

ISLAMIC ORGANIZATION
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IONA

REPENTANCE

REVITALIZATION OF FAITH

RENEWAL OF COVENANT

التنظيم الإسلامي
أمريكا الشمالية

The Beacon of Light

❧ MUHAMMAD ﷺ ❧

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بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ وَالْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ رَبِّ الْعَالَمِينَ وَالصَّلَاةُ وَالسَّلَامُ عَلَى رَسُولِهِ الْكَرِيمِ ,

أما بعد ,

أَعُوذُ بِاللَّهِ مِنَ الشَّيْطَانِ الرَّجِيمِ

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

فَاذْعَنْ بِمَا تُؤْمَرُ وَأَخْرِضْ عَنِ الْمُشْرِكِينَ

إِنَّا كَفَيْنَاكَ الْمُسْتَهْزِئِينَ

All praise and thanks are due to Allah (SWT) and may His peace and blessings be upon His honorable messenger Muhammad (sallallahu alaihi wa sallam, SAW),
To proceed,

*So openly proclaim what you have been commanded (to convey)
and stay away from the pagans
Surely We are sufficient for you against the mockers
[15:94-95]*

Allah (SWT) created human beings for the purpose of worshiping and obeying His Majesty (SWT). Throughout the ages the Creator has been sending to the created men messengers from among themselves (humans) for the purpose of reminding them of their Master and Creator in order to worship Him and Him and alone. He has sent to them prophets and messengers to release them from the bondage of shirk to believing in Allah (SWT), and from injustice, inequity and darkness to justice, equality and light so that these humans will have no excuse on the Day of Judgment before Allah (SWT).

رُسُلًا مُبَشِّرِينَ وَمُنذِرِينَ لِنَلَّا يَكُونُ لِلنَّاسِ عَلَى اللَّهِ حُجَّةٌ بَعْدَ
الرُّسُلِ وَكَانَ اللَّهُ عَزِيزًا حَكِيمًا

Messengers, bearers of good news and warners, so that the people may have no plea against Allah after the (coming of) messengers. And Allah is ever Mighty, Wise.
[4:165]

He (SWT) ended this long chain of prophets and messengers with Muhammad (SAW). Unlike the previous prophets and messengers who were sent to their own particular tribes and people, Muhammad (SAW) was sent to all of mankind for all time to come.

وَمَا أَرْسَلْنَاكَ إِلَّا كَافَّةً لِّلنَّاسِ بَشِيرًا وَنَذِيرًا
وَلَكِنَّ أَكْثَرَ النَّاسِ لَا يَعْلَمُونَ

And We have not sent you but as a bearer of good news and as a Warner to all mankind, but most men don't know.
[34:28]

He was the seal of all the prophets.

Elaborating on this Muhammad (SAW) said:

عن أبي هريرة رضي الله عنه:
ان رسول الله صلى الله عليه وسلم قال: "إِنَّ مَثَلِي وَمَثَلَ الْأَنْبِيَاءِ مِنْ قَبْلِي، كَمَثَلِ رَجُلٍ بَنَى بَيْتًا فَأَحْسَنَهُ وَأَجْمَلَهُ، إِلَّا مَوْضِعَ لَبْنَةٍ مِنْ زَاوِيَةٍ، فَجَعَلَ النَّاسُ يَطُوفُونَ بِهِ وَيَعْجَبُونَ لَهُ، وَيَقُولُونَ: هَلَّا وَضَعْتَ هَذِهِ اللَّبْنَةَ" قال: "فَأَنَا اللَّبْنَةُ وَأَنَا خَاتَمُ النَّبِيِّينَ." رواه البخاري

He (SAW) said, "My likeness among the prophets is as a man who, having built a house put the finishing touches on it and made it beautiful, yet left one corner without a brick. People would walk around it amazed at its beauty and exclaim, 'How excellent it is, except for this brick had it been

placed." He said: "Now, I am that brick and I am the seal of the prophets."

[Related by al-Bukhari]

Muhammad (SAW) was sent at a particular time in history where vices were so rampant and prevalent, similar to what is prevailing today in the world. That was the pre-Islam age or the age of *Jahiliyah* (ignorance).

In spite of all the technological breakthroughs and advancements in science and other fields of technology, we find the Western societies plagued with the same diseases of the ancient time. The vices ranged from idol worshipping to gambling, dealing with *riba* (interest, usury), *khamr* (intoxication), adultery and fornication, abortion, and children born out of wedlock. Injustice, oppression, and laws of the jungle, are just a few more examples.

What Muhammad (SAW) achieved no other prophet before him could have achieved. Of the five strong-willed and determined prophets and messengers which include Noah, Abraham, Moses, Jesus, and Muhammad (SAW), only Muhammad (SAW) was supremely successful in his mission. He was to establish justice and that he did.

وَأْمُرْتُ لِأَعْدِلَ بَيْنَكُمْ

and I am commanded to do justice between you
[42:15]

He (SAW) was sent as a mercy, not only to man but, to all that exist.

وَمَا أَرْسَلْنَاكَ إِلَّا رَحْمَةً لِّلْعَالَمِينَ

And We have not sent you but as a mercy to the worlds.
[21:107]

Stones would greet him *salam*. The camel would weep and complain to him. And the branches would bow for him.

One may describe him as the loving, caring, kind, thoughtful, gentle, helpful, compassionate, sensible, concerned, sensitive, selfless, understanding, kindhearted, considerate, benevolent, wise, eminent, renowned, great, outstanding, exceptional, stupendous, wonderful, magnificent, remarkable, incredible, spectacular, amazing, extraordinary, special, brilliant, luminous, gleaming, affectionate, merciful, tender, adoring, warm, devoted, noble, dignified, splendid, polite, shy, distinguished, well mannered, exalted in character, well liked by all, clever, yet unlettered.

While others may describe him as evil, a terrorist, or possessed by demons, and very recently the Danish newspaper, the Jyllands-Posten, depicted him as wearing a turban in the shape of a bomb among other cartoons. This evil act has aroused the Muslims in every corner of the world. And rightly so, the Muslims demonstrated to show their sensitivity and attachment to their prophet Muhammad (SAW). Unfortunately, however, there were few violent cases on the part of Muslims which were unnecessary.

Nevertheless, on both sides one can say, the damage is done.

Here is how it began:

On September 30th, 2005, the Danish paper, Jyllands-Posten, published 12 caricatures depicting how bad and evil Muhammad (SAW) is.

On October 20th, 2005, the Muslim Ambassadors in Denmark complained to the Danish Prime Minister. The Muslim leaders in Denmark requested a formal apology from the newspaper and the government. The request was denied on the basis of free speech and free press.

On January 10th, 2006, a Norwegian publication reprints the cartoons.

On January 26th, 2006, Saudi Arabia recalls its Ambassador.

On January 30th, 2006, The Muslims across the globe reacted as a response to the incident showing their rage and anger over the cartoons and love and affection toward their Prophet (SAW).

On January 31st, 2006, the Danish paper apologizes.

To add fuel to the fire, and in solidarity to the Danish newspaper, papers in France, Germany, Italy and Spain reprint the cartoons the very next day the Danish newspaper apologized maintaining their right to free speech and free press.

How far can one go with free speech and to what extent? Is it limitless and boundless? What does the word blasphemy mean? What is the motive behind that ugly mask that is directing these agents to act in the way they are acting against, Muslims, Muhammad (SAW), and the religion of al-Islam?

O Muslims keep in mind that no calamity or tragedy happens to Muslims except that there is good news behind it so have the glad tidings. A believer understands that nothing happens without the permission of Allah (SWT) and His wisdom.

Many Muslims who passionately came to the defense of the Prophet (SAW) will be rewarded on the basis of their love and affection to him. How many of those who knew little about their Prophet (SAW) will Allah (SWT) guide to the true path? Muslims and non-Muslims who don't know Muhammad (SAW) will come to learn about his exemplary life. And how many of the non-Muslims will Allah (SWT) guide His way?

The reaction of Muslims across the continents show that the ummah is not dead. We may be in a deep slumber but not dead. How many will be awakened?

This is the Greatness of Allah (SWT), *Allahu-Akbar*, He (SWT) does things in an un-conceived and mysterious way. How great it is that Allah (SWT) unifies the ummah in an unexpected way.

Muslims must keep in mind that this is not the first time the Prophet (SAW) has been mocked and ridiculed. It has been happening throughout the centuries and it happened during his very lifetime. Can anyone imagine how he felt while receiving insults such as, the magician, the sorcerer, the liar, the demon possessed from the pagans and godless people of his time? Don't think that Muhammad (SAW) was a super or bionic man. He was an ordinary man like all of us with feelings, emotions and sensation.

قُلْ إِنَّمَا أَنَا بَشَرٌ مِّثْلُكُمْ يُوحَىٰ إِلَيَّ

*Say (O Muhammad-SAW): "I am only a man like you
(but) the revelation has come to me..."*
[18:110]

He was a very sensitive man yet he never complained. His breast would shrink on him until he became breathless. And Allah (SWT) knows it.

وَلَقَدْ نَعْلَمُ أَنَّكَ يَضِيقُ صَدْرُكَ بِمَا يَقُولُونَ

*And We know indeed that your heart
is distressed at what they say;*
[15:97]

In spite of all this he (SAW) never stopped the struggle and the mission he had been commanded to do and that is to make the Word of Allah (SWT) supreme. Allah (SWT) was on his side. He (SWT) would instruct and console him:

فَاعْزِزْ بِمَا تُوْمَرُ وَأَعْرِضْ عَنِ الْمُشْرِكِينَ
إِنَّا كَفِينَاكَ الْمُسْتَهْزِئِينَ

*So openly proclaim what you have been commanded (to convey)
and stay away from the pagans
Surely We are sufficient for you against the mockers*
[15:94-95]

And indeed Allah (SWT) took care of his enemies, Abu Jahl, Umayyah bin Khalaf, 'Utbah bin Rabi'ah, Shaibah bin Rabi'ah, al-Waleed bin 'Utbah, 'Uqbah bin Abi Mu'it and al-Waleed bin al-Mughirah to name a few. In the same manner Allah (SWT) will take care of his present enemies except who He (SWT) will have mercy on and guides.

What lesson do we learn from this and what ought the Muslims do in this crisis? To answer this question we must first understand the rights of Muhammad (SAW) on every Muslim. The Prophet (SAW) has five rights on us. They are:

- 1) To believe in him
- 2) To obey him
- 3) To follow him
- 4) To love him, and finally
- 5) To respect, honor, and salute him (SAW)

1) To Believe in Muhammad (SAW)

The first pillar of Islam starts out with the declaration of Allah's oneness and Muhammad (SAW) as His prophet and messenger.

أَشْهَدُ أَنْ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ وَحْدَهُ لَا شَرِيكَ لَهُ، وَأَشْهَدُ أَنَّ مُحَمَّدًا عَبْدُهُ وَرَسُولُهُ

I bear witness that there is no god except Allah, alone and without any partners and I bear witness that Muhammad is His slave and Messenger

The second half of the testimony of faith (*al-shahadatan*) obliges us to believe and attest not only in the prophet and messenger-hood of Muhammad (SAW) but also with the finality of the prophets. A Muslim who rejects him to be the final prophet and messenger of Allah (SWT) has stepped out of the fold of Islam.

Allah (SWT) describes those who don't believe in Him as the rejecters of faith and as such they will be receiving the blazing fire of Hell.

وَمَنْ لَّمْ يُؤْمِنِ بِاللَّهِ وَرَسُولِهِ فَإِنَّا أَعْتَدْنَا لِلْكَافِرِينَ سَعِيرًا

And whoever does not believe in Allah and His Messenger, then surely We have prepared a blazing fire for the disbelievers.

[48:13]

However, Allah (SWT) admonishes the believers and commands them to believe in Muhammad (SAW) after they have believed in Him.

يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا آمِنُوا بِاللَّهِ وَرَسُولِهِ

O you who believe! Believe in Allah, and His Messenger (Muhammad-SAW),

[4:136]

True believers who have confirmed the truthfulness of Muhammad (SAW) never doubt their faith in him nor in the message he was given no matter how hard the enemies of Islam try.

إِنَّمَا الْمُؤْمِنُونَ الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا بِاللَّهِ وَرَسُولِهِ ثُمَّ لَمْ يَرْتَابُوا

*The believers are only those who have believed in Allah
and His Messenger, and have never since doubted,
[49:15]*

The prophet (SAW) in a hadeeth on the authority of Abu Musa al-Ash'ari found in al-Imam Ahmad's Musnad said:

عن أبي موسى عن النبي صلى الله عليه وسلم قال:
من سمع بي من أمتي أو يهودي أو نصراني ثم لم يؤمن بي دخل النار.

Whoever hears of me from my ummah or a Jew or a Christian
and then didn't believe in me enters the fire.

In the Mu'jam al-Tabarani al-Kabir by Imam al-Tabarani, he (SAW) also said:

لا يؤمن بالله من لم يؤمن بي

Whoever doesn't believe in me doesn't believe in Allah

Therefore, all praise is due to Allah (SWT) for His biggest favor and for guiding us to al-Islam. Had it not been for His guidance we would have never believed.

2) To obey him (SAW)

Allah (SWT) in many places in the Qur'an ordered the believers to obey His messenger Muhammad (SAW) as they obey Him. He (SWT) described those who disobey, by turning their backs on the Prophet (SAW), as disbelievers.

قُلْ أَطِيعُوا اللَّهَ وَالرَّسُولَ فَإِن تَوَلَّوْا فَإِنَّ اللَّهَ لَا يُحِبُّ الْكَافِرِينَ

*Say: Obey Allah and the Messenger; but if they turn back,
Allah surely loves not the disbelievers.*

[3:32]

To obey the Messenger is to obey and cling on to his sunnah - tradition, and practice of the religion, deen. Allah's obedience is dependent on the obedience to Muhammad (SAW) and this has been clearly stated in the Qur'an;

مَنْ يُطِعِ الرَّسُولَ فَقَدْ أَطَاعَ اللَّهَ

*He who obeys the Messenger (Muhammad-SAW),
has indeed obeyed Allah*

[4:80]

Therefore, absolute obedience is owed to Allah (SWT) and His messenger Muhammad (SAW) by all Muslims. He (SWT) has permitted Muhammad (SAW) to legislate *halal* and *haram*. Muhammad (SAW) exercised this privilege. He (SAW) ordained upon the believers certain things and forbade them from other things. Those who disobey the Messenger will be punished.

وَمَا آتَاكُمُ الرَّسُولُ فَخُذُوهُ وَمَا نَهَاكُمْ عَنْهُ فَانْتَهُوا
وَاتَّقُوا اللَّهَ إِنَّ اللَّهَ شَدِيدُ الْعِقَابِ

*And whatsoever the Messenger gives you, take it,
and whatsoever he forbids you, abstain from it
And fear Allah, surely, Allah is severe in retribution.*

[59:7]

In a hadeeth found in the authentic books of sahih al-Bukhari and Muslim, Abu Hurairah, may Allah be pleased with him, reported on behalf of the Prophet (SAW) as saying;

عن أبي هريرة رضي الله عنه أن رسول الله صلى الله عليه وسلم قال: "كل أمتي يدخلون الجنة إلا من أبى" قيل: ومن يأبى يا رسول الله؟ قال: "من أطاعني دخل الجنة، ومن عصاني فقد أبى" رواه البخاري.

“All of my ummah will enter the Paradise except who refuse” it was said, And who will refuse? The Messenger (SAW) replied, “whoever obeys me enters the Paradise and whoever disobeys me has refused”

3) To follow him (SAW)

Muslims have been informed to follow the Prophet (SAW) in his ways, sayings, and actions for the sake and love of Allah (SWT). Those who emulate him and adopt his personality by living his simple way of life and adopt his attributes of compassion and mercy are sure to be loved and forgiven by their Lord.

قُلْ إِنْ كُنْتُمْ تُحِبُّونَ اللَّهَ فَاتَّبِعُونِي يُحْبِبْكُمُ اللَّهُ وَيَغْفِرْ لَكُمْ ذُنُوبَكُمْ
وَاللَّهُ غَفُورٌ رَحِيمٌ

*Say: If you love Allah, follow me: Allah will love you
and forgive your sins. And Allah is Forgiving, Merciful.*

[3:32]

Following him in the way he dresses, eats and drinks, enters his home, speaks, brushes his teeth, etc. is not enough. For surely there is a greater reward for those who follow his path for the struggle in the way of Allah (SWT) for the sole purpose of making Him Supreme. The Prophet (SAW)'s seerah is rich in lessons and wisdom. It teaches us how within a span of 23 years the Prophet (SAW) along with the true believers were able to establish the Just Social Order of Islam, a just society on the basis of the Qur'an and His Sunnah, (SAW). Struggling in the way of Allah (SWT) with whatever He (SWT) has bestowed upon the Muslims in terms of worldly possessions and intellectual ability is an integral part of believing in Him (SWT) and His messenger, Muhammad (SAW). And indeed they are the true believers.

إِنَّمَا الْمُؤْمِنُونَ الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا بِاللَّهِ وَرَسُولِهِ ثُمَّ لَمْ يَرْتَابُوا
وَجَاهَدُوا بِأَمْوَالِهِمْ وَأَنْفُسِهِمْ فِي سَبِيلِ اللَّهِ أُولَئِكَ هُمُ الصَّادِقُونَ

*The believers are only those who have believed in Allah
and His Messenger, and have never since doubted,
and struggle hard with their wealth and their lives
in the way of Allah; they are the truthful ones.*
[49:15]

Muslims ought to examine this duty of establishing Allah's Deen

أَنْ أَقِيمُوا الدِّينَ and follow the footsteps of the Messenger of Allah, Muhammad

(SAW) beginning with the purification of the soul, propagating the message, and struggling against the system of deceit and falsehood (*batil*) by ordaining that which is good and forbidding evil. Just as Allah (SWT) sent Muhammad (SAW) as a mercy to the people, He (SWT) selected his ummah and produced it for the benefit of mankind. Wouldn't it be better if only those who mocked the Prophet (SAW) believed? Few of the people of the Book have faith but unfortunately most of them have gone astray.

كُنْتُمْ خَيْرَ أُمَّةٍ أُخْرِجَتْ لِلنَّاسِ تَأْمُرُونَ بِالْمَعْرُوفِ وَتَنْهَوْنَ عَنِ الْمُنْكَرِ
وَتُؤْمِنُونَ بِاللَّهِ وَلَوْ آمَنَ أَهْلُ الْكِتَابِ لَكَانَ خَيْرًا لَهُمْ
مِّنْهُمْ الْمُؤْمِنُونَ وَأَكْثَرُهُمُ الْفَاسِقُونَ

*You are the best of peoples, evolved for mankind,
enjoining what is right, forbidding what is wrong,
and believing in Allah. If only the People of the Book
had believed, it would have been better for them:
among them are some who have faith,
but most of them are perverted transgressors.*
[3:110]

Mankind can only benefit from us when we strip away the hypocritical way of living. The only way we can accomplish this is through following the pattern of Muhammad (SAW) and his way. Indeed one shall find him (SAW) to be *the best*

example. And only those who wish to meet their Lord will pay attention and follow him and take him as the only role model.

لَقَدْ كَانَ لَكُمْ فِي رَسُولِ اللَّهِ أُسْوَةٌ حَسَنَةٌ لِّمَن كَانَ يَرْجُو اللَّهَ
وَالْيَوْمَ الْآخِرَ وَذَكَرَ اللَّهَ كَثِيرًا

*You have indeed in the Messenger of Allah an excellent model,
for he who hopes to meet Allah and the Last Day
and who frequently remembers Allah.*

[33:21]

4) To love him (SAW)

Generally speaking, Muslims today are engrossed in this material world. Their love of wealth and urge to possess large homes, expensive cars, designer clothes, and excessive adornments took them away from the precious time one could have spent with the word of Allah (SWT) and the sayings of His Prophet (SAW).

The ummah today is infected with the disease of the love of this world at the expense of loving Allah (SWT) and His Messenger (SAW).

We find a very stern warning and a great threatening from Allah (SWT) for those who love anyone or anything more than Him, His messenger Muhammad (SAW), as well as the love to struggle for the cause of Allah (SWT.)

قُلْ إِن كَانَ آبَاؤُكُمْ وَأَبْنَاؤُكُمْ وَإِخْوَانُكُمْ وَأَزْوَاجُكُمْ وَعَشِيرَتُكُمْ
وَأَمْوَالٌ اقْتَرَفْتُمُوهَا وَتِجَارَةٌ تَخْشَوْنَ كَسَادَهَا وَمَسَاكِنُ تَرْضَوْنَهَا
أَحَبَّ إِلَيْكُمْ مِّنَ اللَّهِ وَرَسُولِهِ وَجِهَادٍ فِي سَبِيلِهِ فَتَرَبَّصُوا
حَتَّى يَأْتِيَ اللَّهُ بِأَمْرِهِ وَاللَّهُ لَا يَهْدِي الْقَوْمَ الْفَاسِقِينَ

Say: If your fathers, your sons, your brothers, your spouses, your kindred, the wealth that you have acquired, the commerce in which you fear a decline, and the dwellings which you like are more beloved to you than Allah, His messenger and striving in His cause then wait until Allah brings about His verdict, and Allah does not guide the rebellious.
[9:24]

The believers have to understand that the love of Allah and His messenger must exceed the love of anything including the love of oneself.

The Prophet (SAW) educated Umar bin al-Khattab, may Allah be pleased with him, in this matter. Umar was instructed to love the prophet more than loving himself.

عن زهرة بن معبد عن جده قال: كنا مع رسول الله صلى الله عليه وسلم وهو أخذ بيد عمر بن الخطاب فقال: والله يا رسول الله لأنت أحب إليّ من كل شيء إلا من نفسي، فقال رسول الله صلى الله عليه وسلم: "لا يؤمن أحدكم حتى أكون أحب إليه من نفسه"، فقال عمر: فأنت الآن والله أحب إليّ من نفسي، فقال رسول الله صلى الله عليه وسلم: "الآن يا عمر" أخرجه الأمام أحمد والبخاري

Zahrah said, while we were with the messenger of Allah (SAW) and while holding Umar bin al-Khattab's hand he said, "By Allah O messenger of Allah you are more beloved to me than anything except myself," the messenger of Allah, (SAW) replied, "No one believes until I become more beloved to him than himself." Umar then said, "Now you are more beloved to me than myself." The messenger of Allah (SAW) said, "Now (that's better) O Umar" Narrated by Imam Ahmad and al-Bukhari

In another authentic hadeeth the Prophet has been reported to have said:

وفي الصحيحين عن أنس عن النبي صلى الله عليه وسلم قال
"لَا يُؤْمِنُ أَحَدُكُمْ حَتَّىٰ أَكُونَ أَحَبَّ إِلَيْهِ مِنْ وَالِدِهِ وَوَالِدِهِ وَالنَّاسِ أَجْمَعِينَ."
وقال مسلم "من أهله وماله والناس أجمعين."

Anas, may Allah be pleased with him, reported that the Prophet (SAW) said, "No one believes until I become more beloved to him than his father, children, and all the people." Muslim added, "More than his family, wealth, and all the people" Narrated by Imam al-Bukhari and Imam Muslim.

Allah (SWT) made it very clear that Muhammad (SAW) has to be closer and nearer to our hearts than our own selves.

النَّبِيُّ أَوْلَىٰ بِالْمُؤْمِنِينَ مِنْ أَنفُسِهِمْ

The Prophet is closer to the believers than their own selves
[33:6]

Muhammad (SAW) is like a father figure to the believers. We have to love him, love those whom he loved, and love those who love him.

5) To respect, honor, and salute him (SAW)

Honoring and respecting the Prophet (SAW) is a duty upon the Muslims. History never witnessed before nor will ever produce a man like Muhammad (SAW), who deserves the utmost respect and honor.

فَالَّذِينَ آمَنُوا بِهِ وَعَزَّرُوهُ وَنَصَرُوهُ وَاتَّبَعُوا النُّورَ
الَّذِي أُنزِلَ مَعَهُ أُولَٰئِكَ هُمُ الْمُفْلِحُونَ

*Those who believe in him, honor and help him,
and follow the light which is sent down with him,
are the successful ones [7:157]*

Muhammad (SAW) stands at the highest pedestal. Many men of conscience who aren't even Muslims respect and admire Muhammad (SAW) for his achievements. In his book, "The 100 - A Ranking of the Most Influential Persons in History," Michael Hart in his unbiased analysis and study of the best personality ever to exist placed Muhammad (SAW) at the top of the list. He writes,

My choice of Muhammad to lead the list of the world's most influential persons may surprise some readers and may be questioned by others, but he was the only man in history who was supremely successful on both the religious and secular levels.

The world-renowned intellectual and philosopher, George Bernard Shaw has rightly said, "If a man like Muhamed were to assume the dictatorship of the modern world, he would succeed in solving its problems that would bring it the much needed peace and happiness."

Above all, Allah (SWT)'s testimony reigns supreme.

وَإِنَّكَ لَعَلَىٰ خُلُقٍ عَظِيمٍ

*And you (Muhammad-SAW), stand
on an exalted standard of character
[68:4]*

It is incumbent upon the believers to defend him against the aggressors, protect his reputation and help and support his universal cause. The best way for Muslims to show their reverence and respect toward Muhammad (SAW) is by asking Allah (SWT) to send His Peace and Blessings upon His Messenger Muhammad (SAW). In reality we have been commanded to send *salam* to him and pray for him (SAW).

إِنَّ اللَّهَ وَمَلَائِكَتَهُ يُصَلُّونَ عَلَى النَّبِيِّ يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا
صَلُّوا عَلَيْهِ وَسَلِّمُوا تَسْلِيمًا

*Surely Allah and His angels send blessings on the Prophet;
O you who believe, send your prayers on him,
and salute him with all respect.
[33:56]*

How do we pray on you? The Prophet was once asked. He (SAW) responded, “Say, O Allah send Peace on Muhammad and the family of Muhammad as you have sent Peace upon Ibrahim and the family of Ibrahim and bless Muhammad and the family of Muhammad as you have blessed Ibrahim and the family of Ibrahim, indeed of all in the worlds You are the Praiseworthy, the Glorious.

اللَّهُمَّ صَلِّ عَلَى مُحَمَّدٍ وَعَلَى آلِ مُحَمَّدٍ كَمَا صَلَّيْتَ عَلَى إِبْرَاهِيمَ وَعَلَى آلِ إِبْرَاهِيمَ، وَبَارِكْ
عَلَى مُحَمَّدٍ وَعَلَى آلِ كَمَا بَارَكْتَ عَلَى إِبْرَاهِيمَ وَعَلَى آلِ إِبْرَاهِيمَ فِي الْعَالَمِينَ إِنَّكَ حَمِيدٌ مَجِيدٌ

The Prophet (SAW) also taught us how to send greetings to him. He (SAW) instructed the believers to say, Peace be upon you O Prophet and may Allah’s Mercy and Blessings be upon you.

السلام عليك أيها النبي ورحمة الله وبركاته

Muhammad (SAW) said, whoever prays on me the angels will pray for him. One should send peace and salutations upon the messenger (SAW) in occasions such as entering and exiting the Masjid, upon hearing his name mentioned, upon concluding the adhan, and in the funeral prayer to name a few.

These are the five duties every Muslims owe Muhammad (SAW). We must never abandon him and let his aggressors take a stab at him. We must stand up for his defense by all legal and lawful means.

يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا أَطِيعُوا اللَّهَ وَرَسُولَهُ وَلَا تَوَلَّوْا خُبْرَهُ

*O you who believe! Obey Allah and His Messenger,
and do not turn your back on him
[8:20]*

Now what ought the Muslims' response be to these evil portrayals of the Prophet (SAW)?

Aside from fulfilling the rights of Muhammad (SAW), Muslims must learn about this great man through the Qur'an and by reading the books of seerah. Parents are obliged to teach their children about the honorable and noble Prophet (SAW) through whatever means available to them be it books, audio's, videos, etc. so they grow loving and honoring him. Muslims everywhere in general and in the West in particular must take this golden opportunity to present the life of the Prophet (SAW) and his divinely inspired wisdom to non-Muslims in the hope Allah (SWT) guides their hearts toward Islam and the Prophet of Islam, Muhammad (SAW).

The economic boycott response from the Arab and Muslim world has proven to be very effective. According to a source from a Danish company, it was said that if this boycott continues for months they would have to sustain billions of dollars in loss and layoff some 30,000 employees and workers. Companies who have been affected by the boycott are urging government officials and others to issue statements of apology to end the crisis. Eventually they will have to bow and honor the request of the Muslims because of the great loss companies may have to sustain. Muslims, however, in my humble opinion must continue the boycott because we all know very well that the apologies they will make is only for material gain and not truly and sincerely sorry about their wicked act.

On the other hand I call on the Muslims everywhere to boycott the West at the political and social levels as well. Muslims ought to boycott the political Western thought, i.e. the Western ideology that is based on shirk and Kufr, the concept of Democracy based on secularism. There is no such thing as separation of church and state in Islam. Iman is our ideology and Islam, as a way of life, is the practical manifestation of that ideology. Enforcing the Divine laws is what guarantees *real* justice that would bring *real* peace to the people regardless of their ethnic background, gender, color, or religion. It's time we reject the concept of materialism, Darwinism, scientism,

Techno-progressivism, neo-positivism, etc. It's time we depend solely on Allah Almighty.

Muslims also, on another front, must boycott the Western immoral social values that have spread like wild fire everywhere particularly in the Muslim world. Values which include but not limited to, stripping our women naked, fashion shows, the Western social customs such as dating, prom (school dances), Vegas night, Valentine's day, Halloween, the Emmy's, the Grammy's, MTV, the glorification of music, the sexual perversion, the rampant fornication and adultery, the movies and television shows that promote promiscuity, the widespread sexually transmitted diseases (STDs) including HIV which may eventually lead to AIDS, gambling, lotto, drinking, drugs, interest, usury, etc. All these and other social evils will surely reserve a front row seat for a Muslim to enjoy a concert in the Hellfire.

It is time to disconnect from what is called modernity (not to confuse it with modernization) and reconnect with the 1400 year old tradition, the Qur'an and Sunnah. The Prophet (SAW) before departing this world gave the most precious advice to the ummah. He said, I am leaving two things with you, if you hold fast onto them you will NEVER go astray, Allah's Book and my Sunnah. This is our tradition. We cannot afford to disconnect from our heritage and roots. It is our birthright as Muslims to live the spirit of Islam today as Muhammad (SAW) lived it 1400 years ago.

Muslims must free themselves from the Western concept of freedom. Muslims must know that they are NOT free. They are bound by certain limits called *Hudod*. These limits are set by Allah (SWT) and His Messenger Muhammad (SAW). Muslims may cherish and appreciate democracy and freedom within these bounds.

It's time we replace the body with the soul.

It's time we focus on the life of the hereafter instead of the life herein.

It's time we replace materialism with God and spirituality.

It's time we discover the true realities of the self!

It's time we grasp the hidden realities and believe in them.

The Prophet (SAW) used to say while praying in the middle of the night after praising Him:

You are *the Truth, al-Haq* (real),

Your promise is the truth, *al-Haq* (real),

Your Word is the truth, *al-Haq* (real),

Meeting You is *Haq* (real),

The Paradise is *Haq* (real),

The Fire is *Haq* (real),

The Prophets are *Haq* (real),

Muhammad is *Haq* (real), and

The Hour is *Haq* (real)

They're *REAL!* We are living the life of illusion.

In the End, here is what I would say if I were to say something to Muhammad (SAW).

O Muhammad (SAW), don't be disheartened
For we are all with you

O Muhammad (SAW), don't you worry
We haven't forgotten you

O Muhammad (SAW), don't be anxious
Your ummah is well and alive

O Muhammad (SAW), don't be depressed
For we believe in you

O Muhammad (SAW), have the good news
They are jealous of you

O Muhammad (SAW), they're in despair
They couldn't produce a man with such influence like
you

O Muhammad (SAW), what have you done to them?
Even while you're in your grave they're scared of you

O Muhammad (SAW), rejoice!
Even those who propagate in the name of your brother Jesus are
miserably deteriorating, worsening, weakening, and fading. They
smear your name but it works against them as they begin to believe
in you and love you. So be happy.

O Muhammad (SAW), don't be sad
We will never disappoint you

O Muhammad (SAW), don't be nervous
We are on the road to victory, Insha-Allah.

O Muhammad (SAW), have our promise
Your message, La Ilaha Illal-lah, shall reign supreme
over the whole globe

O Muhammad (SAW), rest assured
We love you, we love you, we love you!

Those who insult and hurt the Prophet (SAW) are cursed.

إِنَّ الَّذِينَ يُؤْذُونَ اللَّهَ وَرَسُولَهُ لَعَنَهُمُ اللَّهُ
فِي الدُّنْيَا وَالْآخِرَةِ وَأَعَدَّ لَهُمْ عَذَابًا مُّهِينًا

*Those who annoy Allah and His Messenger –
Allah has cursed them in this world and
in the Hereafter, and has prepared for them
a humiliating punishment.*

[33:57]

وَالَّذِينَ يُؤْذُونَ رَسُولَ اللَّهِ لَهُمْ عَذَابٌ أَلِيمٌ

*And those who hurt Allah's Messenger (Muhammad- SAW)
will have a painful torment.*

[9:61]

We ask Allah (SWT) to honor Islam and the Muslims and to humiliate and disgrace the *shirk* and *mushrikeen*. And may Allah's Peace and Blessings be upon our Prophet Muhammad as He sent Peace and Blessings upon Ibrahim, indeed of all in the worlds You are the Praiseworthy, the Glorious.

وصل اللهم وبارك على نبينا محمد كما صليت وباركت على سيدنا إبراهيم

في العالمين إنك حميد مجيد

والسلام عليكم ورحمة الله وبركاته

