




Life of Muhammad^{sa}

BY

**HADRAT MIRZA BASHIRUDDIN
MAHMUD AHMAD^{ra}**

TRUTHFULNESS

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- As has been related the Holy Prophet^{sa} was himself so steadfast in his standards of truthfulness that he was known among his people as "The Trusty" and "The True".
 - He was equally anxious that Muslims should adopt the same standards of truth as were observed by himself.
 - He regarded truth as the basis of all virtue, goodness and right conduct.
 - He taught that a truthful person is one who is so confirmed in truth that he is counted truthful by God.

TRUTHFULNESS

On one occasion a prisoner was brought to the Holy Prophet^{sa} who had been guilty of the murder of many Muslims.

'Umar^{ra}, who was also present, believed that the man richly deserved the imposition of the death penalty and ...

...he looked repeatedly at the Prophet^{sa} expecting that the Prophet^{sa} would at any moment indicate that the man should be put to death.

After the Holy Prophet^{sa} had dismissed the man 'Umar^{ra} submitted that he should have been put to death as that was the only appropriate penalty.

TRUTHFULNESS

The Prophet^{sa} replied: "If that is so, why did you not kill him?"

'Umar^{ra} replied: "O Messenger of Allah^{sa}! if you had but given me an indication even by a flicker of your eyelids, I would have done so."

To this the Prophet^{sa} rejoined: "A Prophet^{sa} does not act equivocally. How could I have employed my eye to indicate the imposition of a death penalty upon the man while my tongue was employed in talking amicably to him?"

TRUTHFULNESS

A man once came to the Holy Prophet^{sa} and said: "O Messenger^{sa} of Allah! I suffer from three evils: falsehood, indulgence in strong drinks and fornication.

I have tried my utmost to get rid of them but have not succeeded.

Will you tell me what to do? " The Prophet^{sa} replied: "If you make a firm promise to me to give up one of them I guarantee that you will be rid of the other two."

The man promised and asked the Prophet^{sa} to tell him which of the three he should give up.

The Prophet^{sa} said: "Give up falsehood."

TRUTHFULNESS

Some time later the man came back and told the Holy Prophet^{sa} that, having followed his advice, he was now free from all three vices. The Prophet^{sa} asked him for the details of his struggle and the man said:



"One day I wanted to indulge in liquor and was about to do so when I bethought myself of my promise to you and realized that if any of my friends asked me whether I had taken liquor, I would have to admit it as I could no longer utter a falsehood. This would mean that I would acquire an evil reputation among my friends and they would in future avoid me.



Thinking thus, I persuaded myself to postpone drinking to some later occasion and was able to withstand the temptation at the time.

TRUTHFULNESS

... same way when I found myself inclined towards fornication I argued with myself that indulgence in the vice would expose me to the loss of the esteem of my friends as I would either have to tell a falsehood if questioned by them, thus breaking my promise to you, or I would have to admit my sin.

In this way I continued to struggle between my resolve to fulfil my promise to you and my desire to indulge in liquor and in adultery.

When some time had passed I began to lose the inclination to indulge in these vices and the resolve to keep away from falsehood has now saved me from the other two also."