

Blessed Names and Characteristics of Prophet & Muhammad

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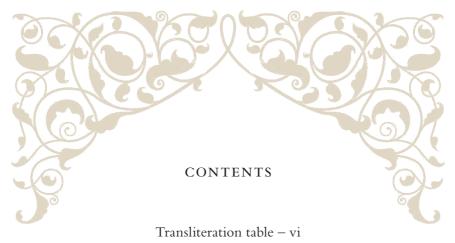
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INTRODUCTION

Allah and His angels bless the Prophet. Believers, invoke blessings and peace on him.

(al-Aḥzāb 33: 56)

Allah lavishes His blessings on you (the Prophet Muḥammad) and His angels invoke blessings on you that He may lead you out of darkness into light. (al-Aḥzāb 33:43)

The above quoted Qur'ānic verses underscore the importance of reciting the Prophet Muḥammad's name and invoking blessings on him. This represents the highest felicity imaginable that Allah and His angels send blessings on him. Authentic Aḥādīth promise great rewards for reciting <u>salawāt</u> (invoking blessings and peace on the Prophet Muḥammad). Equally noteworthy is the point that <u>salawāt</u> forms part of the obligatory <u>salāh</u> (prayer) offered five times a day by every Muslim.

The Qur'ān contains the following names, both personal and attributive, of the Prophet Muḥammad (peace be upon him):

- ✤ Muḥammad (Āl ʿImrān 3: 144)
- ✤ Aḥmad (*al-Ṣaff* 61: 6)
- ✤ 'Abd Allāh (*al-Jinn* 72: 19)
- ✤ Al-Shāhid (al-Aḥzāb 33: 45)
- ✤ Al-Mubashshir (al-Aḥzāb 33: 35)
- ✤ Al-Ra'ūf (*al-Tawbah* 9: 128)
- ✤ Al-Muzzammil (al-Muzzammil 73: 1)
- ✤ Al-Hādī (al-Raʿd 13:7)
- ✤ Al-Ḥaqq (Yūnus 10: 8)
- ✤ Al-Dāʿī ilā Allāh (al-Aḥzāb 33: 46)
- ✤ Al-Rasūl (*al-Nisā*' 4: 144)
- ✤ Al-Bashīr (al-Baqarah 2: 119)
- Al-Mudhakkir (al-Ghāshiyah 88: 21)
- ✤ Al-Raḥīm (al-Tawbah 9: 128)
- Al-Muddaththir (al-Muddaththir 74: 1)
- ✤ Yā Sīn (Yā Sīn 36: 1)
- ✤ Ṭā Hā (*Ṭā Hā* 20: 1)
- Sirāj Al-Munīr (al-Aḥzāb 33: 46)
- ✤ Khātim Al-Nabiyyīn (al-Aḥzāb 33: 40)
- ✤ Al-Burhān (*al-Nisā*' 4: 174)



- ✤ Raḥmat lil 'Ālamīn (al-Anbiyā' 21: 107)
- ✤ Al-Nūr (*al-Mā'idah* 5: 15)
- ✤ Al-Shahīd (al-Baqarah 2: 143)
- ✤ Al-Nabī (*al-Anfāl* 8:64)
- ✤ Al-ʿAbd (*al-Isrā*' 17: 1)

In view of the above, the Prophet's Companions (*Ṣaḥābah*) regarded it as their great privilege to record, elucidate, and transmit the Aḥādīth about the Prophet's names and attributes.

In the light of their study of the Qur'ān and Hadīth, Muslim scholars have enumerated hundreds of names and attributes of the Prophet which feature in Jalāl al-Dīn al-Suyūțī's *Al-Bahjah Al-Bahiyyah fī Al-Asmā' Al-Nabwiyyah*, Muḥammad Ibn Yūsuf Ṣāliḥī Shāfi fi's *Subul Al-Hudā* and Zurqānī's *Sharḥ Al-Mawāhib Al-Ludaniyyah*. Of these, his 99 names and attributes are widely known. Their study enables us not only to gain a better, clear picture of his excellent personality and laudable traits, it also helps us grasp and appreciate the all-embracing Islamic belief system and world view. Moreover, it instructs us how to lead life by emulating the role model embodied by the Prophet, for Allah proclaims: "Surely there is a good example for you in the Messenger of Allah (the Prophet Muḥammad)." (al-Aḥzāb 33:21) It thus inculcates into us love, respect, and regard for Allah's Final Messenger whom Allah "sent down as mercy unto mankind." (al-Anbiyā' 21:107)

Islam is, no doubt, Allah-centred faith yet in its scheme of things, the Prophet Muḥammad (peace be upon him) occupies a central position. The Qur'ān declares:

Those who believe and do good deeds and believe in the revelations sent down to Muḥammad – for it is the truth from their Lord – He will remove from them their misdeeds and improve their condition.

(Muhammad 47: 2)

In the above quoted passage, Allah assures Muslims forgiveness for their sins if they lead their life in accordance with the Divine message sent down to the Prophet (peace be upon him). Our commitment to his message will bring us success in both this world and the next. He is part of the chain of Allah's Messengers who conveyed divine guidance to mankind. More remarkably, he stands out as the Final Messenger whose teachings are valid until the end of time. (al-An 'ām 6: 85–90 and al-Aḥzāb 33:40) He belongs to the progeny of the Prophets Abraham, and Ishmael (peace be upon them). His appearance on the firmament of the seventh century Makkah signifies Allah's acceptance of the following fervent supplication made by the Prophets Abraham and Ishmael (peace be upon them):

Our Lord! Raise up for them (the children of Ishmael) a Messenger from among them who will recite to them Your revelations and will teach them the Book and Wisdom and will purify them (of sins and unbelief). Surely you alone are Almighty and All-Wise.

(al-Baqarah 2: 129)

It is on record that the Prophet (peace be upon him) accomplished the following missions in line with the import of the above verse: (a) conveying the meaning and message of the Qur'ān, (b) instructing everyone in Islamic faith and practices, and (c) facilitating redemption and salvation for people. His main assignment consisted in giving good news to believers, and warning unbelievers. Not only did he faithfully transmit the divine message, he also set the exemplary way of life. His distinguished life and conduct serve as the role model valid for all time and place. Little wonder then, that Allah elevated him to the highest station of praise and glory:

And We have exalted your fame

(Alam Nashrah 94: 4)

Your Lord will raise you to the rank of praise and glory

(al-Isrā' 17:79)

Abiding by the Prophet's teachings represents obeying Allah, a point recurrently stated in the Qur'ān, Ḥadīh and Sunnah, his sayings and deeds respectively, are therefore of utmost importance in Islam and constitute the primary sources of Islamic faith.

Notwithstanding his many unique traits, the Prophet (peace be upon him) was a mortal human being and a servant of Allah chosen by Him to communicate and elucidate His message to mankind. He does not share any trait with divinity. It is all the more necessary to clarify this point in that some of his names mentioned in the Qur'ān itself and recounted in this book, are the same as those of Allah.

Throughout his career, the Prophet (peace be upon him) devoted himself heart and soul to preaching and practising the message of Islam and achieved amazing success in transforming the polytheistic, ignorant Arabs into champions of monotheism and knowledge. It is therefore not surprising to note the American author, Michael Hart acclaiming the Prophet (peace be upon him) as the most important person in history (*The 100: A Ranking of the Most Influential Persons in History*). Allah directs us to treat the Prophet (peace be upon him) with love and respect:

O Believers! Do not put yourself forward before Allah and His Messenger. But fear Allah. For Allah is All-Hearing, All-Knowing.

(al-Hujurāt 49: 1)

Blessed Names and Characteristics of The Prophet Muhammad



THAT Allah and angels send blessings upon the Prophet Muḥammad (peace be upon him) (al-Aḥzāb 33: 56) points to his exalted status. The Qur'ān directs us: "Believers, send blessings on him" (al-Aḥzāb 33: 56). It also indicates that Allah praises him and blesses his mission. Allah has exalted his name and fame. His name figures along with Allah in the credal statement of Islam: لا إِلْهُ عُمَدًا رَسُولُ الله blessings of Muslims. This again shows how widely he is praised.

Muslims have immense love and respect for Him. Little wonder then that according to *The Columbia Encyclopaedia*, Muḥammad is the most common given name in the world. More than 150 million males presently bear this name. All this underscores Muslims' tremendous admiration for him. More significantly, it brings out the truth that he has been the most praised person in the annals of history.



We should recite *salawāt* (benediction) as much as possible, particularly when his name is mentioned. This brings immense rewards from Allah.