

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

Today's Topic: Strategic Persuasion

Today's Verses

- 1) Sura al-Ahzab, 33:45-46
- 2) Sura Yusuf, 12:108
- 3) Sura an-Nahl, 16:125

What points do you get about the Holy Prophet (s) from verse no.1?

Question:

- 1) What list of Do's and Don'ts would you make for those trying to persuade others?

Agenda

Strategic Persuasion

Islamic View on arguments:

- From the Quran
- From Hadith

An example from the Prophet (s)

Strategic Persuasion

- having strong conviction
- winning others over, not defeating them
- using reason and intelligence
- showing respect for the other side
- based on good Akhlaq
- avoiding negativity

Islamic view on arguments

From the Quran

1) Appeal to the intellect


Sura al-Mulk, 67:23-24

2) Do not use negative language

Sura al-Anam, 6:108

3) Be fair and acknowledge the good of the other side.


Sura al-Baqarah, 2:219



Say: He it is Who brought you into being and made for you the ears and the eyes and the hearts: little is it that you give thanks.


Say: He it is Who multiplied you in the earth and to Him you shall be gathered.

al-Mulk, 22-23



And do not abuse those whom they call upon besides Allah, lest exceeding the limits they should abuse Allah out of ignorance. Thus have We made fair seeming to every people their deeds; then to their Lord shall be their return, so He will inform them of what they did.

al-An'am, 6:108



They ask you about intoxicants and games of chance. Say: In both of them there is a great sin and means of profit for men, and their sin is greater than their profit. And they ask you as to what they should spend. Say: What you can spare. Thus does Allah make clear to you the communications, that you may ponder.

al- Baqarah, 2:219

Sura an-Nahl, verse 125

- 1) Wisdom: with knowledge, reason, intellect, appealing to the mind, showing them the truth.
- 2) Good exhortation: positive, appealing to the heart. Includes praise, helping them see the good in it for themselves.
- 3) Dispute in the best manner: debating, countering, with good Akhlaq, fairness, refraining from negativity.



From Hadith

1) Send my greetings on my friends and tell them . . . to refrain from arguing about that which does not concern them.

Imam ar-Rida (a)


2) The Holy Prophet (s) did not prohibit arguing, just arguing with etiquettes that are unseemly.

Imam as-Sadiq (a)

An example from the Holy Prophet (s)

قُلْ يَا أَهْلَ الْكِتَابِ تَعَالَوْا إِلَىٰ كَلِمَةٍ سَوَاءٍ بَيْنَنَا وَبَيْنَكُمْ أَلَّا نَعْبُدَ
إِلَّا اللَّهَ وَلَا نُشْرِكَ بِهِ شَيْئًا وَلَا يَتَّخِذَ بَعْضُنَا بَعْضًا أَرْبَابًا مِنْ
دُونِ اللَّهِ ۚ فَإِنْ تَوَلَّوْا فَقُولُوا اشْهَدُوا بِأَنَّا مُسْلِمُونَ

Say: O followers of the Book! come to an equitable proposition between us and you that we shall not serve any but Allah and (that) we shall not associate aught with Him, and (that) some of us shall not take others for lords besides Allah; but if they turn back, then say: Bear witness that we are Muslims. (3:64)

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- respectful address: O people of the book
 - after Mubahila, even then the Prophet (s0 is willing to discuss reasonably.
 - inviting them, come. gentle tone
 - using a common ground. emphasizing that we are on the same path in some ways.
 - if you don't want to accept, we will remain on our path.