THE MESSENGER OF ALLAH ﷺ - WHAT DID MUHAMMAD ﷺ LOOK LIKE?

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Izvor: https://minbarlive.com/videos/en/the-messenger-of-allah-what-did-muhammad-look-like

> In this lecture, a series begins on the virtues of the Messenger of Allah ﷺ through the work "Shama'il Muhammadiyyah" by Imam Tirmidhi. The speaker reads and comments on the first hadiths that describe the physical appearance of the Messenger ﷺ, aiming to bring him closer to the listeners.

SAŽETAK

The lecture begins with an announcement of a series dedicated to the virtues of the Messenger of Allah ﷺ, based on the work "Shama'il Muhammadiyyah" by Imam Tirmidhi, written over 1200 years ago. The speaker explains that this work describes both the physical characteristics and moral qualities of the Messenger ﷺ, aiming to bring him closer to the audience and distance them from formalism. He particularly highlights that the translator of the work into Bosnian, Husein Omer Spahić, began the translation in Revda Mutaheri, following the example of Imam Bukhari. Then, hadiths describing the appearance of the Messenger ﷺ are read and commented on: Anas ibn Malik r.a. reports that he was neither tall nor short, neither very fair nor dark-skinned, neither curly nor straight-haired, that he received the message at the age of 40, spent 13 years in Mecca and 10 in Medina, died at the age of 63, and had no more than 20 gray hairs in his hair and beard. Al-Bara' ibn Azib r.a. describes him as of medium height, broad-shouldered, with hair falling over his ears, and says he has never seen anyone more beautiful. Ali ibn Abi Talib r.a. gives a detailed description of his physical appearance, walk, and moral qualities such as generosity and honesty, stating that anyone who unexpectedly sees him would feel awe, while those who get to know him would love him. Hasan ibn Ali r.a. provides a thorough description of his face, hair, beard, body, walk, gaze lowered to the ground, and that he walked behind the companions and was the first to greet with peace. Jabir ibn Samurah r.a. describes him as more beautiful than the moon, Abu Huraira r.a. highlights his fair complexion, and Jabir r.a. narrates a hadith in which the Messenger ﷺ mentions how previous messengers were shown to him. Finally, there is a hadith from Abu Tufayl and Ibn Abbas r.a. describing his spaced incisors and the light that emanates between them when he speaks. The speaker concludes with a desire to continue the series and bring the Messenger ﷺ closer to the audience.

KLJUČNE PORUKE

The series is based on the work "Shama'il Muhammadiyyah" by Imam Tirmidhi, which describes the physical and moral qualities of the Messenger Muhammad .

The aim is to bring the Messenger Muhammad closer and move away from formalism, so we can know him as a man and a messenger.

Anas ibn Malik r.a. reports that the Messenger Muhammad was neither tall nor short, neither very white nor dark-skinned, neither curly nor straight-haired; he received his prophethood at the age of 40, spent 13 years in Mecca and 10 in Medina, and passed away at the age of 63, with not more than 20 gray hairs in his hair and beard.

Al-Bara' bin Azib r.a. describes the Messenger Muhammad as of medium height, broad-shouldered, with hair that fell over his ears, and says he has never seen anyone more beautiful.

Ali ibn Abi Talib r.a. describes the Messenger's walk in detail (swift, as if descending a hill), his physical characteristics, and moral virtues: the most generous, the most sincere, the gentlest of temperament, and the most pleasant company.

Hasan ibn Ali r.a. reports that the Messenger Muhammad often looked down at the ground, walked behind his companions, and was the first to greet with peace, showing his humility.

Jabir bin Samurah r.a. saw the Messenger Muhammad in a red cloak and found him more beautiful than the moon; Abu Hurairah r.a. describes his fair complexion as if he were made of silver.

Ibn Abbas r.a. reports that the Messenger Muhammad had spaced front teeth, and when he spoke, it seemed as if light was coming out between them.

ČLANAK

Dear friends, peace be upon you.

Thank you very much for following and showing interest in this channel and programs, and in a way, the shows we prepare for you. Today, I really want to start something different, something that I hope will bring us closer to the Exalted Allah, and that will bring us closer to the Messenger, . In this regard, I want to begin a series where we will discuss the virtues of the Messenger of Allah, .

Introduction to the work of Shama'il Muhammadiyyah

One of the things that truly deserves special attention are the virtues of the Messenger, ﷺ. In this regard, we have a fantastic work. This work, "Shama'il Muhammadiyyah" by Imam Tirmidhi, was written nearly 12 centuries ago, over 1200 years ago, as Imam Tirmidhi was born in the year 209 of the Hijra. So, that is around 800 years after Jesus, peace be upon him. This work describes the physical characteristics of the Messenger, ﷺ, as well as his moral qualities. Therefore, I believe it is extremely important to know this work and, in this way, actually bring ourselves closer to the Messenger of Allah, ﷺ.

In the introduction to the work "Shama'il Muhammadiyyah", it states that anyone who reads this work or listens to its reading or a lecture about it will feel as if they have seen Muhammad, ﷺ. This is truly very important. Why? Because getting to know the Messenger, ﷺ, should draw our attention to the essence of his prophetic mission, distancing us from formalism and from things that are not so significant. This book and this approach to the physical appearance of the Messenger, ﷺ, his physical characteristics, but at the same time his moral characteristics, brings us closer to the Messenger of Allah, ﷺ, as a human being, but also brings us even closer as the last Messenger of Allah, explaining his morals, his humanity, and those qualities that are very important for us.

What particularly impressed me, and I am truly glad, is that the translator of this work from Arabic began translating it in the Blessed Revda. So, Hussein Omer Spahić, when he studied there in Revda, between the grave of the Messenger, ﷺ, and his pulpit, began following Imam Bukhari and mentions that he started his Sahih in the Blessed Revda, beginning with this work, with the translation of this work in the Blessed Revda. So, if Allah wills, we will read the hadiths with a brief commentary that describe the Messenger, ﷺ, with the desire to get to know him better and to visualize the appearance of the Messenger of Allah, ﷺ.

First hadith: Anas ibn Malik, r.a.

Today we will read the first chapter about the appearance of the Messenger of Allah, ﷺ. Anas ibn Malik, r.a., narrated: "The Messenger of Allah, ﷺ, was neither tall nor short, neither very white nor dark-skinned, neither curly nor straight-haired. Allah chose him as a Messenger when he was 40 years old. He spent 13 years in Mecca and 10 years in Medina. He died at the age of 63, and in his hair and beard, he had no more than 20 gray or white hairs."

This first hadith, narrated by Anas ibn Malik, r.a., describes the appearance of the Messenger, ﷺ, in the first part. So, the physical appearance. He says: "He was neither tall nor short. He was neither very white nor dark-skinned." So, he was not dark. "He did not have completely curly hair, nor did he have straight hair." So, somewhere in

between. Then, after that, he describes some other facts: "Allah chose him as a Messenger when he was 40 years old." The fortieth year is considered the age of maturity, complete maturity. Physical, psychological, psychosocial, and every emotional form of maturity is precisely at the age of 40. Then, after that, Anas ibn Malik says: "He spent 13 years in Mecca and 10 years in Medina. He died at the age of 63, and in his hair and beard, he had no more than 20 gray hairs." This detail, that the Messenger, ﷺ, had no more than 20 gray hairs in his hair and beard, tells us how much the companions of the Messenger of Allah, ﷺ, loved him, how much they valued him, and how much attention they paid to his overall appearance. This is something that truly means a lot to us when we read the sirah, specifically this work "Shama'il", which describes the characteristics and virtues of the Messenger of Allah, ﷺ.

Second hadith: Al-Bara' bin Azib, r.a.

Al-Bara' bin Azib, r.a., reports: "The Messenger of Allah ﷺ was of medium height, broad-shouldered. His hair fell over his ears in a red cloak. I have never seen anyone more beautiful than him." This hadith, narrated by Al-Bara' bin Azib, truly reflects the love the companions had for the Messenger ﷺ. This will be evident in other hadiths, where the companions describe him in the most beautiful way, stating that he was their dearest and most beautiful. Here we have the same description: "He was of medium height." It adds: "He was broad-shouldered." That is, the Messenger ﷺ had broad shoulders. "His hair fell over his ears." His hair, as you will see in other narrations, fell to here. When the Messenger ﷺ let his hair grow long, it fell to his earlobes. "I have never seen anyone more beautiful than him." They valued and loved him so much.

The Third Hadith: Ali bin Abi Talib, r.a.

Ali bin Abi Talib, r.a., reports: "The Messenger of Allah ﷺ was neither very tall nor very short. He had strong hands and feet, a large head and big bones, with longer hair on his chest. When he walked, he walked briskly, as if going down a hill. I have never seen anyone like him, neither before nor after."

In the next narration, also reported from Hazrat Ali, it states that he said: "He was neither too tall nor too short, but of medium height. His hair was neither curly nor straight, but slightly wavy. He was neither fat nor round-faced, but slightly rounded. He had a rosy complexion, black eyes, long eyelashes, broad shoulders, wide chest, long hair on his chest, big hands and feet. When he walked, he walked briskly, as if going down a hill. When he turned, he turned with his whole body. He had the seal of prophethood between his shoulders, and he himself was the seal of all prophets. He was the most generous, the most sincere, the gentlest in character, and the most pleasant company. Anyone who saw him suddenly would feel awe. And anyone who got to know him well would love him. When someone described him, they would say: 'I have never seen anyone like him, neither before nor after.'"

This description from Hazrat Ali indicates that the Messenger was of medium height. He neither had curly nor straight hair. It describes his face, how the face of the Messenger looked, his black eyes. He had a rosy complexion, long eyelashes, broad shoulders, and wide chest. Again, it repeats: "When he walked, he hurried as if going down a hill." Then Hazrat Ali says: "He was the most generous." Thus, he now describes the moral characteristics of the Messenger . "The most sincere." The Messenger .

Sincerity and Gentleness as Embodiments of the Messenger's Character

The Messenger was the embodiment of sincerity. He never lied. His character was the gentlest, and being with him was the most pleasant. Anyone who associated with the Messenger felt honored and happy in his company. Today, we have cases where we sit with someone for five minutes, and our head starts to ache. We simply cannot concentrate, we don't feel good, and so on. Hazrat Ali, r.a., says: "When someone saw him suddenly, they would feel awe, and when someone associated with him, they would surely love him." Everyone agreed that he was unique among people.

Description of the Messenger as Reported by Hasan ibn Ali, r.a.

Hasan ibn Ali reports that the Messenger of Allah looked like this: "The Messenger of Allah was large, magnificent in appearance. His face shone like a full moon, slightly taller than a man of medium height, but shorter than a tall man. He had a large forehead, slightly wavy hair. If his hair was parted, he would make a parting. Otherwise, his hair did not go past his earlobes when long. He had a fair complexion, a wide forehead, and full eyebrows shaped like a crescent that did not meet. A swollen vein would appear between them when he was angry. When he was angry, he had a slightly curved nose, that typical, let’s say, Arab nose. He radiated peace. Those who did not know him would think he was proud. He was a man with a thick beard, flat cheeks, full lips, slightly spaced teeth, and fine hair on his chest. His neck shone like silver, of medium stature, with a solid body, a flat stomach, and broad chest." Thus, the Messenger did not have a belly in the sense of what we call a potbelly. His stomach was level with his chest.

Then it says: "He had broad shoulders, big bones, soft hair growing from his neck to his stomach, bony arms, shoulders, and upper chest, long forearms, wide palms, big hands and feet, long legs and arms, hollowed soles, and round feet from which water would quickly run off. He walked firmly and went calmly. When he walked, he walked briskly, as if going down a hill. When he turned, he turned with his whole body, looking down at the ground, and his gaze at the ground was longer than his gaze at the sky. When he looked, he looked briefly. He walked behind the companions and was the first to greet anyone he met."

Humility and a gaze lowered to the ground

This description, narrated by the companion Hasan ibn Ali r.a., describes the beauty of the Messenger Muhammad and his physical traits — how he looked, his hands, his blessed face, his stomach, his shoulders, and so on, even his feet. He concludes by saying that the Messenger often looked ahead rather than at the sky. This is very interesting because if you experiment and look at the sky, you will feel like you are standing still. But when you look ahead, you feel like you are walking much faster. It's quite a charming detail. He said: "He walked behind the companions." That is, he never sought to be first. He was comfortable walking behind them and would greet those he met first. Thus, another beautiful detail of the Messenger's humility.

A beauty that surpasses the moon

Jabir bin Samurah narrates the following hadith: "One bright night, I saw the Messenger of Allah in a red cloak." A large cloak, something like a coat, even a bit larger. "I gazed at him, then at the moon, and he appeared more beautiful than the moon." Here we see Jabir bin Samurah r.a.'s pure love for the Messenger of Allah . Abu Huraira r.a. reports: "The Messenger of Allah had a fair complexion, as if created from silver, with slightly wavy hair." He emphasizes his light complexion, noting that he was fairer than the typical Arabs of his time.

Vision of earlier prophets and the description of Abu Tufayl

Jabir r.a. again reports that the Messenger of Allah said: "The prophets were shown to me." Thus, the Exalted Allah, may He be glorified and exalted, showed the Messenger earlier prophets. "I saw Musa a.s. as if he were from the tribe of Shanu'a, and the one most resembling Sa'u a.s. was Urwah ibn Mas'ud r.a. I resembled Ibrahim a.s. the most, and Dihyah al-Kalbi was most like Jibril a.s." This is also a very interesting hadith where the Messenger mentions that the Exalted Allah, may He be glorified and exalted, visually showed him how the prophets looked. He met them and then compared them to himself and the companions from certain tribes. The penultimate hadith we will mention this time is narrated by Sa'id al-Jurayri, who reports that the Messenger looked as follows, relaying a narration from Abu Tufayl. Abu Tufayl says: "I saw the Messenger of Allah , and of all the people who saw him, I am the only one alive." That is, the others have passed away. Sa'id then asks him: "Describe him to me, tell me how the Messenger looked." This tells us that he was a tabi'in, while this man was a companion. He describes him very briefly: "He was handsome, with a fair complexion and of medium height."

The final hadith and conclusion

And the last hadith we will mention today from this chapter of the work "The Virtues of the Messenger of Allah " is from Ibn Abbas r.a., who says: "The Messenger of Allah

had spaced front teeth. When he spoke, it appeared as if light was coming from between them." This is the first chapter that describes the physical appearance of the Messenger of Allah , with certain aspects of his behavior and similar traits. If Allah wills, we will create more such content where we will try to present as much about the Messenger as possible, to bring him closer to us, to make him dearer to us, and to simply, in some way, draw closer to the Messenger of Allah . May Allah, the Exalted, reward you. Thank you for following, sharing, and commenting. I hope there will be benefits in this, that it will remain as a waqf after us. May Allah reward you. And peace be upon you and the mercy of Allah and His blessings.

Tirmizi (Šema'il Muhammedijjeh) Buhari (spomenut u uvodu) #the Messenger Muhammad #Shama'il of Muhammad #physical appearance of the Messenger Muhammad #moral qualities of the Messenger Muhammad #hadiths #Imam Tirmidhi #companions

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