

## Prophet Muhammad (ﷺ) as an Educationist

The first revelation of Allah Almighty received by the Holy Prophet Muhammad (ﷺ) in the cave of Hira was:

**"Read in the name of thy Lord who created . He created man from a clot of blood. Read ! And thy Lord is the most Bounteous who taught by the pen."**

This shows that Allah Almighty taught Hazrat Muhammad (ﷺ) the two steps for education. The first step is reading and the second is writing. But what to read is the question. The Holy Prophet (ﷺ) said, "Learn the Holy Quran and teach it to the people." The Holy Prophet (ﷺ) stressed upon the right kind of education.

He (ﷺ) declared education a religious obligation. He (ﷺ) made compulsory for every man and woman to learn from the cradle to the grave. He (ﷺ) imposed a condition on the prisoners of the battle of Badr to teach the Muslims. He (ﷺ) taught how to teach effectively. To attract the attention of the listeners, he (ﷺ) himself addressed the people as, "O, ye people" and asked a question which made the people attentive. Similarly on another occasion he (ﷺ) asked the followers a question, "Oh, Ansar, didn't I find you away from the right path, and then Allah blessed you through me?" They replied, "Verily, the Prophet of Allah is the custodian of truth." Then he (ﷺ) concluded with a question. "Wouldn't you prefer that while the others' share should be camels and goats, yours should be the Prophet of Allah?" How beautifully did he (ﷺ) urge them to follow him!

Another technique that he (ﷺ) employed was the use of gesture to explain how Allah held heaven and earth in His grip. The Holy Prophet (ﷺ) closed his fist and then opened it while his whole body swayed from one side to the other and the pulpit shook under him. In fact, it was when the Holy Prophet (ﷺ) wanted to demonstrate the dreadful sight of the Doomsday.

In his address on the occasion of Hajja-tul-wida, the followers noticed how by degrees his speech gradually rose to climax. The pauses and the rise and fall of his forceful voice made his speech effective. He demonstrated the concept of closeness by lifting his middle finger and the index together.

---

*Students with native or near-native fluency in English language, having problem in writing the above Arabic expressions, may write:*

- i. **Sallallaahu Alaihe Waallaihe Wasallam for the prophet Muhammad, Alaihissalaam for other holy prophets and angels of Allah; OR, Peace Be Upon Him for all holy prophets and angels of Allah.**
- ii. **Raziyallaahu Unnhu, OR, May Allah Be Pleased With Him for a companion of the prophet**
- iii. **Rahmat ullah Alaihe, OR, May Allah Bless Him for a Muslim saint or sage**

He (ﷺ) remained relevant and brief in his speech to save the listeners from any inconvenience. He (ﷺ) had a literary taste and had perfect command over the language. His conversation with the people was very persuasive. He (ﷺ) was a great educationist and his followers realized this.

Words	Meanings
revelation	a message of God to prophet
stress	to emphasize; to give importance to
cradle to grave	from the time one is born to the last day he live in this world
verily	truly, really
custodian	care taker; in charge
employ	use
climax	the highest point
concept	idea
persuasive	having the power to convince
sway	move from side to side
index	

### EXERCISES

#### 1. Choose the correct answer.

- i. The first revelation encourages us to
  - a) speak.
  - b) behave.
  - c) read.
  - d) live.
  
- ii. The Holy Prophet (ﷺ) attracted the attention of listeners
  - a) by speaking loud.
  - b) by starting with a question.
  - c) by telling a story.
  - d) by addressing the people.
  
- iii. The Holy Prophet (ﷺ) persuaded his followers to follow him
  - a) by promising them riches.
  - b) by promising them paradise.
  - c) by telling them that the Prophet would be theirs.
  - d) by giving them camels and goats.
  
- iv. Another technique used by the Holy Prophet (ﷺ) was
  - a) demonstration.
  - b) writing down an idea.
  - c) gesture.
  - d) climax.

2. Tick (✓) the statements either true or false.

- i. The first revelation was: "Read!.... who taught by the pen." True False
- ii. Another teaching technique was the use of body language. True False
- iii. Demonstration was one of the techniques used by the Holy Prophet (ﷺ). True False
- iv. Extinguishing a fire means putting it out. True False
- v. The addresses of the Holy Prophet (ﷺ) were usually short. True False
- vi. Literary taste means having a literary touch. True False
- vii. Far away from the right path means not following the traffic rules. True False

3. Punctuate the following:

read in the name of thy lord who created he created man from a clot of blood read  
and thy lord is the most bounteous who taught by the pen

4. Tick (✓) the correct word and write the sentences in your note book.

- i. He died of a serious (disease, decease).
- ii. I will (not, naught) listen to you.
- iii. (Cum, Come) on; Let's go.
- iv. She (lets, let's) her child play in the park.
- v. East or West (whom, home) is the best.
- vi. (Chair, Cheer) him up. He seems depressed today.
- vii. A reminder was sent to the Ministry (vide, wide) letter number XYZ.
- viii. The landlord purchased (more land, land) to expand his farming business.
- ix. He has thick (hair, hare) on his head.
- x. Some rulers have (reigned, rained) for as long as half a century.

5. Answer the following questions:

- i. What was the first revelation received in the cave of Hira by the Holy Prophet (ﷺ)?
- ii. What steps were taught for "education" to the Holy Prophet (ﷺ) by the Almighty Allah?
- iii. Which is the best book to read and teach?
- iv. What kind of condition was imposed on the prisoners of the battle of Badr?
- v. Who is the custodian of truth mentioned in the lesson?
- vi. What question did the Holy Prophet (ﷺ) ask before concluding his address to the Ansar?
- vii. What kind of gestures made his speech effective in his address of Hajjat-ul-wida?