

### ALI 311: Reflections on the Infallibility of Prophet Muhammad (s):

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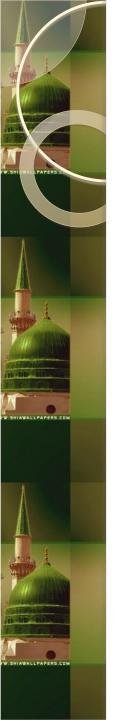


- Is 'Infallibility' the same as the Islamic Concept of Isma?
- What are the logical proofs for the 'infallibility' of the Prophet?
- Do all Muslims agree on the absolute infallibility of Rasullah or is there disagreements?
- What about the many Quranic verses that seemingly contradict the Infallibility of Prophet?



## Infallibility vs. Isma

- The State of being incapable of committing errors or mistakes.
- A mas'som is a human being who can theoretically err if they wish, but in reality will never do so due to the divine knowledge and spiritual grace they enjoy



## Can they sin?

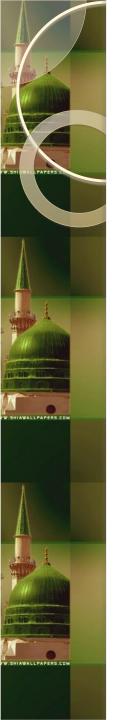
- لَوْ تَقَوَّلَ عَلَيْنَا بَعْضَ الْأَقَاوِيلِ] ٢٩:٤٢
- And if the messenger were to invent any sayings in Our name,
  - لَأَخَذْنَا مِنْهُ بِالْيَمِينِ] ٥٤:٩٦
- We should certainly seize him by his right hand,
  - ثُمَّ لَقَطَعْنَا مِنْهُ الْوَتِينَ] ٢٩:٤٦ [
  - And We should certainly then cut off the artery of his heart: (49:44-46)



## Do all Muslims agree on the Isma of all Prophets?

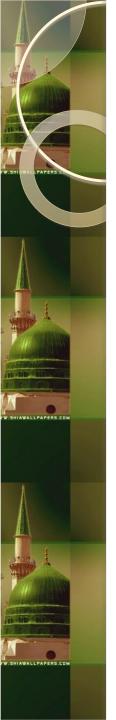
• Difference of opinion is based on the 2 'T's:

- TIME and TYPE
- Time: After receiving revelation
- Type: Depending on task



## The Bi'that of the Prophet

- Problems in historical texts
- What the School of Ahlulbayt (as) says



## The degrees (types) of Isma

- 1. Sinning and Disobedience
- 2. Receiving, preservation and propagation of revelation
- 3. Application of faith
- 4. Behavior and Conduct



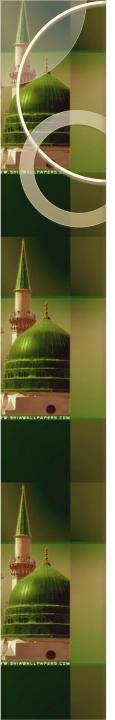
## Infallibility from sin and disobedience

- Trust
- Self-contradiction
- Misleading
- Many quranic verifications:

• مِنْ آبَائِهِمْ وَذُرِّيَّا تِهِمْ وَإِخْوَانِهِمْ فَ وَاجْتَبَيْنَاهُمْ وَهَدَيْنَاهُمْ إِلَىٰ صِرَاطٍ مُسْتَقِيمٍ آ ٢٠٨٧

(To them) and to their fathers, and progeny and brethren: We chose them, and we guided them to a straight way.

• This is the guidance of Allah: He gives that guidance to whom He wishes, of His worshippers. If they were to join other gods with Him, all that they did would count for nothing. (6:87-88)



#### What about the 'error' verses?

- إِنَّا فَتَحْنَا لَكَ فَتْحًا مُبِينًا] ١:٨٤ [
- Verily We have granted thee a manifest Victory: (48:1)
  - لِيَغْفِرَ لَكَ اللَّهُ مَا تَقَدَّمَ مِنْ ذَنْبِكَ وَمَا تَأَخَّرَ وَيُتِمَّ نِعْمَتَهُ عَلَيْكَ
    وَيَهْدِيَكَ صِرَاطًا مُسْتَقِيمًا] ٤٨:٢
- That Allah may 'forgive' thee thy 'faults' of the past and those to follow; fulfil His favour to thee; and guide thee on the Straight Way; (48:1-2)



#### Protection of Revelation

- Purpose of revelation: Guidance for Mankind
  - عَالِمُ الْغَيْبِ فَلَا يُظْهِرُ عَلَىٰ غَيْبِهِ أَحَدًا] ٢٦:٢٦"[
- He (alone) knows the Unseen, nor does He make any one acquainted with His Mysteries,-(72:26)
  - إِلَّا مَنِ ارْتَضَىٰ مِنْ رَسُولٍ فَإِنَّهُ يَسْلُكُ مِنْ بَيْنِ يَدَيْهِ وَمِنْ خَلْفِهِ رَصَدًا ٢٢:٢٧"
  - Except a messenger whom He has chosen: and then He protects him from front and behind
- لِيَعْلَمَ أَنْ قَدْ أَبْلَغُوا رِسَالَاتِ رَبِّهِمْ وَأَحَاطَ بِمَا لَدَيْهِمْ وَأَحْصَىٰ كُلَّ شَيْءٍ عَدَدًا ٧٢:٢٨ "
- That He may know that they have (truly) brought and delivered the Messages of their Lord: and He surrounds (all the mysteries) that are with them, and takes account of every single thing."(72:26-28)



### What about the Gharanic story?

- أَفَرَأَيْتُمُ اللَّاتَ وَالْعُزَّىٰ] ٥٣:١٩ [
- Have ye seen Lat. and 'Uzza, (53:19)
  - وَمَنَاةَ الثَّالِثَةَ الْأُخْرَىٰ] ٣:٢٠ [
- And another, the third (goddess), Manat?
- How can this story be accepted?
  - قَالَ فَبِعِزَّتِكَ لَأُغُويَنَّهُمْ أَجْمَعِينَ ] ٣٨:٨٢ [
  - (Iblis) said: "Then, by Thy power, I will put them all in the wrong
    - إِلَّا عِبَادَكَ مِنْهُمُ الْمُخْلَصِينَ] ٣٨:٨٣ [
  - Except Thy Servants amongst them, sincere and purified (by Thy Grace).(38:82-83)



## Application of faith

• 'The Prophet making mistakes in prayers' Sahih Bukhari, Vol 8, page 20 (published by Dar Al-jeel, Beirut) Sahih Muslim, Vol 5, page 72 (dar al-qalam) The Prophet forgets to pray salat Al-Asr Sahih Bukhari, Vol 1, p154 The Prophet forgets to ritually cleanse himself Sahih Al-Bukhari, Vol 1 p77 The Prophet prays with no ablution Sahih Bukhari, vol1, p179. Muslim vol 6,p295



• قَدْ كَانَ لَكُمْ فِي رَسُولِ اللَّهِ أُسْوَةٌ حَسَنَةٌ لِمَنْ كَانَ يَرْجُو اللَّهَ وَالْيَوْمَ الْآخِرَ وَذَكَرَ اللَّهَ كَثِيرًا ٢١ :٣٣

You have indeed in the Messenger of Allah a the best exemplar for any one whose hope is in Allah and the Final Day, and who engages much in the Praise of Allah.(33:21)

• فَوَيْلٌ لِلْمُصَلِّينَ] ١٠٧:٤ [

So woe to the worshippers (107:4)

• الَّذِينَ هُمْ عَنْ صَلَاتِهِمْ سَاهُونَ] ٥٠٧٠ [

Who take their prayers lightly (107:4-5)



#### Mannerism and Conduct

- The story of fertilization
  Sahih Muslim Vol 7 hadith 2363
  - وَمَا يَنْطِقُ عَنِ الْهُوَىٰ] ٣:٣٥[
- Nor does he say (aught) of (his own) Desire.
  - إِنْ هُوَ إِلَّا وَحْيٌ يُوحَىٰ] ٣:٤٥[
- It is no less than inspiration sent down to him (53:3-4)
  - مَا آتَاكُمُ الرَّسُولُ فَخُذُوهُ وَمَا نَهَاكُمْ عَنْهُ فَانْتَهُوا
- Whatever the messenger brings to you adhere to and whatever he forbids deny (yourselves)

 But no, by the Lord, they can have no (real) Faith, until they make thee judge in all disputes between them, and find in their souls no resistance against Thy decisions, but accept them with the fullest conviction. (4:65)



# So who frowned and turned away?

• عَبَسَ وَتَوَكَّىٰ] ١٠:١[

He frowned and turned away, (80:1) •

• أَنْ جَاءَهُ الْأَعْمَىٰ] ١٠:٢[

Because there came to him the blind man (interrupting).

• وَمَا يُدْرِيكَ لَعَلَّهُ يَزُّكِّيٰ] ٨٠:٣

But what could tell thee but that perchance he might grow (in spiritual understanding)?

• أَوْ يَذَّكُّرُ فَتَنْفَعَهُ الذِّكْرَىٰ] ٨٠:٤

• Or that he might receive admonition, and the teaching might profit him?