

Fast 1

The two most powerful weapons Muslims possess for winning the hearts of mankind are: the Quran and the Holy Prophet Muhammad. As regards the Holy Prophet, they possess full and accurate details of his life and qualities. They have a model for leading their own lives and for presenting to the world a perfect example of a Muslim.

The vile and vicious allegations being made against the Holy Prophet paradoxically provide Muslims with the best opportunity to make the world aware of his true character.

During this Ramadan, we will consider verses of the Quran which tell us about the mission and qualities of the Holy Prophet. It says:

“Certainly you (O Muslims) have in the Messenger of Allah an excellent exemplar for him who hopes in Allah and the Last Day, and remembers Allah much.” — 33:21

“By the grace of your Lord, you (O Prophet) are not mad. And surely yours is a reward never to be cut off. **And surely you have sublime morals.**” — 68:2–4

Notes: The Holy Prophet, as exemplar, displayed the most sublime and highest of morals in all his dealings, with family, friends, followers, the high and the low, rich and poor, and opponents and deadly enemies. His life passed through the widest variety of circumstances possible, from being persecuted to ruling the country, from facing war against vastly superior forces to being victorious, and in each differing condition he showed the right type of morals that were required under those circumstances.

Saying Sura Fatiha more effectively:

Maulana Muhammad Ali (d. 1951, Head of the Lahore Ahmadiyya *Jama'at*) once advised that during Ramadan in our early morning prayers, in the individual part, while reciting the *Sura Fatiha* we should add our own petition after each verse as follows:

Al-hamdu li-llahi Rabb il-'alamin — ‘All praise is for Allah, the Lord of the worlds’.

O God, You have provided the very best means for the physical development of human beings. Now provide for Your creation spiritual nourishment through the Quran, as they have moved far off from You and are lost in darkness, racing towards destruction. Acquaint their hearts with the bliss that is attained by bowing at Your threshold.

O God, Who granted the Holy Prophet Muhammad and his Companions unique success, enabling them to transform the destinies of entire countries and nations,

foster and nourish us and our *Jama 'at* today to make it reach the pinnacle of success in spreading the Quran and propagating Islam in the world. Let the foundations for the propagation of Your religion be laid by our hands, upon which an edifice continues to be raised till the Day of Judgment.

Ar-Rahman-ir-Rahim — ‘The Beneficent, the Merciful’.

Your mercy is so boundless that it is aroused even without humans asking for it. It is by Your mercy that the efforts of human beings come to fruition. By Your beneficence, provide guidance through the Quran to those who are engulfed in darkness. Make successful our insignificant efforts, that we may take Your holy message to these people.

Maliki yaum-id-din — ‘Master of the day of Judgment’.

O God, we are Your humble, unworthy servants. There are shortcomings in us, in myself, in my *Jama 'at*. Sometimes Your orders are even disobeyed. By means of Your authority of judgment, forgive our faults and infringements, and let them not be obstacles to the success of our efforts.

Iyya-ka na 'budu wa iyya-ka nasta 'in — ‘You do we serve and You do we beseech for help’.

We serve You and wish to exalt Your name in the world. This is the sole aim of our lives. But we are small in numbers and weak while the task is colossal. We who are exhausted, weak, humble and sinful, beg only You for help. Grant this *Jama 'at* the success which You bestow on people who spread Your name in the world.

Ihdi-nas-sirat al-mustaqim, sirat-allazina an-'amta 'alai-him — ‘Guide us on the right path, the path of those upon whom You bestowed favours’.

You have been showering Your servants with the greatest favours. You have never let those fail who made it their aim in life to exalt Your name. Guiding us on the straight path, confer on us the same favour which You granted to those before us. Blow the breeze of Your help upon us as You made it flow for them and open the doors of Your bounty upon us in the same way.

Ghair-il-maghdubi 'alai-him wa la-ddallin — ‘Not those upon whom wrath is brought down, nor those who go astray’.

O Master, let it not be that we make worldly gain to be our objective and give up spreading religion, as is the state of the general Muslims today, or that we become misguided and destroy our powers for the sake of following exaggerated, wrong beliefs, as some are doing. ”