

In a Hadith narrated by Hazrat Anas bin Malik, the Holy Prophet said, "Allah did not send a Prophet except with a beautiful face and a beautiful voice, and your Prophet is the most beautiful of them in face and voice." [Tirmidhi]

The conduct, nobility and ways of a Prophet are perfect in every way – truly Allah appoints only the best of His creation to deliver the Message of Truth to mankind.

It is a fact that none can surpass the Prophets in their ranks of piety, knowledge and character.

The Prophets' Knowledge of the Unseen [Ilm-e-Ghaib]

(A separate article of our Holy Prophet's Knowledge of the Unseen will be published at a later date.)

Allah alone is the Possessor of the Knowledge of the Unseen, yet He has granted portions of it to those He has chosen. This is proved several times in the Qur'an:

- He taught Prophet Adam the names of all things, from His Knowledge:

"And He taught Adam the names - all of them. Then He showed them to the angels and said, "Inform Me of the names of these, if you are truthful."

They said, "Exalted are You; we have no knowledge except what You have taught us. Indeed, it is You who are the Knowing, the Wise."

He said, "O Adam, inform them of their names." And when he had informed them of their names, He said, "Did I not tell you that I know the unseen of the heavens and the earth? And I know what you reveal and what you have concealed." [Qur'an 31-33]

- He taught Prophet Sulaiman and Prophet Dawud the language of birds:

"And Sulaiman inherited (the knowledge of) Dawud. He said: "O mankind! We have been taught the language of birds, and on us have been bestowed all things. This, verily, is an evident grace (from Allah)."" [Qur'an 27:16]

- He granted His favours upon Prophet Lut:

"And to Lot We gave judgement and knowledge, and We saved him from the city that was committing wicked deeds." [Qur'an 21:74]

- He granted exclusive knowledge to Prophet Yaqub concerning his sons:

"And indeed, he was a possessor of knowledge because of what We had taught him, but most of the people do not know." [Qur'an 12:68]

And: And when the bearer of good tidings arrived, he cast it over his face, and he returned [once again] seeing. He said, "Did I not tell you that I know from Allah that which you do not know?" [Qur'an 12:96]

These are just a few examples, of which there are many more, regarding the Knowledge granted to the Prophets. The Knowledge of the Unseen bestowed upon our Holy Prophet is indeed on a larger scale and is one of his greatest miracles from Allah.

The Prophets are Sinless [Masoom]

It should be noted that the Prophets never sinned nor did they stray from the Truth. Any 'error' made by them was, in fact, an lesson which Allah taught us through them so we could learn from their noble examples. Their faith has always been complete, but the task of Prophethood requires them to behave in a manner which mankind can relate and learn from.

Allah says, addressing our Holy Prophet:

"O Messenger! Convey what has been sent to you from your Lord. If you did not, you would not have fulfilled His mission." [Qur'an 5:67]

From this, we can see that the actions and words of the Messengers were indeed Allah's Will. The Messengers lives are means of teaching us – often about forgiveness (Prophet Adam eating the apple, or Prophet Yunus leaving his people), or patience (such as Prophet Ibrahim's father standing against him).

"It is not for a believer, man or woman, when Allah and His Messenger have decreed a matter that they should have any option in their decision. And whoever disobeys Allah and His Messenger, he has indeed strayed in a plain error." [Qur'an 33:36]

From the above verse, we are given a warning – that we should not question or challenge the decisions made by the Prophet. After all, the hearts of Prophets were filled with Divine Inspiration and their actions filled with His Remembrance. How then can we say they were able to sin?

Remember the sacred Hadith Qudsi (as narrated by Hazrat Abu Huraira), in which the Holy Prophet related that Allah said:

“My servant constantly approaches Me through supererogatory acts of worship until I love him, and when I love him, I become his eyes with which he sees, his hands with which he holds, and his legs with which he walks.”

In another version, the wording is: “So through Me he hears, through Me he sees, and through Me he understands.” [Bukhari]

Now, with the knowledge that none can ever surpass the pious and faithful ranks of the Prophets, the above Hadith Qudsi sheds further light on this topic.

Allah tells us that an ordinary servant who approaches Him will attain such a status in which He inspires all they do, see or hear. If this is the case of an ordinary believer, then surely the inspiration He grants to His Messengers is of a greater degree. And a greater degree will ensure that they never stray or enter the realm of sin.

Ultimately however, the believers should know that the ordeal and great troubles faced by the Prophets in their quest to teach mankind the Truth is beyond our limited comprehension. We cannot understand what they have had to tolerate, so how then can we judge their actions or accuse them of sin? This is indeed an evil concept which are, no doubt, the results of Shaytan’s evil whisperings.

And Allah states in His Qur’an:

“This day I have perfected your religion for you, completed My Favours upon you, and have chosen for you Islam as your religion.” [Qur’an 5:3]

No doubt, Islam is perfect – and its perfection is made manifest through its Messengers, the most noble of all creation.