

Fast 30

The Last and Final Prophet

“Muhammad is not the father of any of your men, but he is the Messenger of Allah and the Seal of the prophets. And Allah is ever Knower of all things.” — 33:40

“Say: O mankind, surely I am the Messenger of Allah to you all, of Him Whose is the kingdom of the heavens and the earth.” — 7:158

“This day have I perfected for you your religion and completed My favour to you and chosen for you Islam as a religion.” — 5:3

Notes: By “Seal of the prophets” is meant that the Holy Prophet Muhammad sealed and closed the institution of prophethood, and was thus the last and final prophet. The three verses quoted above represent different sides of the same picture, and if we take each of them in turn, it implies what is stated in the other two. They form a steel triangle whose three sides all support one another.

If the Holy Prophet is the last Prophet, then he should have come for all mankind, as the earlier prophets did not come for all mankind, and he should have come with the perfect religion since no prophet would come after him.

If the Holy Prophet came for all mankind, the purpose is to unite humanity, and therefore he would be the last prophet because another prophet after him would divide humanity after its unity. He would also bring the perfect religion since no prophet would come after him.

If the Holy Prophet brought a perfect religion, and God’s favour was completed upon mankind, then it means no prophet can arise after him, and that he would also have arisen for all mankind.

Many years ago I presented the above points to a fellow Muslim student who was from Egypt. He said to me: “This is very good, but there is a sect in your country (Pakistan), to whom you should be telling this, and they are called Ahmadiyya.” So I astonished him by saying: I am a member of the Ahmadiyya myself, and that is from where I have learnt this!

Regarding verse 33:40, quoted above, it says that the Holy Prophet Muhammad has no male heir, he is not the *physical father* of any man; on the other hand, he is the Messenger of Allah, which means that he is the *spiritual father* of many, of all those who follow his message. Moreover, by sealing the institution of prophethood, he will always remain the spiritual father because no spiritual father will come after him.

Being *merely last* is no virtue. If someone was the last king in a dynasty (for example, the last emperor of the Mughal empire in India), it means that there was no king after him

because there was no kingdom left! Kings ceased to exist after that last king and were replaced by other types of rulers.

On the other hand, the Holy Prophet is the Last Prophet because his spiritual rule will continue forever. There is no prophet after him because his authority of prophethood remains in force forever.
