



Life of Muhammad^{sa}

BY

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THE LAST PILGRIMAGE

In the ninth year of the Hijra the Prophet (sa) went on a pilgrimage to Mecca.

This verse said in effect that the Message which the Holy Prophet (sa) had brought from God .., had been completed.

On the day of the Pilgrimage, he received the revelation :

The Message .. embodied the highest blessings which man could receive from God.

This day have I perfected your religion for you and completed My favour upon you and have chosen for you Islam as religion (5:4).

The Message is epitomized in the name 'al-Islam', which means submission.

THE LAST PILGRIMAGE

The Prophet (sa) stood before a large gathering of Muslims and delivered an address, famed in history as the farewell address of the Prophet (sa). In the course of this address he said:

O men, lend me an attentive ear. For I know not whether I will stand before you again in this valley and address you as I address you now.

Your lives and your possessions have been made immune by God to attacks by one another until the Day of Judgement. God has appointed for every one a share in the inheritance. No 'will' shall now be admitted which is prejudicial to the interests of a rightful heir.

THE LAST PILGRIMAGE

A child born in any house will be regarded as the child of the father in that house.

Whoever contests the parentage of this child will be liable to punishment under the Law of Islam.

Anyone who attributes his birth to some one else's father, or falsely claims someone to be his master, God, His angels and the whole of mankind will curse him.

THE LAST PILGRIMAGE

O men, you have some rights against your wives, but your wives also have some rights against you. Your right against them is that they should live chaste. ... then your duty is to provide for them food and garments and shelter, according to your own standard of living. Remember you must always treat your wives well. God has charged you with the duty of looking after them...

When you married, God appointed you the trustees of those rights... You must not, therefore, insult the trust which God has placed in your hands.

THE LAST PILGRIMAGE

O men, you still have in your possession some prisoners of war. I advise you, therefore, to feed them and to clothe them in the same way and style as you feed and clothe yourselves. If they do anything wrong which you are unable to forgive, then pass them on to someone else. They are part of God's creation. To give them pain or trouble can never be right.

O men... All Muslims are as brethren to one another. All of you are equal. All men, whatever nation or tribe they may belong to, and whatever station in life they may hold, are equal.

THE LAST PILGRIMAGE

While he was saying this the Prophet (sa) raised his hands and joined the fingers of the one hand with the fingers of the other and then said: **Even as the fingers of the two hands are equal, so are human beings equal to one another. No one has any right, any superiority to claim over another. You are as brothers.**

THE LAST PILGRIMAGE

**Do you know what month this is?
What territory we are in? What
day of the year it is today?**

The Muslims said in reply, they knew
it was the sacred month, the sacred
land and the day of the Hajj.

**Even as this month is sacred, this
land inviolate, and this day holy,
so has God made the lives,
property and honour of every
man sacred.**

**To take any man's life or his
property, or attack his honour, is
as unjust and wrong as to violate
the sacredness of this day, this
month, and this territory.**

THE LAST PILGRIMAGE

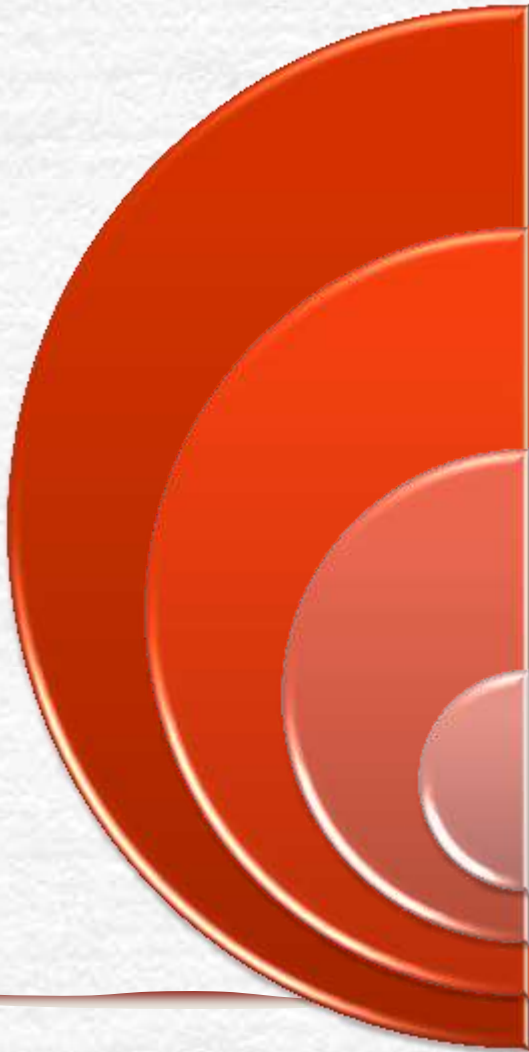
What I command you today is not meant only for today.

It is meant for all time. You are expected to remember it and to act upon it until you leave this world and go to the next to meet your Maker.

What I have said to you, you should communicate to the ends of the earth.

Maybe those who have not heard me may benefit by it more than those who have heard.

THE LAST PILGRIMAGE



The Prophet's (sa) address is an epitome of the entire teaching and spirit of Islam. It shows how deep was the Prophet's (sa) concern for the welfare of man and the peace of the world...

Among the cares and anxieties to which he gave expression were his care and anxiety about the treatment women received at the hands of men.

He took care that he should not pass away from this world to the next without assuring to women the status which was theirs by right.

The Prophet (sa) felt he should not leave this world without assuring to prisoners of war the rights which were theirs in the sight of God.

THE LAST PILGRIMAGE

No man ever showed such concern and such care for the welfare of women, the rights of the weak, and for peace between nations as did the Prophet (sa) of Islam.

No man ever did as much as the Prophet (sa) to promote equality among man-kind.

Every person who enters Islam becomes the equal of everyone else, no matter how low the society from which he comes. Freedom and equality are characteristic contributions of Islam to the culture of the world...

In a Muslim mosque, a king, a religious leader and a common man have the same status; there is no difference between them.