



## Prophet Muhammad SAW As An Example For All Time

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### Abstrak

Nabi Muhammad SAW merupakan figur sentral yang diutus tidak hanya sebagai pembawa risalah keagamaan, tetapi juga sebagai Uswah Hasanah (suri teladan yang baik) yang bersifat universal dan melampaui sekat zaman. Artikel ini bertujuan untuk mengeksplorasi dimensi keteladanan Nabi Muhammad SAW melalui tinjauan sejarah kenabian serta misi utama beliau dalam melakukan transformasi sosial-moral. Dengan menggunakan metode kualitatif deskriptif melalui studi pustaka, kajian ini menelaah bagaimana empat sifat wajib rasul, Siddiq, Amanah, Tabligh, dan Fatanah, dapat diintegrasikan sebagai kompas etika di era modern. Hasil kajian menunjukkan bahwa misi utama Nabi dalam menegakkan Tauhid dan menyempurnakan akhlak memiliki relevansi kuat dalam menjawab tantangan kontemporer, seperti krisis integritas, penyebaran disinformasi digital, dan dekadensi moral. Artikel ini menyimpulkan bahwa keteladanan Nabi Muhammad SAW tetap menjadi jangkar moral yang esensial (manusiawi dan ilahiyah) yang mampu menuntun umat manusia menuju tatanan masyarakat yang adil, inklusif, dan beradab di tengah kompleksitas dunia global saat ini.

**Kata kunci:** Nabi Muhammad SAW, Uswah Hasanah, Sejarah Kenabian, Etika Digital, Akhlak Mulia.

### Abstract

*Prophet Muhammad SAW is a central figure sent not only as a bearer of religious messages but also as Uswah Hasanah (the best role model) that is universal and transcends time. This article aims to explore the dimensions of the Prophet Muhammad's exemplarity through a review of prophetic history and his main mission in social-moral transformation. Using a descriptive qualitative method through literature study, this research examines how the four mandatory prophetic traits, Siddiq, Amanah, Tabligh, and Fatanah, can be integrated as an ethical compass in the modern era. The results show that the Prophet's main mission in upholding Tawhid and perfecting morals has*

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*strong relevance in addressing contemporary challenges, such as the integrity crisis, digital disinformation, and moral decadence. This article concludes that the exemplarity of Prophet Muhammad SAW remains an essential moral anchor (both humane and divine) capable of guiding humanity toward a just, inclusive, and civilized society amidst the complexities of today's global world.*

**Keywords:** Prophet Muhammad SAW, Uswah Hasanah, Prophetic History, Digital Ethics, Noble Character.

## A. Introduction

Exemplary conduct constitutes a highly effective method of Islamic education implemented by educators in the learning process. Through exemplary modeling, education significantly influences individual habits, behavior, and attitudes. In the Qur'an, the concept of example is expressed through the term *uswah*, often qualified by *hasanah* (good), forming the phrase *uswatun hasanah*, meaning "a good example." The term appears three times in reference to exemplary figures such as the Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him), the Prophet Ibrahim, and those who firmly believe in Allah. Fundamentally, human beings require role models who guide them toward the right path and provide a living illustration of how to implement divine law in daily life. For this reason, Allah sent His messengers to clarify His commandments through practical example. The Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him), as the final Prophet, holds a highly honored position in Islam, and his noble character makes him worthy of emulation in every era.

The Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) represents a universal model whose teachings remain relevant across time, not only for Muslims but also as an inspiration for modern humanity. His exemplary character extends beyond spiritual devotion and ritual worship to encompass business ethics, social relations, and political leadership. His life embodied values such as



honesty, compassion, justice, and wise leadership, establishing him as a timeless role model. This paper aims to examine the moral virtues and leadership of the Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) as enduring sources of inspiration for addressing the diverse challenges of contemporary life.

In addition, the Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) demonstrated an extraordinary balance between firmness in principle and gentleness in interaction. His approach to conflict resolution, diplomacy, and community building illustrates a leadership model grounded in justice, consultation (*shūrā*), and respect for human dignity. These qualities are particularly relevant in contemporary societies marked by pluralism and rapid social change. His example shows that ethical leadership is not merely about authority, but about moral responsibility, accountability, and service to the broader community.

Moreover, the Prophet's life offers a comprehensive ethical framework that integrates personal piety with social engagement. His teachings emphasize integrity in economic transactions, compassion toward the vulnerable, and fairness in governance, principles that resonate strongly within modern discussions of ethical business practices, social justice, and responsible leadership. By revisiting and contextualizing his example, contemporary society can draw valuable insights for cultivating moral resilience and fostering harmonious coexistence in an increasingly complex global environment.

## **B. Research Method**

This study employs a qualitative research method using a *library research* approach. The research is based on the systematic analysis of



relevant literature related to the topic under discussion. The data are derived from books, academic articles, scholarly journals, and other authoritative sources that are thematically aligned with the subject of this study.

### **C. Results and Discussion**

#### **An Overview of the Prophetic History and His Principal Mission**

The Eternal Role Model, the Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him), is the final Prophet and Messenger sent by Allah Almighty. His prophethood establishes him as the perfect example (Uswah Hasanah) for all humanity until the end of time. Allah states in the Qur'an: "Indeed, in the Messenger of Allah you have an excellent example..." (Qur'an 33:21).

A Brief Overview of His Prophetic History Birth and Early Life: The Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) was born in Mecca in 571 CE, known as the Year of the Elephant. He was born an orphan, as his father passed away before his birth, and he later lost his mother at a young age. He was raised under the care of his grandfather, Abdul Muttalib, and subsequently his uncle, Abu Talib. From an early age, he was widely recognized for his honesty and trustworthiness, earning the title Al-Amin (the Trustworthy). (Shafiyurrahman al-Mubarakfuri, *Ar-Rahiq Al-Makhtum*, 1996). At the age of forty, while engaging in tahannuth (spiritual retreat and contemplation) in the Cave of Hira, the Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) received his first revelation from Allah through the Angel Gabriel, namely Surah Al-'Alaq (96:1–5). This marked the moment of his appointment as a Messenger.

The Meccan Period, during the early phase of his mission in Mecca, he conveyed the message of Islam privately before proclaiming it openly. His preaching was met with strong opposition, persecution, and social boycott by



the Quraysh tribe. The Migration to Medina, after thirteen years of preaching in Mecca, he was commanded to migrate (Hijrah) to Medina (then known as Yathrib) in 622 CE. In Medina, he established the first Islamic polity and formulated the Constitution of Medina, which guaranteed rights and promoted interreligious tolerance among diverse communities. He led the community with justice, wisdom, and compassion in matters of governance, social relations, economic affairs, and even during times of conflict. (M. Quraish Shihab, 2011).

The foremost mission of the Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) was to convey the message of Tawhid, the absolute oneness of Allah, and to call all humankind to worship Allah alone, abandoning every form of polytheism and idolatry. This monotheistic proclamation constituted the theological foundation of his prophetic mission and the core of Islamic belief. In addition, he was sent to perfect noble character. As he stated in a well-known hadith, "Indeed, I was sent only to perfect noble moral character." His conduct embodied the ethical teachings of the Qur'an, reflecting integrity, compassion, humility, justice, and patience in both personal and public life.

Furthermore, his mission was to serve as a mercy to all creation (rahmatan lil 'alamin). The message he brought promoted peace, justice, compassion, and universal benevolence, not only for Muslims, but for all humanity and even for the broader natural world, including animals and the environment. Another central dimension of his mission was the establishment of justice and human equality. The Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) abolished distinctions based on caste, tribe, lineage, and race, affirming that all human beings are equal in dignity. He emphasized that true nobility is determined solely by one's piety and consciousness of Allah, not by social



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status or ethnic background. This principle laid the foundation for a moral and social order grounded in justice, equality, and universal human brotherhood.

### **The Four Principal Attributes of the Prophet**

These four attributes are fundamental characteristics that must be possessed by every Prophet and Messenger, and they establish them as perfect role models. Shiddiq (Truthful/Honest) means that he always spoke and acted truthfully, both in word and in deed. Falsehood was impossible in his character. Even before being appointed as a Messenger, the people of Mecca had given him the title Al-Amin (the Trustworthy) because of his absolute honesty in trade and social interactions.

Amanah (Trustworthy) means that he consistently fulfilled the duties and responsibilities entrusted to him, including conveying the message of Allah, and he safeguarded the trusts of others. During the Hijrah, he appointed Ali ibn Abi Talib to return the entrusted properties belonging to the Quraysh who opposed him, demonstrating the paramount importance of upholding trust. Tabligh (Conveying) means that he delivered all revelations and commands from Allah to his community without concealing or diminishing any part of them, even when the message endangered his personal safety. Not a single verse of the Qur'an or teaching of Islam was hidden, and he conveyed the message in its entirety, proving that Islam is a perfect and complete religion.

Fathanah (Intelligent/Wise) means that he possessed exceptional intelligence and wisdom, which were essential for leading the community, debating opponents, and resolving complex issues. An example of this was his solution in placing the Black Stone after the renovation of the Ka'bah, where he resolved the dispute among the tribes by placing it on a cloth and



asking each tribal leader to hold its edge, so that all felt honored and bloodshed was prevented.

### **The Relevance of the Prophet's Attributes in Every Era, Including the Digital Age**

Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) was sent as Uswah Hasanah (the best example), whose teachings transcend the boundaries of time and place. His attributes, particularly the four principal qualities (Siddiq, Amanah, Tabligh, and Fathanah), are timeless and serve as essential moral anchors in addressing the complexities of the modern world and the digital era.

The Relevance of the Prophet's Attributes in the Modern Era. Siddiq (Truthfulness), Professional Integrity: It forms the foundation for ethical business practices, honest financial reporting, and valid scientific research. Combating Hoaxes and Fake News: It underscores the importance of verification (tabayyun) and honesty in sharing information online.

Amanah (Trustworthiness), Responsibility: It entails safeguarding corporate secrets, managing public funds responsibly, and honoring promises and work contracts. Data and Privacy Ethics: It requires protecting personal data, using technology ethically, and refraining from abusing digital access.

Tabligh (Conveying), Effective Communication: It involves delivering information clearly, transparently, and responsibly, whether in education or diplomacy. Digital Literacy and Da'wah: It encourages the use of digital platforms (such as social media and video) to disseminate beneficial and truthful teachings rather than hate speech.



Fathanah (Intelligence/Wisdom), Strategic Leadership: It reflects the ability to make wise decisions amid crises, innovation, and long-term planning.

Other Relevant Exemplary Traits. Beyond the four principal attributes, other aspects of the Prophet's personality remain highly relevant in the twenty-first century. Tolerance and Pluralism (the Constitution of Medina): In the era of globalization, the model of the Constitution of Medina, which guaranteed rights and religious freedom for all communities, serves as a blueprint for peaceful and inclusive multicultural societies. Compassion (Rahmatan lil 'Alamin): It encourages the use of technology not to harm or engage in cyberbullying, but to spread kindness, empathy, and assistance to those in need. Justice and Social Equality: It promotes efforts to combat economic inequality, including the digital divide, ensuring that the benefits of technology are accessible to all segments of society and preventing exploitation.

#### **D. Conclusion**

Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) is the final Prophet sent by Allah and serves as a role model for all humanity. He was born in Mecca in 571 CE as an orphan and was later raised by his grandfather and uncle. At the age of forty, he received the first revelation and was appointed as a Messenger. After thirteen years of preaching in Mecca, he migrated to Medina in 622 CE and established the first Islamic state. His principal mission was to convey the message of *Tawhid* (monotheism), to perfect moral character, to bring mercy to all creation, and to uphold justice and equality without distinction of caste or tribe. His teachings emphasize compassion and goodness not only for Muslims but for all living beings.



The four fundamental attributes that must be possessed by every Prophet and Messenger are *Siddiq* (Truthful/Honest), *Amanah* (Trustworthy), *Tabligh* (Conveying), and *Fathanah* (Intelligent/Wise). *Siddiq* reflects his profound honesty, as demonstrated when the people of Mecca gave him the title *Al-Amin*. *Amanah* signifies that he consistently fulfilled his responsibilities and never betrayed the trust of others, such as when he returned the property entrusted to him. *Tabligh* demonstrates his unwavering commitment to conveying Allah's revelation in its entirety without any omission. *Fathanah* represents his intelligence and wisdom in leadership and problem-solving, exemplified by his wise resolution of the dispute over the placement of the Black Stone, which prevented conflict.

Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) is the best example whose attributes remain relevant for all times, including the digital era. His four principal qualities serve as essential moral foundations in the modern world. Honesty is crucial in business and information to combat false news. Trustworthiness encompasses responsibility in safeguarding personal data. The conveyance of information must be clear and beneficial, while intelligence supports wise and strategic leadership. Furthermore, the values of tolerance, compassion, and justice are equally significant in the age of globalization and technology, encouraging societies to cultivate peaceful and inclusive environments.



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