



## The Mercy for the Whole Universe

صلى الله  
عليه  
وسلم



"And we sent you only as a mercy for the whole universe."

(Surah Al-Anbiyya, Ayah 107)

The Quran describes Allah as 'Rabb-al-Alamin' the Lord of the whole universe; the One who created it, sustains it and evolves it until it reaches perfection. In this verse it describes the Messenger of God ﷺ as 'Rahmatun' which means doing a favour to someone or to have pity, in short one that benefits others.

The Quran is addressing Muhammad ﷺ O beloved Rasul! You are not only the benefactor for the Arabs and the Muslims but for the whole wide world.

The word Rahm, which means mothers' womb, is also derived from 'Rahmatun'. The womb nourishes, sustains, nurtures and protects the unborn, it caters for all its needs. The womb is a metaphor for the blessed Messenger ﷺ as he is the means by which all creatures derive their sustenance.

Allama Mahmood Alloosi in his famous commentary inquires, "Why does the Quran call him the mercy for the universe?" he gives a short answer "Since he ﷺ is the root and the universe the branches." Here is yet another metaphor to explain the meaning of mercy for the universe, which is the most eminent title of the Prophet ﷺ

The root provides anchor, stability and nourishment to the plant. The branches with

leaves, flowers and buds derive their sustenance via the roots. Without the root they would wither away and die. The Prophet ﷺ is the mercy of the worlds in this sense that through him everything derives sustenance and Divine Mercy.



"Muhammad ﷺ is a man but not like all men.

He ﷺ is a ruby among stones"

The Muslims, followers of Muhammad ﷺ naturally have benefited from his ﷺ teachings and his ﷺ exemplary model. The illiterate arabs who were uncouth, uncivilized, disunited

and unorganised became a mighty empire within a few

decades of accepting Islam. This was a tremendous transforming influence, mercy in full bloom. The Muslims soon mastered Greek philosophy and developed it to its newfound heights, Muslims laid the foundations of modern science, and they influenced legal systems, impacted on old religions and lead to many reforming movements. The Prophet ﷺ basically changed the outlook of mankind by teaching him universal divine ideas and values, which had been taught by previous messengers.

The most important and influential teachings were the dignity of mankind and the unity of the secular and spiritual realms. He ﷺ taught "The whole creation is the family of God and



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the most beloved in God's sight is the one who is the most kind towards it" (Bahaiqi).

Another sphere of life where his ﷺ teachings had an impressive impact is social life, he ﷺ preached the equality and brotherhood of mankind and abhorred racism and exhort "the best amongst you is the one most dutiful and fearful of Allah." He gave women an equal status to men but maintained the natural differences in gender. He encouraged his ﷺ followers to seek knowledge and he ﷺ would say "Seek knowledge even if you have to travel to China." What a fresh breath of life this was for humanity, sunk in utter darkness of ignorance and superstition. The reformation of traditional religious beliefs like the oneness of God and the life hereafter must be the greatest contributions of Rasulallah ﷺ

He ﷺ breathed a new life into monotheism and eschatology which where later to have a considerable impact on Judaism, Christianity and even Hinduism.

No wonder professor Lamartine in his book 'Histoire de la Turquie' frankly admits: "If greatness of purpose, smallness of means and astounding results and the three criteria of a human genius, who could dare to compare any great man in modern history with Muhammad...philosopher, orator, apostle, legislator, warrior, conqueror of ideas, restorer of rational dogmas, of cult without images; the founder of twenty terrestrial empires and of one spiritual empire, that is Muhammad. As regards all standards by which greatness may be measured we may well ask is there any man greater than he?"

