

Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) The forgiving

Ali Zohery, Ph.D.

Prophet Muhammad never took revenge for any personal injury to himself. He did not take revenge even on his deadly enemies and when they were all standing before him defeated and at his mercy after the victory of Meccah, he asked them: "What do you think I am going to do with you?" They said "a generous brother and a son of a generous brother" he forgave them all "Go you are all free". He was a true reflection of the Qur'anic verse as he exemplified the teachings that were all therein stated. It is said that the Prophet's mercy was seen in its most glorious and most magnanimous form in his forgiveness of his enemies at the height of his power and glory, when he had the power to take full revenge on them and would have been fully justified in doing so. But he forgave all his enemies and did not take revenge on any of them. His most admirable and praiseworthy act, and it is without parallel in human history, is that he never took revenge on anyone for personal injuries to himself. It was reported by 'A'ishah that the Prophet that he never took revenge on anyone, on his own behalf, for anything (Muslim, 2327).

It is easy to teach high morals and lofty principles of love and mercy but quite another thing to practice them. The most distinctive quality of the Prophet was that he not only taught high principles to his people but also practiced them at a time when, as mentioned above, he was at the height of his power, something no man had ever done before him.

He forgave those who had injured him, beaten him, abused him and done everything to destroy him and his faith. He even forgave the man who had injured his daughter, Zainab when she was leaving Meccah, an injury from which she later died. All his deadly enemies, including Abu Sufyan, Ikramah (son of Abu Jahl) and many other chiefs of Meccah, were among those who benefited from his forgiveness.

Prophet Muhammad extended his pardon to his bitterest enemies, who tried to expel him and his companions not only from his native land, but also from his last resort, Madinah. This ability of the Prophet to pardon is vividly illustrated in his

precepts and principles. He said: 'Moses, son of Imran, once asked: "O my Lord! Who is the most honorable of your servants to You?" He said: 'He who pardons when he becomes powerful'" (Rahman, the encyclopaedia of Seerah, Vol. VIII, p178).

Prophet Muhammad's Teachings and Practice on Forgiveness

The Prophet practiced in his ordinary daily life what he taught to his people. According to 'A'ishah, the Prophet never returned evil for evil, but would forgive and pardon (Tirmidhi, 2016). Regarding the words of Allah Most High: "Repel evil with what is better" (Qur'an, 4 1:34). Ibn Abbas said that they meant showing patience when angry and forgiveness when badly treated, for when people acted in this way Allah protected them and their enemy became as submissive to them as though he were a close friend . Ibn Mas'ud said: "I heard the Prophet narrating the account of one of the Prophets of Allah who was assaulted and wounded by his people; while wiping the blood from the face, he prayed: 'O Allah! Forgive my people because they do not know what they are doing'. This was further explained in the following words:

He who, in spite of having the capacity to avenge (a wrong), controls his anger (and forgives), will be singled out and called by Allah, the Holy, the Exalted, over and above the multitude, on the day of judgment, and given a beautiful reward.
(Abu Dawud, 4777)

In the Battle of Uhud, the Prophet was wounded and his face was covered with blood, but he was saying, "O Allah! Guide my people, for they are ignorant" (Bukhari). Once an unbelieving Arab Bedouin found the Prophet sleeping alone under a tree. He was holding a sword and saying to the Prophet: "Who will now save you?" The Prophet replied smilingly: "Allah, the All-Powerful." Suddenly, the sword fell from the Arab's hand and the Prophet, taking it in his hand, said to him: "Who will save you from my hand?" The Bedouin then pleaded for his life and the Prophet showed his usual magnanimity and forgave him. Once the Meccans sent a spy to kill the Prophet. He was caught and brought to the Prophet. He was very frightened, but the Prophet told him not to fear saying: "Even if you want to kill me, you will not be able to." Then he was pardoned by the Prophet and set

free.

In the highest kind of nobility in the hour of his greatest victory over his life enemies, and in his graceful forgiveness of his staunch opponents at the height of his power is an eternal tribute to the overflowing and unmatched benevolence and kindness of the Prophet Muhammad. In this unparalleled and unique example of forgiveness is also a lesson for the dominant nations of the Western World. It does not reduce their power, nor lower their status in the eyes of the world, nor does it minimize their greatness or undermine their authority; on the contrary, it adds tremendous moral strength to their action and greatly increases their stature among the nations of the world.

Learn some lessons from the example and practice of the Prophet, and see for ourselves that it pays in the long run. Justice must be administered equally and fairly between all, friend or foe. Benevolent and kind conduct will win over for you many friends who were your enemies before, and you will succeed in your efforts in peace—making in the world but the primary condition is benevolence and forgiveness to enemies and sincere advice to friends to stop their aggressiveness and cruelty. And if a super-power fails to learn lessons from history and continues to back aggressive iniquitous nations, it must know that the law of Nature does not distinguish between colors or races, or between East and West. But falls mercilessly on alike.