

The Prophet's special attributes

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بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

In the name of Allaah, the Most Merciful, the Bestower of Mercy

Prophet Muhammad (*May the peace and blessings of Allaah the Most High be upon him*) is the noblest descendent of Aadam (peace be upon him). `Abdullah ibn Salam narrated that the Prophet (*May the peace and blessings of Allaah the Most High be upon him*) said:

"I am the Sayyid of the descendents of Aadam, with no boasting."¹

Al-Tirmidhee also related it with the addition "**on the Day of Resurrection**" before his saying "**with no boasting.**" The original Hadeeth, found in Saheeh Muslim, on the authority of Aboo Hurairah have the following wording:

"I am the Sayyid of the descendents of Aadam on the Day of Resurrection. I am the first for whom the grave will be opened. I am the first to intercede and the first whose intercession will be accepted."

According to Al-`Iz: the Arabic word "Sayyid" means a person who is characterised by the highest moral qualities and ethical standards.

This implies that Prophet Muhammad (*May the peace and blessings of Allaah the Most High be upon him*) is the best of humanity both in this world and the hereafter. In this world, because of his exceptional moral virtues and excellence of character. In the hereafter, superiority of reward is proportionate to virtues and nobility of manners. Since he (*May the peace and blessings of Allaah the Most High be upon him*) excelled them all in this world, he will have a higher status and degree of honour than all others in the hereafter.

The Prophet (*May the peace and blessings of Allaah the Most High be upon him*) only made the statement: **I am the Sayyid of the descendents of Aadam, with no boasting** to inform his Ummah (nation based on one creed) of his status in the Sight of his Lord (*Glorified and Exalted be He*). Since mentioning personal virtues is usually done boastfully, the Prophet (*May the peace and blessings of Allaah the Most High be upon him*) made it clear that this was not his intent; therefore, he said: **with no boasting.**

¹ Related by Ibn Hibbaan in his Saheeh in this wording

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Among the special attributes of Prophet Muhammad (*May the peace and blessings of Allaah the Most High be upon him*) is that he will carry the Banner of Praise on the Day of Resurrection with Aadam and all of his descendants following after him.

The Prophet (*May the peace and blessings of Allaah the Most High be upon him*) said:

“I am the Sayyid of the descendants of Aadam on the Day of Resurrection, with no boasting. I am the first for whom the earth will be split open. I am the first to intercede and the first whose intercession will be accepted. In my hand will be the Banner of Praise, with Aadam and his descendants following after me.”

The Prophet (*May the peace and blessings of Allaah the Most High be upon him*) will be the first whose grave will be opened, the first to offer intercession, and the first to have his intercession accepted. He will make the Greatest Intercession for mankind and will be raised to Al-Maqam Al-Mahmud (the Station of Praise and Glory i.e. the highest degree in Paradise), which will be coveted by the first and the last.

Ibn `Umar (*may Allaah be pleased with him and his father*) said: "The people will fall on their knees on the Day of Resurrection, each nation following its Prophet, saying, 'O so and so, intercede! O so and so, intercede!' until intercession is granted to the Prophet (*May the peace and blessings of Allaah the Most High be upon him*). That will be the day when Allaah will raise him to Al-Maqam Al-Mahmud."²

Therefore, we have been commanded to ask Allaah (*Exalted be He*) to grant our Prophet Al-Wasilah (the most superior degree in Paradise) after hearing every Adhaan (call to Prayer).

`Abdullah ibn `Amr ibn Al-`As narrated that he heard the Prophet (*May the peace and blessings of Allaah the Most High be upon him*) saying:

“When you hear the muezzin, say as he says, then send blessings upon me, for whoever sends blessings upon me once, Allaah will send blessings upon him ten times. Then ask Allaah to grant me Al-Wasilah, for it is a rank in Paradise that will only be attained by one of the servants of Allaah, and I hope that I will be the one. Whoever asks Al-Wasilah for me, will deserve intercession.”³

Another unique attribute of the Prophet (*May the peace and blessings of Allaah the Most High be upon him*) is that he is never addressed merely by the name, out of honouring him. In the Glorious Qur'aan, Allaah (*Glorified be He*) addresses him graciously, calling him by the most beloved and most superior of his names and qualities: O Prophet! And: O Messenger (Muhammad (*May the peace and blessings of Allaah the Most High be upon him*))! This special honour was not granted to any of the other Prophets (*peace be upon them*) who were all addressed by their name:

² Related by Al-Bukhaaree

³ Related by Muslim

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[O Aadam! Dwell you] ["O 'Isaa (Jesus), son of Maryam (Mary)! Remember My Favour] [Moosa (Moses)! Verily, I am Allaah] [O Nooh (Noah)! Come down (from the ship) with peace] [O Abraham! You have fulfilled the dream (vision)!] [O Loot (Lot)! Verily, we are the messengers from your Lord] [(Allaah said) "O Zakariyyaa (Zachariah)! Verily, We give you the glad tidings] [O Daawood (David)! Verily, We have placed you as a successor] [O Yahya (John)! Hold fast the Scripture [the Taurat (Torah)].]

Accordingly, Allaah (*Exalted be He*) prohibited the followers of the Prophet (*May the peace and blessings of Allaah the Most High be upon him*) from addressing him merely by his name. Allaah (*Exalted be He*) says:

[Make not the calling of the Messenger (Muhammad (*May the peace and blessings of Allaah the Most High be upon him*)) among you as your calling one of another.]

Among the most special attributes of Prophet Muhammad (*May the peace and blessings of Allaah the Most High be upon him*) is his lasting miracle. The miracles of all the previous Prophets (*peace be upon them*) occurred and then became history. But the miracle of the most honoured of the first and the last of mankind, which is the Glorious Qur'aan, will last until the Day of Resurrection. The Prophet (*May the peace and blessings of Allaah the Most High be upon him*) said:

"Every prophet was given signs (miracles) because of which (his) people believed, but that which I have been given is a revelation that Allaah has revealed to me. I hope that I have the greatest number of followers among them (the prophets) on the Day of Resurrection."

Another superior attribute of Prophet Muhammad (*May the peace and blessings of Allaah the Most High be upon him*) is that the Book revealed to him shall forever remain purely authentic and divinely preserved from corruption. Allaah (*Glorified be He*) says:

[Verily, We, it is We Who have sent down the Dhikr (i.e. the Qur'aan) and surely, We will guard it (from corruption).]

The Prophet (*May the peace and blessings of Allaah the Most High be upon him*) reported that Allaah (*Glorified and Exalted be He*) said:

"I sent down to you a Book which water can never wash away (i.e. preserved) that you may recite sleeping or wakeful (i.e. remains memorable)."⁴

Also, some of his special attributes are stated in a Hadeeth on the authority of Jabir ibn `Abdullah Al-Ansaaree (*may Allaah be pleased with him*) who narrated that the Messenger of Allaah (*May the peace and blessings of Allaah the Most High be upon him*) said:

"I have been given five things that were not given to anyone before me: Every prophet was sent specifically to his own people, but I have been sent to every red and black person

⁴ Related by Muslim on the authority of `Iyaad ibn Himar

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(all humanity); war-booty has been made permissible for me, when it was not permitted to anyone before me; the earth has been made good, a means of purification, and a place for worship for me, so that whenever the time for Salaah (Prayer) comes, any man of my Ummah can pray wherever he is; I have been supported by fear (struck into the hearts of my enemies) from the distance of a month's travel; and I have been given the power of intercession.”⁵

⁵ Related by Al-Bukhaaree and Muslim