

Fast 7

The Prophet must deliver the message, and that is all he must do:

“If they submit (to God), then indeed they follow the right way; and if they turn back, your duty is only to deliver the message.” — 3:20

“O Messenger, deliver what has been revealed to you from your Lord; and if you do not, you have not delivered His message. And Allah will protect you from people.” — 5:67

Notes: The promise is given here (“Allah will protect you from people”) that the Holy Prophet will remain under Divine protection as against the innumerable dangers that threatened him from all quarters and the numerous plots against his life which he faced only because *he was delivering what had been revealed to him from God*. But it also refers to the Prophet’s spiritual protection. God protects prophets by creating them pure from every sin in their very nature, granting them help, keeping them firm in trials, sending down tranquillity upon them and protecting their hearts against evil.

“But if you turn back then know that the duty of Our Messenger is only to deliver the message clearly.” — 5:92

“But have the messengers any duty except to deliver the message clearly?” — 16:35

“Say: Obey Allah and obey the Messenger. But if you turn away, he is responsible for the duty imposed on him, and you are responsible for the duty imposed on you. And if you obey him, you go aright. And the duty of the Messenger is only to deliver the message clearly.” —24:54

“So have patience (O Prophet), as men of resolution, the messengers, had patience, and do not seek to hasten on for them (their doom). On the day when they see what they are promised, (it will be) as if they had remained only an hour of the day. (Your duty is) to deliver.” — 46:35

“Say: I do not control evil nor good for you. Say: None can protect me against Allah, nor can I find any refuge besides Him; (my duty is) but to deliver (the command) of Allah and His messages.” — 72:21–23

Notes: The Holy Prophet’s foremost duty was to deliver the message that was revealed to him from God. This delivery was by word and speech, not force. If his message was rejected, his duty ended at that point. His responsibility, for which he was accountable before God, was the delivery of the message, not the results. He was neither commanded nor permitted to somehow ensure that his message was accepted, since acceptance is a voluntary act by the recipients of the message. Therefore, the use of force to make people accept his message is contrary to the instructions given in these verses, that his duty is only to deliver the message.
