

Physical description of the Messenger of Allaah

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بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

In the name of Allaah, the Most Merciful, the Bestower of Mercy

Shaykh Abdur-Razzaq bin Abdul-Muhsin al-Abbaad said:

‘Indeed, Allaah was the most Generous to our Prophet -sallallaahu alayhi wa sallam- and gave him the most perfect and most beautiful physical characteristics, just as He was the most Generous to him -sallallaahu alayhi wa sallam- with the best characteristics of manners.

Ibn Taymeeyah -Rahimuhullaah- said in his book ‘al-Jawaab as-Saheeh’ 5/438: ‘His physical form and appearance was the most perfect, most complete and most collective of beauty which indicate to his completeness.’¹

Neither extremely tall nor short

عَنْ أَنَسِ بْنِ مَالِكٍ أَنَّهُ سَمِعَهُ يَقُولُ: (كَانَ رَسُولَ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ لَيْسَ بِالطَّوِيلِ الْبَائِنِ وَلَا بِالْقَصِيرِ وَلَا بِالْأَبْيَضِ الْأَمْهَقِ وَلَا بِالْأَدَمِ وَلَا بِالْجَعْدِ الْقَطِطِ وَلَا بِالسَّبِطِ بَعَثَهُ اللَّهُ تَعَالَى عَلَى رَأْسِ أَرْبَعِينَ سَنَةً فَأَقَامَ بِمَكَّةَ عَشْرَ سِنِينَ وَبِالْمَدِينَةِ عَشْرَ سِنِينَ وَتَوَفَّاهُ اللَّهُ عَلَى رَأْسِ سِتِّينَ سَنَةً وَلَيْسَ فِي رَأْسِهِ وَلِحْيَتِهِ عَشْرُونَ شَعْرَةً بَيْضَاءَ

From Rabeah bin Abee Abdurrahman that he heard Anas bin Maalik -Radhiallaahu anhu- saying:

“The Messenger of Allaah –sallallaahu alayhi wa sallam– was neither extremely tall nor short. He was not very white nor very dark. His hair was not completely curly and neither was it absolutely straight. Allaah Ta’ala sent him as a Prophet when he reached 40 years of age.

So, he –sallallaahu alayhi wa sallam– stayed in Makkah for 10 years and in Madeenah for 10 years. Then Allaah caused him to pass away when he reached 60 years of age and at that time he did not have 20 white hairs on his head or his beard.”²

¹ [Sharh Shamail an-Nabee p.17]

² [Collected by Bukhaaree, Muslim, Tirmidhee & Maalik. Albaanee declared it to Saheeh]

Physical description of the Messenger of Allaah

Shaykh Abdur-Razzaq al-Abbaad said:

[neither extremely tall]

'The Prophet –sallallaahu alayhi wa sallam– was nearer to being tall than he was to being short as has been clearly mentioned in some narrations.'³

More beautiful than the moon

وعنه قَالَ: (رَأَيْتُ رَسُولَ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ فِي لَيْلَةِ إِضْحِيَانٍ (مُضِيئَةِ مَقْمَرَةٍ) وَعَلَيْهِ حُلَّةٌ حُمْرَاءُ فَجَعَلْتُ أَنْظُرُ إِلَيْهِ (وَأَلَى الْقَمَرِ فَلَهُوَ عِنْدِي أَحْسَنُ مِنَ الْقَمَرِ)

From Jabir bin Samrah who said:

"I saw the Messenger of Allaah –sallallaahu alayhi wa sallam– on a moon lit night wearing a red upper and lower garment. I looked at him and at the moon and to me he was more beautiful than the moon."⁴

Shaykh Abdur-Razzaq al-Abbaad said:

[I looked at him and at the moon]

'meaning he looked at the beauty of the face of the Messenger -sallallaahu alayhi wa sallam- and the beauty of the moon and then compared the two beauties.'⁵

[and to me he was more beautiful than the moon]

'Meaning that he found the beauty of the Messenger -sallallaahu alayhi wa sallam- far superior than the beauty of the moon.'⁶

Shaykh Abdur-Razzaq al-Abbaad said:

'The similitude here is one which brings closer the meaning and clarity except that Allaah Azza wa Jal – had indeed clothed the Prophet -sallallaahu alayhi wa sallam- with a face of great beauty. Amazing beauty far greater than the beauty of the moon.'⁷

The Prophets were shown to me

عَنْ جَابِرِ بْنِ عَبْدِ اللَّهِ أَنَّ رَسُولَ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ قَالَ:

عُرِضَ عَلَيَّ الْأَنْبِيَاءُ فَإِذَا مُوسَى عَلَيْهِ السَّلَامُ ضَرْبٌ مِنَ الرِّجَالِ كَأَنَّهُ مِنْ رِجَالِ شَنْوَاءَةَ وَرَأَيْتُ عِيسَى بْنِ مَرْيَمَ عَلَيْهِ السَّلَامُ (فَإِذَا أَقْرَبُ مَنْ رَأَيْتُ بِهِ شَبَهًا عُرْوَةً بِنُ مَسْعُودٍ وَرَأَيْتُ إِبْرَاهِيمَ عَلَيْهِ السَّلَامُ فَإِذَا أَقْرَبُ مَنْ رَأَيْتُ بِهِ شَبَهًا صَاحِبِكُمْ (يَعْنِي نَفْسَهُ) وَرَأَيْتُ جِبْرِيلَ عَلَيْهِ السَّلَامُ فَإِذَا أَقْرَبُ مَنْ رَأَيْتُ بِهِ شَبَهًا دَحِيئَةً

³ [Sharh Shamail an-Nabee p.18]

⁴ [Collected by Tirmidhee – Saheeh Albaanee Sham p.27]

⁵ [Sharh Shamail an-Nabee P.35]

⁶ [Sharh Shamail an-Nabee P.35]

⁷ [Sharh Shamail an-Nabee P.36]

For more works of Shaykh Abdur-Razzaq al-Badr please go to:

abdur-razzaq-al-badr.com

The Noble Scholar of al-Madeenah

Physical description of the Messenger of Allaah

From Jabir ibn Abdullah that the Messenger of Allaah –sallallaahu alayhi wa sallam– said:

“The Prophets were shown to me, I saw Moosa -‘alayhis salaam, he was a man of medium build, as if he was one of the men of Shanu’ah.

I saw ‘Eesaa ibn Maryum -‘alayhis salaam- and the closest resemblance to him whom I have seen is ‘Urwah ibn Mas’ood.

I saw Ibraheem -‘alayhis salaam- and the closest in resemblance to him whom I have seen is your companion (i.e. myself).

I saw Jibraeel -alayhis salaam- and the closest in resemblance to him whom I have seen is Dihyah.”⁸

Shaykh Abdur-Razzaq al-Abbaad said:

[Moosa -alayhi as Sallam- he was a man of medium build]

‘Meaning that he was of a medium height of men, in his stature and as was his body -alayhi as Sallam.’⁹

[men of Shanu’ah]

‘It is a tribe from Yemen, their bodies were well known for being firm and strong and of good stature.’¹⁰

[Dhiyah]

‘Dhiyaah al-Kalbi -Radiallaahu anhu- was from the most beautiful of the Companions.’¹¹

The Prophet was Physical Light

Shaykh Abdur-Razzaq al-Abbaad said:

‘The Prophet –sallallaahu alayhi wa sallam– was described as having light emitting from between his front two teeth and that he –sallallaahu alayhi wa sallam– was like the moon in radiance and shimmer etc.

Some authors have been mistaken regarding the description of the Prophet –sallallaahu alayhi wa sallam– so they claim that he has a physical light meaning that he illuminates everything around him. Perhaps some of them say about his –sallallaahu alayhi wa sallam– description that he did not have a shadow in respect to this light which was a physical light.

⁸ [Muslim, Tirmidhee and Saheehah 1100 – Albaanee Saheeh p.28]

⁹ [Sharh Shamail an-Nabee P.37]

¹⁰ [Sharh Shamail an-Nabee P.37]

¹¹ [Sharh Shamail an-Nabee P.38]

Physical description of the Messenger of Allaah

This is a wrong understanding, there are many Ahadeeth which indicate that this is a wrong understanding.

From those Ahadeeth is the story of Aeysha -Radhiallahu anha- as she said:

‘One night I did not find the Messenger of Allaah –sallallaahu alayhi wa sallam– in bed, so, I started feeling around and my hand fell upon the bottom of his feet, he was in the Masjid and his feet propped up [i.e. like in Sajdah] and he was saying:

(اللَّهُمَّ أَعُوذُ بِرِضَاكَ مِنْ سَخَطِكَ وَبِمُعَافَاتِكَ مِنْ عُقُوبَتِكَ وَأَعُوذُ بِكَ مِنْكَ لَا أُحْصِي تَنَاءً عَلَيْكَ أَنْتَ كَمَا أَتَنَيْتَ عَلَى نَفْسِكَ) .

‘O Allaah I seek refuge with Your Being Pleased away from Your displeasure, with Your pardoning away from Your punishment, and I seek refuge with You.

I cannot count the amount of praise for You, You are as You have praised Yourself.’¹²

Therefore, if the Prophet was of light as these people have understood then ‘Aeysha - Radhiallahu anha- was not in need of – when she entered the Masjid searching for the Prophet –sallallaahu alayhi wa sallam– walking in the dark, feeling with her hand until it fell upon the bottom of the Messenger’s foot –sallallaahu alayhi wa sallam– while he was in Sajdah!

So, this hadeeth -and there are many the like of it- clarify the mistake of those who understood from the Ahadeeth which mention his –sallallaahu alayhi wa sallam– light, that it is a physical light which illuminates what is around him.¹³

¹² [Saheeh Muslim]

¹³ [Sharh Shamail an-Nabee P.39]