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PREDICTIONS OF THE LAST PROPHET (SAW) IN THE SEMITIC AND NON-SEMITIC RELIGIONS

*Hafiz Muhammad Azhar Usama¹, Fazeelat Abdul Baqi², Hafiz Haris Saleem³
Muhammad Rashid⁴, Hafiz Usman Ghani⁵, Abdul Basit Abid⁶, Muhammad Aslam⁷*

¹Department of Islamic Studies, the University of Lahore, Lahore, Punjab, Pakistan

²Lecturer of Islamic Studies (Visiting faculty) G.C University Faisalabad

³Lecturer department of Arabic, Allama Iqbal Open University Islamabad, Pakistan

⁴PHD Scholar, Faculty of Islamic Sciences, Al-Madinah International University, (MEDIU)
Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

⁵Associate Lecturer Department of Islamic Studies, IUB Bahawalnagr Campus

⁶Research Associate, Department of Islamic Studies, University of Lahore, Pakistan

⁷PhD Scholar, Department of Islamic Studies, University of Okara, Punjab, Pakistan

E. mail: ¹muhammad.azhar@ais.uol.edu.pk ²fazeelatabdulbaqi8@gmail.com

³haris.saleem@aiou.edu.pk ⁴officialmuftirashid@gmail.com , ⁵uman.ghani@iub.edu.pk

⁶abdul.basit@ais.uol.edu.pk, ⁷aslamazad173@gmail.com

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ABSTRACT

The main subject and purpose of this research article is to highlight the authenticity and greatness of the prophecy of the last Messenger of God, Muhammad (peace be upon him). The Holy Prophet (sws) is the only and the best example for all humanity. His coming is indicated in all the holy books. The prophecies in the holy scriptures of various religions, such as Hinduism, Zoroastrianism, Buddhism, Judaism and Christianity, not only describe the signs of the last prophet, but also his name. Although these books are not in their original form because, according to their own scholars, they have undergone many changes, they still contain many

prophecies about the last Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him). If the followers of these religions have firm faith in their holy scriptures, then they have to believe and believe in the last messenger, Muhammad (peace be upon him) - .The book "The 100: Rating of the Most Influential People in History" "My choice of Muhammad to be at the top of the list of the most influential people in the world may surprise some readers and be questioned by others, but he was the only man in history who was both religious and secular. He was very successful on the surface. Therefore, if one wants to be successful in this world and in the hereafter, he should believe in the last Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him). This is the platform on which all humanity can be integrated and strengthened.

Predictions about Muhammad (s.a.w.) in Hinduism:

The religious literature of Hinduism is of two types:

1. Shruti
2. Smriti.

Shruti means to understand. According to Hindu Scholars these are the words of Ishwar (God) and they are divided into two parts i.e. Veda and Upanishad. Smriti means to remember. It is thought that these are the words of human beings and they include ways of living. Smriti are of many types like Purana, Ramine, Mahabharata, Bhagavad Geeta, Manu Smriti etc. Veda is derived from Sanskrit word "vid" which means knowledge. There are four parts of Vedas;

- Rigveda
- Samveda
- Yajurveda
- Atharvaveda.

Before mentioning the prophecies of Muhammad (s.a.w.) in Hindu Scriptures, it is necessary to clear the meaning of word 'Autaar'. The word 'Autaar' has been derived from two words i.e. 'Au' and 'Tra' which mean to come down. Many Hindu Scholars give the reference of Bhagvad Geeta while explainin''Autaar''

"O descendent of Bharata, whenever there is a decline in dharma (virtue) and a rise of adharma (injustice), I personally appear."¹

Autaar has been described in Bhagvad Purana in these words:

"Whenever there is a decline in dharma (virtue) and a rise of adharma (injustice), I personally appear."²

Philosophy of Autaar comes from these two words that God comes on earth in the form of human being but we Muslims believe that neither Allah Almighty comes on earth nor He needs to come but He chooses a man from humans and sends His revelation to him and we call this selected man a prophet. Some Hindu scholars say that 'Autaar' has a passive meaning i.e "to send down" so Ishwar (God) does not come to earth Himself but He sends the men to bring the people

to the right path and this meaning of 'Autaar' matches with the teachings of Islam.

On the other hand, when we study Vedas and Upanishad, we don't find the word 'Autaar' in these books but we find the word 'Rishi' i.e prophets which prove that Ishwar sent human beings on earth to bring the people to the right path. So, the contradiction between Vedas and Bhagavad Gita implies that the meaning of Autaar described in Bhagavad Gita and Purana is not correct. So, the correct meaning of the verses of Bhagavad Gita and Purana is that whenever injustice increases and virtue decreases on earth, Ishwar sends prophets on the earth. Now we study the prophecies and reminiscences of Holy Prophet (s.a.w.) in Hindu Literature. In Atharva Veda Prophet Muhammad (s.a.w.) has been mentioned in these words:

"He is Narashangsa or the praised one (Muhammad). He is Kaurama: the prince of peace or the emigrant, who is safe, even amongst a host of 60090 enemies."³

In the explanation of the word Narashangsa, Dr. Ved Prakash writes:

"The word Narashangsa has been evolved from two words i.e. 'Nar' and 'Ashangsa'. 'Nar' means 'Man' and 'Ashangsa' means 'Praised'. It is a purely Vedic word. Some people think that the meaning of Narashangsa is 'human praise'. Some others say that Narashangsa means 'praised by men'. Both of these meanings are wrong. Actually, the word Narashangsa points to a particular individual. In Vedas, the person whose praise has been sung in chapters relating to Narashangsa, this word applies to that person. The word Narashangsa comes under the objective case, and it means 'the praised man'."⁴

The Sanskrit word Kaurama means 'one who spreads and promotes peace'. The Holy Prophet (s.a.w.) was the most peaceful and merciful person of the world and he always promoted peace and universal brotherhood. Another meaning of Kaurama is emigrant. We know that Holy Prophet (s.a.w.) was compelled to leave Makka so he migrated to Madina and thus he was also an Emigrant. This Mantra also predicts that he will be saved from 60090 enemies and history tells us that at that time the population of Makkah was round about 60000.

According to another reference of Atharva Veda;

"He is a camel riding Rishi, whose chariot touches the heaven."⁵

This Mantra indicates that this prophet would ride a camel and the study of the history reveals that he (s.a.w.) was fond of riding a camel and he (s.a.w.) left Makka and went to Madina on a camel. And it is a reality that it cannot be an Indian Rishi because Manu Smriti forbids a Brahman to ride a camel;

"A Brahman is prohibited from riding a camel or an ass and to bathe naked. He should purify himself by suppressing his breath."⁶

It proves that this Rishi is not an Indian Rishi but it is a Non Indian. Moreover Atharva Veda points out;

“When those people will hear praise in battle field their courage will increase and they will win without fight against an enemy of ten thousand who will be fighting against Karoo.”⁷

We know that Allah Almighty says in Holy Quran;

“When the Muslims looked at the allied forces, they called out: "This is what Allah and His Messenger had promised us, and Allah and His Messenger told us what was true." And it only increased their faith and their spirit of obedience.”⁸

It is obvious in history that the strength of Muslims in this war was 3000 and that of disbelievers was 10000 and Muslims won this battle without fight. The word “Karoo” in this mantra means “the praiser”. If it is translated to Arabic it becomes “Ahmad”.

Next in mantra no.7 it has been written;

“By God’s help Abhandoo will defeat twenty chiefs and sixty thousand ninety nine enemies.”⁹

History tells us that there were twenty tribes in Makka and they had twenty chiefs and the population of Makka was about sixty thousand who were against Muhammad ﷺ. The first meaning of the word “Abhandoo” is “orphan” and the second one is “praiseworthy”. Both of these meanings represent him. It is repeated in Rigveda but instead of Abhandoo the word ‘Shusrama’ is used there.¹⁰ ‘Shusrama’ is a Sanskrit word which also means ‘praiseworthy’.

Samveda also predicts him in these words;

“This rishi will not be breastfed by his mother.”¹¹

We know that Muhammad (s.a.w.) was not breastfed by his mother but by a midwife named Halima Sadia. Prophet Muhammad (s.a.w.) has been mentioned at more than hundred places in Vedas only whose detail can’t be revealed here. We wind up at the prediction of Kalki Autar that is mentioned in Bhagvad Purana as;

“Vishnoyas who will be a pious Brahman and will be living in city Sambhala, Kalki Autar will be born in his home and he (Kalki Autar) will possess eight qualities and he will ride a horse, holding a sword in his right hand and he will abolish the enemies.”¹²

It is repeated at another place;

“When Rajas will behave like thieves, then Kalki Autar will be born in the home of Vishnoyas.”¹³

Kalki Autar has also been mentioned in Kalki Purana as;

“Kalki Autar will be born in the home of Vishnoyas who is chief of city Sambhala. This Kalki Autar will have four companions.”¹⁴

Next it mentions;

“This Kalki Autar will be born in the Vishnoyas home and in the uterus of Smiti.”¹⁵

These shlokas and mantras tell us the father name of Kalki Autar as “Vishnoyas”. Vishno means ‘Ishwar’ i.e God and ‘Yas’ means ‘man’. If it is translated to Arabic it becomes ‘Abdullah’ and we know that his father name was Abdullah. And these mantras tell the mother name of Kalki Autar as ‘Smiti’ which means ‘peace’. If it is translated to Arabic it becomes ‘Amina’ and we know that Holy Prophet’s mother name was Amina. And the birth city mentioned here is ‘Sambhala’ which means ‘city of peace’ and we know that He was born in Makka which is called as ‘Balad ul Ameen’ i.e. city of peace in Holy Quran. And it is mentioned here that he will ride a horse and hold a sword in right hand and we know that when Holy Prophet (s.a.w.) went to battle field he rode a horse holding a sword in his right hand. Moreover, he will have four companions and we know that these companions were Abu Bakar Siddiq, Umar Farooq, Usman Ghani and Ali Al Murtaza R.A. So, the Kalki Autar mentioned in Hindu Scriptures is definitely the last messenger Muhammad (s.a.w.).

Prophecies About The Last Messenger (s.a.w) in Zoroastrianism:

Zoroastrianism is the religion that came into being in Iran about 2500 years ago. Its founder was Zoroaster. They are also called fire worshippers. The books of this religion are divided into two parts: Avesta and Dasatir. Dasatir are again divided into two parts; Khard (small) Dasatir and Kalan (big) Dasatir. Avesta is also divided into two parts; Khard Avesta and Kalan Avesta. Some Zoroastrians consider Dasatir while others consider Avesta more authentic. It is revealed through research that both of these books predict the last messenger Muhammad (s.a.w.). Some of these predictions are as follows;

(1) “Who will be revealed as the victorious Saoshyant by name, as well as Astvat-ereta by name? Saoshyant is for this reason that he will benefit the whole corporeal world. Astvat-ereta for this reason that he will resuscitate the corporeal (world) which is perishable.”¹⁶

In this prophecy the word Saoshyant means “praiseworthy”. Its Arabic translation is ‘Muhammad’ (s.a.w.). He (s.a.w.) has been called victorious in this prophecy and we know that his enemies forced him to leave Makkah but after eight years he (s.a.w.) entered Makkah as a victorious. Moreover his another name used here is Astvat-ereta which means ‘praiser’. Its Arabic translation is ‘Ahmad’ (s.a.w.).

(2) “When the Persians will do such deeds, a man from among the Arabs will be born whose followers shall overthrow and dissolve the kingdom and religion of the Persians. And the arrogant people (Persians) will be subjugated. Instead of the temple of fire and the house of the idols they will see the House of

Abraham without any idols as their Qibla. And they (Muslims) will be a mercy to the worlds. And they will capture the places of temples of fire, Madain (Ctesiphon), nearby lands, Tus and Balkh, and other eminent and sacred places (of Zoroastrians). And their leader (Prophet Muhammad pbuh) will be an eloquent man whose words and message will be clear and far-reaching.”¹⁷
In Avesta it is also pointed out that this Saoshyant is the last messenger.¹⁸

So besides predicting the Holy Prophet (s.a.w.) Zoroastrianism has also admitted him as the last messenger.

Prophecies About Merciful Messenger (s.a.w.) in Buddhism:

Buddhism is a religion that came into being between 6th and 4th centuries BCE in ancient India. It is the world’s fourth largest religion whose followers are more than 520 million or above 7% of the global population. They are called Buddhists. They follow the teachings of Buddha also called Gautama or Gotama (Pali). In almost all Buddhist Scriptures Holy Prophet Muhammad (s.a.w.) has been mentioned as Maitreya. The word Maitreya (Sanskrit) or its alternate Metteyya (Pali) means merciful, loving, kind and benevolent. It also means sympathy and friendliness. In Arabic language the word similar to all these words is ‘Rahmat’. Allah Almighty says in Holy Quran:

“And we have sent you only as a mercy for all the worlds.”¹⁹

In some languages the word ‘Mahamet’ or ‘Mahomet’ is used in place of Muhammad. In Pali and Sanskrit, the word ‘Maho’ and ‘Maha’ mean Great and Illustrious and ‘Metta’ means mercy. So ‘Mahomet’ means ‘Great Mercy’. Buddha also predicted about the servant of Holy Prophet Muhammad (s.a.w.) as;

“Then the Blessed one addressed the brethren, and said, “Whosoever, brethren have been Arahat-Buddhas through the long ages of the past, they were servitors just as devoted to those Blessed ones as Ananda has been to me. And whosoever brethren shall be the Arahat-Buddhas of the future, there shall be servitors as devoted to those Blessed ones as Ananda has been to me”.”²⁰

Ananda was a servant of Buddha. Muhammad (s.a.w.) also had a slave whose name was Anas bin Malak (R.A). The parents of Anas R.A. presented him to Holy Prophet (s.a.w.). Anas R.A. states: “My mother said to Holy Prophet (s.a.w.), ‘O Messenger of God, here is your little servant. Moreover, he says: “I served Holy Prophet (s.a.w.) from the age of 8 years and he (s.a.w.) called me his son and little beloved.” Anas R.A. remained close to the Prophet (s.a.w.) all the time and in every situation i.e peace and war till his death. He remained with the Holy Prophet (s.a.w.) and defended him during the war of Uhud when his age was only 11 years and during the battle of Hunain when he was only 16 years old. So, he has a very close resemblance to Ananda who stood by Gautam Buddha when a mad elephant approached him.

Gospel of Buddha states:

“The Blessed one said, “There are two occasions on which a Tathagata’s appearance becomes clear and exceedingly bright. In the night Ananda, in which a Tathagata attains to the supreme and perfect insight, and in the night in which he passes finally away in that ultra passing which leaves nothing whatever of his earthly existence to remain.”²¹

According to Gautam Buddha, following are the six criteria to recognize a Buddha:

A Buddha obtains highest and complete wisdom at night-time.

At the time of his complete enlightenment, he looks very bright.

He dies a natural death.

He dies during night.

Before his death, his face becomes very bright.

He does not return to earth after his death.

All of above signs are found in our beloved Prophet Muhammad (s.a.w.):

Muhammad (s.a.w.) got supreme insight and Prophethood during night.

Allah says in Holy Quran;

“We have indeed revealed this (message) in the night of power.”²²

Muhammad (s.a.w.) instantly felt his understanding illuminated with celestial light.

He (s.a.w.) died a natural death.

Ayesha R.A. relates that Muhammad (s.a.w.) departed from this world at night time. There was no oil in the lamp and she borrowed oil from someone.

Anas R.A. says that Muhammad (s.a.w.) looked extremely luminous at the time of his death.

Once the Holy Prophet (s.a.w.) was buried, he never returned to this earth.

So the prophecy described above points to none but the Holy Prophet Muhammad (s.a.w.).

Predictions About the Final Messenger (s.a.w.) in Judaism:

Holy Bible consists of two parts; Old Testament and New Testament. Old Testament is the religious literature of Jews. Old Testament discusses the prophets who came before Jesus while New Testament describes the life of Jesus. Moreover, Holy Bible is of two types; Catholic Bible and Protestant Bible. Catholic Bible contains 73 books, 27 of which are included in New Testament whereas 46 in Old Testament. Protestants say that seven books in the Old Testament are doubtful. So, in Protestant Bible there are 27 books in the New Testament whereas 39 books in Old Testament. Now we discuss about the prediction of Holy Prophet (s.a.w.) in Jewish Scriptures. It has been mentioned in the Old Testament;

“I will raise them up a prophet from among their brethren, like unto thee; and I will put my words in his mouth, and he shall speak unto them all that I shall command him.”²³

It is mentioned here that a prophet will come who will be like Moses (pbuh). Now Christians commenting on this prophecy say that this is about Jesus (pbuh) not about Muhammad (pbuh) and as an argument they say that according to the prophecy the prophet to come will be like Moses (pbuh) and Jesus (pbuh) was like Moses (pbuh). When they are asked how do both of them resemble? They reply that both were prophets of Allah and both were Jew and that's why this prophecy is about Jesus (pbuh). If these two are the only criteria for fulfillment of the prophecy that he should be prophet of Allah and he must be Jew then all the prophets mentioned in the bible after Moses (pbuh) fulfill the prophecy. If we analyze, we find out that this prophecy is talking about no one but the last and final messenger i.e Muhammad (s.a.w.). The analysis shows that;

According to the prophecy the coming prophet should be like Moses (pbuh) and we know that both prophets i.e. Moses (pbuh) and Muhammad (s.a.w.) were born naturally. But the Jesus (pbuh) was not born naturally, he was born miraculously. Holy Quran describes it in Surah Aale Imran, Ch 3, V 45-47 and also in the Holy Bible, Gospel of Mathew, Ch.1, V.18 and the Gospel of Luke, Ch.1, V.35.

Prophet Muhammad (s.a.w.) and Prophet Moses (pbuh), both of them were married and they had children but according to the Bible, Jesus (pbuh) was not married and he did not have any children. So, the Jesus (pbuh) is unlike Moses (pbuh) and Muhammad (s.a.w.) is like Moses (pbuh).

Both prophet's i.e Muhammad (s.a.w.) and Moses (pbuh) died a natural death but Jesus (pbuh) did not have a natural death. According to the Quran, we believe that Allah Almighty raised up the Jesus (pbuh) alive.²⁴ Christians believe that Jesus (pbuh) was crucified. I can prove with the references of Holy Bible that it is wrong belief but it will expand this article beyond the limits. Anyhow the Christians believe that the death of Jesus (pbuh) was not a natural death.

Muhammad (s.a.w.) and Moses (pbuh) both brought a new law but according to the Bible Jesus (pbuh) did not get a new law. The Holy Bible quote the saying of the Jesus (pbuh) that think not that I have come to destroy the laws of the prophets, I have not come to destroy but to fulfill.²⁵

So from above arguments we can conclude that Moses (pbuh) and Muhammad (s.a.w.) are alike while Moses (pbuh) and Jesus (pbuh) are unlike.

It is mentioned in the Book of Isaiah;

“And the writing is delivered to him that is not learned, saying: ‘Read this, I pray thee’; and he saith: ‘I am not learned.’”²⁶

We know that when first revelation came to prophet Muhammad (s.a.w.) in the cave of Hira, the angel Jibraeel (A.S) requested him: ‘Read’, the beloved prophet Muhammad (s.a.w.) replied: ‘I am not learned.’ This is the verbatim fulfillment of the prophecy of the book of Isaiah that the book will be given to a person who will be unlettered.

Muhammad (s.a.w.) is also mentioned by name in the Holy Bible in Hebrew language as;

“Hikko mamittakim we kullo Muhammadim zehdoodeh WA zehraee baina Jerusalem.”²⁷

“His mouth is most sweet, and he is altogether desirable. This is my beloved and this is my friend, O daughters of Jerusalem.”

In this prophecy the word ‘Muhammadim’ is translated as ‘altogether desirable’. In Semitic languages ‘im’ is added with the name of a person to give him respect. That’s why ‘im’ is added here with the name of the merciful messenger of Allah Almighty.

Prophecies About the Comforter (s.a.w.) in Christianity:

As Holy Bible comprises both testaments i.e. Old Testament and New Testament so Christians must believe in the prophecies described in the Old Testament. Anyhow there are many prophecies about Muhammad (s.a.w.) in the New Testament also which are listed below;

“And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you forever.”²⁸

“But when that Comforter shall come, he shall testify of me.”²⁹

The word for Comforter in Greek and Aramaic languages is ‘Paraclete’ which means ‘an advocate’ and by research we find that real word is ‘Paracletos’ which means ‘one who praises’ i.e. Ahmad. However, whether it is Paraclete or Paracletos, both of these words point to no one but the last and final messenger i.e. Muhammad (s.a.w.) because the Holy Quran has depicted him as Comforter and Mercy for all the worlds;

وَمَا أَرْسَلْنَاكَ إِلَّا رَحْمَةً لِّلْعَالَمِينَ³⁰

“And we have sent you only as a mercy for all the worlds.”

“Yet I tell you the truth, it is expedient for you that I go away, for if I go not away, the Comforter will not come unto you, but if I depart, I will send him unto you.”³¹

Christian scholars say that Comforter refers to the Holy Spirit. This prophecy clearly indicates that the Comforter will not come until Jesus (pbuh) departs. So the Comforter here cannot be referred to the Holy Spirit.

“I have yet many things to say unto you, but ye cannot bear them now. Howbeit, when he is come which is the spirit of truth, he will lead you into all truth, for he shall not speak of himself, but whatsoever he shall hear, shall he speak, and he will shew you the things to come. He shall glorify me.”³²

In this prophecy Jesus Christ (pbuh) says that the spirit of the truth will lead you to the truth and he will not speak of himself but whatsoever he will hear, he will speak and we know that Holy Quran says that He (s.a.w.) does not utter a word from his mouth by his own will but by the revelation which is revealed upon him.³³ And next he says that he will tell you about the future happenings and he will glorify me and we know that Holy Prophet (s.a.w.) has predicted many things like the signs of the day of judgement and many others and he (s.a.w.) has glorified Jesus Christ (pbuh) in the Quran and in his own sayings. We consider Jesus Christ (pbuh) to be one of the mighteous messengers of Allah Almighty and he was born miraculously without any male intervention. We believe that he gave life to the dead with God's permission and he gave vision power to the blind with God's permission etc. So this prophecy points towards only one greatest personality i.e. Muhammad (s.a.w.).

CONCLUSION:

The distinct and vivid arguments and prophecies given above clearly indicate that Holy Prophet Muhammad (s.a.w.) is the last and final messenger of Allah and a sentient person who comes to know these prophecies with a neutral mind can't refuse his prophethood. Muhammad (s.a.w.) has been mentioned in all religious scriptures because he (s.a.w.) has been awarded the crown of the last prophethood for the whole humanity and on the Day of Judgment there will be no excuse for anyone that he could not know about him. His life is a perfect model to follow. So it is the time to believe in and follow him. If a person refuses to follow the Holy Prophet Muhammad (s.a.w.) it means he himself refuses to enter the Paradise. Holy Prophet (s.a.w.) said;

“All my nation will enter the Paradise except those who refused.” The companions (R.A.) asked, “O Messenger of Allah, who would refuse?” Prophet Muhammad (s.a.w.) answered, “Whoever obeys me will go to Paradise and whoever disobeys me has indeed refused (to go to Paradise).”³⁴

According to Holy Quran the sinner will bite his hand (in regret) on the Day of Judgment and say: “Would that I had taken with the Messenger a way.”³⁵

At the end of this article, I pray to Allah Almighty that May He grant us the true love of his beloved prophet, the saviour of mankind i.e. Muhammad (s.a.w.) . May Allah shower his countless blessings on Holy Prophet Muhammad (s.a.w.), his companions (R.A.) and his followers? Aameen.

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