



NEW MUSLIM
ACADEMY

THE MESSENGER OF MERCY



COMPANION BOOK FOR THE COURSE

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➤ "And We have not sent you except as a mercy to the worlds."
(Qur'an 21:107)

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Chapter 1

Standing Up for the Oppressed

Brief Summary

Before receiving revelation, the young Muhammad was widely admired in Mecca for his honesty, integrity, and noble character. He came from the noble Quraysh tribe, yet unlike many of the elites who misused their status, he consistently upheld fairness and compassion. His reputation for truthfulness and justice was already firmly established long before he became a messenger of God.

One event from his youth highlights this moral excellence: a Yemeni merchant was cheated by a Meccan nobleman, Aas ibn Wa'il, who took the man's goods but refused to pay him. Powerless and alone, the Yemeni man appealed publicly for help in the courtyard of the Ka'bah. Although many Quraysh nobles hesitated to confront one of their own, Muhammad's uncle Zubayr was outraged by their inaction. He gathered several principled men — including the young Muhammad — to form a pact promising to defend the oppressed and hold wrongdoers accountable.

This alliance, known as Hilf al-Fudul ("The Noble Pact"), succeeded in restoring the merchant's rights and became a symbol of moral courage in Meccan history. Years later, even after receiving revelation, the Messenger Muhammad ﷺ spoke of the pact with admiration and stated that he would still honor it if called upon. This early act of justice demonstrates that his divine mission was built upon a lifelong commitment to truth, fairness, and defending the vulnerable — qualities that helped people recognize the truth of his later message from God.

Key Themes and Lessons

1

Justice Beyond Tribe or Status

The Messenger Muhammad ﷺ stood for fairness even when it meant challenging powerful members of his own tribe. True justice is not bound by loyalty to one's people or other factors, but by what is right.

2

Moral Excellence Before becoming a Messenger

Muhammad's integrity was recognized even before revelation — showing that moral excellence is a requirement and prerequisite for God's Messengers. They are men of noble virtue, even before receiving God's commands.

3

Community Responsibility

The pact demonstrates that righteousness often requires collective action — people uniting to uphold justice against wrongdoing is an Islamic principle, and something to be praised.

4

Universal Values in Islam

Standing up for the oppressed, regardless of race, nationality, or religion, is a deeply Islamic principle rooted in compassion and fairness.

Expanded Insights



Historical Context

Mecca was a thriving trade hub, but its society was deeply tribal. The Quraysh often thought of themselves as better than other Arabs. Justice was often biased toward the powerful. Women, children, slaves and the poor had few rights and even less supporters would stand up for the few rights they had. The Hilf al-Fudul was revolutionary because it defied that system, declaring that everyone — local or foreign — deserved justice.



Moral Legacy

This event set a precedent for Muslims: justice and integrity must prevail even before social or religious affiliations. When Islam later commanded believers to “stand firmly for justice, even against yourselves or your kin” (Qur’an 4:135), this principle was already embodied by the Prophet’s actions.



Timeless Relevance

Today, this story challenges Muslims to act against oppression in all forms — from personal unfairness to social and global injustices.

Reflections Points

“How do I stand up for what’s right?”

This story offers reassurance. Islam’s moral call is universal — it invites us to defend truth and compassion wherever we are. The Messenger Muhammad’ ﷺ example shows that justice and goodness are not limited to Muslims but are shared human values.



“How can I emulate the Messenger Muhammad’s ﷺ courage and fairness in my daily life?”

All of this comes back to pleasing God through His obedience. God enjoins upon us justice and goodness as is mentioned in the Quran. Therefore, when we see that these ideals need to be applied, we must demonstrate them. This will take courage and discipline, and is extremely rewarding.



“When have I seen injustice — and how might I respond in a way that reflects the Messenger Muhammad’s ﷺ character?””

Think about what you can change in yourself and how you can influence positive change in others around you. You must lead by example. Start with small changes and build from there.



“Do I sometimes confuse loyalty to people or culture with loyalty to justice?”

God commands us to be just in the Quran, even if it is against ourselves or our close family and friends. This is what the Messenger Muhammad ﷺ exemplified. We often choose people or other loyalties over the truth and justice. We must imagine ourselves in the position of the weak and oppressed, and how we would feel if those around us knew the truth, but ignored it due to other loyalties.



Sidebars & Interesting Facts



Historical Note:

The term Hilf al-Fudul means “The Alliance of the Virtuous.” The word fadl in Arabic means “virtue” or “excellence.” The pact’s name reflects its moral intention rather than political ambition of wanting to do good and help others.



Prophetic Quote:

“I witnessed a pact in the house of Abdullah ibn Jud’an which I would not exchange for the finest camels. If I were called to it again in Islam, I would respond.”



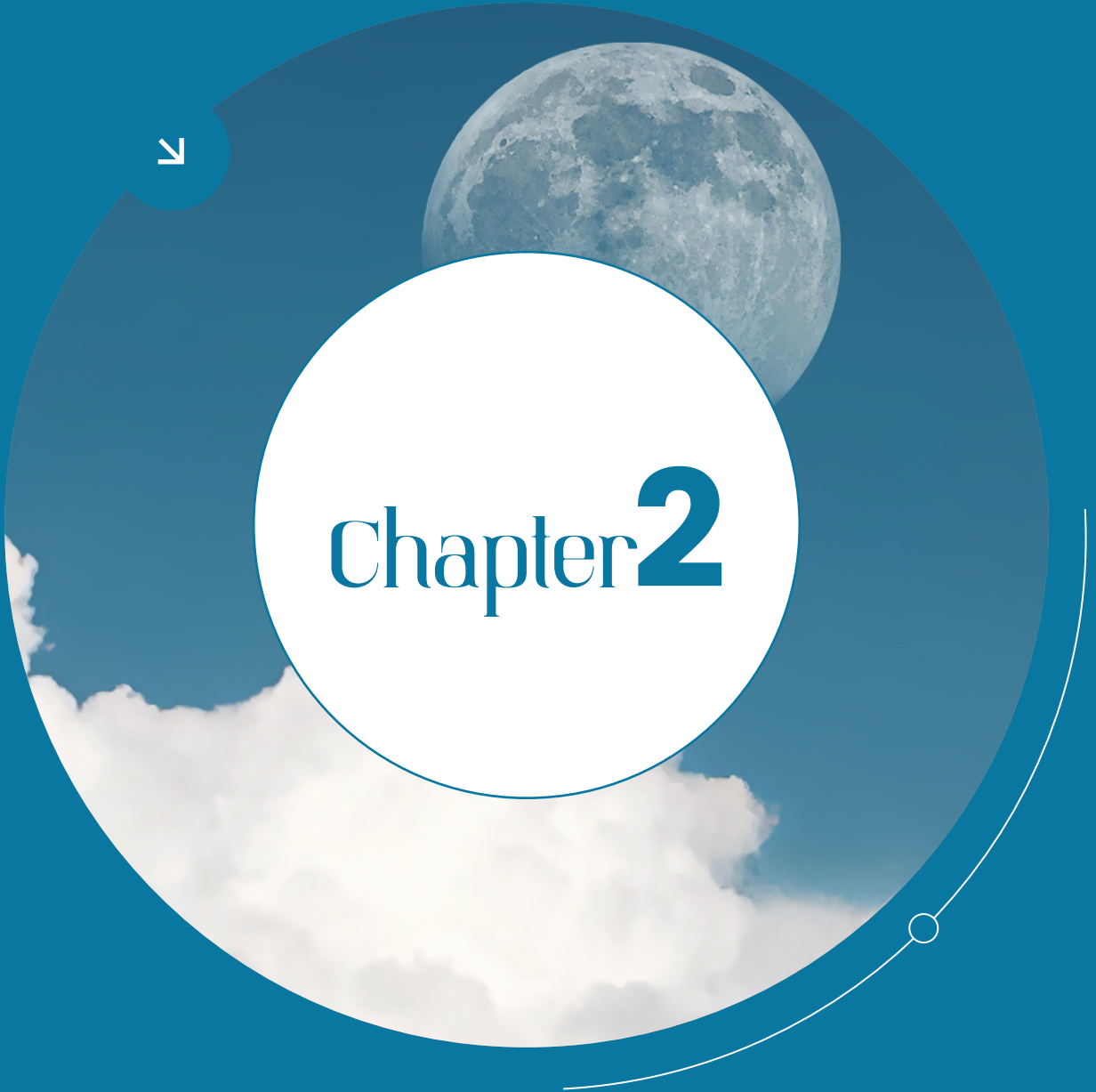
Did You Know?

Modern scholars see Hilf al-Fudul as an early example of a human rights alliance – centuries before such concepts were formalized.





Chapter **2**



The Epitome of Good Character

Brief Summary

Before the ministry of the Messenger Muhammad ﷺ began, he was already known throughout Mecca for his unmatched character – honesty, fairness, humility, and compassion toward all people. God Himself affirms this in the Qur'an: "Indeed, you are upon an exalted level of character." (68:4). This noble character was evident in many incidents from his youth, long before he became a prophet.

One such event took place about five years before revelation, when severe floods damaged the Ka'bah – the sacred House of God built by the Messenger Abraham. The Meccans united to rebuild it, each clan taking responsibility for part of the construction. The young Muhammad participated alongside his people, carrying stones and offering his service with humility. When it came time to restore the revered Black Stone to its place, a fierce argument erupted among the clans, each wanting the honour of placing it.

To avoid bloodshed, the Meccans agreed that the next person to enter through the gate would act as judge – and it was Muhammad. Trusting his fairness, they presented the dispute to him. Displaying both wisdom and intelligence, he instructed them to place the Black Stone on a cloth. Each clan leader held a corner, lifting the stone together, and Muhammad himself placed it into its position. His solution restored peace and showed the remarkable character that would later win the hearts of entire nations.

Key Themes and Lessons

1

Justice and Fairness Above All Tribal Loyalties

In a society where tribal allegiance determined nearly everything, the Messenger Muhammad ﷺ demonstrated that true honour lies in fairness, not favoritism. When entrusted with resolving the dispute over the Black Stone, he did not favour his own clan nor seek the honour for himself. Instead, he devised a solution that ensured justice and dignity for all parties.

2

Wisdom in Conflict Resolution

The dispute over the Black Stone could have escalated into violence, possibly bloodshed. Instead, the young Muhammad used wisdom to defuse tension. He listened to all sides, respected each clan's desire for honour, and created a solution in which everyone could participate and be equal in gaining the honour they all desired. His decision restored unity without humiliating anyone.

3

Humility and Service

Although he belonged to a respected lineage, the Messenger Muhammad ﷺ took part in the physical labour of rebuilding the Ka'bah, alongside the rest of his tribesmen. He carried stones alongside servants, young men, and workers from every tribe. This humility magnified his honour in the eyes of the people. True leadership in Islam includes service. The Messenger Muhammad ﷺ taught that the best people are those who serve others, and he would often be in the service of his family and community.

Key Themes and Lessons

4

Trustworthiness as a Foundation of Character

Even before revelation, the Messenger Muhammad ﷺ had earned the title Al-Amīn — the Trustworthy One. People entrusted him with disputes, wealth, and secrets because his honesty was consistent and unquestionable. His reputation was so strong that all Meccan clans accepted his judgment without hesitation. We as Muslims should seek to emulate the Messenger Muhammad ﷺ by striving to be honest, reliable, and principled in all aspects of life.

5

Honouring Sacred Places

The Ka'bah is the holiest place in Islam, and its reconstruction was an act of devotion. The Messenger Muhammad's ﷺ respectful handling of the Black Stone showed his honouring and respecting the symbols and landmarks of God's religion, the greatest being the Ka'bah.

Key Themes and Lessons

6

The Power of Unity

This incident showed how one person's character can bring peace where conflict is brewing. The Prophet's humility and fairness were so widely recognized that his very presence calmed tensions. Later in life, these same qualities would unify entire nations and transform hearts. Lesson:

Good character is one of the most effective tools for building community. Kindness, patience, and fairness have the power to mend relationships, heal divisions, and inspire respect.

7

A Sign of Coming Leadership

The Black Stone incident was an indication of the role the Messenger Muhammad ﷺ would soon fulfil, and the leadership style he would have — one rooted in justice, mercy, and wisdom. It showed that he would understand how to lead people and unite them for the greater purpose of spreading God's message.

Expanded Insights



Understanding a Tribal Society

Meccan society valued honour deeply. They vied and competed for honours such as looking after the Ka'bah, the well of Zamzam and leading armies into battle. A dispute over the Black Stone could easily have led to bloodshed, as tribal pride was sacred. Although Quraysh is a single tribe that returns to a single ancestor, amongst them they were many clans or smaller families. Quraysh rivalled with the other Arabs, but amongst Quraysh, the various clans competed for the most prestige.



Quraysh's Rebuilding of the Ka'bah

When the Ka'bah became structurally weak, they decided to rebuild the Ka'bah. However, they all agreed that they would only use lawful wealth for this project. Quraysh society often dealt with unlawful means of gaining money. However, due to the lack of lawful money, they were not able to construct it completely, leaving a semi-circle area unbuilt but marked by a wall known as the Hijr of Ishmael.



The Original Ka'bah Structure

The Messenger Muhammad ﷺ informed us that the original Ka'bah structure as built by Abraham and Ishmael included the semi-circle area, with the door low to the ground, and a second door in the structure. When the Quraysh rebuilt the Ka'bah, they could not afford to build the semi-circle area so left it out. They also missed out the second door and raised its single door high off the ground, so that no one could enter it without their permission.

Reflections Points

“How can I embody good character when I’m still learning about Islam?”

This chapter shows that greatness begins with character, not with expertise. The Messenger Muhammad ﷺ was truthful, gentle, and just long before he received revelation.



“What small acts of service can help me grow in humility and compassion?”

Helping others, and especially the poor, orphans, the elderly and sick is a good way of increasing humility and compassion. This is why Islam greatly encourages all acts of charity and giving.



“How can I honour God’s Houses?”

The mosques are God’s houses of worship. We honour them by supporting them and keeping them clean. We use them primarily for worship such as the daily devotions and Quran recitation. We don’t disrespect them by raising our voices in them or making them unclean.



Sidebars, Facts & Quotes



Quranic Highlight

"Indeed, you are upon an exalted level of character."
Quran 68:4



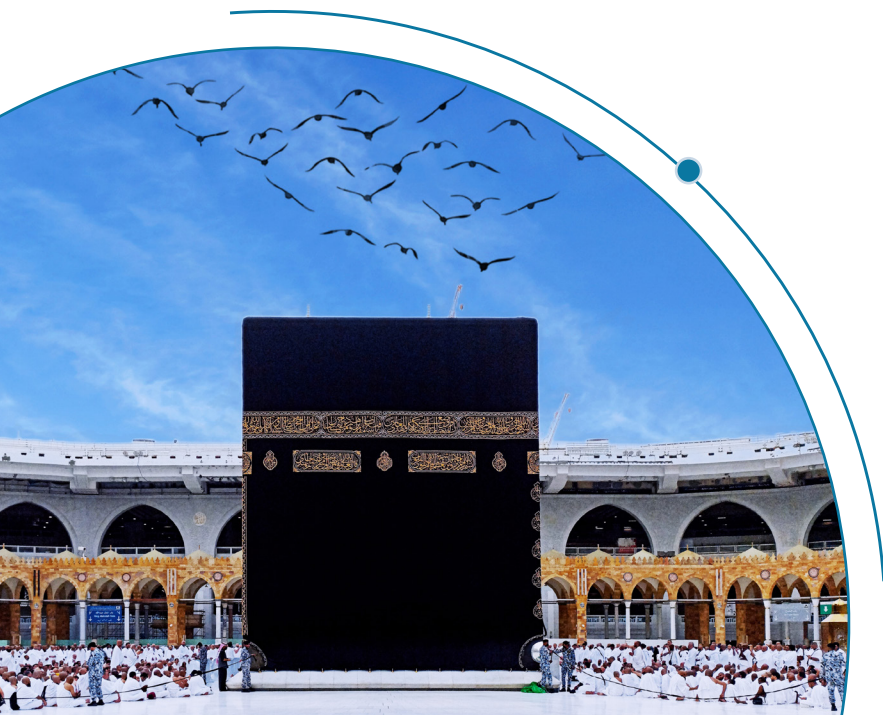
Did You Know?

The Black Stone was sent down from heaven and was originally white. It became black due to the sins of people.



Interesting Fact

The solution the Messenger Muhammad ﷺ gave could be studied in modern leadership and conflict resolution courses as an example of creative, inclusive problem-solving.





Chapter **3**



Patience: The Story of the Entrails of the Camel

Brief Summary

During the early years of Islam, the Messenger Muhammad ﷺ endured intense hostility from the Meccans, including members of his own tribe and even relatives. Despite this, he consistently displayed extraordinary patience, never allowing their abuse to deter him from worshipping God openly or calling people to the truth. This steadfastness became one of the defining features of his prophetic mission.

One of the most painful incidents occurred when the Messenger Muhammad ﷺ was praying near the Ka'bah while Meccan leaders sat nearby. At the instigation of Abu Jahl, one of the men placed the bloody, heavy entrails of a camel on the Messenger Muhammad ﷺ's back while he was in prostration. The chieftains laughed and mocked him as he remained trapped under the weight, struggling to lift it during his prayer. Even the Muslims present felt too oppressed and fearful to intervene.

The Messenger Muhammad ﷺ's young daughter Fatimah finally rushed to him, removed the entrails, and comforted her father. The Messenger Muhammad ﷺ then supplicated against the ringleaders involved. The Meccans were shaken, knowing his prayers were answered by God. This painful moment not only demonstrated the severity of persecution Muslims faced, but also the Messenger Muhammad ﷺ's unparalleled patience, in terms of what he had to personally endure and witness other Muslims facing.

Key Themes and Lessons

1

Patience in the Face of Deep Personal Harm

The Messenger Muhammad ﷺ experienced emotional and physical pain at the hands of his people. Yet he remained calm, steadfast, and committed to prayer and worship, whilst calling to God's religion, despite the ridicule, slanders and abuse. True patience is not passive suffering, it is staying anchored in worship and purpose when life becomes difficult.

2

Courage and Devotion in Worship

Despite the hostility, the Messenger Muhammad ﷺ continued to pray publicly at the Ka'bah. His devotion sent a powerful message: obedience to God should be first and foremost, even when it comes with risk. Faith requires courage. Acts of worship, done with sincerity and consistency, become a source of strength.

3

Compassion Toward Those Who Hurt You

Although the Meccans tormented him, the Messenger Muhammad ﷺ still desired their guidance. His patience was not rooted in weakness but in concern and worry for their souls. Real patience is connected to mercy, wanting good even for those who treat you badly. This is later demonstrated when many of his tormentors later accepted Islam.

Key Themes and Lessons

4

The Strength of the Companions

Fatimah's intervention highlights the emotional bonds within the Prophet's household. Even as a young girl, she stood up for her father showing bravery and compassion. Support from loved ones can help believers endure hardship. Otherwise, finding good friends who can support and advise you is important.

5

God's Support for the Patient

The Meccans were terrified when the Messenger Muhammad ﷺ prayed against them because they knew his truthfulness and that his supplications were accepted. God stands with the patient and loves them, as he mentions in the Quran. Injustice does not go unnoticed, and divine help comes in ways people do not always expect.

6

Patience as a Path to Long-Term Success

Although the Meccans fiercely opposed him at first, his patience eventually softened many of their hearts. By the end of his life, the Meccans had embraced Islam. Patience today can bear fruit tomorrow. People change, hearts open, and persistence in goodness leads to a good ending.

Expanded Insights



A Humiliating Act Intended to Break His Spirit

Placing entrails on someone's back was not only cruel but seen as deeply degrading. The Arabs loved camels, but the entrails of one would have been something that many would discard. This was intended to humiliate the Messenger Muhammad ﷺ. Camels are big and strong animals, so the weight of the entrails would also have been significant. Finally, they waited for him to go into prostration, before throwing the entrails on his back.



The Ka'bah as a Meeting Place

The Quraysh leaders and noblemen often gathered around the Ka'bah to sit and converse. It was their place for meetings and discussions. People usually avoided antagonizing them. Yet the Messenger Muhammad ﷺ's insistence in worshipping God openly and in front of them, would incense them. This demonstrates the courage and resolve of the Messenger Muhammad ﷺ.



Fatimah

Fatimah's courage, even as a child, shows the character instilled within the Messenger Muhammad ﷺ's household. Fatimah, one of four daughters of the Messenger Muhammad ﷺ would grow up to marry her cousin Ali. They would have two sons, Hasan and Husayn. She died some six months after the death of the Messenger Muhammad ﷺ.

Reflections Points

“How do I handle mockery, rude comments, or pressure from others about my faith?”

This story shows that the Messenger Muhammad ﷺ faced far worse—but he responded with dignity, patience, and trust in God. Your struggles are known to God, and through them, God increases you in reward and expiates your sins.



“How do I respond with dignity when someone mocks my faith?”

You must always strive to do what is pleasing to God, even when others do wrong to you. Follow the correct channels and avoid falling into the trap of responding with injustice when faced with injustice.



“How can I seek support—from family, friends, or community—like Fatimah supported her father?”

If you know people that are going through hardship, ask them how you can help them. They may just need to know that someone is there for them and willing to listen to their problems. Offer advice if you can and help where you can, or signpost them to those who may be able to assist them.



Sidebars & Interesting Facts



Quranic Teaching on Patience

“Indeed, Allah is with the patient.”
Quran 2:153



Did You Know?

Abu Jahl, who instigated the attack, was considered the fiercest opponent of Islam—yet his own son Ikrimah later became a devoted Muslim and companion of the Messenger Muhammad ﷺ.



Prophetic Mercy

Despite the torment, the Messenger Muhammad ﷺ later forgave many of those who harmed him, showing a level of compassion that astonished many.



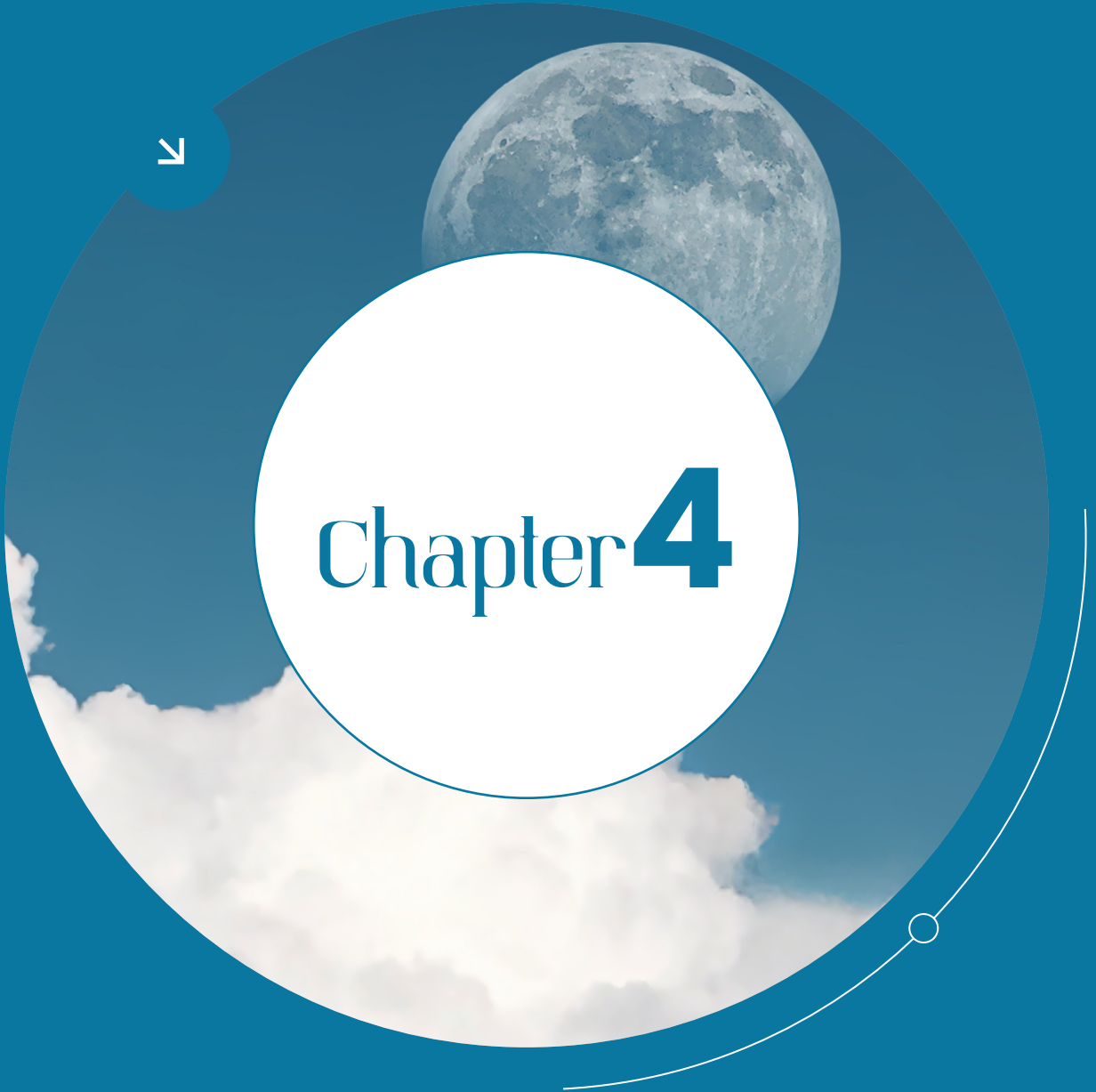
Camel Entrails Fact

Camel entrails can weigh dozens of kilograms, making it physically impossible for a person to rise from prostration under their weight.





Chapter **4**



Generosity – A Man who Fears No Poverty

Brief Summary

The Messenger Muhammad ﷺ embodied every noble quality a human being could possess, and among the most striking of these was his unmatched generosity. Though he lived a life of simplicity, often going hungry himself, tying stones to his stomach, and surviving on the bare minimum, he was very generous towards others. He cared little for the material comforts of this life, choosing instead to focus on worship and conveying God's message.

His generosity was not merely financial; it was a generosity of character, time, compassion, and forgiveness. Even when wealth eventually reached the Muslim community, the Messenger Muhammad ﷺ remained detached from its allure, teaching through his actions that true worth lies not in possessions but in faith and piety. For him, seeking the reward of the next life was far more important.

This spirit of giving extended to everyone, to his friends, strangers, the poor, and even at times, his enemies. His kindness softened hearts, inspired people to believe, and built deep love among his companions. Through moments such as freeing enemies or giving a Bedouin enough livestock to become wealthy in an instant, the Messenger Muhammad ﷺ demonstrated the true meaning and embodiment of generosity.

Key Themes and Lessons

1

Generosity Beyond Wealth

Generosity is not limited to money; it includes giving time, attention, patience, forgiveness, and kindness. The Messenger Muhammad ﷺ excelled in every form of generosity, showing that anyone, rich or poor, can be generous.

2

Detachment From Materialism

Despite having access to wealth in his later life, the Messenger Muhammad ﷺ lived simply. His example teaches us that material comfort is not wrong, but attachment to it can harm one's spiritual growth, especially if someone becomes obsessed with it. The true measure of a person is their piety and character.

3

Giving Without Fear of Poverty

The Messenger Muhammad ﷺ's generosity came from full trust in God's provision. When he gave, he did so without hesitation, even when he had very little. This teaches reliance on God and to know that all provision comes from Him.

Key Themes and Lessons

4

Transforming Hearts Through Kindness

His gentleness even with enemies, such as smiling at a man who injured him by pulling his robe, freeing captives and assisting the needy, shows that generosity and kindness is a powerful tool in changing hearts and breaking cycles of hostility.

5

Universal Compassion

The Messenger Muhammad ﷺ did not reserve his generosity for a select few; he gave to all; old or young, rich or poor, friend or foe. His character teaches a universal ethic of compassion toward all people, with aim of benefitting as many people as possible and guiding them to God's religion.

Expanded Insights



Generosity as a Leadership Trait

The Messenger Muhammad ﷺ once gave a man all he could find in the mountain valley. The man went back to his people, informing them of how the Messenger Muhammad ﷺ was a man who feared no poverty. This inspired many people to love and follow the Messenger Muhammad ﷺ.



The Messenger Muhammad ﷺ's House

The Messenger Muhammad ﷺ's home was described as being very simple. In fact, the word 'home' gives the impression of a bigger size than the reality. It was in fact a room, that had a very few possessions, and simple mats for sitting and sleeping on. A second generation scholar mentioned that he once entered the room, and could touch the ceiling by raising his hand up.



Rethinking Generosity

The Messenger Muhammad ﷺ told us that any good deed can become an act of charity. Praising God, providing for your family, helping those around you, and even removing something harmful from the road, can all become acts of generosity and charity with the correct intention.

Reflections for Converts

“Do I need to live a minimalistic life to be a good Muslim?”

No. Islam does not require poverty. The Messenger Muhammad ﷺ had wealthy companions like Abu Bakr and Uthman. What matters is keeping the heart free from greed and using one's blessings responsibly.



“I struggle with giving because I don't have much.”

Generosity is not measured by amount but by sincerity. Even smiling, comforting someone, or giving a small gift brings immense reward. Give what little you can afford. Do not look at the amount but the intention.



“How can I be generous when I feel anxious about finances?”

Start with small acts. The Messenger Muhammad ﷺ showed that generosity increases trust in God. Giving from little builds spiritual confidence and gratitude.



Sidebar & Interesting Facts



Did You Know?

- The Messenger Muhammad ﷺ said: “Charity does not decrease wealth.”
- Some companions described him as “more generous than the blowing wind,” meaning constant and abundant.
- Even when gifted wealth, he rarely kept it overnight—he would distribute it immediately.



Beautiful Quote

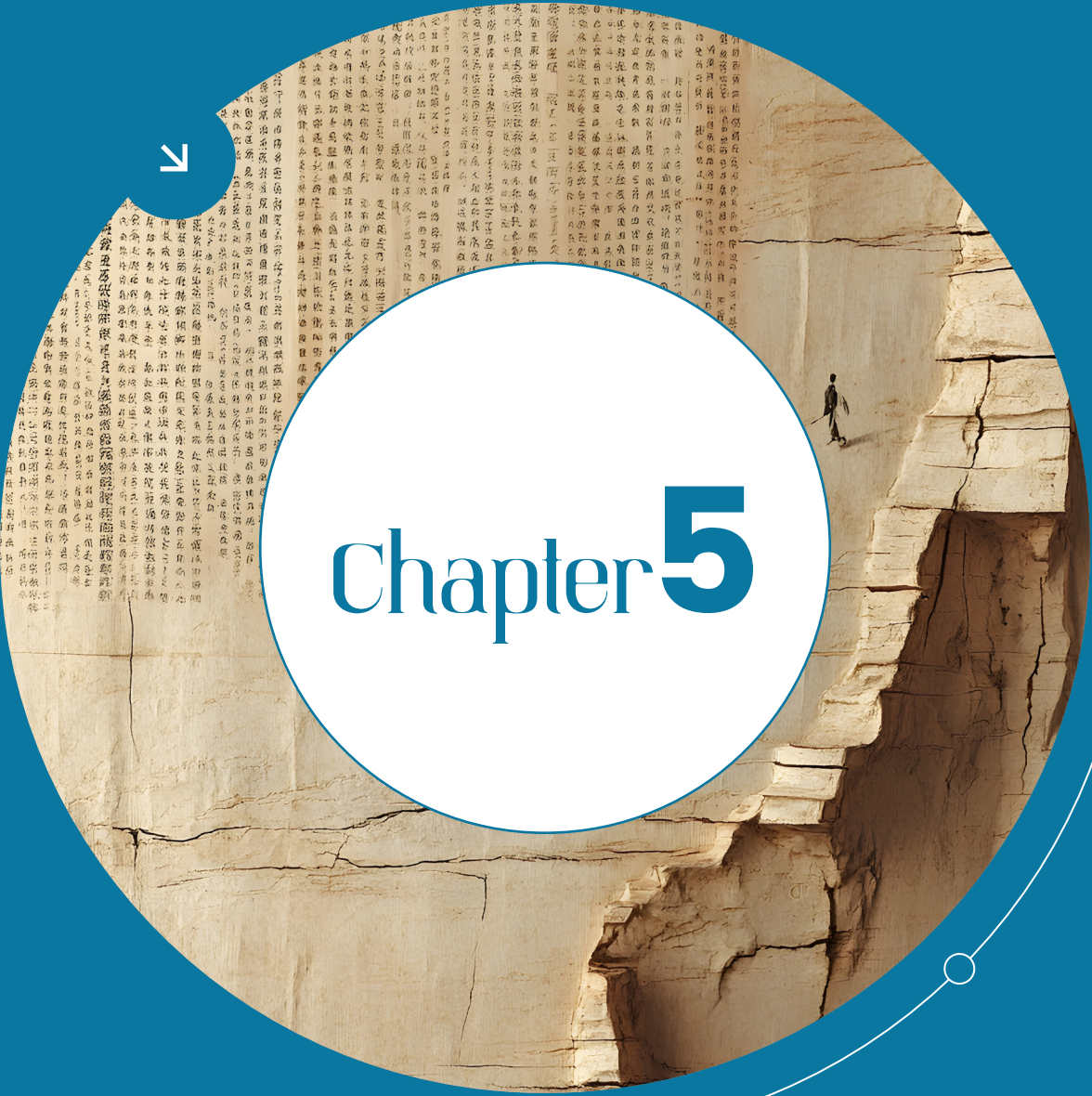
The Messenger Muhammad ﷺ said: “The best of people are those who are most beneficial to others.”



Historical Insight

Bedouin tribes measured wealth mainly by livestock. Giving an entire herd to one man was equivalent to making him rich instantly—showing the extraordinary scale of the Messenger Muhammad ﷺ’s generosity.





Chapter 5

Courage – The Man who held a Sword to the Messenger Muhammad

Brief Summary

The Messenger Muhammad ﷺ displayed extraordinary courage throughout his life, especially during the early years of Islam when he stood almost alone against the hostility of his own tribe, friends, and community. Despite insults, mockery, and physical harm, he remained steadfast in calling people to God, driven by certainty and trust in God, and unwavering faith.

His courage was not rooted in physical strength or intimidation, but in deep spiritual conviction. He worshipped openly despite persecution, feared no one besides God, and lived without personal guards, confident that his life and mission were under God's protection until its completion. His bravery often manifested during moments of real danger, including the famous encounter with a would-be attacker holding his own sword over him.

This courage was paired with compassion and self-control. The Messenger Muhammad ﷺ taught that true strength lies in mastering one's anger and choosing the harder path of suppression of anger and forgiveness. His calm, dignified, principled courage transformed enemies into allies and inspired his followers to carry Islam across continents.

Key Themes and Lessons

1

Courage Rooted in Faith, Not Ego

The Messenger Muhammad ﷺ's bravery was anchored in pure trust in God. His courage came from moral conviction rather than pride, anger, or desire for domination.

2

Standing Firm in the Face of Overwhelming Opposition

Despite the entire city and tribe standing against him, he continued delivering the message publicly. This teaches believers to uphold truth even when unpopular or difficult.

3

Calm Under Threat

When a man held a sword over him asking, "Who can stop me from killing you?" the Messenger Muhammad ﷺ responded with complete serenity: "God." This level of composure in danger reflects profound spiritual strength.

Key Themes and Lessons



4

Mercy as a Form of Bravery

Instead of retaliating, he forgave the attacker and let him go. Forgiveness requires emotional courage — sometimes more than fighting back.

5

Redefining True Strength

The Messenger Muhammad ﷺ taught that real strength is not overpowering others, but controlling one's emotions, especially one's anger. Courage includes moral restraint.

Expanded Insights



Courage Is Not the Absence of Fear — It Is Acting Despite It

The Messenger Muhammad ﷺ felt the natural emotions of any human, but faith and trust in God enabled him to act, even during danger. He was considered the bravest and most courageous of men, both on and off the battlefield.



Courage Has Many Forms

- Physical bravery — defending yourself from harm.
- Moral courage — speaking the truth even when unpopular.
- Spiritual courage — trusting God entirely and being pleased with His decrees.
- Emotional courage — forgiving when wronged.



Forgiveness as a Strategic Victory

By sparing enemies, the Messenger Muhammad ﷺ softened their hearts and often transformed hostility into admiration or even acceptance of Islam.

Reflections for Converts

“How do I stay strong when people around me disapprove of my faith?”

Like the Messenger Muhammad ﷺ, most converts must navigate social pressure. His example shows that trust in God, kindness, and patience are powerful tools.



“How do I deal with anger or frustration from others?”

Remember the Messenger Muhammad ﷺ's emphasis on controlling anger. Responding with wisdom and gentleness is not weakness, it is profound strength.



“Do I need to be fearless to be a good Muslim?”

No, courage grows over time. Even small acts of consistency, like offering the daily ritual devotions or being honest about your faith, are forms of bravery.



“What if I can't deal with people the way the Messenger Muhammad ﷺ did?”

Courage looks different for everyone and circumstances also differ. For some, courage is quietly persevering. For others, it is kindly correcting misconceptions. Your path doesn't need to mirror his exactly to be meaningful.



Sidebar & Interesting Facts



Beautiful Quote

The Messenger Muhammad ﷺ's said: "The strong person is not the one who overcomes others by force, but the one who controls himself when angry."



Physical Fitness

In the Quran, God encourages people to be able to defend themselves. The Messenger Muhammad ﷺ would encourage his disciples to learn archery and horse riding.



Did You Know?

Despite being the most threatened man in Arabia, the Messenger Muhammad ﷺ:

- Refused armed guards.
- Walked openly among enemies.
- Slept without protection when travelling. This reflected his deep certainty in God.





Chapter 6



Gentleness – The Man who Urinated in the Mosque

Brief Summary

The Messenger Muhammad ﷺ was renowned for his extraordinary gentleness, a defining trait that shaped his interactions with companions, strangers, children, the elderly, and even enemies. His gentle approach brought happiness to others, fostered love, and created an environment in which people were eager to learn, ask questions, and grow in their faith.

This gentleness was not weakness; it was strength. He reserved sternness only when God's boundaries were violated or when oppression occurred, even that sternness was ultimately a form of compassion aimed at protecting people from harm. From advising homesick youths to comforting the distressed, his behaviour demonstrated a heart full of gentleness.

One of the most striking examples of his gentleness was his response to a Bedouin man urinating in the mosque. Instead of scolding or punishing him, the Messenger Muhammad ﷺ protected him from being harmed, explained the sanctity of the mosque, and ordered the area cleaned. Through such moments, he captivated the hearts of people, turning errors into opportunities for teaching with wisdom.

Key Themes and Lessons

1

Gentleness as a Core Quality

The Messenger Muhammad ﷺ taught that gentleness beautifies everything, whereas harshness causes harm and makes things ugly. His life exemplified softness in speech, kindness in teaching, and compassion in correcting others.

2

Gentleness Toward the Young and Vulnerable

With young men like Malik ibn al-Huwayrith, he noticed their homesickness, listened to their concerns, and guided them with gentleness. His gentleness empowered youth rather than intimidating them.

3

Correcting Mistakes with Wisdom

The Bedouin in the mosque incident highlights how the Messenger Muhammad ﷺ prioritized education over punishment, especially when the mistake was done from ignorance. He understood contexts, limitations, and intentions.

Key Themes and Lessons



4

Containing Harm Before Correcting It

Preventing the companions from stopping the man mid-action shows strategic wisdom: had they agitated him, he would have spread his impurity over a wider area. Now that he had begun, wisdom dictated letting him finish and then rectifying the mistake.

5

Balancing Gentleness with Necessary Firmness

The Messenger Muhammad ﷺ demonstrated firmness only when laws were being violated, harm being done or oppression committed, yet even this firmness was purposeful, measured, and kind at its root.

Expanded Insights



Gentleness Is Not Passivity – It Is Intentional Kindness

The Messenger Muhammad ﷺ's gentleness was deliberate. It was a conscious choice to guide rather than shame, to educate rather than punish. This works well with all people, and especially young people. This is an important trait for parents and teachers.



Gentleness Creates Safe Spaces

People felt safe coming to the Messenger Muhammad ﷺ with their mistakes, doubts, and weaknesses. They would admit their faults openly. This allowed real change and improvement to take place, something harshness rarely achieves.



The Messenger Muhammad ﷺ Saw People's Potential

Rather than focusing on their errors, he focused on what they could become with encouragement and guidance. There were many Companions who made mistakes, but learned from them and excelled.

Reflections for Converts

“I sometimes make mistakes in worship, is that sinful?”

Mistakes are part of learning. The Messenger Muhammad ﷺ corrected people gently. Your journey has room for errors and growth, and for learning and improving. It is not a sin to make genuine mistakes or do something unknowingly.



“How do I develop gentleness?”

Practice patience, assume good intentions in others, and respond calmly when wronged. These small habits grow into major virtues.



“People around me are harsh or judgmental — what should I do?”

Remember that Islam is rooted in gentleness. Seek teachers and friends who embody compassion and understanding. Remember that you are trying to please God and not anyone else.



“I feel nervous asking questions about Islam.”

The companions asked freely because the Messenger Muhammad ﷺ made them feel safe. Never hesitate to ask sincere questions. Find learned people and refer to them. Use resources at your disposal such as NMA.



Sidebar & Interesting Facts



Beautiful Quote

The Messenger Muhammad ﷺ said: “Gentleness is not found in anything except that it beautifies it, and it is not removed from anything except that it makes it ugly.”



Impact of Gentleness

The Bedouin was so moved by the Messenger Muhammad ﷺ’s kindness that he prayed,
“O God, have mercy on Muhammad — and on no one else!” The Messenger Muhammad ﷺ laughed and said, “You have restricted something vast.”



Fact

The Messenger Muhammad ﷺ’s mosque was simple. It consisted of:

- Earthen floor
- Palm tree trunks as columns
- Palm leaf roof





Chapter 7



Mercy – The Enmity of the People of Ta’if

Brief Summary

God declares in the Quran that the Messenger Muhammad ﷺ was sent as a mercy to all the worlds. This mercy was not limited to his family or followers; it extended to strangers, the weak, children, animals, and even his enemies. Despite enduring years of hostility, mockery, and physical harm, his response was consistently guided by compassion and concern for others' guidance rather than personal revenge.

One of the clearest demonstrations of this mercy occurred during his journey to the city of Ta’if. After walking the long, difficult mountain route, he was met not with dialogue, but with violence. The people of Ta’if incited their children and slaves to stone him until he bled so severely that blood filled his sandals. Alone, injured, and rejected, this moment marked one of the most difficult experiences of his life.

At this point, God sent the Angel Gabriel along with the Angel of the Mountains, offering the Messenger Muhammad ﷺ the option to destroy Ta’if in retribution. Instead of vengeance, the Messenger Muhammad ﷺ chose mercy, praying that future generations from Ta’if would one day worship God alone. His prayer was answered when the people of Ta’if later embraced Islam. This episode reveals a mercy rooted not in weakness, but in unwavering faith, foresight, and love for humanity.

Key Themes and Lessons

1

Mercy as the Core of the Prophetic Mission

The Messenger Muhammad ﷺ was not merely merciful by nature – mercy was the essence of his mission. His goal was guidance, not punishment, and mercy, not revenge.

2

Mercy Toward Enemies

Despite brutal mistreatment, he refused to curse or destroy his enemies, except in rare cases. His mercy was towards everyone. He would often choose kindness and patience over retaliation for past harm.

3

Restraint When Power Is Available

True mercy is most meaningful when one has the ability to punish but chooses forgiveness instead. The offer from the Angel of the Mountains highlights the Messenger Muhammad ﷺ's moral greatness.

4

Emotional Strength and Compassion

The Messenger Muhammad ﷺ openly expressed emotion – he cried at the death of his grandchild and showed tenderness to children. Islam recognizes mercy and emotional expression as strengths, not flaws.

Key Themes and Lessons



5

Mercy as a Path to Divine Mercy

The Messenger Muhammad ﷺ taught that God's mercy is granted to those who show mercy to others. Compassion toward creation invites compassion from the Creator.

6

Universal Mercy

His mercy extended all humans — to the sick, the poor, the orphaned, and even those who wronged him, and even beyond humans to the animals. This established mercy as a universal Islamic ethic.

Expanded Insights



The City of Ta'if

Ta'if is an ancient city in western Arabia, located in the mountains southeast of Mecca, known historically for its cooler climate, fertile land, and agricultural abundance. In pre-Islamic Arabia, it was inhabited primarily by the tribe of Thaqif, who were influential, wealthy, and deeply attached to their local idols, especially al-Lāt. Because of its prosperity and strategic location, Ta'if was a rival to Mecca in both trade and influence.



Ta'if & Islam

The city initially resisted Islam strongly, most notably during the Messenger Muhammad ﷺ's painful visit in the early Meccan period. However, following the spread of Islam and events such as the Battle of Hunayn, the people of Ta'if eventually embraced Islam, traveling to Madinah to pledge allegiance to the Messenger Muhammad ﷺ. Thereafter, Ta'if became an important Muslim city and remains significant in Islamic history as a place that witnessed both severe rejection and the ultimate triumph of mercy and guidance.



The Angels & Their Roles

One of the benefits we take from this incident is the role of the angels. God has created countless angels, and they have specific roles, from worshipping God to overseeing certain aspects of the universe. Gabriel is the archangel and responsible for conveying God's commands and revelations. This incident shows there is also an angel responsible for the mountains.

Reflections for Converts

“How do I forgive people who hurt me deeply?”

The Messenger Muhammad ﷺ shows that forgiveness does not deny the existence of pain. It redirects it in a positive way. Islam teaches us that we all do wrong, and just as we want forgiveness from God and others, we must display the same.



“Does Islam expect me to tolerate abuse?”

No, mercy does not mean enabling harm or suffering it. The Messenger Muhammad ﷺ sought protection when necessary, this was the reason why he first went to Ta'if, in the hopes they would protect him from the Meccans. If you are harmed, or fear that as a result of remaining quiet, others will be harmed, then you should speak up.



“Why is mercy emphasized so strongly in Islam?”

This is because mercy reflects one aspect of God's beautiful names and attributes. One of His greatest names is Ar-Rahman (The Most Merciful). Muslims are called to mirror this attribute in their limited human way.



Sidebar & Interesting Facts



Did You Know?

- The Messenger Muhammad ﷺ was injured so badly that blood clotted in his sandals.
- This occurred after ten years of rejection in Mecca.
- He would later describe this day as being one of the most difficult of his mission.



Beautiful Quote

“And We have not sent you, [O Muhammad], except as a mercy to the worlds.” (Quran 21:107)



Historical Insight

Both Quraysh and Thaqif are considered Adnanites, traditionally descended from Ishmael, son of Abraham. This made Thaqif and Quraysh distant cousins, sharing ancient ancestry but belonging to separate tribal confederations with different territories, leadership structures, and political interests.





Chapter 8



Honesty – Abu Sufyan & the Byzantine Emperor

Brief Summary

This episode highlights the absolute honesty and truthfulness of the Messenger Muhammad ﷺ, even as acknowledged by his fiercest enemies. Abu Sufyan, a leading opponent of Islam and chief of Quraysh, harboured deep hostility toward the Messenger Muhammad ﷺ and sought to undermine his mission. Yet despite this enmity, Abu Sufyan could not deny the Messenger Muhammad ﷺ's reputation for honesty.

While travelling on business in Byzantine lands, Abu Sufyan was summoned before Heraclius, the Byzantine Emperor, who had received a letter from the Messenger Muhammad ﷺ inviting him to Islam. Seeking to verify the claim of prophethood, Heraclius questioned Abu Sufyan directly about Muhammad's lineage, character, message, and followers, placing social pressure on him to speak truthfully.

In this pivotal moment, Abu Sufyan admitted that the Messenger Muhammad ﷺ had never been known to lie. Heraclius concluded that someone who is truthful with people would not fabricate lies about God. This encounter illustrates how integrity and moral consistency serve as powerful proofs of prophethood and ultimately contributed to Abu Sufyan's own acceptance of Islam.

Key Themes and Lessons

1

Truthfulness as the Foundation of Prophethood

All messengers of God are known for honesty before and after their mission. The credibility of divine revelation rests upon the moral integrity of the messenger conveying it.

2

The Power of Character Over Hostility

Even sworn enemies can be compelled by the truth. Abu Sufyan's testimony shows that consistent good character leaves an undeniable impact, even on those who oppose faith.

3

Intellectual Inquiry and Fair Judgment

Heraclius approached the claim of prophethood with reasoned investigation rather than blind dismissal, showing the importance of thoughtful evaluation and fair judgement.

4

Truth Ultimately Prevails

Attempts to conceal or distort the truth fail when people are known for honesty and integrity. Truth has a way of asserting itself, even through the mouths of adversaries.

Key Themes and Lessons



5

The High Rank of the Truthful

Islam elevates truthfulness to one of the highest of stations, second only to prophethood itself.

Expanded Insights



Heraclius

Heraclius was the Byzantine Emperor from 610 to 641 CE, ruling over the Eastern Roman (Byzantine) Empire during a time of political instability and conflict, including wars with the Sassanian Persians. He is remembered for reorganizing the empire's administration, strengthening its military, and adopting Greek as the official language of the government. Heraclius is also notable in Islamic history for his encounter with envoys from Arabia: after receiving a letter from the Messenger Muhammad ﷺ inviting him to Islam.



Abu Sufyan

Abu Sufyan ibn Harb was a prominent leader of the Quraysh tribe in Mecca and one of the earliest and most determined opponents of Islam during the Messenger Muhammad ﷺ's early ministry. As a wealthy merchant and influential political figure, he actively opposed the Muslims, participating in battles and efforts to suppress the new faith. Eventually, after the conquest of Mecca, Abu Sufyan accepted Islam, and he went on to play a supportive role in the Muslim community.



Letters to Foreign Leaders

The Messenger Muhammad ﷺ wrote letters to the leaders of major nations and empires that surrounded Mecca and Medina. This included some Arab rulers, the Byzantine emperor and the Persian ruler.

Reflections for Converts

“How important is honesty?”

Even those who hated Islam most could not accuse the Messenger Muhammad ﷺ of dishonesty. His enemies had nothing to gain by defending him, yet truth compelled them. This shows how important honesty is.



“How do I introduce Islam to others?”

The Messenger Muhammad ﷺ showed people to the beauty of Islam and many were impacted by his character. One of the best ways of showing others the beauty of Islam is through your own actions and behavior.



“As a new Muslim, I sometimes feel the need to compromise my honesty?”

New Muslims may face pressure to compromise honesty for social acceptance. This story reminds converts that Islam calls for integrity even when it is difficult — and that truthfulness itself is a form of worship. However, you should judge each situation carefully and not place yourself in a situation that is harmful.



Sidebar & Interesting Facts



Beautiful Quote

The Messenger Muhammad ﷺ said: “Truthfulness leads to righteousness, and righteousness leads to Paradise.”



Interesting Fact

Before Islam, Quraysh entrusted the Messenger Muhammad ﷺ with safeguarding their valuables – even when they opposed his message.



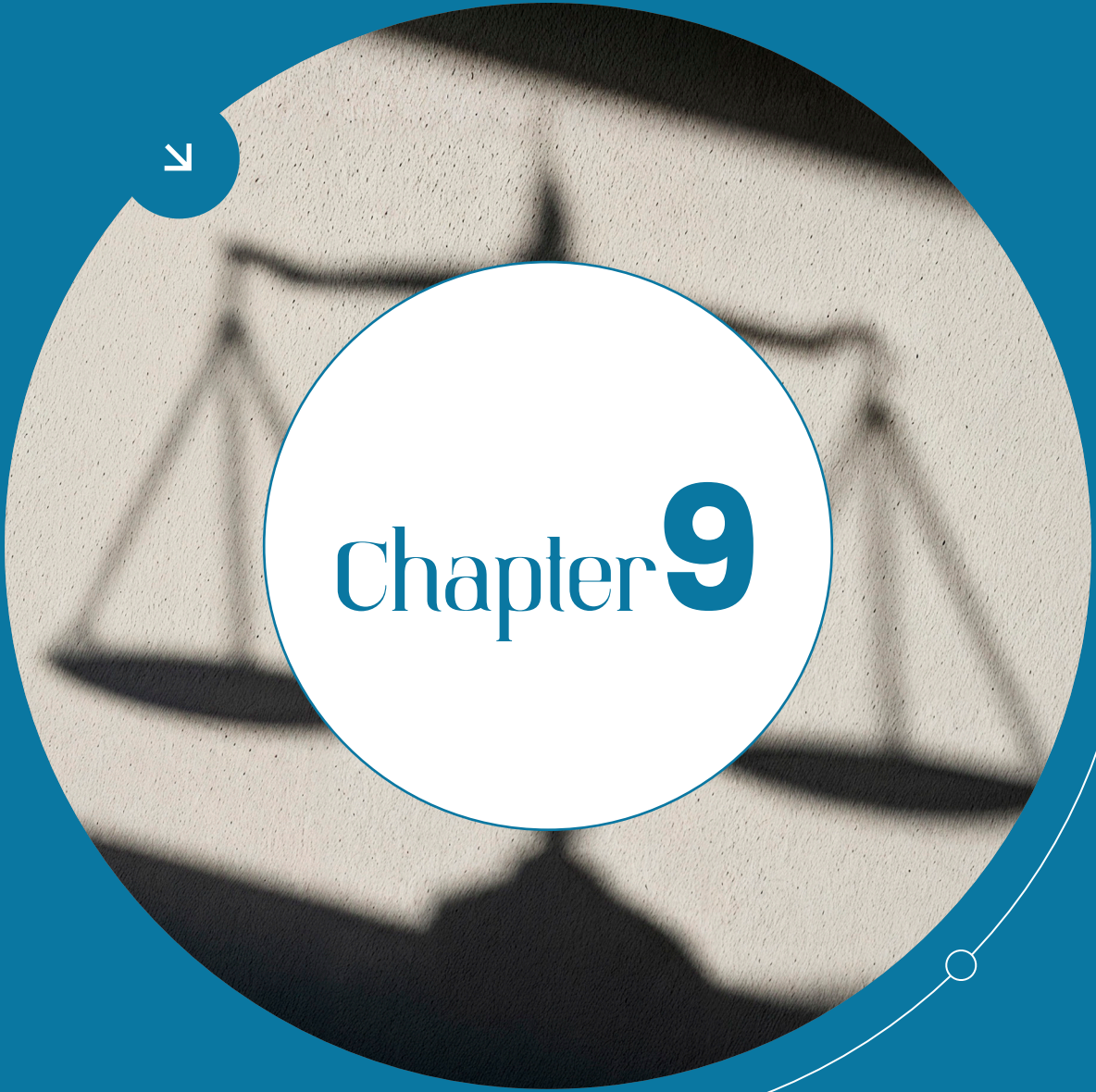
Historical Insight

Heraclius reportedly remarked after questioning Abu Sufyan that if the Messenger Muhammad ﷺ were truly God’s messenger, his message would one day reach the very land beneath Heraclius’ feet. That would happen shortly after his death.





Chapter 9



Justice – Justice with the Rich and Poor

Brief Summary

The Messenger Muhammad ﷺ was renowned for his justice and fairness toward all people, regardless of social status, wealth, or family ties. From small daily matters to significant issues, he demonstrated impartiality, ensuring that no one received favoritism or was overlooked due to influence, wealth or status. Even with his own family, the Messenger Muhammad ﷺ upheld fairness, showing that justice is not selective or conditional.

One striking example is when a noblewoman committed theft. Some attempted to intercede for her due to her social standing, but the Messenger Muhammad ﷺ refused and emphasized that justice applies to all, whether rich or poor, noble or commoner. Similarly, he ensured fairness in daily interactions, such as traveling with companions, sharing limited resources, and managing household disagreements, demonstrating that justice is part of personal character, not just formal rulings.

These examples teach that justice and fairness are essential qualities for both leaders and individuals. The Messenger Muhammad ﷺ modeled how justice can be applied consistently, kindly, and practically, ensuring that everyone is treated equally while preserving dignity and harmony.

Key Themes and Lessons

1

Justice Is Universal

The Messenger Muhammad ﷺ applied fairness to all, without discrimination based on wealth, family, or social rank. True justice does not favour one group over another.

2

Accountability Is for Everyone

No one is above the law of God, including the Messenger Muhammad ﷺ's own family. This teaches that ethical standards must be consistent for all.

3

Justice in Daily Life

Even small actions, like sharing riding animals or dividing food, were opportunities to practice fairness. Justice is not only about major rulings but also about everyday interactions.

4

Balancing Fairness with Compassion

While strictly fair, the Messenger Muhammad ﷺ applied wisdom and gentleness, ensuring justice did not lead to unnecessary harm, embarrassment, or conflict.

Key Themes and Lessons

5

Teaching Through Example

The Messenger Muhammad ﷺ corrected minor unfairness in practical ways, making lessons memorable for companions. His actions emphasized that justice is part of personal character, not just legal knowledge.

Expanded Insights



Usamah ibn Zayd

Usamah ibn Zayd was a young companion of the Messenger Muhammad ﷺ and the son of Zayd ibn Harithah, the Messenger Muhammad ﷺ's adopted son. Known for his closeness and affection toward the Messenger Muhammad ﷺ, Usamah was trusted and beloved by him from a young age. Despite his youth, he was courageous and obedient. The Messenger Muhammad ﷺ appointed him to leadership roles, including commanding an army expedition, demonstrating his trust in Usamah's character and abilities.



Fatimah

Fatimah bint Muhammad was the beloved daughter of the Messenger Muhammad ﷺ and his wife Khadijah. She is revered for her piety, modesty, and devotion to Islam, as well as her close relationship with her father. She married Ali, and together they became central figures amongst the Companions, alongside their children Hasan and Husayn. Fatimah is honored as one of the most virtuous women in Islam.



Nobility amongst the Arabs

Before Islam, nobility would often mean that you could harm others and get away with it, or with a lesser punishment. Islam changed this concept and made all equal before God's laws.

Reflections for Converts

“How can I practice justice in my daily life?”

Start small. Be fair with those around you and those who you have responsibility over.



“What if fairness conflicts with friendship?”

Justice and fairness do not apply only to friends and those we are close with. It has to include everyone, even if that is at the expense of family and friends, as the Messenger Muhammad ﷺ demonstrated with Fatimah.



“How do I apply justice to my family or workplace?”

Treat all equally, avoid favouritism, and resolve disputes with impartiality and patience. Justice is about hearing both sides, and doing what is right.



Sidebar & Interesting Facts



Beautiful Quote

The Messenger Muhammad ﷺ said: "Indeed, from that which destroyed previous societies is that they only punished the poor and weak, but overlooked the rich and powerful."



Interesting Fact

Usamah ibn Zayd was appointed the last general of an army by the Messenger Muhammad ﷺ. They were sent to fight the Byzantines. However, as the Messenger Muhammad ﷺ died shortly after, the army was yet to leave. Abu Bakr upon becoming leader, then dispatched the same army under Usamah, which returned victorious.



Historical Insight

Fatimah was the first of the Messenger Muhammad ﷺ's family members to die after him. She only survived some six months after his death.





Chapter **10**

Asceticism – Surviving on Dates & Water

Brief Summary

The Messenger Muhammad ﷺ taught that wealth, comfort, and material possessions are not inherently evil. What determines their value is how they are earned, how they are used, and whether they distract a person from their purpose of worshipping God. Many of the Messenger Muhammad ﷺ's disciples were successful merchants, and his wife Khadijah was herself wealthy. Islam does not condemn wealth, but it warns against becoming enslaved by it.

Despite having access to wealth later in his life, the Messenger Muhammad ﷺ lived with extreme simplicity. He consistently preferred the needs of others over his own, giving generously to the poor, the homeless, and those in need. Even when resources were scarce, he shared what little he had, trusting fully in God. At the time of his death, he owned almost nothing of worldly value, emphasizing his detachment from material life.

The Messenger Muhammad ﷺ's lifestyle was a practical demonstration that true success is not measured by possessions, but by faith, character, and preparation for the Hereafter. His humility, modest living, and generosity taught his followers that this world is temporary, and that lasting reward lies with God in the next life.

Key Themes and Lessons

1

Wealth Is a Test, Not a Goal

Islam views wealth as a trial that reveals a person's priorities, intentions, and gratitude. It can be a means of reward or punishment depending on how it is handled.

2

Detachment, Not Deprivation

The Messenger Muhammad ﷺ did not forbid wealth, but he detached his heart from it. He showed that one can possess wealth without being possessed by it.

3

Generosity as a Shield

Giving freely and consistently prevents wealth from hardening the heart. The Messenger Muhammad ﷺ spent without fear of poverty, trusting Allah's provision.

4

Simplicity Builds Humility

By living simply, the Messenger Muhammad ﷺ removed barriers between himself and others. His humility made him approachable, relatable, and deeply respected.

Key Themes and Lessons

5

The Hereafter Is the True Life

The Messenger Muhammad ﷺ consistently reminded his followers that this world is temporary. Comfort here should never come at the expense of eternal success.

Expanded Insights



The Trade of the Quraysh

Quraysh was known for its trade and commerce. Mecca was a hub of trade due to people visiting it from all over Arabia. The Meccans themselves would travel to Syria and Yemen in the year to conduct trade. The Messenger Muhammad ﷺ's first wife Khadijah was a successful businesswoman, and the Messenger Muhammad ﷺ himself led some of her trade caravans.



Wealthy Early Muslims

A number of the disciples of the Messenger Muhammad ﷺ were wealthy. His close friend Abu Bakr, his son in law Uthman, and others like Abdur Rahman ibn Awf were all wealthy Muslims. They would use their wealth to help others. For example, Abu Bakr would buy Muslim slaves that were being persecuted by the Meccans and free them.



The Food of the Messenger Muhammad ﷺ

The food of the Messenger Muhammad ﷺ was simple. He would often survive on the basic staples of water, dates and milk. Bread and meat were not the norm and were at times luxuries. Although the Messenger Muhammad ﷺ enjoyed sweet food, it was not regularly available.

Reflections for Converts

“Do I need to give up comfort to be a good Muslim?”

No. Islam encourages balance. Enjoy lawful comforts while keeping your heart attached to God, not possessions. As long as your wealth is earned and spent lawfully, there is nothing wrong with it.



“How do I avoid becoming materialistic?”

Practice gratitude by thanking God for the blessings you have and when you use them. Give regularly in charity and help others and remind yourself that wealth is temporary.



“What if I struggle with fear of poverty?”

It is natural to fear poverty and a part of Islam to try your best to earn a good living. The Messenger Muhammad ﷺ taught that generosity increases provision and that God is the ultimate Provider.



“How can I apply this in modern life?”

Live within your means, avoid excess, support others, and keep your trust in God central.



Sidebar & Interesting Facts



Did You Know?

At the time of his death, the Messenger Muhammad ﷺ had pawned his shield to obtain food for his family, despite being the leader of a growing and prosperous Muslim state.



Beautiful Quote

"A whole month would pass and we would not light a cooking fire. We would live on dates and water."
(Statement of A'ishah, the Messenger Muhammad ﷺ's wife)



Historical Insight

The Muslims were relatively poor during the lifetime of the Messenger Muhammad ﷺ. This would change within a couple of decades, with the expansion of the Muslim empire and conquering the Byzantines and Persians.





Chapter **11**



Humbleness The Messenger Muhammad ﷺ with his Family & Servants

Brief Summary

The Messenger Muhammad ﷺ was the embodiment of humility, despite being the leader of the Muslims and the Messenger of God. He warned strongly against pride and arrogance, teaching that such traits distance a person from God. His humility was not theoretical; it was visible in every aspect of his life. Children, the poor, Bedouins, and strangers could all approach him freely, knowing they would be treated with kindness, patience, and respect.

Although his daily responsibilities were immense and included leading the community, teaching, judging disputes, and calling people to God, the Messenger Muhammad ﷺ never placed himself above others. When he returned home, he helped his family with chores, served them willingly, and gave them his time and attention. His wife A'ishah described him simply as "being in the service of his family," reflecting his character.

His humility was especially evident in how he treated children and those under his care. He showed tenderness toward his daughters and grandchildren, patience with his young servants such as Anas, and compassion for those who made mistakes. This humility made him deeply loved and allowed people to recognise the truth of his message, as arrogance repels hearts while humility draws them close.

Key Themes and Lessons

1

Humility Is a Sign of True Greatness

Despite his unparalleled status, the Messenger Muhammad ﷺ lived like an ordinary person. True honor comes from obedience to God, not position or power.

2

Leadership Through Service

The Messenger Muhammad ﷺ served others rather than expecting to be served. His leadership was built on compassion, accessibility, and selflessness.

3

Family Life as an Act of Worship

Helping with household chores, spending time with family, and showing affection were part of his worship, not beneath his status.

4

Gentleness with Children

The Messenger Muhammad ﷺ treated children with patience and dignity, teaching that mercy and humility should extend to the youngest members of society.

Key Themes and Lessons

5

Humility Enables Acceptance of Truth

Humility allows a person to admit mistakes, learn, and grow. Arrogance blinds people to guidance and truth.

Expanded Insights



Grandchildren

The Messenger Muhammad ﷺ was very loving and caring towards his grandchildren. He would play with his two grandsons Hasan and Husayn. On one occasion, his granddaughter Umaymah climbed on his back as he was leading the congregation in the mosque. He had other grandchildren that passed away in infancy.



Anas

Anas was one of the servants of the Messenger Muhammad ﷺ. He served him for the ten years that he lived in Medina. Anas was a young boy when the Messenger Muhammad ﷺ first arrived, but over the course of the following decade, he would learn a great deal and in turn, teach it to subsequent generations. Anas was one of the last disciples of the Messenger Muhammad ﷺ to pass away.



Servants

There were a number of disciples of the Messenger Muhammad ﷺ who were his servants. They would perform tasks for him and accompany him as he carried out his daily duties. They would also learn from him, and some became prolific narrators of his traditions.

Reflections for Converts

“Do I need to lower my self-worth to be humble?”

No. Islam teaches dignity with humbleness. Humility is not to be humiliated or humiliate others. It is to show respect, be kind and treat others as you would like to be treated by them.



“How can I practice humility today?”

Do not think you are better than others, even if you have more than they do. Treat others with respect and genuinely want good for them.



“What if people take advantage of my humility?”

Humility does not mean weakness. The Messenger Muhammad ﷺ combined humility with strength and wisdom. To stand for the truth and not allow injustice is also from humility.



“How does humility help faith?”

It softens the heart, making it receptive to guidance. It helps foster better ties with others and makes your character improve.



Sidebar & Interesting Facts



Beautiful Quote

"He would be in the service of his family."
(Statement of A'ishah about the Messenger Muhammad ﷺ)



Interesting Fact

The Messenger Muhammad ﷺ was accessible to everyone and did not have bodyguards, or live in an enclosed palace.



Historical Insight

Strangers could not distinguish the Messenger Muhammad ﷺ from his companions due to his simple dress and manner. Unlike other rulers of the time, he had no throne, wore no crown and did not have a retinue of people surrounding him.





Chapter **12**

Forgiveness – The Messenger Muhammad & His Former Enemies



Brief Summary

The central mission of the Messenger Muhammad ﷺ was to call humanity to worship God alone, and this required exceptional character: patience, humility, courage, honesty, mercy, and forgiveness. Throughout his ministry, he endured rejection, persecution, and violence, yet his goal was never personal revenge. Instead, he consistently wanted good and guidance for people, even those who had been his fiercest enemies.

This commitment to mercy was most clearly demonstrated during the Conquest of Mecca. After more than twenty years of hostility, battles, and abuse at the hands of the Meccans, the Messenger Muhammad ﷺ returned to Mecca with overwhelming strength. Many feared retaliation, expecting punishment for past crimes and injustices. Instead, the Messenger Muhammad ﷺ declared a general amnesty, guaranteeing safety to the people of Mecca and honouring former enemies such as Abu Sufyan.

By choosing forgiveness instead of vengeance, the Messenger Muhammad ﷺ transformed enemies into brothers. Old grudges were erased, and justice was balanced with mercy. This act of forgiveness led to the widespread acceptance of Islam in Mecca and set an example for all Muslims and followers of the Messenger Muhammad ﷺ.

Key Themes and Lessons

1

Forgiveness Is Strength, Not Weakness

The Messenger Muhammad ﷺ forgave when he had complete power to punish. This demonstrates that forgiveness is a sign of inner strength.

2

Mercy in Leadership

True leadership seeks betterment and not revenge. The Messenger Muhammad ﷺ used his authority to guide people and bring them closer to God.

3

Separating Justice from Personal Revenge

Despite personal loss and suffering, the Messenger Muhammad ﷺ did not allow emotions to dictate his actions. His decisions were principled and guided by divine purpose.

Key Themes and Lessons

4

Honouring Trusts and Rights

By returning the key of the Ka'bah to its traditional custodians, the Messenger Muhammad ﷺ showed that Islam does not erase rights or seize honour unjustly, even in victory.

5

Forgiveness as a Means of Guidance

The mass acceptance of Islam by the Meccans shows that mercy opens hearts more effectively than force or coercion.

Expanded Insights



The Conquest of Mecca

The Conquest of Mecca took place in the year 8 AH. The Muslim army consisted of around 10,000, and through numbers and overwhelming force, they conquered Mecca facing little resistance. Thus, the very city the Messenger Muhammad ﷺ was expelled from some eight years before, came under Muslim rule.



The Keys to the Ka'bah

A Qurashite family had custodianship over the keys to the Ka'bah. During the Conquest of Mecca, the Messenger Muhammad ﷺ requested the key to enter the Ka'bah. He then ensured that the key was returned to the same family, telling them that it would stay with them. It is still in the descendants of the same family today.



Masses Entering into Muslim

The Conquest of Mecca signaled the mass conversion to Islam of the Arabs. By the year 10 AH, Muslims would number more than 100,000 as witnessed in the Farewell Pilgrimage of the Messenger Muhammad ﷺ.

Reflections for Converts

“How can Islam emphasise forgiveness after so much harm?”

Guidance and saving people from the Hellfire is more important than personal grievances. If people accept Islam, they are told that they will be forgiven for their previous sins, and therefore cannot be held to account for them.



“How can I forgive those who deeply hurt me?”

Forgiveness is a process. Begin by letting go of vengeance and seeking God’s reward. God tells us that just as we would like Him to forgive us, we should show forgiveness to others.



“Does forgiveness mean injustice is ignored?”

No. Forgiveness here was a moral choice made alongside justice, not instead of it. Forgiveness is a choice that was made for the greater good to be achieved.



“Why is forgiveness rewarded so highly?”

This is because it reflects trust in God’s justice and hope in His divine mercy.



Sidebar & Interesting Facts



Beautiful Quote

“Whoever pardons and makes reconciliation, his reward is with Allah.” (Qur’an 42:40)



Interesting Fact

During the Conquest of Mecca, the Messenger Muhammad ﷺ declared safety for anyone who stayed in their homes or sought refuge, preventing bloodshed in a city once hostile to him. Thus, it became a historic amnesty for the Meccans and former enemies of Islam.



Historical Insight

Abu Sufyan, once a chief opponent of Islam, was publicly honoured. He and his wife accepted Islam. He would go on to be a devout disciple of the Messenger Muhammad ﷺ.





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