

WHO IS A *MUTTAQI* (GOD-FEARING PERSON)

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From the word of the Almighty it is quite clear that a *muttaqi* (righteous person) is one who conducts himself with forbearance and meekness and whose speech is not tainted with pride or arrogance. Instead, his manner of speaking is like that of a subordinate to his superior.

We should always try to behave in such a way that will bring prosperity and success to us. Remember, Allah, Most High, is not the lease-holder of anyone. On the contrary, He is interested in nothing but *taqwa* (righteousness). Neither Prophet Abraham (*as*) nor Prophet Muhammad (*sas*) attained his lofty station as an inheritance from his forebears. Although we believe that the Holy Prophet's father, Majid Abdullah, was not a polytheist, yet he did not confer prophethood on his son, the Holy Prophet Muhammad (*sas*). As a matter of fact, prophethood came purely as a grace from Allah, Most High. His purity and sincerity which were inborn qualities of his were inspired by Divine favour.

On account of his truthfulness and righteousness, Prophet Abraham (*as*), the father of prophets, was not reluctant to sacrifice his son. He, himself, was thrown into a fire. Take a look also at the genuine faithfulness of our Holy Prophet (*sas*). He had to confront every kind of hostile plot against him. Trials and calamities dogged his every footstep, yet he paid no heed to them. It is for these qualities of truth and sincerity that Allah, Most High, bestowed untold bounties and favours on him and Himself commanded in the Holy Qur'an: "*Surely Allah and His angels bless the Prophet. O you who believe, call for blessings on him and salute him with a (becoming) salutation*" (33:56).

It is evident from this verse that so noble were the deeds of the Holy Prophet (*sas*) that Allah, Most High, did not use any specific words to praise him or to describe his praiseworthy qualities. Of course, words could have been found to do so but the Almighty did not choose to use any restrictive words to delineate his character. That was so because praise of his righteous deeds was beyond the confines of verbal restriction. No other verse like this was used to portray the personality of any other prophet. Such purity and faithfulness suffused his soul and so beloved were his deeds in the sight of the Almighty that He gave this command for all times so that future generations would send blessings (*darood*) to the Holy Prophet (*sas*) as a form of thanksgiving.

So stupendous was his courage and so genuine his honesty that even if we search the heavens and the earth we cannot find one like him. As a form of comparison we can examine the Age of the Messiah, Prophet Jesus (*as*), and observe how much of an effect his bravery or his spiritual purity and faithfulness had on his disciples.

Everyone can readily understand how difficult it is to change the attitude and conduct of an ill-behaved person. We all know that it is well nigh impossible to alter firmly-

entrenched habits of thought and behaviour. Nevertheless, in the face of all that, our Holy Prophet (*sas*) was able to transform the lives of hundreds of thousands of people and make them upright and God-fearing citizens – people who were formerly worse than beasts and so depraved that many, just like animals, could not differentiate between their mothers and daughters in their sexual perversion; further, they embezzled the wealth of orphans and stole the property of the dead; many were worshippers of the stars and other elements of nature whilst others were diehard atheists. What was the peninsula of Arabia like at that time? It contained a conglomeration of diverse religions. However, with the pure revelation of the Holy Qur'an, the Holy Prophet (*sas*) was able to eradicate all false tenets and to elevate a barbarous nation to the dazzling heights of material and spiritual resplendence.

(*Malfuzat*, Vol. 1, pp. 37-38.)