

## Humbleness

The Prophet (PBUH) used to prevent people from standing up for him out of respect. He used to sit wherever there was a place available in an assembly and never sought a prominent or elevated place. He never wore anything to distinguish himself from his companions or appear in higher rank than them. He used to mix with the poor and the needy; he used to sit with the elderly and support the widows. People who did not know him could not tell him apart from the rest of the crowd. He [PBUH] was fearful of being worshipped:

**“Do not exceed bounds in praising me as the Christians do in praising Jesus, Son of Mary. I am only the Lord’s servant; then call me the Servant of Allah and His Messenger.”**

“ The ‘true’ servants of the Most Compassionate are those who walk on the earth humbly, and when the foolish address them ‘improperly’, they only respond with peace.

QURAN 25:63

## The Ideal Husband

The Prophet’s beloved wife, Aa’isha, said of her noble husband: “He used to repair his shoes, sew or mend his clothes and do what ordinary men did in their houses.”

Not only was he a devoted husband, he also encouraged his companions to follow his example: “The most perfect of the believers in faith are the best of them in morals. And the best among them are those who are best to their wives.”

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## The Ideal Example

What has preceded is only a glimpse of how Muhammad (PBUH) lived his life. The examples of kindness and mercy mentioned may come as a surprise to some people given the portrayal of Islam in the media and its constant misrepresentation.

It is important when trying to understand Islam that one goes directly to its sources: The Quran, and the sayings and actions of Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him), and that anyone does not judge Islam based on the errant actions of a few Muslims.

“ And you are truly ‘a man’ of outstanding character.

QURAN 68:4

George Bernard Shaw, the British playwright, declared:

“The world is in dire need of a man with the mind of Muhammad; religious people in the Middle Ages, due to their ignorance and prejudice, had pictured him in a very dark way as they used to consider him the enemy of Christianity. But after looking into the story of this man I found it to be an amazing and a miraculous one, and I came to the conclusion that he was never an enemy of Christianity, and must be called instead the saviour of humanity. In my opinion, if he was to be given control over the world today, he would solve our problems and secure the peace and happiness which the world is longing for.”

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# Prophet Muhammad

PEACE BE UPON HIM



## Who is Muhammad PBUH

Muslims believe that Muhammad (peace be upon him) is the final Prophet in a long chain of Prophets sent to call the people to the obedience and worship of God alone ('Allah' in Arabic). Some of these Prophets include Adam, Noah, Abraham, Ishmael, Isaac, Jacob, Joseph, Moses, David, Solomon and Jesus (peace be upon them all).

Just as Moses (peace be upon him) was sent with the Torah (the original uncorrupted revelation sent to Moses) and Jesus (peace be upon him) with the Gospel (the original, uncorrupted revelation - not the present-day versions), Muslims believe that Muhammad (peace be upon him) was sent with the Qur'an to demonstrate how its teachings should be applied.

“ Indeed, in the Messenger of Allah you have an excellent example for whoever has hope in Allah and the Last Day, and remembers Allah often.

QURAN 33:21

## Mission of Mercy

As well as calling people to pray, fast and give charity, the Prophet (peace be upon him) taught that one's faith in God should also affect one's treatment of others. He said: "The best of you are they who have the best character."

Many sayings of the Prophet (PBUH) emphasise the relationship between belief and action, for example: "Whoever believes in Allah and the Last Day, should not hurt his neighbour, and whoever believes in Allah and the Last Day, should serve his guest generously, and whoever believes in Allah and the Last Day, should speak what is good or keep quiet."

The final Messenger (PBUH) taught humans to show mercy and to respect each other: "He who does not show mercy to others, will not be shown mercy."

“ We have sent you 'O Prophet' only as a mercy for the whole world.

QURAN 21:107

## Forgiveness

The Prophet (peace be upon him) was the most forgiving of all people and the kindest. If someone abused him, he would forgive him, and the harsher a person was, the more patient he would become. He was extremely lenient and forgiving, especially when he had the upper hand and the power to retaliate.

Muhammad (peace be upon him) was all for forgiveness and no amount of crime or aggression against him was too great to be forgiven by him. He was the best example of forgiveness and kindness, as mentioned in the following verse of the Qur'an: "Be gracious, enjoin what is right, and turn away from those who act ignorantly." (Quran 7:199)

“ Let them pardon and forgive. Do you not love to be forgiven by Allah? And Allah is All-Forgiving, Most Merciful.

QURAN 24:22

## Equality

In the following sayings of the Prophet (PBUH), he taught that all humans are equal in the sight of God:

"All humanity is from Adam and Adam is from clay. There is no superiority for an Arab over a non-Arab, nor for a black over a white; except through piety."

“ Surely the most noble of you in the sight of Allah is the most righteous among you.

QURAN 49:13

*Is it time for you to fulfil your purpose in life and submit to the truth?*

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## Tolerance

"You should not do evil to those who do evil to you, but you should deal with them with forgiveness and kindness." This is how the final Messenger of God (PBUH) reacted to personal attacks and abuse.

Islamic sources include a number of instances where the Prophet (peace be upon him) had the opportunity to take revenge upon those who wronged him, but refrained from doing so.

He taught man to exercise patience in the face of adversity: "The strong is not the one who overcomes people by his strength, but the strong is the one who controls himself while in anger."

“ Good and evil cannot be equal. Respond 'to evil' with what is best, then the one you are in a feud with will be like a close friend.

QURAN 41:34

## Gentleness

A companion who served Muhammad (peace be upon him) for ten years said that the Prophet PBUH was always gentle in his dealings with him. "When I did something, he never questioned my manner of doing it; and when I did not do something, he never questioned my failure to do it. He was the friendliest of all men."

He also said: "Show gentleness! For if gentleness is found in something, it beautifies it, and when it is taken out from anything, it makes it deficient."

“ It is out of Allah's mercy that you 'O Prophet' have been lenient with them. Had you been cruel or hard-hearted, they would have certainly abandoned you.

QURAN 3:159