

Why Do We Celebrate the Birthday of Prophet Muhammad (pbuh¹)?

There is compelling need to celebrate the birthday of the greatest man, who changed mankind from animal-oriented behaviour² to one of human excellence. Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) practised exactly what he preached.³ Recognition of his exemplary uniqueness is significant and in many countries, the event of Birthday of Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) is marked on their national calendars with a public holiday.

Surely, the Prophet must have been uniquely great to be elevated to such high status in many countries; and allocated a fully-paid public holiday in his name.

Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) was not the only prophet in this world. So why does he get so much prominence and respect by hundreds of millions of people all over the world for at least 1,400 years? The answer remains as always, that the greatness of Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) made him so unique, in every conceivable way.

Since creation of humanity on earth, there were over 124,000⁴ prophets who came into various communities before Prophet Muhammad (pbuh). Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) was also a part of that chain of historical prophets⁵. Each of those 124,000 prophets also served also as Ambassadors of God. Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) was the Final Prophet⁶; and he was also the final Ambassador of the Most High.

¹ (pbuh)= may Peace and Blessing of Allah be Upon Him: Always used respectfully after his name and Title.

² Prior to Prophet Muhammad (pbuh), rivalry for survival amongst mankind was akin to animals, when man fought with other men driven by greed and animosity, charity was not recognised as deeds, every description of crime was rife. Women had no rights whatsoever; they had no respect in society except being treated inasmuch as a female in the animal world.

³ Practices of Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) are recorded in Hadith, especially in the cases of six authenticated (Sahih) Hadith, such as listed 1-6 in order of highest elevation, with highest at 1: 1. *Sahahih Al- Bukhari*, 2. *Sahih Muslim*, 3. *Sunan al-Sugra*, 4. *Sunan Abu Dawood*, 5. *Jami al-Trimidhi* 6. *Sunan ibn Majah*.

⁴ Prophet Muhammad's (pbuh) statement in Hadith No 21257 in *Musnad Ibn Hanbal* that there were over 124,000 prophets since creation, commencing with Adam.

⁵ Prophets were not limited to Israelites only and there is not a community which was denied their prophet. The Holy Qur'an certifies so. Generally, prophets come in two classifications. The first classification is called *Nabi* (in Arabic) and this refers to the bulk of all prophets (124,000+) whose teachings were repetitive and they rejuvenated the same messages over past generations of mankind. Some examples of *Nabi*-type prophets are: Ishmael, Isaac, Jacob, Joseph, Aaron, Solomon and John the Baptist (peace be upon them). The second classification is called *Rasul* (in Arabic) and this refers to special prophets who brought significant changes of improvement over the past messages and they also superseded with new Scripture. Some examples of *Rasul*-type prophets are: Adam, Noah, Abraham, Moses, Jesus and Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon them).

⁶ Whenever the words "Final Prophet" or "Holy Prophet" or simply the "Prophet" is used, it is always spelt beginning in capitals, and denoting Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) only, as there can be no other final prophet.

The finality of prophethood has been proclaimed in the Holy Qur'an: "*Muhammad is not the father of any of your men, but he is the messenger of Allah and the Seal of the prophets. And Allah is ever Knower of all things.*" (Qur'an 33:40).

In his dual capacity as the Final Prophet and also as the Ambassador of the Most High, throughout his lifetime, Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) was the most perfect exemplar the world has ever known.

He led by example in: (a) his personality; (b) his character; (c) his successes; (d) as a teacher of religion; (e) as an expounder and putting together of virtues; (f) as the only man known in history, who pioneered the fundamental rights of girls and women⁷ 1500 years ago; and (g) as the most perfect exemplar, so perfect, that everything he did 1500 years ago (in Hadith) are still practised today as currently modern practices.

A well-known American astrophysics scientist (and a Jew), Michael H Hart in his top-selling book "The 100: A Ranking of the Most Influential Persons in History" listed Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) as No 1 of his list⁸. Each of those 100 names was most justifiably analysed.

Considering that the Prophet was the best at No 1 out of the 100 best people over billions of people since creation⁹, it is necessary to study the Prophet's very simple origins.

Nearly 1,440 years ago, in April 570AD (Arabic month of *Rabi al-awwal*), a child was born in Mecca, in the Arabian Peninsula. A few weeks before this child was born, his father had already died whilst on a return business journey from Damascus, in Syria. This child was already named as Ahmad¹⁰ even before he was born. This is explained in next set of paragraphs.

The child's mother's name was Aminah bint¹¹ Wahab, and she was a direct descendant of Prophet Abraham's line of his elder son Ishmael¹². Aminah

⁷ Modern Women's Rights Movement started in 1848 in New York.

⁸ The book is the result of deep research of all the prominent people since creation; and each of those persons is given the ranking according to his or her greatness of achievements. Hart said "My choice of Muhammad to lead the list of the world's most influential persons may surprise some readers and may be questioned by some others, but he was the only man in history who was supremely successful on both the religious and secular levels. It is this unparalleled combination of secular and religious influences which I feel entitles Muhammad to be considered most influential single human figure in human history."(p.33). (Extracts of ranking: 1st. Prophet Muhammad. 2nd. Isaac Newton. 3rd. Jesus Christ. 4th. Buddha. 5th Confucius. 6th St Paul). Carol Publishing Group/Citadel Press, New York. Published in 1978. Revised in 1992.

⁹ Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) as a person was the "best of the 100 best" since creation.

¹⁰ Ahmad: This name comes from the Arabic root word "Hamada" which means "to praise and to glorify."

¹¹ bint Wahab means "daughter of Wahab."

¹² Most other prophets as descendants of Jacob were Israelites from line of Isaac the 2nd son of Prophet Abraham and his first wife Sarah, whereas Prophet Muhammad was the only Ishmaelite prophet from the line of Ishmael, the 1st son of Prophet Abraham and his second wife Hagar.

was married to Abd'Allah bin Abd al-Mutalib¹³, a wealthy businessman of the Banu Hashim family, in Mecca, in the Arabian Peninsula. The Banu Hashim family were members of the prominent *Quraysh* tribe. A few weeks after Abd'Allah had married Aminah, he went away on a very long trading journey¹⁴ to Syria. It is important to understand why it was necessary for Abd'Allah as a very young businessman, to take such a long journey of several months, from his country Arabia, to another country, Syria. Damascus in Syria, in those days was the international business and market trading centre in the Middle East. Inasmuch as in this modern era, the main Asian trading centres of Bangkok, Singapore, and Hong Kong, may be similarly imagined for Damascus in Syria as main trading centre, in those early days 1,500 years ago.

On his return journey home from Syria, Aminah's husband (Abd'Allah) became ill and he died. He died as a very young man at the age of almost 24. His camel riding employees buried Abd'Allah at location where he died (close to the oasis district of Yathrib¹⁵); and then they brought over the camel-train of merchandise to his very young widow, Aminah who was pregnant with her first child. Aminah was also very young. She was almost 17.

Before young Aminah had her baby, she knew she was already a widow!

Before birth of her only child, Aminah dreamt she was visited by her husband Abd'Allah, and who informed her in her dream that she will have a son, and her son was to be named Ahmad. She also saw that beams of very powerful blue light were spreading out from her womb, out wide, to every country in the world. She knew confidently, her son would be really great, later in his life.

Later, Ahmad was born without ever seeing his own father and Ahmad's father was not present to give him that fatherly love and blessing of his first child. It is so saddening!

In true obedience to her late husband Abd'Allah, Aminah named her son "Ahmad." She also noticed that Ahmad had a very peculiar birthmark on the back of his left shoulder: It was oval in shape with a few moles in it.

It was customary amongst Arabs (then), that people got married very young, especially with girls. Aminah was very young (less than 17) and she had no other source of income, apart from salvaging whatever proceeds she was able to accumulate after selling off all her merchandise, which her husband Abd'Allah had purchased in Damascus. She had no other option. (Abd'Allah's intention was selling off the merchandise in Mecca, at some

¹³ Abd'Allah bin Abd al-Mutalib means Abd'Allah, son of Mutalib.

¹⁴ Abd'Allah used to purchase all types of spices from southern part of the Arabian Peninsula and take them over to Damascus, as bulk wholesale supplier of spices.

¹⁵ Yathrib was later renamed as *Medinat al-Nabi* and later shortened to just Medina in Saudi Arabia.

profit – his style of business).

The young widow Aminah progressively salvaged some cash, as she sold off all the merchandise and then she also sold off her late husband's camels one after another to get some cash flow. Gradually, she used up all the proceeds from that final selling transaction. She had no other means of dependable and steady income.

It was customary amongst Arabians 1,500 years ago, that a child be brought up by a wet nurse. But all such nurses denied Ahmad's acceptance because his father had died and that it was also common knowledge in Mecca that "Abd'Allah the young businessman" had died. They all knew that Aminah was a very young teenage widow, at age of 17. It soon became common knowledge that there was no assured guarantee of the nurse's regular payments. Most other nurses therefore declined to accept baby Ahmad. He was finally accepted and brought up by a poor Bedouin woman named Halima bint Abi Dhuayb.

Aminah's financial status began to deteriorate hopelessly and she slipped lower in her status from the recognised very young wife of a wealthy young businessman to a common young widow with child – by today's standards, she would be called: "a very young widowed single-parent with no source of income whatsoever."

In the meantime, Aminah also had to pay nurse Halima constantly for upkeep of her baby Ahmad (and later as toddler). Again, it is so saddening! When Ahmad was five years old Halima, the nurse, returned him to his mother, Aminah, whose economic status had further deteriorated. Aminah could no longer pay Halima. Since she had no means of income, she was salvaging from whatever proceeds she had accumulated, after she sold off her husband's merchandise and all of his camels.

According to *Quraysh* tradition, Aminah had to present her son Ahmad to her in-laws in Yathrib¹⁶, which she did according to that tradition. Upon her return journey back to Mecca, Aminah became very sick. Aminah died in 576AD and was buried in a village called Abwah¹⁷, close to the main Arabian camel-train highway between Yathrib and Mecca. Yathrib was an oasis district, in the north of Mecca. After the funeral, the rest of the people on the camel-train from Yathrib then continued the journey to Mecca, took care of the little boy and delivered the now orphaned-child, Ahmad, to the neighbours¹⁸ in Mecca.

What a dismal start for a child! The neighbours in Mecca then felt pity; they

¹⁶ Yathrib is the old name for the current city of Medina, in Saudi Arabia.

¹⁷ Abwah was a village 23 miles (or 37 kilometres) south of Yathrib (now Medina) on the way to Mecca.

¹⁸ The other camel riders knew from conversations and discussions the house of Amina, in Mecca.

hired some camels and then took the orphaned infant Ahmad back to his grandfather Abd al-Mutalib in Yathrib.

Abd al-Mutalib was professionally a livestock farmer, and who owned many goats and lots of camels, surrounding the oasis region. In addition, Abd al-Mutalib was also managing his other business of renting out camels to travellers. He also had several of his own children, helping him on the farm. It is important to note that families in those days were very large, when compared to modern norm.

Although Abd al-Mutalib lived in Yathrib, he was the official custodian of the Holy Ka'ba in Mecca and the Chieftain¹⁹ of the Banu Hashim community.

The neighbours in Mecca who delivered Ahmad to Abd al-Mutalib, explained to Abd al-Mutalib, that his eldest son, Abd'Allah had died before Ahmad was born, and further his daughter-in-law, Aminah had also died just recently (after returning from Yathrib). They explained that Ahmad was now truly orphaned and consequently Ahmad had no means of survival. It was then Abd al-Mutalib accepted his grandchild Ahmad on a certain mindset.

He wanted his newly inherited grandson Ahmad, to turn a totally new life and so Abd al-Mutalib changed and renamed his grandchild as "Muhammad²⁰" from his mother's originally given birth-name of Ahmad. Of course, in those days there was no such thing as Birth Certificate, so change of name did not matter, not requiring a deed poll. His grandfather, Abd al-Mutalib then took charge of Muhammad.

It was here; on his grandfather's livestock farm that Muhammad learned the rudiments of animal husbandry, for goats and camels. Muhammad developed his skills especially in dealing with renting of camels, which was the only and basic means of transportation through the deserts of Arabia, and between desert countries. People rented camels from Abd al-Mutalib to travel to Mecca in south, to Syria in north, Egypt²¹ in west and Persian Gulf countries in east (to trade in spices with India).

Two years later in 578AD, the grandfather (Abd al-Mutalib) also died. The child Muhammad, now aged eight, was much worse-off. Simply so sad!

Then, still at the age of eight years, Muhammad was subsequently sent to live with his paternal uncle Abu Talib, also in Yathrib. Abu Talib was also involved in animal husbandry and inherited the livestock farm from his father. The home of Abu Talib was a very poor home. He also had lots of children. It was poverty that shaped and formed children into certain

¹⁹ Since Abd al-Mutalib was the Chieftain of the Banu Hashim community (Title: *Shaiba ibn Hashim*) and the custodian of the Holy Ka'ba, it made his son Abd'Allah a significantly prominent young businessman.

²⁰ Muhammad means "praiseworthy."

²¹ They could travel to Egypt by camel as Suez Canal did not exist 1500 years ago.

aggressiveness; and fights among children were common occurrences to get the best. The same concept also applies amongst poverty-stricken communities, even today.

Muhammad, however, was different right from the beginning and very noticeably so. Muhammad never went to school inasmuch as his other neighbours and friends, in sharp contrast to children from wealthier families within the tribe, who received private-tuition. Poverty ruled the fate of children from childhood through to adulthood. Abu Talib's family took good care of energetic and youthful Muhammad, and paid him a small stipend for his hard work in animal husbandry. This was the training ground for Muhammad and he learnt the skills of managing a camel-renting business.

Muhammad's honesty, reliability, straightforwardness and dedication earned him special respect from his uncle Abu Talib. At the age of twelve years, Muhammad became the favourite of his Uncle Abu Talib²², who took him on a trading journey to Damascus, Syria in 582AD. There was a Christian monastery on the hills between Yathrib and the camel route to Syria. On the way they met a Christian monk named Baheera. When Baheera saw Muhammad's glowing face and the very peculiar birthmark on back of Muhammad's left shoulder, Baheera warned Abu Talib to take great care of Muhammad, as the boy's face and interpretation of his birthmark²³ had very special signs of future greatness. Baheera told Abu Talib that the birthmark indicated that the boy was somebody much awaited by both the Jews and the Arabs.

At an early age of 17, still in his teens Muhammad acquired the title of *Al Amin*, which in Arabic means the "Honest One." Later at the age of 25 in 595AD, he married a widow²⁴ of age 40, who was also a camel-renting businesswoman of Mecca. She had a very large herd of over 1000 camels, which were looked after by her many slaves, who were unskilled in camel rental business. After his marriage he was very successful in increasing her camel-renting business most extraordinarily, and he was singularly instrumental to free her slaves and thereafter, all slaves in Mecca.

Muhammad was most prayerful and he started his prayer meditations in a cave called *Hira*, hollowed out in the side of the mountain *Jabbal-al-Noor* and spent most of his free moments in prayer. It was on one such day in the month of *Ramadan*, in 610AD that Angel Gabriel appeared to him in the cave and delivered the revelation, which are the original first eight verses of

²² Abu Talib died in 620AD.

²³ The birthmark was very peculiar as it was an oval patch of dark colour (about the size of an egg) with several moles arranged in a certain code, which Baheera deciphered.

²⁴ She was Khadija bint Khuwaylid (ra). She died at age 65 in 620AD. She bore Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) 2 sons and 4 daughters but only one daughter (Fatima) survived. The rest died in childhood.

the Holy Qur'an²⁵ in Chapter 96.

This was his spiritual initiation into prophethood and henceforth he is referred to with exclusive respect as Prophet Muhammad (pbuh). Thereafter the words "Peace Be Upon Him" are always added after his name, and after he became a prophet as "Rasul-Allah (pbuh)."

At the age of 40, the Prophet continued to have the respect of all people of Mecca with the title of *Al Amin*²⁶, until the Prophet stressfully clarified to those people that they must worship only One God: the Supreme Spirit, Who does not have a limited material body. He continued to stress upon those people that they must stop worshipping various types of man-made idols and to stop believing and practising superstition²⁷.

That became the beginning of all his problems, as the people refused to accept for worship something they could not see, they could not feel and they could not dress up with expensive silk clothes. Superstition was their daily life style. The people of Mecca revolted against him and wanted to kill the Prophet and the Prophet had to escape from Mecca to Medina in 622AD²⁸ with some of his very dependable followers.

Throughout his life, the Prophet did not experience a life of luxury. He received at his first-hand experiences of some of the most difficult times and the tossed-about situations any person may endure:

- (a) Before he was born his father had already died.
- (b) For the next five years, he was not brought up by his mother but by the nurse Halima.
- (c) He missed the personal love and care of his real mother; but five years later lived with his real mother for only a few months.
- (d) When he was barely six years old his real mother died and he become fully orphaned.
- (e) His paternal grandfather then took possession and changed his name from Ahmad to a new name of Muhammad.
- (f) He received a totally new identity.
- (g) In less than two years his care-giving grandfather also died.
- (h) He was then entrusted to his uncle and worked on his uncle's farm.

²⁵ The first eight verses of the Holy Qur'an, when it was first revealed to Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) as 96:1-8:
"1. Read in the name of thy Lord Who creates — 2. Creates man from a clot, 3. Read and thy Lord is most Generous, 4. Who taught by the pen, 5. Taught man what he knew not. 6. Nay, man is surely inordinate, 7. Because he looks upon himself as self-sufficient. 8. Surely to thy Lord is the return."

NB: The balance of verses 96: 9-19 were revealed much later, but assembled together as whole of Chapter 96.

²⁶ Al-Amin means the "Honest One."

²⁷ Superstition is a subsystem of idolatry. They are generally practised together.

²⁸ This became the commencement of Hijri calendar dating system in Islam.

- (i) As a child, he never went to school or received any education at all.
- (j) He married a widow.
- (k) With an exception of his daughter Fatima, the Prophet witnessed death of all his children but still enjoyed the love over his children, as a father would.
- (l) The Prophet experienced becoming a widower when his wife Khadija died. She died at age 65 in 620AD.
- (m) The idol-worshipping communities of Mecca rejected him and wanted him killed.
- (n) He had to escape from Mecca to Medina in 622AD.
- (o) The prophet fought many battles²⁹ in defence of Islam but never fought a single battle as an aggressor.

In his own lifetime, the Prophet moulded the character of his fellow Arabians:

- i. He reformed them into better people.
- ii. He changed their thoughts and practices.
- iii. He put new ideals before them; and
- iv. He gradually steered them to better path.

All this happened at a time when the Prophet was surrounded by the worst behaviour of Arabians. They had drunkenness and immorality as natural as daily life.

With Divine guidance, the Prophet led them by example and reformed his followers into becoming excellent citizens, who recognised the existence of One God and finally began to worship that One God. In his personality, the Prophet was simple as any ordinary Arabian. Although he had reached the status of the King of Arabia, he continued to live in a simple house, made out of stones, mud, reeds and branches of date palms. He had very little possessions. The day he died, the clothes he was wearing, was full of patches. The Prophet believed and practised honesty.

His character was put to test. After the Holy Prophet received his first revelation in the cave, through Angel Gabriel (Chapter 96 Surah *Al-Ataq*), in 610AD, he went to his wife in a terrified frame of mind. For three years after that event he was determined to wean the Arabians to stop idol worshipping and superstitions and to believe in One God. The Prophet faced every kind of hardship the Arabs could put up against him.

Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) was the most successful person, considering the level of civilization at that time, 1500 years ago. He constantly preached to Arabs the word of God. He saw what sufferings his people were put through; but nothing changed his character and he held steadfast to preach the word of God: One God only - with no partner.

²⁹ Prominent battles Prophet Muhammad led in defence of Islam: Badar, Uhud, Ahzab, Qurayzah, Mustaliq, Khaybar, Mu'tah, Mecca, Hunayn and Taif.

Wealthy and prominent people offered all sorts of bribes and corruption to Prophet Muhammad (pbuh), to persuade him, not to preach to them about One God. They wanted to carry on with their wicked way of life and idolatry³⁰. The more the aggressive Arabs tried to overcome him, the more the Prophet held fast to his impeccable character and he finally won them over to his side.

The Prophet's success can be summed up in the Holy Qur'an especially in the revelation: "*This day I have perfected for you your religion and completed My favour to you and chosen for you Islam as a religion.*" (Qur'an 5:3).

Some Israelite prophets³¹ were raised in a background of wealth. Some Israelite prophets were brought up in palaces³². Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) was brought up in a background of poverty and simplicity. He understood and experienced the difficulties of poverty and this helped him to understand the plight of other poor peoples.

For 23 years Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) struggled day and night as the Ambassador, the Final Prophet and the Servant of God, to successfully carry out His mission. The Prophet's success stands victorious today with around 2.2 billion Muslims out of total world population of 9 billion³³.

As a teacher, by modern standards, he was not educated at all. His knowledge was all by Divine Assistance. According to the *Encyclopaedia Britannica*, the Holy Prophet (pbuh) was the most successful of all the Prophets and other religious personalities. He worked out political, social, mental, military defence-strategies and theological transformation in his days, as never been seen in any other country or at any other time, by any other person. He was and remains unchallenged to this day as the greatest person! That is why millions of people have taken to celebrating the birthday of Prophet Muhammad (pbuh). That is also why many countries have marked his birthday, as a fully-paid national holiday on their calendar; so that all the peoples³⁴ may study the lifestyles and practices of Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) every year, and refresh their memories and also teach their children to follow the correct path.

As an expounder, the Holy Prophet (pbuh) had the gift of God in faculty of reason. He told us to live a worldly life, in a way, which will take us to our goal of Heavenly bliss. He told us to divide our time between worldly

³⁰ Idolatry was the common denominator which held all the rich people together: The richer the people were, the more idols they had to impress others.

³¹ There were 55 Israelite prophets according to records on Judaism.

³² Examples: Moses (in the palace of the Pharaoh of Egypt), Saul, David, Solomon all grew up in kings' palaces.

³³ Official United Nations figures, released as at 31st October 2011.

³⁴ All the peoples include Muslims and those who are not Muslims.

deeds and the special times for God. He said every minute of our life belongs to God. He further stressed on fundamentals of One God, prayer five times daily, charity, fasting and pilgrimage.

Of all men, the Prophet was the meekest, the bravest, the gentlest and the most admirable. He always gave money to the poor and those who needed it most. He only kept what he needed and no more. Whenever someone asked him for anything the Prophet had, he would give it away, saying that person needs it most.

The Prophet always wore clean white clothes. Whenever his clothes got damaged, he would repair and mend his own clothes. He had no fear or shame in wearing old clothes with some patching. This is supported in the Qur'an: "*O children of Adam, attend to your adornment at every time of prayer, and eat and drink and be not prodigal, surely He loves not the prodigals.*" (Qur'an 7:31).

He was the world's most Perfect Exemplar. His achievements are so many but to mention a few, such as:

1. He introduced Islam as the final revealed religion which supersedes all previous religious teachings about the supremacy of One God.
2. He introduced directly from God the Holy Qur'an as the final revealed scripture and which will never be superseded ever.
3. He left behind with humanity the legacy of his practices as the Hadith, or books of regulatory practices and demonstrated quotes.
4. He gave dignity and respect to women and men alike and set the boundaries of control between genders.

The world's most recognised prophet, Prophet Muhammad (pbuh), died in June 632AD, (Arabic month of *Rabi al-awwal*), exactly 23 years after his first revelation, and his personal completion to the final editing and his sealing off each of the 114 Chapters of the Holy Qur'an.

Prophet Muhammad's (pbuh) death also brought to the final sealed closure, of any other prophet of any description whatsoever (neither a *Nabi* nor a *Rasul*) till the end of this world. The obvious question arises who will ensure that Islam continues on the correct path? The answer is: A *Mujaddid* (Reformer).

A *Mujaddid* is a routine maintenance manager of the religion of Islam, as a reviver, selectively appointed by God; and that person is informed by God's angels of his appointment as the *Mujaddid* at the head of the emergence of an Islamic Century (*Hijri*), at that point in time.

The Divine authority for commencement and continuation of the arrival of *Mujaddid* every Islamic Century (*Hijri*) is in the Holy Qur'an at 24:55, as "*Allah has promised to those of you who believe and do good that He will surely make them rulers in the earth as He made those before them rulers, and that He will surely establish for them their religion, which He*

has chosen for them, and that He will surely give them security in exchange after their fear. They will serve Me, not associating aught with Me. And whoever is ungrateful after this, they are the transgressors."

To date, there have been nineteen (19) *Mujaddid*³⁵ spanning across fourteen (14) centuries³⁶ after the death of Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) in 632AD.

The ever-blessed Holy Qur'an, which was directly authored by God 1500 years ago, but was revealed on earth through Prophet Muhammad (pbuh), over a passage of 23 years, has remained meticulously intact in its pristine originality.

That is why millions of people have taken to celebrating the birthday of Prophet Muhammad (pbuh), to study and to learn from his lifestyle as an annual event on their national calendar.

The main reason why the Birthday of Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) is a fully-paid national holiday in many countries, is allowing peoples from all over those countries, to travel and congregate at religious centres and to study and then evaluate the exemplary lifestyles of the Great Prophet (pbuh).

The exemplary lifestyles of Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) remain unchallenged to this day and will remain so into the indefinite future.

So which of the exemplary attributes of Prophet Muhammad (pbuh), the greatest man, will you deny?

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³⁵ Hazrat Umar ibn Abdul Aziz (b.682-d.720); Hazrat Imam ibn Idris Ash-Shafi (b.767-d.820) & Hazrat Imam Ahmad ibn Hanbal (b.780-d.855); Hazrat Abu Sharh (912) & Hazrat Abul Hassan Asha'ri (b.874-d.936); Hazrat Abu Sharh (912) & Hazrat Abul Hassan Asha'ri (b.874-d.936); Hazrat Hakim Al-Abu Ubaid Naishapuri (b.933-d.1012) & Hazrat Qazi Abu Bakr Baqlani (d.1013); Hazrat Imam Muhammad Al-Ghazali (b.1058-d.1111); Hazrat Al-Saiyyid Abdul Qadir Jilani (b.1077-d.1166); Hazrat Imam ibn Taimiyyah (b.1263-d.1328) & Hazrat Mueen-ud-Din Chishti (b.1141-d.1230); Hazrat Hafiz ibn Hajar Asqalani (b.1372-d.1448) & Hazrat Saleh ibn Umar; Hazrat Sayyid Muhammad Jaunpuri (b.1443-d.1505); Hazrat Imam Jalaluddin Sayuti (b.1445-d.1505); Hazrat Al-Shaikh Ahmad Mujjaddid Alif Sani (b.1564-d.1624); Hazrat Shah Waliullah Muhaddith Dehlavi (b.1703-d.1762); Hazrat Sayyid Ahmad Bareilvi (b.1786-d.1831); and Hazrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad (b.1835-d.1908).

³⁶ In some Islamic Centuries (Hijri) there were two *Mujaddid* in the same Century (Hijri). They were in the periods of: 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 7th and 8th Centuries (Hijri).