

Chapter: 5

رَسُولٌ نَبِيٌّ

The word "Prophet" is derived from the Arabic word "نَبَأٌ" which means news, and the prophet is that person who passes on the news received from God. Just as from the Arabic alphabets "ر س ل", the word "الرسالة" is constituted which means "message", similarly, "رسول" means who delivers messages of God or the Messenger. The words Messenger and Prophet are commonly understood in the same sense. But, in fact, the word "نَبِيٌّ" (**Prophet**) refers to the person whom Allah has sent Revelations to guide His creatures, and the word "رسول" (**Messenger**) refers to the person whom Allah has sent by giving him new Sharia for His bondmen so that he may call people toward those laws. The word "**Messenger**" is used for the prophets sent by the Almighty to whom a Divine Book has been revealed. It is as if Allah Almighty has conveyed His messages to His creatures through His chosen personalities to direct and guide them, they are called Prophets and Messengers and their posts are called نبوت (Prophethood) and رسالت (Apostleship).

According to the Islamic beliefs, faith on the Prophethood means believing in all the Prophets and Messengers, right from Hazrat Adam to the Holy Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) . Because, every Prophet and Messenger has been a perfect example of the legitimacy and truth sent

by Allah. And they all have worked under the same strategy to achieve the same mission and purpose.

The names of some of the prophets are mentioned in the Quran and Hadith, but their number is not mentioned in the Quran, as Allah says:

وَلَقَدْ أَرْسَلْنَا رُسُلًا مِّن قَبْلِكَ مِنْهُمْ مَّن قَصَصْنَا عَلَيْكَ وَمِنْهُمْ مَّن لَّمْ نَقْصُصْ عَلَيْكَ

{Indeed we sent many Noble Messengers before you, so We have related the affairs of some; and not related the affairs of some (40:78)}

When asked the Noble Prophet about the total number of prophets, he said: One hundred and twenty-four thousand (124,000); and one narration says: Two hundred and twenty-four thousand (224,000). While the numbers of Messengers are three hundred and thirteen (313).

A Prophet is a human being, whom Allah Almighty chooses for the office of Prophethood so that he can preach Allah's commands to the people. He eats food, walks in the bazaars, marries women, but in many attributes he is different from ordinary human beings and these superior attributes distinguish him from other human beings.

The "برنخ كبرى" (Truth of Muhammad) is called "حقيقت محمدى" (The Great Transition) between the Creator and the creatures. Because the Truth of Muhammad is the first creation and the first glow from which the creation of the whole Universe came into being. That is the starting point of the creation, whose one end is connected with the Creator and the other with the creatures.

ادھر اللہ سے واصل، ادھر بندوں میں بھی شامل

{He (the truth of Muhammad) is tied with Allah, simultaneously he is also included among the common bondmen}

Advocacy and preaching are the important responsibilities of the Prophet and the Messenger. The Prophet is faultless. He does not even come close to minor and major sins. Purification from mistake is the basic requirement of preaching. He does not lie because no one

can be the representative of Allah and the interpreter of the Divine Messages who does not speak the truth. Honesty, truthfulness, good character and other such attributes are essentials for him. The Prophet possesses personal and intellectual perfections. The Prophet also has the power of miracles through which he can convince the common people that there is a power beyond human power. Due to his miracles people believe in the Prophet and confirm him.

When our beloved Prophet Muhammad was in Makkah, from that time, all the attributes such as trustworthiness, truthfulness and good manners were already present in him and the people of Makkah knew him with these attributes. The Prophet was to be given the office of Prophethood, so Allah had already bestowed these high attributes on him. Similarly, in the context of the Prophet's personal and intellectual accomplishments, it can be said that when the people of Quraish disagreed while erecting the Black Stone on its place, it remained the testament of Prophet's wisdom and insight to easily handle with this serious issue.

As far as the miracles of the Prophet Muhammad are concerned, the "Holy Quran", revealed to him, is a miracle in itself. The Prophet (PBUH) was born in a nation that claimed for great expressiveness and eloquence. They called themselves "عرب" meaning eloquent and others "عجم" meaning dumb. That is why the articulacy and eloquence of the Holy Quran, its style and its effect were made a miracle. Utbah was a great Arab leader who was known for his articulacy and eloquence. Abu Jahl forced him to criticize on the Quran. And finally what was his objection ...! He simply said, this is a "Magic". Out of the thousands effects of this Book, one outcome is that at present its followers are present all over the world.

The first Verse of Surah Al-Qamar of the Holy Quran mentions the miracle of the Noble Prophet (PBUH), i.e., the splitting up of moon. At the demand of the infidels, the Noble Prophet had cracked the moon into two parts giving signal through his finger. The Divine Journey of Ascension is also a wonderful miracle of the Noble Prophet. The Prophet (PBUH) visited through "براق", the Pegasus (flying horse) on which the Prophet is said to have ascended towards Heaven, reaching Jerusalem where he first led the prayers of all the Prophets. Then after he visited the seven Heavens and met the Allah Almighty, and then returned to the earth. The people asked, "At this time a caravan stays between Makkah and Jerusalem, Where it was met to you?" The Noble Prophet informed them about the place of their stay. When the caravan returned the very night, they also confirmed about the place of their stay. Before this Divine Journey, the blessed heart of the Noble Prophet (PBUH) was washed many times through ZamZam water by the Angels. This event is called as "شق صدر" (the opening of chest).

In order to convey His Instructions and Commands to His servants, the Almighty God appoints His special bondmen to the positions of Prophethood and Apostleship. An individual is appointed by God and gives him some responsibility, how come it is possible that individual does not fulfill it! It is impossible for a Prophet or a Messenger not to convey the instructions given to him for the bondmen, or to hide some of them, or to exercise even the slightest lenience in them. Allah says:

مَا عَلَى الرَّسُولِ إِلَّا الْبَلَاغُ وَاللَّهُ يَعْلَمُ مَا تُبْدُونَ وَمَا تَكْتُمُونَ

{There is no duty upon the Noble Messenger except to convey the command; and Allah knows all what you disclose and what you hide (05:99)}

In the same Surah, the Almighty says in another place:

يَا أَيُّهَا الرَّسُولُ بَلِّغْ مَا أُنزِلَ إِلَيْكَ مِنْ رَبِّكَ

{O Noble Messenger! Convey all what has been sent down upon you from your Lord (05:67)}