

Noble Character of the Holy Prophet (s) in the Holy Quran

Today's Topic: Gentleness

Today's Verses

- 1) Sura Aale Imran, 3:159
- 2) Sura Taha, 20:44

What points do you get from these verses?

Question:

How would you describe gentleness?

Agenda

- Role of the Prophet's Akhlaq in spreading Islam
- Story of Safana bint Hatim Tai
- Understanding Gentleness
- Hadith on Gentleness
- Gentleness of the Holy Prophet (s)
- Ways of gentleness in the Quran
- Gentleness in today's generation

Role of the Prophet's Akhlaq in spreading Islam


Three things spread the mission of Islam so quickly:

- a) Akhlaq of the Holy Prophet (s)
- b) Jihad of Imam Ali (a)
- c) Wealth of Bibi Khadija

Story of Safana bint Hatim Tai

Safana daughter of Hatim Tai was taken prisoner by the Muslims.

When she sees the Holy Prophet (s) she says: ‘O Muhammad [s], my father has died and my brother has fled. So if you see fit, free me and let me not be the target of the evil tongues of the Arabs. For my father used to free the slaves, look after the neighbors, feed people, spread the salaam, and help people in difficult times’.



The Holy Prophet (s) replies; ‘Those are the quality of believers’.

Then he turned to the Muslims and said:
Free her, for her father loved Makarimul Akhlaq (noble manners)

Safana was sent back to her brother with respect and dignity. Later she tells her brother, Adi bin Hatim Tai, about the greatness of the Holy Prophet (s). He comes to Madina, and eventually accepts Islam.

Understanding gentleness

What is Gentleness:

- a soft attitude
- a sensitivity to others
- caring for others
- pleasant words
- soft voice and tone

Hadith of the Holy Prophet (s) on Gentleness


- 1) Whoever is granted a share of gentleness has been granted the good of the world and the Hereafter.
- 2) If Gentleness was a creation, there would not be anything that Allah, the Mighty, the Exalted, has created better than it.
- 3) Gentleness is not placed on anything except that it beautifies it, and it is not removed from anything except that it disgraces it.

Gentleness of the Holy Prophet (s)

Sura Aale Imran, verse 159

فَبِمَا رَحْمَةٍ مِنَ اللَّهِ لِنْتَ لَهُمْ ۖ وَلَوْ كُنْتَ فَظًّا غَلِيظَ الْقَلْبِ
لَانْفَضُّوا مِنْ حَوْلِكَ ۖ فَاعْفُ عَنْهُمْ وَاسْتَغْفِرْ لَهُمْ
وَشَاوِرْهُمْ فِي الْأَمْرِ

Thus it is due to mercy from Allah that you deal with them gently, and had you been rough, hard hearted, they would certainly have dispersed from around you; pardon them therefore and ask pardon for them, and take counsel with them in the affair;


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- 1) It is through the mercy of Allah, that the Prophet (s) is gentle.
 - 2) **فُظًا** and **غَلِيظَ الْقَلْبِ** refer to two different aspects; harshness in speech and hardness of the heart that is manifested in actions.
 - 3) Allah asks the Prophet (s) to forgive them, and tells him to ask Him to forgive them.
 - 4) The Muslims were vulnerable at that time. Gentleness would help heal their wounds and strengthen them for the future.

Effects of Gentleness

Sura Taha, verse 44

فَقُولَا لَهُ قَوْلًا لَّيِّنًا لَّعَلَّهُ يَتَذَكَّرُ أَوْ يَخْشَىٰ

Then speak to him a gentle word
perhaps he may mind, or fear

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- 1) Gentleness is an effective way to invite others towards a particular path
 - 2) Gentle and reasonable talk enters the heart and affects the other person.
 - 3) This is a possibility, may not always work. Hence the use of the word لَعَلَّ
 - 4) The first step in changing others is through speech, communication.
 - 5) Don't lose hope in others

Ways of gentleness in the Quran

Sura Shu'ara, verse 215

وَإِخْفِضْ جَنَاحَكَ لِمَنِ اتَّبَعَكَ مِنَ الْمُؤْمِنِينَ

And lower your wing for him who follows you of the believers.

- 1) lower your wing for others, stoop down.
- 2) support others but with humbleness, kindness, love . . .
- 3) go down to the level of people. Not everybody thinks the way you do.

Sura Hijr, verse 85

فَاصْفَحِ الصَّفْحَ الْجَمِيلَ

so overlook with kindly forgiveness.

- 1) Overlook their faults and mistakes
- 2) Do not accompany that with reproach and reminders.
- 3) Overlooking itself is a virtue, and is beautiful. But Allah wants a beautiful overlooking, an elevated form of the virtue.

Gentleness in today's generation

- gentleness was considered as a refinement of character. Is it so valued now?
- gentleness is not weakness. It is active, while weakness is passive. It is sometimes looked down upon these days as it is thought to be a sign of weakness.