



Challenges of modern world and their solutions in the light of seerah of Prophet (PBUH)

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Abstract

Today, the Islamic world is facing many challenges from within and outside. The Seerah, which is the life story and teachings of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH), offers complete guidance to solve these problems. This research aims to find solutions to the issues facing the Muslim world today by looking at the Seerah, That covers all parts of life and offers solutions for both individuals and communities. During his time, the Prophet (PBUH) took important actions to solve the problems of Madinah. These actions serve as examples for everyone. Some key actions he took include the Charter of Madinah, peace treaties, sending letters to kings, the conquest of Makkah, and his final sermon at his last Hajj.

The Prophet's teachings give valuable advice on personal behavior, women's rights, social and economic issues, political matters, defense, and foreign relations. His wisdom is helpful not only for Muslims but for all people. The system he created can be used as a basic model for both national and international levels.

Key words: *Islamic world, challenges, Seerah, Prophet Muhammad (PBUH), guidance, women's rights*

The Muslim Ummah faces numerous challenges, many of which stem from personal behavior and have led to societal decline. Individuals, especially leaders, must engage in self-introspection and fulfill their responsibilities to achieve positive change. The Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) transformed a society indulged in ignorance and misguidance into one of faith, righteous deeds, and fear of Allah. This reformed society became exemplary and successful against powerful forces. The key to success lies in discipline, sound character, and fear of Allah. Currently, the



Ummah lacks sincerity, righteous deeds, concern for accountability, and awareness of the life hereafter, which undermines its foundation. Strengthening these areas with faith is essential for stability and progress.

Condition of powerlessness

The Muslim Ummah today is engulfed in a vortex of injustice. Muslims are being killed everywhere, and each day brings more chaos and problems. Enemies are attacking Muslims in every way, aiming to wipe out the entire Muslim community. Our beloved Prophet ﷺ not only warned us about this decline but also explained its causes. In a hadith, we learn that when a nation is afflicted with the disease of "weakness"—defined as the love of this world and the dislike of death—such problems arise. As Hadith states:

The Messenger of Allah (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) said: "It is near that the other nations will break down on you just as those who eat break down on their bowls." Then one who said: Will we be few in number at that time? The Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) said: "No, but you will be many at that time, but you will be like the foam of a flood. Allah will remove your fear from the breasts of your enemy, and will put "when" in your hearts. will give" So one of the speakers said: Messenger of Allah! What is "Whaan"? He (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) said: "It is the love of the world and the fear of death."⁽¹⁾

Now, more than ever, we need strong faith, good deeds, fear of Allah (عَزَّوَجَلَّ), and concern for the Hereafter. Additionally, we must address our lack of collective discipline. We need to eliminate the love of worldly things and the fear of death, as these are the roots of all evil. Fear of death leads to a weak heart and enslavement.

Resource mismanagement

We're not only wasting people but also throwing away our natural treasures. Allah has given Muslim countries lots of valuable things like oil, gold and minerals, as well as fertile lands that produce plenty of crops. But we're not good at using these



blessings wisely. Our enemies are taking our oil, and contracts for valuable resources like gold are being signed unfairly, giving us less than we deserve. We can't even build dams on our own rivers. The Quran tells us to get ready to defend ourselves, which means we should use our resources smartly to make ourselves stronger.

﴿وَأَعِدُّوا لَهُمْ مَا اسْتَطَعْتُمْ مِنْ قُوَّةٍ وَمِنْ رِبَاطِ الْخَيْلِ﴾⁽²⁾

“And prepare against them whatever you are able of power and of steeds of war...”

We can't even take care of our basic needs, let alone prepare for dealing with enemies! Also, our habit of wasting resources and spending too much has made us allies with the devil. This is mentioned in the Quran.

﴿إِنَّ الْمُبْتَدِرِينَ كَانُوا إِخْوَانَ الشَّيَاطِينِ﴾⁽³⁾

"Indeed, the wasteful are brothers of the Shayateen"

The richest among us flaunt their wealth with extravagant displays of gold during wedding festivities. We're consumed by the pursuit of material possessions, splurging on everything from lavish feasts to everyday necessities, while many ordinary people struggle to afford even one meal a day.

In seerah we can clearly see the teaching of our Prophet to make specifics for a Muslim brother, and also developing a painstaking approach towards the betterment of community. He advised his companions to build up a society based on selflessness as we see in Hadith.

The Holy Prophet (SWS) ordered to give the right to livelihood to all members of the society on equal basis .

“ Hazrat Abu Saeed Al-Khudri (may Allah be pleased with him) narrates:

The Holy Prohet commanded us:

The one who has more than the required conveyance should return it to the one who does not have the required conveyance. He who has more food and goods than he needs, should give them to him who does not have the food he needs. We even thought we had no right to anything superfluous”⁽⁴⁾



In an Islamic State, financial instruments such as Zakat and Ushr, Khums, Sadaqat, Kafarah, inheritance, and wills play crucial roles as sources of communal wealth and mutual support. These mechanisms ensure the circulation of wealth within the society.

Idleness

Our lack of motivation and tendency to be inactive is causing significant issues. This relaxed attitude is prevalent among both individuals and larger communities. Instead of striving for progress, many of us prefer to remain in our comfort zones, avoiding the challenges of pursuing constructive goals. Meanwhile, our leaders enjoy luxurious lifestyles, and even young people are content with idleness, turning away from traditional responsibilities towards more leisurely pursuits like music. This collective mindset is detrimental to the prosperity of Muslim nations, as we're increasingly viewed with disdain by others. Additionally, there's a widespread acceptance of indecent behavior, and meaningless discussions and activities dominate our time without yielding any tangible results. To receive Allah's support, we need to shift our focus towards actions that are pleasing to Him, rather than indulging in wasteful pursuits. Recognizing this fundamental issue is crucial, and we must strive diligently to cultivate a more purposeful and productive approach to life. Also throughout the Seerah our Prophet (PBUH) symbolizes the virtues hard work and active lifestyle.

The Messenger of Allah, peace and blessings be upon him, said: "No one ate food better than what he earned with his own hands, and surely the Prophet of Allah, David, peace be upon him, used to eat with what he earned with his hands" ⁽⁵⁾

Hence our progress will only breed in the hand of Hard work both as an individual and as an Ummah.

Promoting Harmony and agreement

Today, Muslim nations face many problems due to a lack of unity and agreement. Different groups and factions have formed based on various beliefs, locations, and



cultures, causing hatred and enmity. The strategy of "divide and rule" has fragmented the Muslim Ummah, building walls between us. We've abandoned the teachings of the Prophet ﷺ, leading us astray and causing division. This split has led to prejudice, extremism, and ongoing conflict and corruption .

Our Prophet said:

“Muslims are like one body of a person; if the eye is sore, the whole body aches, and if the headaches, the whole body aches”⁽⁶⁾

If the entire Muslim Ummah unites and ends these divides, our problems would diminish. Imagine the transformation if all Muslim nations came together as one, following the guidance of Allah (عَزَّوَجَلَّ). Just as the European Union unites European countries under one umbrella, Muslim nations can achieve the same. If we continue to stay divided, our problems will only increase.

Educational shortfall

One of the major problems facing Muslim nations is the insufficient education. Both individuals and society are responsible for this shortfall, and the government also shares this burden. It's ironic because the first command to Muslims through revelation was "iqra," meaning "read " .

﴿إِقْرَأْ بِاسْمِ رَبِّكَ الَّذِي خَلَقَ الْإِنْسَانَ مِنْ عَلَقٍ اقْرَأْ وَرَبُّكَ الْأَكْرَمُ الَّذِي عَلَّمَ بِالْقَلَمِ عَلَّمَ الْإِنْسَانَ مَا لَمْ يَعْلَمْ﴾⁽⁷⁾

“ Read, O Prophet, in the Name of your Lord created humans from a clinging clot. Read! And your Lord is the Most Generous. Who taught by the pen . taught humanity what they knew not.”

Allah has advised The Prophet ﷺ to pray for increased knowledge, making education a core identity of the Muslim nation .

﴿قُلْ رَبِّ زِدْنِي عِلْمًا﴾⁽⁸⁾

“Say! O’ Lord! increase my knowledge”

It's shameful for such a nation to lag in the field of knowledge and education.

Leaders are to blame for not providing the necessary infrastructure and budget for quality education. However, individuals are also at fault for not striving to excel in



fields like technology, medicine, engineering, and science. We often praise advancements in these areas but fail to ask why Muslims are no longer leading in these fields. Why are we dependent on others? Why is literacy low in the Islamic world today? Why aren't there prestigious universities and research centers in Muslim regions?

It's time to pause and reflect. We need to analyze and come up with concrete action plans; otherwise, the future of the Muslim Ummah will become even bleaker.

Low self Esteem

Another significant reason for the challenges faced by the Muslim Ummah is the sense of inferiority compared to the rest of the world. This feeling of being lesser than others leads us to admire and other religions and nations. Consequently, we become influenced by their lifestyles and ideologies, losing the ability to define our own boundaries and uphold our own practices.

This has allowed foreign cultures and religions to encroach upon the established ways of Islam. Until we confidently recognize that our religion offers an excellent system of life, we will struggle to move forward with dignity and respect. For this, we have only ourselves to blame. Our Prophet (PBUH) had groomed a group of people named "Sahaba" who were confident because of their belief in Allah and they needed no materialistic justification for their strength as Allah says in Quran:

﴿ كُنْتُمْ خَيْرَ أُمَّةٍ أُخْرِجَتْ لِلنَّاسِ تَأْمُرُونَ بِالْمَعْرُوفِ وَتَنْهَوْنَ عَنِ الْمُنْكَرِ وَ
تُؤْمِنُونَ بِاللَّهِ ﴾⁽⁹⁾

“ You are the best nation produced [as an example] for mankind.

You enjoin what is right and forbid what is wrong and believe in Allah”

Their Emaan boosted their confidence and our love of worldly gains have created inferiority complex in ourselves.

Influence of western world

Regrettably, many self-proclaimed reformers and philanthropists today are heavily influenced by the West. These reformers are often unaware of the teachings of Islam



and instead guide people towards non-Islamic ways and ideologies. This trend diverts us from the core principles of character building, obedience, and the roles assigned by the Creator.

The media plays a crucial role in this negative shift, particularly affecting the youth in Muslim nations. Young people are being told that Islamic practices are outdated and irrelevant, and that there is a better way that should be adopted. As a result, there is a push to reform Islam to fit contemporary standards. It is clear that the media's international role is to undermine Islam, promoting obscenity and impermissible acts as acceptable.

Our primary issue as Muslim nations is that we do not challenge those who seek to alter Islamic culture in the name of "progress" and "liberation." We have allowed such individuals to dominate all platforms, stepping back instead of confronting them.

As Muslim communities, we must rise to the occasion, create our own pathways, and present a true and accurate perspective of the ideologies upon which Islam is based, as explained perfectly by our Holy Prophet (PBUH) in his sermon of last hajj.

“There is no superiority of an Arab over a foreigner, a foreigner over an Arab, a white over a black, a black over a white, only piety and the fear of Allah are the basis of superiority.”⁽¹⁰⁾

A lot of emphasis has been laid down on the same concept in Quran pak where Allah ﷻ clarifies the standards of honour,

﴿إِنَّ أَكْرَمَكُمْ عِنْدَ اللَّهِ أَتْقَى﴾⁽¹¹⁾

“In the sight of Allah, the noblest among you is the one who is the most pious“

As a true Muslim we should only strive to get honour in the eyes of creator not those temporary standards set by the ignorant societies for us, for Allah says in Quran

﴿وَمَا الْحَيَاةُ الدُّنْيَا إِلَّا مَتَاعُ الْغُرُورِ﴾⁽¹²⁾



“And what is the life of this world except the enjoyment of delusion.”

For a true follower of Islam, it is not befitting him to consider wealth, fame, or luxuries his ultimate goal rather to seek Allah’s love and follow the footsteps of Prophet (PBUH) is his final destination.

To address the challenges facing Muslim states today, the Muslim Ummah must refocus on Allah and His Messenger, enunciating perseverance in Islam.

This requires practicing self-sacrifice, unity, brotherhood, and harmony, which are core principles of the religion. Scholars, intellectuals, thinkers, and the media must work to change the perceptions of terrorism, extremism, and intolerance associated with the Muslim world.

Additionally, the learning of modern sciences alongside Islamic teachings is essential for moral, spiritual, and intellectual development. Creating a modern educational environment will help the youth utilize their talents positively. An economic system based on equality and Islamic principles should replace the current class system. Finally, the Muslim Ummah must set aside internal differences, identify its true problems, and unite to support oppressed Muslims globally.

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