

## Birthday of the Prophet (s).

Syed Muhammad Naqvi, 17 January 2014

- ❖ Congratulations to all on the birthday of Prophet Muhammad (s).
- ❖ Important to understand what Mawlid is about – how do we represent Muhammad (s)? How is he viewed by non-Muslims:
  - Michael Hart – 100 Most Influential People in History. Muhammad (s) is listed as the most influential. Influential in many areas - social reformer, diplomat, merchant, philosopher, orator, legislator, military leader, humanitarian and a great philanthropist.
- ❖ Raised in an environment of idol-worship. Decided as a child not to follow this, meditated in a cave of Hira. Announced his Prophethood in 40<sup>th</sup> year. In the darkness of that society is the light most appreciated.
- ❖ Through the Qur'an, Muhammad (s) taught us about love and to subscribe to the message of all the previous Prophets.

وَقَالُوا كُونُوا هُودًا أَوْ نَصَارَى تَهْتَدُوا قُلْ بَلْ مِلَّةَ إِبْرَاهِيمَ حَنِيفًا  
وَمَا كَانَ مِنَ الْمُشْرِكِينَ ﴿١٣٥﴾

*"And they say: Be Jews or Christians, you will be on the right course. Say: Nay! (we follow) the religion of Ibrahim, the Hanif, and he was not one of the polytheists." (2:135)*

- This is a universal message, not rejecting any other faiths.
  - ❖ Muhammad (s) was able to take Islam from zero to a huge structure within 23 years. What was about him that was so appealing, to people of all walks of life? He did not have the cane of Moses, nor raised the dead like Jesus etc. He had the Qur'an and its message – which is a continuation of the past Prophets.
  - ❖ He changes the mind-set of the people. Eliminates the idea of idol worship (say: 'Say: There is no God but Allah, and you will be successful'). Poet says: *'The one prostration you find difficult, liberates you from 1000 prostrations (to other than God)'*. Muhammad (s) teaches simple messages:
    - Respect for parents and elders.
    - Respect for women – in a society that used to bury daughters alive, could not inherit.
    - Respect for different economic classes
- Allama Iqbal says: "If in the middle of the battle time for prayer came, the whole of Hejaz turned to Qibla, in one line stands the King and the Servant, each one equal. Slave, king, needy and wealthy are one, when they came to you O Lord, no one was different from each other."*
- Example of Muhammad (s) – one person brings a fruit to him. He usually shares it, but this time he eats the first, second, third, fourth slices – until he finishes the fruit. Why? Companions confront the Prophet – Muhammad (s) says it was so bitter, I didn't share it with you in case you said anything that upset the gift-giver.
  - ❖ He had a specific interaction style with the people. This is a key point for us to understand – which was so attractive to people.
  - ❖ Muhammad (s) was given three tasks in relation to his mission.

- To make human beings to understand human dignity.
- To explain to people the importance of humanity.
- To make man realise the importance of his own potential – the value of a human being.

الَّذِينَ يَتَّبِعُونَ الرَّسُولَ النَّبِيَّ الْأُمِّيَّ الَّذِي يَجِدُونَهُ مَكْنُوبًا  
عِنْدَهُمْ فِي التَّوْرَةِ وَالْإِنْجِيلِ يَأْمُرُهُمْ بِالْمَعْرُوفِ وَيَنْهَاهُمْ  
عَنِ الْمُنْكَرِ وَيُحِلُّ لَهُمُ الطَّيِّبَاتِ وَيُحَرِّمُ عَلَيْهِمُ  
الْخَبَائِثَ وَيَضَعُ عَنْهُمْ إِصْرَهُمْ وَالْأَغْلَالَ الَّتِي كَانَتْ عَلَيْهِمْ  
فَالَّذِينَ آمَنُوا بِهِ وَعَزَّرُوهُ وَنَصَرُوهُ وَاتَّبَعُوا النُّورَ الَّذِي أُنْزِلَ  
مَعَهُ أُولَئِكَ هُمُ الْمُفْلِحُونَ

*"Those who follow the Messenger-Prophet, the Ummi, whom they find written down with them in the Taurat and the Injeel (who) enjoins them good and forbids them evil, and makes lawful to them the good things and makes unlawful to them impure things, and removes from them their burden and the shackles which were upon them" (7:157)*

- ❖ Prophet (s) did not show them miracles on demand. (Example: until you show water gushing, or in the sky, etc.). "Say: 'Glory be to God, I am a man, just like you, but a Prophet'. "Say: I am a man like you, except that I receive revelation". Muhammad (s) came to make us realise our own potential, so that we don't need him to show miracles but that we show miracles ourselves. We should achieve a status above the angels, due to the ability to think, reason, analyse, grow and progress.
- ❖ We need to see our own status. Have we grown in the last year, when we last celebrated *Mawlid*. Muhammad (s)'s purpose was the progress of the Community.
  - Allamah Iqbal says: 'Benefits of this community are one. The losses of this community are one. The Prophet is one, the belief is one, the Qur'an is one, the Kaabah is one, the kalimah is one, is it so difficult for the Muslims to be one?'
  - We present the Prophet (s) not as a mercy to existence. The reason for the fear of Islam in the minds of people – the fact they are scared – is the way I have portrayed him and the interpretation of my faith. I need to show the same characteristic in engaging with the outside world as Muhammad (s).
  - We need to unite within the Muslim Ummah. We need to reflect the compassion and the love of Muhammad (s). I need to be the most kind person.
- ❖ We pray to God to make us the true lovers of Muhammad (s) and to understand Islam better, and to hasten the re-appearance of the Awaited Imam (a).