

THE LAST MESSENGER PRAISED BY ALLAH: A DESCRIPTIVE STUDY IN QURANIC VERSES

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Abstract:

This article explores the unique and profound ways in which Allah praises his Messenger Muhammad (PBUH) in the Holy Qur'an, highlighting divine phrases that reflect his elevated status and role. By examining titles such as Uswathun Hasanah (the exemplary model), Ala Khuluqin Adheem (of great character), Rahmatun Lil Alameen (mercy to the worlds), Manna Allah (a great favor), and Sirajum Muneer (a luminous lamp), the article delves into Allah's divine love and appreciation for His Messenger. These descriptions not only signify the Prophet's (PBUH) unmatched virtues but also serve as guidance and inspiration for humanity, illustrating the qualities that believers should aspire to follow. The article ultimately seeks to deepen readers' reverence and love for the Prophet (PBUH) by shedding light on Allah's choice of words, which convey the profound relationship between the Creator, His Messenger, and humanity.

Key words: Prophet Muhammad (PBUH), Allah's Praise, Uswathun Hasanah, Khuluqin Adheem, Rahmatun Lil Alameen, Sirajum Muneer, Favour of Allah, Divine Love, Islamic Virtues, Intercession

Introduction

All forms of love are expressed through words of appreciation. Be it the love of a mother for her child, the love of a husband for his wife, or a teacher's love for their students, words have the power to captivate people. The best choices of words can leave a lasting impact on those who hear them. If mere human words have this effect, then consider the Creator, the Origin of words, who taught us how to speak and express ourselves. His words transcend time and reach hearts in the most profound ways. Words gain value through people, but it is Allah who gives them their true meaning, without Him, they would be nothing more than empty symbols and letters.

When a person praises or appreciates another with sincerity, it conveys a pure love for the latter, without expectations or jealousy. Personal praise shows acknowledgement of specific deeds, while public praise conveys that such deeds deserve admiration from others. As far as the praises which Allah bestows upon the Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) serves both to acknowledge and to appreciate. The way Allah speaks of His chosen messenger is far beyond human comprehension, but through His words in the Qur'an, we can catch a glimpse of His immense love for His Messenger (PBUH) These divine expressions are meant not only for the Prophet (PBUH) but for us to understand his elevated status.

Quranic Description about the Prophet (PBUH):

In this article, the researcher will explore some of the phrases that Allah has used to praise Prophet Muhammad (PBUH). As Al-Hakeem (The All-Wise), His choice of words is at the highest level, one that no human words could ever exceed, as Allah's praise represents the ultimate appreciation a person can attain.

1) The Quintessential Example – Uswathun Hasanah

Allah declares in his Holy Book:

لَقَدْ كَانَ لَكُمْ فِي رَسُولِ اللَّهِ أُسْوَةٌ حَسَنَةٌ لِّمَن كَانَ يَرْجُو اللَّهَ وَالْيَوْمَ الْآخِرَ وَذَكَرَ اللَّهَ كَثِيرًا

“Indeed, in the Messenger of Allah, you have an excellent example for anyone whose hope is in Allah and the Last Day and [who] remembers Allah often.”¹

In this verse, Allah describes the Prophet (PBUH) as an Uswathun Hasanah, an excellent role model for believers. This means that the Prophet (PBUH) is the best example in all aspects of life—whether as a father, husband, leader, soldier, or in his personal traits. Following his path earns the love of Allah, as mentioned in Surah Aal Imran (3:31). The phrase Uswathun Hasanah reflects the high regard Allah has for His Prophet (PBUH) advising all of humanity to look up to him as their guide and ideal in every sphere of life.

2) The Prophet (PBUH) is Upon Great Character – Ala Khuluqin Adheem

Allah the Almighty states:

وَإِنَّكَ لَعَلَىٰ خُلُقٍ عَظِيمٍ

“And indeed, you are of a great moral character.”²

To be certified as a good person is one of the most difficult things in this world. Yet, the Prophet (PBUH) earned such titles from the people, being called Al-Ameen (the Trustworthy) and As-Sadiq (the Truthful). He possessed noble traits which Allah Himself praises in the Qur’an, saying that he is upon Khuluqin

1) Surah Al-Ahzab - 21

2) Surah Al-Qalam - 4

Adheem - a character of the highest moral standard. This recognition from Allah is the greatest achievement one could attain.

The Prophet (PBUH) was the epitome of kindness, compassion, morality, good character, discipline, and patience. Allah nurtured and guided him from his early days as an orphan, shaping him into the best of all creation explaining why he earned such titles. Through his life and teachings, we see an embodiment of the ideal human character that is divinely praised.

3) Mercy to the Worlds – Rahmatun Lil Alameen

Allah the Almighty declares:

وَمَا أَرْسَلْنَاكَ إِلَّا رَحْمَةً لِّلْعَالَمِينَ

“And We have not sent you, [O Muhammad], except as a mercy to the worlds.”¹

This phrase has a deep connection with Allah’s attribute of mercy. Ar-Rahman (the Most Merciful) named the Prophet (PBUH) Rahmah (mercy). Allah introduces Himself in the first verse of the Qur’an as Rabbul Alameen (Lord of the worlds) and chose to associate the word Alameen with the Prophet (PBUH) While Allah is the Lord of the worlds, the Prophet (PBUH) is His mercy to the worlds.

The mercy of Allah is experienced through the Prophet (PBUH) as He mentioned:

لَقَدْ جَاءَكُمْ رَسُولٌ مِّنْ أَنْفُسِكُمْ عَزِيزٌ عَلَيْهِ مَا عَنِتُّمْ حَرِيصٌ عَلَيْكُمْ بِالْمُؤْمِنِينَ رَءُوفٌ رَّحِيمٌ

1) Surah Al-Anbiya - 107

“There has certainly come to you a Messenger from among yourselves. Grievous to him is what you suffer; [he is] concerned over you, and to the believers is kind and merciful.”¹

This verse reflects the deep concern the Prophet (PBUH) had for his Ummah, to the extent that he cried at night, saying Ummati, Ummati (my nation, my nation), pleading for our forgiveness and salvation. Allah, in His love for the Prophet (PBUH) gave him two of His own names—Ra’oof (Kind) and Raheem (Merciful)- in this verse, further showcasing the Prophet’s profound care and mercy for his Ummah.

4) A Great Favour of Allah – Manna Allah

In Surah Aal Imran, Allah the Almighty says:

لَقَدْ مَنَّ اللَّهُ عَلَى الْمُؤْمِنِينَ إِذْ بَعَثَ فِيهِمْ رَسُولًا مِّنْ أَنفُسِهِمْ يَتْلُو عَلَيْهِمْ آيَاتِهِ وَيُزَكِّيهِمْ وَيُعَلِّمُهُمُ الْكِتَابَ وَالْحِكْمَةَ وَإِن كَانُوا مِن قَبْلُ لَفِي ضَلَالٍ مُّبِينٍ

“Indeed, Allah conferred a great favour on the believers when He sent among them a Messenger from themselves, reciting to them His verses, purifying them, and teaching them the Book and wisdom, although they had been in manifest error.”²

Calling the Prophet (PBUH) a great favour has profound meaning. He (PBUH) is the greatest of all blessings for this Ummah. It was through his du'a (supplication) that we continue to receive Allah’s mercy and protection, despite

1) Surah At-Tawbah - 128

2) Surah Aal Imran - 164

the world being filled with corruption and sin. His intercession (shafa'ah) on the Day of Judgment will be a source of mercy for all of humanity.

His Ummah will enter Jannah first. He (PBUH) is the leader of all messengers and the Habib of Allah. Whenever Allah showers His love upon His Messenger, being from his Ummah, we too experience that love and mercy for his sake.

With the coming of the Prophet (PBUH) the divine process of sending messengers ended. Allah the Almighty, in His infinite wisdom, deemed the Prophet (PBUH) sufficient for all of humanity until the end of time. His teachings and example are enough for every era and every people to follow, ensuring guidance for all time.

Not only did the Prophet (PBUH) convey the final message, but with immense patience and steadfastness, he corrected the characters of the people around him, transforming them from a state of moral decay to one of righteousness. His efforts in teaching and guiding were ultimately to admit as many as possible into Paradise.

Because of his du'a, intercession, and relentless dedication, we came to understand the ultimate truth - the oneness of Allah, the purpose of life, and the path to salvation. He is the one through whom we have the complete guidance for every aspect of life, and his example remains the model for how to live a life pleasing to Allah the Almighty.

5) A Luminous Lamp – Sirajum Muneer

In Surah Al-Ahzab (33:46), Allah the Almighty says:

وَدَاعِيًّا إِلَى اللَّهِ بِإِذْنِهِ وَسِرَاجًا مُنِيرًا

“[He is] a caller to Allah by His permission and an illuminating lamp.”

The Prophet (PBUH) is described as a luminous lamp (Sirajum Muneera), signifying that he is a guiding light for his Ummah. He led people from the darkness of ignorance into the light of truth, guidance, and Islam. He is also referred to as Noor (light) in Surah Al-Ma'idah (5:15)¹

قَدْ جَاءَكُمْ مِنَ اللَّهِ نُورٌ وَكِتَابٌ مُبِينٌ

“There has come to you from Allah a light and a clear Book.”

which further emphasizes his role in illuminating the path to Allah for humanity. These divine descriptions of the Prophet (PBUH) are manifestations of Allah's profound love for him. They also connect the Prophet (PBUH) to his Ummah, reminding us of his significance and role as a guiding light. Reflecting on these titles allows us to deepen our reverence for the Prophet (PBUH) and ultimately develop a stronger connection with Allah the Almighty.

1) Commentary of Imam Qurtubi, Imam Baydawi etc.

Conclusion

These titles and phrases manifest Allah's profound love for His Messenger (PBUH) and illustrate the deep connection between the Prophet (PBUH) and his Ummah. As we reflect on why these descriptions are shared with us, we understand that they are meant to inspire reverence and love for the Prophet (PBUH). Ultimately, this connection with him leads us to the love of Allah Himself. May Allah grant us the ability to contemplate these verses, comprehend the depth of the relationship between Allah, His Prophet (PBUH) and humanity, and allow us to follow the path of His beloved Messenger (PBUH).

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