in all aspects and roles in life and instructed others to do so.

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the Holy Prophet always upheld equity in all aspects and roles in life and instructed others to do so. Oppression has been ongoing since the onset of man on earth. To this day across the world, we see aggression rampant such as in Palestine, Sudan, Myanmar, and Afghanistan, to name a few. The Prophet's guideline in abating oppression, if heeded would create a harmonious civilization, which he was able to achieve in Medina when the non-Muslims were a minority. At the time, the Jewish community had no intention to accept Islam; therefore, Prophet Muhammad made a pact with each religious group in Medina and allowed them their rights, obligations, and the freedom to practice their faith. It was called Hilf al-fudul agreement, the Constitution of Medina. The Prophet never upheld the sword to spread his message, seize land, or obtain power. His

message was clearly to establish peace and justice. He preached, "The best crusade is that a man wakes up in the morning with no intention at all of oppressing anyone or of doing any injustice to anybody." The Prophet even pardoned his enemies when he had the power to punish, such as Wahshi the man who killed his beloved uncle, among many others. If humanity were only to study and implement the many aspects of the life of the final beloved Messenger of God, the world would be in a different state.



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