

INTRODUCTION

What distinguishes a human being is his character and behavior. People are more likely to listen to a kind honest person than to a person who is harsh or to someone whom they cannot trust or respect. The reason that prophets were loved and followed was because of their noble character that commanded both respect and trust. Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) summarized his mission when he said:

"I have been sent to implement the most noble of character."

Narrated by Hakim, Baihaqi and Malik

The Qur'an emphasizes Prophet Muhammad's noble character:

﴿وَإِنَّكَ لَعَلَىٰ خُلُقٍ عَظِيمٍ﴾ [الفلم: ٤]

"And you are on an exalted standard of character" (Al-Qalam 68 : 4)

God stressed that it was the Prophet's kind caring nature that made his companions love him. Had he been either harsh or severe in his temperament, they would have left him.

﴿فَبِمَا رَحْمَةٍ مِّنَ اللَّهِ لِنْتَ لَهُمْ ۚ وَلَوْ كُنْتَ فَظًّا غَلِيظَ الْقَلْبِ لَانفَضُّوا مِنْ حَوْلِكَ﴾

[آل عمران: ١٥٩]

"It is part of the mercy of Allah (God) that you deal gently with them. Were you severe or harsh-hearted, they would have broken away from about you" (Al-Imran 3:159)

In this book, we shall discuss many attributes and types of characters. Some are good and noble and we should try to develop and live our lives by their standards, while others are evil with harmful traits, and these we must do our best to avoid. The Qur'an, God's last Divine Revelation and the Sunnah (sayings and behaviors of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH)) will

be our guide in this discussion. Both the Qur'an and the Sunnah were divinely inspired, and as such have no errors. These two great sources of knowledge should be our guide and criterion by which we live our life as righteous individuals aware of our accountability to God.

EIMAN (BELIEF)

Definition:

When the Angel of Revelation Jibreel (Gabriel) asked Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) about belief, Muhammad (PBUH) defined it as,

“Belief is to believe in Allah, His Angels, His Books, His Messengers, and the Last Day and to believe in Qadar (Fate), its good and its bad both from Allah.”

Narrated by Muslim

The Qur'an stresses that belief is not empty words, but must be confirmed with our behavior and by our character. The Qur'an refers to the believers as *“Those who believe and do good.”*

What Does Belief in God Entail?

Belief in Allah means that we believe that there is no god except the One God and it is He Who created us and Who cares for all His servants; He is our Creator and our Lord; and no one but God deserves to be worshipped or served. God has all the attributes of perfection as He described Himself and as His Messenger (PBUH) described Him.

Belief in God's Angels:

We cannot see Angels, they are creatures that are different from human beings, they are pure and sublime who obey God and serve Him performing various functions including the following:

- Delivering God's message to His Prophets.
- Recording our actions and sayings.
- They pray for seeking forgiveness on the behalf of those who believe.