

Interpretation of the Prophetic way of Preaching

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ABSTRACT

Calling to the path of Allah has never been an easy task. It was in fact direct opposition of the prominent personalities of that time. The holy Prophet ﷺ conducted preaching (*Daa'wah*) in such a way that it is not monotonous for the listeners. The Prophet ﷺ did not make them sit for long and hear lengthy speeches. Preaching (*Daa'wah*) in today's world is not as successful and effective mainly because it is not carried out the way as prescribed and practiced by the holy Prophet ﷺ.

It is pertinent to mention here that way of preaching adopted by Prophet Muhammad ﷺ was the same as it had been the method of all Prophets before Him ﷺ. However, it can truly be said that Prophet Muhammad ﷺ developed these qualities to the extreme heights.

In this article, prophetic approach of preaching was discussed in a way that may guide the preachers of modern times in efficient as well effective way. These virtues were discussed as different traits in the personality of a preacher.

Keywords: Preaching (*Daa'wah*), Traits of a preacher, Virtues, Prophetic Approach, Interpretation

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The holy Prophet ﷺ conducted Daa'wah in such a way that it is not monotonous for listeners. It was not repulsive for others despite the fact that the lot sitting in front of him used to be those people who would willingly sacrifice, even their lives for the Prophet ﷺ not to mention the investment of time for Daa'wah. But the Prophet (SAW) kept their basic needs in mind and did not make them sit for long and hear lengthy speeches. As stated in Sahih Bukhari by Abdullah Ibn Masood

((كَانَ النَّبِيُّ ﷺ يَتَحَوَّلُنَا بِالْمَوْعِظَةِ فِي الْأَيَّامِ، كَرَاهَةَ السَّامَةِ عَلَيْنَا))⁽¹⁾

The prophet ﷺ used to fix certain days for advice to us, so that the listeners are not bored

The Prophet ﷺ himself said

((يَسِّرُوا وَلَا تَعَسِّرُوا، وَبَشِّرُوا، وَلَا تُنْفِرُوا))⁽²⁾

Make things easy for others and do not make them harder; give them the good news and do not frustrate them.

Daa'wah in today's world is not as successful and effective mainly because it is not carried out the way as prescribed and practiced by the holy Prophet ﷺ long and incessant speeches, recurrent advices and asking someone to shun a bad habit instantly is something against the psyche of modern and must be avoided at all costs.

The prophet ﷺ used to take immense care during Daa'wah that no body's self-respect is hurt. Whenever he saw anyone doing some bad acts how would not address him directly but would rather generally say, "What ways people are going these days when they do such and such acts." It would be addressed to a particular person

among the listeners but he would avoid his insult in the public and wrong doer used to repent on his act. Such a generalized address would benefit those who had not committed a wrong act even those who intended to do the same.

The same was the method of all Prophets before Prophet Muhammad ﷺ who never insulted or intended to do so while addressing individuals or groups for Daa'wah. They would discuss a type of bad act in general public address to make all listeners realize that such bad acts displease Allah and must be avoided at all cost. As the Qur'an states:

﴿وَمَا لِي لَا أَعْبُدُ الَّذِي فَطَرَنِي وَإِلَيْهِ تُرْجَعُونَ﴾⁽³⁾

And why should I not worship Him (Allah Alone) who has created me and to whom you shall be returned.

An important principle of Prophet's Daa'wah:

An important principle observed by all prophets before Daa'wah was that they used to start Daa'wah from their family members and relative and then go outside. It is relatively easy to convince one's own family members and relatives that lead to a matter of trust for the people outside family. When the Ayah

﴿وَأْمُرْ أَهْلَكَ بِالصَّلَاةِ وَاصْطَبِرْ عَلَيْهَا﴾⁽⁴⁾

Bid your family to perform Salah, and adhere to it yourself

Imam Al Qurtabi to bring to light interpretation of this verse

وكان عليه السلام بعد نزول هذه الآية يذهب كل صباح إلى بيت

فاطمة وعلي رضوان الله عليهما فيقول " الصلاة." ⁽⁵⁾

After the revelation of this verse The Prophet ﷺ went daily visit to Ali and Fatima (R.A)' shome and loudly say, "Time for prayers

Similarly, many prophet were blamed for different things but they did not let patience go away and bore everything without any complains for example the 'the hood nation' were shown miracles by the prophet 'hood' (A.S) but they refused to obey their Prophet's advice by saying that these miracles are illogical and that they will never believe in anything that stood against their forefathers' beliefs. They held their prophet to be insane as he had spoken against their fathers and them insanity was inflicted upon him by natural forces. As the Qur'an has reflected their speech...:

﴿قَالَ الْمَلَأُ الَّذِينَ كَفَرُوا مِنْ قَوْمِهِ إِنَّا لَنَرُكَ فِي سَفَاهَةٍ وَإِنَّا لَنَعْتَابُكَ مِنْ

الْكٰذِبِينَ. قَالَ يَقَوْمِ لَيْسَ بِي سَفَاهَةٌ وَلَا كِبٰبٌ رَّسُولٌ مِّن رَّبِّ الْعٰلَمِينَ﴾⁽⁶⁾

The leaders of the Unbelievers among his people said: "Ah! we see thou art an imbecile!" and "We think thou art a liar!" He said: "O my people! I am no imbecile, but (I am) a messenger from the Lord and Cherisher of the worlds!

Hazrat Hood (A.S) did not call his nation crazy. Rather he bore everything with patience when the Qur'an reports him saying.

﴿فَقُولَا لَهُ قَوْلًا لَّيْسًا لَّعَلَّهُ يَتَذَكَّرُ أَوْ يَخْشَى﴾⁽⁷⁾

But speak to him mildly; perchance he may take warning or fear (Allah).

Such were the patience and best manners and moral with which Hazrat Moosa and Hazrat Haroon (A.S) were sent to paraoh. As stated by Qur'an...

The holy Qur'an is replete with such instance of the prophet can be quoted in history when a Prophet can be quoted in history when a prophet responded to the abusive remarks of their nation with abuses.

Importance of Daa'wah to the non-believers:

It is a common principle that a teacher is always superior to his students. A sense of inferiority complex is natural to a student as against a teacher who enjoys superiority complex. The same goes with Daa'wah also a Daa'ee is always superior in knowledge to the one's he advise and that is why they readily get influenced in morals as well as in manners whether socially or politically. The Muhammadan nation has been declared as the best nation because they will call to the true path of Allah and forbid other from doing the bad. The main reason for assigning this great task to the Muhammad nation is their superiority in knowledge over other nations. In the present age, Muhammadan Nation is suffering cruelty and ill treatment at the hands of other nations due to the fact that they have turned inferior in knowledge. The main duty was to receive the treasure of knowledge left by their prophets and propagate it in humanity as prescribed but they left the path of their prophets and they became needy of advice. Consequently, they suffer from inferiority complex, which is natural.

The remedy for this is that they should recognize their own status as 'Umat-e-Muhammadi' and make 'Daa'wah ilal-khair' the very part and parcel of their life and get ready to spread the true message in the entire humanity to bring humans from the darkness to light. As Rabi bin Amir's invitations reveals:

﴿اللَّهُ ابْتَعْتَنَا لِنُخْرِجَ مَنْ شَاءَ مِنْ عِبَادَةِ الْعِبَادِ إِلَى عِبَادَةِ اللَّهِ وَمَنْ ضَيَّقِ الدُّنْيَا
إِلَى سَعَتِهَا، وَمَنْ جَوَّرَ الْأَذْيَانَ إِلَى عَدْلِ الْإِسْلَامِ﴾⁽⁸⁾

Allah Aptosna to get out of wills from the worship of people to worship Allah, and to the minimum capacity constraints, and Gore religions to the justice of Islam

“When he went to see Rustam for Daa’wah, he was riding a mule with poor looks and dusty face, undone hair and his cloths were made up of different color patches. When he entered the court, it was well decorated with lavish carpets and pillows. He did not get impressed with the environment but rather impressed all with what he spoke. When Rustam asked the purpose of his visit, he spoke what all the followers of the Holy Prophet ﷺ will say “Allah has sent us to the world for a great cause; to get people free from the master hood of human and make them slaves of Allah; to get them out of this worldly hand to mouth life and let them enter the spacious and unending world of blessing i.e., paradise; and to free them from the chains or cruelty and save them.”⁽⁹⁾

What a great way of delivering the true message; without any fear in front of the king. Reason is clear that his impact of Daa’wah always makes a Daa’ee confident. Even today if someone understands these words, they can conquer the whole world with Daa’wah .The Qur’an says ;

﴿وَمَا كَانَ عَطَاءُ رَبِّكَ مَحْظُورًا﴾⁽¹⁰⁾

The bounties of thy Lord are not closed (to anyone).

For quite a while ,Adam’s children stuck to the true path but latest on their minds gave way many such beliefs which resulted in heathen practices

﴿كَانَ النَّاسُ أُمَّةً وَاحِدَةً﴾⁽¹¹⁾

Mankind was one single nation

This change abolished in their minds the difference between right and wrong which led to further confusion. In order to remove such confusion and to bring people back to the true path, Allah sent prophets, Holy Scriptures, and books to guide humankind.

﴿فَبَعَثَ اللَّهُ النَّبِيِّينَ مُبَشِّرِينَ وَمُنذِرِينَ وَأَنْزَلَ مَعَهُمُ الْكِتَابَ بِالْحَقِّ لِيُحْكُمَ بَيْنَ النَّاسِ فِي مَا اختلفُوا فِيهِ وَمَا اختلف فِيهِ إِلَّا الَّذِينَ أُوتُوهُ مِنْ بَعْدِ مَا جَاءَتْهُمْ الْبَيِّنَاتُ بَغْيًا بَيْنَهُمْ فَهَدَى اللَّهُ الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا لِمَا اختلفُوا فِيهِ مِنَ الْحَقِّ بِإِذْنِهِ وَاللَّهُ يَهْدِي مَنْ يَشَاءُ إِلَى صِرَاطٍ مُسْتَقِيمٍ﴾⁽¹²⁾

Allah sent Messengers with glad tidings and warnings; and with them He sent the Book in truth, to judge between people in matters wherein they differed; but the People of the Book, after the clear Signs came to them, did not differ among themselves, except through selfish contumacy. Allah by His Grace Guided the believers to the Truth, concerning that wherein they differed. For Allah guided whom He will to a path that is straight.

﴿هُوَ الَّذِي خَلَقَكُمْ مِنْكُمْ كَافِرًا وَمِنْكُمْ مُؤْمِنًا وَاللَّهُ بِمَا تَعْمَلُونَ بَصِيرٌ﴾⁽¹³⁾

It is He who has created you; and of you are some that are Unbelievers, and some that are Believers: and Allah sees well all that ye do.

﴿بَلْ أَكْثَرُهُمْ لَا يُؤْمِنُونَ﴾⁽¹⁴⁾

Nay, Most of them are faithless.

Allah has thus showed the true path to mankind through series of prophet in different ages until the chain stopped finally on

Prophet Muhammad on whom the Qur'an was revealed which is the last and comprehensive message of Allah

(15) (تَرَكْتُ فِيكُمْ أَمْرَيْنِ، لَنْ تَضِلُّوا مَا تَمَسَّكْتُمْ بِهِمَا كِتَابَ اللَّهِ وَسُنَّةَ نَبِيِّهِ ﷺ))

When Allah ordered the Prophet ﷺ to spread the message of truth among mankind, as revealed;

﴿يَا أَيُّهَا الرَّسُولُ بَلِّغْ مَا أُنزِلَ إِلَيْكَ مِنْ رَبِّكَ وَإِنْ لَمْ تَفْعَلْ فَمَا بَلَغْتَ

رِسَالَتَهُ وَاللَّهُ يَعْصِمُكَ مِنَ النَّاسِ إِنَّ اللَّهَ لَا يَهْدِي الْقَوْمَ الْكَافِرِينَ﴾ (16)

O Messenger! proclaim the (message) which hath been sent to thee from thy Lord. If thou didst not, thou wouldst not have fulfilled and proclaimed His mission. And Allah will defend thee from men (who mean mischief). For Allah guideth not those who reject Faith.

In another place, it is stated:

﴿فَلِذَلِكَ فَادْعُ وَاسْتَقِمْ كَمَا أُمِرْتَ وَلَا تَتَّبِعْ أَهْوَاءَهُمْ وَقُلْ آمَنْتُ

بِمَا أَنْزَلَ اللَّهُ مِنْ كِتَابٍ وَأُمِرْتُ لِأَعْدِلَ بَيْنَكُمْ اللَّهُ رَبُّنَا وَرَبُّكُمْ لَنَا

أَعْمَالُنَا وَلَكُمْ أَعْمَالُكُمْ لَا حِجَّةَ بَيْنَنَا وَبَيْنَكُمْ اللَّهُ يَجْمَعُ بَيْنَنَا وَإِلَيْهِ

الْمَصِيرُ﴾ (17)

Now then, for that (reason), call (them to the Faith), and stand steadfast as thou art not commanded, nor follow thou their vain desires; but say: "I believe in the Book which Allah has sent down; and I am commanded to judge justly between you. Allah is our Lord and your Lord: for us (is the responsibility for) our deeds, and for you for your deeds. There is no contention between us and you. Allah will bring us together, and to Him is (our) Final Goal.

In an Ayath it is stated;

﴿قَدْ كَرِهَ بِالْقُرْآنِ مَنْ يَخَافُ وَعَيْدٍ﴾ (18)

So admonish with the Qur'an such as fear My Warning!

And;

﴿فَذَرِّزِي مَا أَنْتَ بِنِعْمَتِ رَبِّكَ بِكَاهِنٍ وَلَا فَجْتُونٍ﴾⁽¹⁹⁾

Therefore proclaim thou the praises (of thy Lord): for by the Grace of thy Lord, thou art no (vulgar) soothsayer, nor art thou one possessed.

With these orders from Allah, the prophet declared his prophet-hood and started spreading Allah's message. Only few lucky ones among the non-believers embraced Islam and now a group of Muslim was also born side by side with that of the non-Muslim of Makkah. This message of truth was something new for them because neither in the remote past it existed nor their forefathers had told them about it therefore, they became antagonist or towards the prophet and started resisting the prophet at very form so that he is unable to put the people on his 'self caved' path. But the prophet ﷺ did not get affected by their resistance of kept going with his job of Daa'wah and with usual kind and affectionate way. As he was ordered by Allah;

﴿فَذَرِّبِي إِيَّاهُمْ أَنْتَ مَذَرِّبِي﴾⁽²⁰⁾

Therefore do thou give admonition, for thou art one to admonish.

And:

﴿أُدْعُ إِلَى سَبِيلِ رَبِّكَ بِالْحُكْمِ وَالْمَوْعِظَةِ الْحَسَنَةِ وَجَادِلْهُمْ بِالَّتِي هِيَ أَحْسَنُ إِنَّ رَبَّكَ هُوَ أَعْلَمُ بِمَنْ ضَلَّ عَنْ سَبِيلِهِ وَهُوَ أَعْلَمُ بِالْمُهْتَدِينَ﴾⁽²¹⁾

Invite (all) to the Way of thy Lord with wisdom and beautiful preaching; and argue with them in ways that are best and most gracious: for thy Lord knoweth best, who have strayed from His Path, and who receive guidance.

There was a time when the Arabs came to know what Islam is, and they started effort to resist it, the prophet ﷺ migrated to Madinah with his staunch followers and after gathering some those who resisted the spread of the true message. This was done because the prophet wanted to save the coming generations from being misled by the non-believers. In this regards the prophet received clear-cut orders of Jihad as stated in the Holy Qur'an:

﴿وَيُرِيدُ اللَّهُ أَنْ يُحِقَّ الْحَقَّ بِكَلِمَاتِهِ وَيَقْطَعَ دَابِرَ الْكَافِرِينَ﴾⁽²²⁾

But Allah willed to justify the Truth according to His words and to cut off the roots of the Unbelievers;-

In other place it is revealed;

﴿وَقَاتِلُوهُمْ حَتَّى لَا تَكُونَ فِتْنَةٌ وَيَكُونَ الدِّينُ كُلَّهُ لِلَّهِ فَإِنِ انْتَهَوْا﴾

﴿فَإِنَّ اللَّهَ بِمَا يَعْمَلُونَ بَصِيرٌ﴾⁽²³⁾

And fight them on until there is no more tumult or oppression, and there prevail justice and faith in Allah altogether and everywhere; but if they cease, verily Allah doth see all that they do.

Now till the Day of Judgment, the method of Daa'wah to the non-believers is firstly through soft words and love. If despite love and affection they do not accept Islam, another way is Jihad. It is the ultimate way of Daa'wah if all other ways fail in the face of stubborn resistance of non-believers.

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