

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

## Explanation of the Three Fundamental Principles

### Class Notes – Lesson 36

الأصل الثالث: مَعْرِفَةُ نَبِيِّكُمْ مُحَمَّدٍ ﷺ وَهُوَ مُحَمَّدُ بْنُ عَبْدِ اللَّهِ بْنِ عَبْدِ الْمُطَّلِبِ بْنِ هَاشِمٍ، وَهَاشِمٌ مِنْ قُرَيْشٍ، وَقُرَيْشٌ مِنَ الْعَرَبِ، وَالْعَرَبُ مِنْ ذُرِّيَةِ إِسْمَاعِيلَ بْنِ إِبْرَاهِيمَ الْحَلِيلِ عَلَيْهِ وَعَلَى نَبِينَا أَفْضَلُ الصَّلَاةِ وَالسَّلَامِ، وَلَهُ مِنَ الْعُمُرِ ثَلَاثٌ وَسِتُّونَ سَنَةً، مِنْهَا أَرْبَعُونَ قَبْلَ النَّبُوءَةِ، وَثَلَاثٌ وَعِشْرُونَ فِي النَّبُوءَةِ. نُبِيُّ ب (أَقْرَأَ)، وَأُرْسِلَ ب (الْمُدَّثِّرِ)، وَبَلَدُهُ مَكَّةُ.

**THE THIRD PRINCIPLE:** Knowledge of your Prophet Muhammad ﷺ and he was: Muhammad ibn 'Abdullaah ibn 'Abdul-Muttalib ibn Haashim; and Haashim was from the tribe of Quraysh, Quraysh were from the Arabs, and the Arabs are descendants of Isma'eel, the son of Ibraheem - the chosen beloved {khaleel} – may the most excellent blessings and peace be upon him and upon our Prophet.

*He lived for sixty-three years: forty years before prophethood, and twenty-three years as a prophet and a messenger.*

*He was sent as a prophet with 'iqra' [i.e. the beginning of Soorah al-'Alaq], and as a messenger with [Soorah] Muddaththir, and his land was Makkah.*

### Knowledge of the Prophet ﷺ

- The three principles which each Muslim must know and be aware of are knowledge of Allah, knowledge of Islam, and knowledge of their Prophet Muhammad ﷺ. We have discussed the first and second principles.
- When the Prophet ﷺ was the intermediary between Allah and His creations in conveying His *deen*, it became obligatory upon every Muslim to know him. Knowledge of him is through studying the relevant evidences from the Quran and Sunnah which deal with this matter, in particular, the books of *seerah* (biography) which are dedicated to this subject matter.

### His Name and Lineage

- His name was Muhammad ﷺ. He had other names, but this was his most prominent name and the one which Allah mentioned four times in the Quran. Allah says:

﴿وَمَا مُحَمَّدٌ إِلَّا رَسُولٌ قَدْ خَلَتْ مِنْ قَبْلِهِ الرُّسُلُ﴾

**Muhammad is not but a messenger. [Other] messengers have passed on before him.** [aal-Imraan;

- Allah also mentioned him in the Quran with the name Ahmad, when The Prophet Eisa gave glad tidings of his coming after him:

﴿وَإِذْ قَالَ عِيسَى ابْنُ مَرْيَمَ يَا بَنِي إِسْرَائِيلَ إِنِّي رَسُولُ اللَّهِ إِلَيْكُمْ مُصَدِّقًا لِمَا بَيْنَ يَدَيَّ مِنَ التَّوْرَةِ وَمُبَشِّرًا بِرَسُولٍ يَأْتِي مِنْ بَعْدِي اسْمُهُ أَحْمَدُ﴾

**And [mention] when Jesus, the son of Mary, said: "O children of Israel, indeed I am the messenger of Allah to you confirming what came before me of the Torah and bringing good tidings of a messenger to come after me, whose name is Ahmad. [al-Saff: 6]**

- His two names Muhammad and Ahmad both indicate that he is worthy of praise and has many characteristics which make him praiseworthy. His other names include (but not limited to):
  - *Nabiyyul Rahmah* (The Prophet of Mercy).
  - *Nabuyyul Malhamah* (The Prophet of Battle) – meaning *jihad* in the path of Allah.
  - *al-Haashir* (The Gatherer) and *al-'Aaqib* (The Last Prophet) - meaning the people will be resurrected after him because he is the seal of the Prophets.
- As for his lineage, he was the noblest of people in lineage since he was Haashimee, of the Quraysh, and an Arab. He was: Muhammad the son of (ibn) 'Abdullah ibn 'Abdul-Muttalib (Shayba) ibn Haashim ibn 'Abd Manaaf ibn Qussay ibn Kilaab.
- He was from the tribe of Quraysh (descending from his great grandfather Haashim) which is the noblest of the Arab tribes and which descends from the Prophet Isma'eel.
- The scholars divide the Arabs into two main categories:
  - *'Aariba* (Original Arabs) – Originally from *al-Yaman* from the tribe of *Qahtaan*.
  - *Musta'riba* (Arabised Arabs) – From the descendants of Ismail from the tribe of *'Adnaan*.
- The *musta'riba* were named as such because they learnt the Arabic language from the original Arabs. When *Hajaar* uncovered the well of Zamzam the tribe of *Jurhum* (of the original Arabs) reached an agreement with her that they would stay in that area and benefit from the availability of Zamzam water. At that time the Prophet Isma'eel was still an infant, so he grew up and was raised amongst the *Jurhum* tribe. He learnt the Arabic language from them and married from them. His descendants also grew up in this same environment.
- The Prophet Ibraheem had his son the Prophet Isma'eel who was the grandfather of the *Adanaaniyah* Arabs, and he had the Prophet Ishaq who was the grandfather of *Banu Isra'eel*. All the Prophets are from the descendants of Ishaq except our beloved Messenger ﷺ, who is from the descendants of Isma'eel.

### **His Life Before Being Sent as a Prophet**

- He was born in the Year of the Elephant, the year in which *Abraha* the king of *al-Yaman* attempted to destroy the Ka'bah with his great army, headed by a colossal elephant. This is the story in which Allah revealed *Surat al-Feel* reminding Quraysh of His favors upon them, whereby He protected His Sacred House and destroyed *Abraha* and his army.
- Certain signs occurred at the time of his birth. A light appeared with him which illuminated the palaces of *al-Shaam*. On the night he was born, the idols shook, as did the palace of *Kisraa* (king

of Persia) whereby its balconies collapsed. The *shayaateen* and *jinn* were disturbed by a great noise. All of these were signs of his imminent Prophethood.

- He was born in Makkah, the exact location that he was born is not known, nor is the exact date he was born known. He was nursed by Haleema al-Sa'diya, as was the tradition of the Arabs at the time. His father Abdullah died when the Prophet ﷺ was still in his mother's womb, His mother died soon after his death, and so Umm Ayman al-Habashiyya nursed him, while he was under the care of his grandfather Abdul Muttalib. When his grandfather died, he was under the care of his uncle Abu Talib.
- He lived for forty years before he was sent as a Prophet. He was known during this period for his trustworthiness, truthfulness and generosity. He shunned the worship of idols, just as he shunned the consumption of intoxicants, both which were common practice in this period of pre-Islamic ignorance. He would visit the cave of Hira' and worship Allah for days on end. He worshipped Him on the monotheistic way of Ibraheem.

### His Life as a Prophet

- His life as a Prophet was for a period of twenty-three years commencing from when the revelation was first given to him at the age of forty, until his death, just as one of his poets said:

وَأَتَتْ عَلَيْهِ أَرْبَعُونَ فَأَشْرَقَتْ شَمْسُ النُّبُوءَةِ مِنْهُ فِي رَمَضَانَ

***So forty years came upon him and then the sunlight of prophethood shone forth from him in the month of Ramadan.***

- The first revelation was sent to him while he was in the cave of Hira' . Jibreel came to him and said: "Recite", to which he replied: "I am not lettered". Jibreel then took hold of him and pressed him, and repeated: "Recite". He repeated: "I am not lettered". He then took hold of him again and pressed him and said:

﴿ اقْرَأْ بِاسْمِ رَبِّكَ الَّذِي خَلَقَ . خَلَقَ الْإِنْسَانَ مِنْ عَلَقٍ . اقْرَأْ وَرَبُّكَ الْأَكْرَمُ . الَّذِي عَلَّمَ بِالْقَلَمِ . عَلَّمَ الْإِنْسَانَ مَا لَمْ يَعْلَمْ ﴾

***Recite in the name of your Lord who created. Created man from a clinging substance. Recite, and your Lord is the Most Generous. Who taught by the pen. Taught man which he did not know.*** [al-'Alaq: 1-5]

- This is why the Sheikh mentions that this is when he became a Prophet (nabiyy) - i.e. when the beginning of Soorat al-'Alaq was revealed to him.
- The Prophet ﷺ then returned to his wife Khadija, who wrapped him, calmed him down and reassured him saying: "I swear by Allah that He shall never humiliate you. By Allah, you join ties of relationship, you speak the truth, you bear people's burden, you help the destitute, you entertain guests, and you help against the troubles which affect people".
- She then took him to her uncle Waraqa ibn Nawfal who had embraced Christianity (before Islam) and read the previous scriptures out of worship to Allah. When the Prophet ﷺ told him of what he had seen, Waraqa ibn Nawfal responded by saying: "This is the *namus* (i.e. Jibreel) which was sent to Musa".
- He then became a Messenger (*rasool*) when Allah revealed to him:

﴿ يَا أَيُّهَا الْمُدَّثِّرُ . قُمْ فَأَنْذِرْ . وَرَبِّكَ فَكَبِّرْ . وَثِيَابَكَ فَطَهِّرْ . وَالرُّجْزَ فَاهْجُرْ . وَلَا تَمْنُن تَسْتَكْبِرُ . وَلِرَبِّكَ

فَاصْبِرْ ﴿

***O you wrapped in garments! Arise and warn. And your Lord glorify. And your clothing purify. And the idols shun. And do not confer favour to acquire more. But for your Lord be patient.*** [al-

Muddaththir: 1-7]

- So, he arose and warned and established what Allah had commanded him to do.
- Regarding the difference between a Messenger (*Rasool*) and a Prophet (*Nabiyy*) - a Prophet is the one who had a revealed way sent to him by revelation and was not commanded to propagate it, whereas a Messenger is the one who had a Revealed way sent down to him by Allah and was ordered to propagate and act upon it. So, every Messenger was a Prophet, but not every Prophet was a Messenger.
- He was sent to call to the *tawheed* of Allah and to His Revealed Law, which comprised doing whatever He ordered and avoiding whatever He forbade.
- He was sent as a mercy to all the creation to bring them out of the oppressive darkness of *shirk*, *kufir* and ignorance, and to bring them to the light of knowledge, true Iman, and *tawheed* so that they should thereby gain the forgiveness and pleasure of Allah, and thus be saved from His punishment and Anger.
- After the first revelation was sent to Him, he remained in Makkah for thirteen years, calling people to *tawheed* and to the abandonment of idol worshipping. He received great opposition from the leaders of Quraysh, to the extent that he and his followers at the time were harmed physically and financially.
- Before he migrated to Madinah by three years, the well-known story of the Night Journey (*al-Israa' wal-Mi'raaj*) took place. He ascended to the heavens, whereby the *salaah* was obligated. He prayed in Makkah for three years before Quraysh plotted to kill him.
- Allah then granted him permission to migrate to al-Madinah. He remained in Madinah for ten years, so the total years as a Prophet was twenty-three years – thirteen in Makkah and ten in Madinah. It was here that he died in the month of *Rabee'ul-Awwal* in the eleventh year after the *Hijrah*.
- From the signs of Allah is the great blessing which existed during this very short period of time. Much knowledge was revealed, the battles which took place, the victories and subsequent spread of Islam, the general *barakah* in time – all of these are clear signs that he was the Prophet of Allah. Allah protected him, supported him and granted him victory, to the extent that his message reached the far reaches of the east and west, and all thanks belongs to Allah!