

Khasa'Is 'Āl-Nābi (PBUH): In the light of the Old Testament and the New Testament

☆ **Dr. Muhammad Farooq Abdullah**

Assistant Professor, Department of
Interfaith Studies, Allama Iqbal Open
University Islamabad, Pakistan

Citation:

Abdullah, Dr. Muhammad Farooq, "Khasa'Is 'Āl-Nābi (PBUH): In the light of the Old Testament and the New Testament." *Al-Idrāk Research Journal*, 2, no.1, Jan-June (2022): 231– 241.



ABSTRACT

The name of the Holy Prophet is mentioned in all the Divine Books. Allah Almighty has mentioned the name of the Blessed Prophet Muhammad in every revelation and in every book. After the creation of the world, before the Prophet Muhammad (PBUH), all his attributes, perfections, glory of the Prophet (PBUH) and news of his arrival in the world were announced to the Prophets before his advent. This is stated very clearly in all the heavenly books and scriptures. The People of the Book continued to distort their books in every age and they made great efforts to obliterate or change the name of the Holy Prophet from their books. But there are still traces of the Prophet's name and good news of his arrival in the modern Bible. The Bible is divided into two parts, the Old Testament, and the New Testament. The New Testament is the holy book of the ancient Jews, and it records the events of all the prophets before Moses. The New Testament contains the story of Jesus. Faith is only the name of confirming the greatness of the Prophet Muhammad (PBUH). The worship of one God has always been practiced by most of the people of the world and the form of faith has always been the same, whether it was before or after the arrival of the Holy Prophet (PBUH). Only the rules of Sharia had been varying for every prophet and nation till the advent of Muhammad (PBUH). Therefore all the previous Prophets, besides worshiping and preaching one God, also affirmed the greatness of Muhammad (PBUH) in all previous scriptures and urged their followers to Believe on Muhammad, which is an essential part of faith always till the day of resurrection.

Key Words: Scriptures, Prophets, Bible, Islam, Judaism, faith, Resurrection

Introduction

The name of the Holy Prophet is mentioned in all the Divine Books. Allah Almighty has stated the name of the Blessed Prophet Muhammad in every revelation and in every book. Allah Almighty had promised the souls of the Prophets (Peace Be Upon Them) in the world with the Covenant to believe in the Prophethood of the Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) and to help him. Allah Almighty did not want this promise to remain just an esoteric secret, but the

future human race to be aware of the greatness of this great and last Prophet (PBUH). Khasa'Is is the plural of Khasisa', which means features and attributes that distinguish one from the other.¹ However, this term in general refers to all the features that distinguish the Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) from other Prophets (Peace Be Upon Them), and these features include his 'Ummah and sharia.²

Exact features of Hazrat Muhammad (PBUH) told by a companion

عن البراء بن عازب -رضي الله عنهما- قال: «ما رأيتُ من ذي لَمَّةٍ في خَلَّةٍ حَمْرَاءَ أَحْسَنَ من رسول الله -صلى الله عليه وسلم-، له شَعْرٌ يَضْرِبُ مَنْكِبَيْهِ، بعيدٌ ما بين المَنْكِبَيْنِ، ليس بالقصير ولا بالطويل»³

Bara ibn Azib narrates, that I have never seen a person more beautiful than the Messenger of Allah dressed in a red robe with hanging hairs. His hair was touching his shoulders, his chest was wide, and he was neither short nor tall.

But in this article we will review the features that have been mentioned in the previous Divine books about the Prophet Muhammad (PBUH). After the creation of the world, before the Prophet Muhammad (PBUH), all his attributes, perfections, glory of the Prophet (PBUH) and news of his arrival in the world were announced to the Prophets before his advent. This is stated very clearly in all the heavenly books and scriptures. And in fulfillment of the covenant made with Allah, all the Prophets themselves informed their respective nations about the arrival of the Holy Prophet (PBUH) and informed their nations of his characteristics and perfections. So that when he comes, all nations will recognize him and follow him. Allah says about it, in Surah Al-Imran "And [recall, O People of the Scripture], when Allah took the covenant of the prophets, [saying], "Whatever I give you of the Scripture and wisdom and then there comes to you a messenger confirming what is with you, you [must] believe in him and support him." [Allah] said, "Have you acknowledged and taken upon that My commitment?" They said, "We have acknowledged it." He said, "Then bear witness, and I am with you among the witnesses".⁴ Therefore in all the previous books, Allah Almighty mentioned the Holy Prophet (PBUH) and gave guidance in the Holy Qur'an. As Allah Says in Holy Qur'an about this reality.

¹ Al Mu'jam Al Waseet , Al-Tab'at al-Khamisa Munaqqaha, Dar Kotob al-Ilmiya & Maktaba al-Shuruq, 1989, Vol.1 P. 238

² Al-Khasa'is al-Kubra, Al-Suyuti, Darul Kutub, Ilmia. Vol.2. P. 296

³ Sāḥiḥ Muslim 'Muslm bin ālḥḡāḡ ālqšyri ālnysābwry 'ṡḡyq mḡmd f'ād 'abd ālbāqi 'dārahāyā' ālṡrāt āl'rby 'Bairut 'ālṡb'1423 h.-

⁴ 'Al-Imran 3: 181

الَّذِينَ يَتَّبِعُونَ الرَّسُولَ النَّبِيَّ الَّذِي يَجِدُونَهُ مَكْتُوبًا عِنْدَهُمْ فِي التَّوْرَةِ وَالْإِنْجِيلِ⁵

Those who follow the Messenger, the unlettered prophet, whom they find written in what they have of the Torah and the Gospel.

The People of the Book continued to distort their books in every age and they made great efforts to obliterate or change the name of the Holy Prophet from their books. But there are still traces of the Prophet's name and good news of his arrival in the modern Bible. The Bible is divided into two parts, the Old Testament, and the New Testament. The New Testament is the holy book of the ancient Jews, and it records the events of all the prophets before Moses. The New Testament contains the story of Jesus. The Old Testament and the New Testament together make up the entire Bible of 73 books. However, the Protestant Bible, called the King James Version, contains 66 books. Because they consider the 7 books mistrustful and doubt about its authenticity. So there are 46 books in the Old Testament of the Catholic Church. The Protestant Old Testament contains 39 books. The New Testament of both sects consists of 27 books. There are many denominations in Christianity, the two major denominations being Catholic and Protestant, further its divided into Lutheran, Presbyterian and Anglican.⁷

MUHAMMAD (PBUH) IN THE OLD TESTAMENT

In the Book of Deuteronomy

The Book of Deuteronomy of the Torah clearly mentions the place of revelation of the Holy Prophet (PBUH) in these words. "The Lord came from Sinai and dawned from Seir upon us; he shone forth from Mount Paran; he came from the ten thousands of holy ones, with flaming fire at his right hand".⁸

This verse of the Torah is interpreted in such a way that mount Sinai is the place where Allah Almighty used to speak to Prophet Moses (PBUH) and the Torah was given to him on the same mountain. Mount Seir is the place where Jesus (PBUH) proclaimed Prophethood and there he was given the gospel.⁹

The peaks of Faran are in Makkah, where the Prophet (PBUH) was given Prophethood and the revelation of the Holy Qur'an began.¹⁰ The ten thousand

⁵ Al-'Araf 7:157

⁶ Gordon Geddes, Jane Griffiths, Christian Belief and Practice: The Roman Catholic Tradition, Heinemann, 2002 - Catholic Church, Oxford, UK, P.2.

⁷ Freeman Rhoades, The Origin of Christian Beliefs, Christian Faith Publishing, Inc., 2019, P.64

⁸ Deuteronomy 33:2

⁹ Ali Unāl, Harun Gultekin, The Prophet Promised in World Scriptures, Tughra Books, Clifton, USA, 2013, P.15

¹⁰ Muḥammad Taqī 'Uṣmānī, Rafiq Abdur Rehman, An Approach to the Quranic Sciences: Uloom-ul-Quran, Darul Isha'at, 2000, P. 309

saints are the Companions with whom the Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) entered Makkah at the time of the conquest of Makkah, whose number according to the historical books was ten thousand.¹¹

The Almighty says to Moses in Deuteronomy "I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their brothers. And I will put my words in his mouth, and he shall speak to them all that I command him."¹² The meaning of this verse is very clear that the last Prophet who has the position that Allah will speak to the creatures through his tongue will not be from the children of Israel but from their brothers ie the children of Ishmael. Abdus Sattar Ghauri writes in his book "Muhammad (PBUH) Foretold in the Bible by Name" Some Jews assert that the prophecy relates to and is fulfilled in the person of Joshua. But the wording of the prophecy and the context do not allow it. Joshua was the contemporary of and junior to Moses (PBUH). Moses (PBUH) himself had nominated him as his successor under the instructions of the Lord. He was a disciple, attendant, and successor of Moses (PBUH) and not an independent prophet himself. No 'Law' was revealed unto him. So he was in no way 'like unto Moses (PBUH)'.¹³

The reason for the Jews' opposition to the Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) was that they did not accept it, that the most glorious last Prophet should be from nation of Israel instead of Ishmael. The Israelites were the descendants of Isaac, the youngest son of Abraham.¹⁴ After Ishmael, all the prophets came from the children of Israel, because of which the Jewish nation considered themselves superior to all other nations.¹⁵ When the Children of Israel saw the Prophecy disappearing from their nation, they erased or changed all the signs of this last great Prophet in their books, but Allah does what He wills. Thus, Allah revealed in the Qur'an the hatred of the children of Israel that they change the verses of Allah to hide the signs of the last great prophet of Allah.¹⁶

Putting words in the mouth means that Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) was An Nabi ul-'Ummi and whatever he received from the Allah Almighty, he would repeat it word by word. That is why he is called the 'Unlettered Prophet' (An

¹¹ Tāfsir Ibn Kāthir, "Translator" Muhammad Saed Abdul-Rahman, Part 10 of 30: Al Anfal 041 To At Tāuba 092, p.72, MSA Publication, Herne Hill, London, UK. 2018

¹² Deuteronomy 18:18

¹³ Abdus Sattar Ghauri, Muhammad Foretold in the Bible by Name, AL-MAWRID ,Institute of Islamic Sciences, Lahore,2009 .p.250

¹⁴ Mary J. Evans, The Women's Study Bible: New Living Translation Second Edition, Oxford University Press, 2009, P.466

¹⁵ Harold, B. Hunting, The Bible Study Union Lessons, Bible Study Publishing Company, New York, 1914, P.169

¹⁶ Al-Maid'a 5:41

Nabi ul 'Ummi). This is a major proof against those who claim that he wrote the Qur'an. The Qur'an is Divine and Muhammad% is not its author.¹⁷

Christians claim that this prophecy is about Jesus because Jesus was like Moses. Moses was a Jew, and Jesus was a Jew. Moses was a prophet and Jesus was a Prophet. If these are the two principles to fulfill the prophecy, then all the prophets mentioned in the Bible who came after Moses, such as Solomon, Ezekiel, Daniel, John, etc., were all Jews and Prophets. However, it is the matter of fact that he is Muhammad (PBUH) who is like Moses.

Based on the following evidences in the Bible, we can say that he is Muhammad.

1. Moses and Muhammad (PBUH) had parents, while Jesus was miraculously born without the intervention of man.¹⁸
2. Moses and Muhammad (PBUH) both got married and had children, but according to the Bible, Jesus did not marry or have children.
3. Both left this world naturally, while Jesus is resurrected.¹⁹

Muhammad was one of Moses' brothers because the Arabs are the brothers of the Jews. Abraham had two sons, Ishmael and Isaac. The Arabs are descendant of Ishmael and the Jews are descendant of Isaac. Further it is also written in the Book of Deuteronomy:

“And whoever will not listen to my words that he shall speak in my name, I myself will require it of him”.²⁰

Name of Muhammad in the Book of Isaiah

It is mentioned in the book of Isaiah:

“And when they give the book to one who cannot read, saying, “Read this,” he says, “I cannot read.”²¹

It should be noted that Same incident is mentioned in Sahih Bukhari's narration “Angel then released me and again asked me to read but again I replied, 'I do not know how to read (or what shall I read)?’.”²²

Muhammad is also mentioned by name in Solomon's songs of Solomon. This is a Hebrew reference which means:

¹⁷ Yawar Baig, Mirza, A Journey of Faith, Standard Bearers Academy, Hyderabad, Telangana, India, 2010, P.159

¹⁸ See for further details in the Bible: Methew 1:18, Luke 1:35 and In the Quran, Al-Imran 3: 42-47

¹⁹ Al-Qur'an 4:157-158 “And [for] their saying, "Indeed, we have killed the Messiah, Jesus, the son of Mary, the messenger of Allah." And they did not kill him, nor did they crucify him; but [another] was made to resemble him to them. And indeed, those who differ over it are in doubt about it. They have no knowledge of it except the following of assumption. And they did not kill him, for certain.”

²⁰ Deuteronomy 18:19

²¹ Isaiah 29:12

²² Sahih āl-Bukhārī, Muḥammad ibn Ismā‘īl Bukhārī, Darussalam, 1997, Vol. 1, Book 1, Hadith 3,

הפה שלו מתוק ביותר: כן, הוא בסך הכל מקסים. זה אהובי וזה ידידי בנות ירושלים".

"His mouth is most sweet: yea, he is altogether lovely. This is my beloved, and this is my friend, O daughters of Jerusalem."²³

In Hebrew the word *um* is used for respect. For example, in the Hebrew language, God is called **אלוהים**²⁴ which is pronounced in English as (Ēlo:'hi:m) with respect. In the same way, (im) has been added to the name of Muhammad. But the English translation of the word is pretty/beloved. So, the name of Muhammad is still present in the Hebrew Old Testament.

There are many meanings of a single word in Arabic dictionary, one meaning of the word 'Ummi is "Original, root". Mecca is also called 'Umm ul-Qura, because Mecca was a first land. Similarly, the mother is called 'Umm in Arabic.²⁵ Because she is the origin of her offspring, in the same way, Eve is called 'Umm in Arabic, (Hawwa') is not a Hebrew name transposed into Arabic. h.y.w, relating to life, Eve means "created from something living"²⁶ because she is the origin and root of all human being's life.

The second meaning is a person who has not been read by anyone and the knowledge of the whole world comes to him. This is the meaning for the Holy Prophet (PBUH). That is why the Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) is called a An Nabi ul 'Ummi, because the Prophet (PBUH) did not acquire knowledge from any human being. None of the human beings is the teacher of the Holy Prophet (PBUH), but Allah Almighty has taught him all the knowledge.²⁷ How is it possible that one who has come to teach the whole world, to show the straight path, does not know anything by himself?

The inspired words uttered by Isaiah (PBUH), one of the Prophets who succeeded Solomon (PBUH) in his scripture, clearly refer to the revelation of the Holy Prophet Muhammad (PBUH), the event of migration and conquests. He says: "Let the desert and its cities lift up their voice, the villages that Kedar inhabits; let the habitants of Sela sing for joy, let them shout from the top of the mountains."²⁸ In this statement, the desert refers to the Arabian Desert. Kidar was the son of Ishmael (PBUH) from whose descendants the Holy Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) came. Sela' is a mountain located a few miles from

²³ Song of Solomon 5:16

²⁴ Moshe Yahalom, *אלוהים: התנ"ך החילוני : הספר על אלוהים*, 2000, דור, Bible, Maariv - Had Artzi, Tel Aviv University, P.191

²⁵ Lisān al-‘Arab, lil Imam Al-Allama Abi-L-Fadl Jamal Eddine Muhammad ibn Mukarram Ibn Manzur. Dar Al Kotob Al Ilmiyah, 1993, Vol,1 P.453

²⁶ Scott Kugle, *Sufis and Saints' Bodies: Mysticism, Corporeality, and Sacred Power in Islam*, Univ of North Carolina Press, USA, 2011 P.91

²⁷ Sa‘d, Al Mursāfi, Doctor, *‘Moquf ālyhud Min ālrsāla wālrsul, Maktba ālmnār ālāslāmia Kuwait*, 1992 P. 13

²⁸ Isaiah 42 :11

Medina.²⁹ This is the place where the people of Madinah received the Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) enthusiastically when he was migrating and visiting and the little girls of Madinah were singing. **طَلَعَ الْبَنَدُ عَلَيْنَا**³⁰ Challenging from the tops of the mountains means fighting the enemies of Islam in the battles.³¹ In the 14th chapter of the book of Isaiah, the good news of the coming of Muhammad and the command of the prophets to pave their way before his coming is as follows: "A voice cries: "In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord; make straight in the desert a highway for our God. Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain. And the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together, for the mouth of the Lord has spoken."³²

Muhammad (PBUH) in the New Testament

It should be noted that all the references to Muhammad in the Old Testament are valid for Christians as well as Jews. Because both Christians believe in the Old Testament and the New Testament, while the Jews believe only in the Old Testament. Thus the Bible is written in chapter 14 of the Gospel of John. "And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper, to be with you forever,"³³ There is a footnote on the word "helper" in which it means "advocate" or "intercessor", meaning that the intercessor after Jesus (PBUH) will remain forever, ie his religion. Will never be canceled certainly that entity can be none other than the Holy Prophet Muhammad (PBUH). This is further confirmed from another place in the same book as following. "But when the Helper comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth, who proceeds from the Father, he will bear witness about me."³⁴ More it is written in the Book of John, "Nevertheless, I tell you the truth: it is to your advantage that I go away, for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you. But if I go, I will send him to you."³⁵ Ahmed or Muhammad means the person who is praised or the one who is praised. It almost literally means the Greek word 'Periclytos'. In Bible in the Book of John, Chapter 16: 16, Chapter 51: 26 and Chapter 16: 7. The Greek word 'Peraclytos' has been translated into English as comforter or Helper. However (Peraclytos) means lawyer or a kind friend. This does not mean helpful. Which has been used in the English translation. 'Paracletos' is a

²⁹ Sela' (Medina) Mu'jam al Buldan, by Yaqut Hamwi, Bayrūt : Dār Šādir lil-Ṭibā'ah wa-al-Nashr, 2015. Volume I: pages 5

³⁰ Shibli Numani, Siratun Nabi (Life of the Prophet including battles) Darul Ishaat, 2003, P228

³¹ Richard A. Gabriel , Muhammad: Islam's First Great General , University of Oklahoma Press, 2014 ,Pages. 72, 123,106,198

³² Isaiah 40 :3-5

³³ John 14:16

³⁴ John 15:26

³⁵ John 16:7

modified form of the word 'Paraclytos'. According to the Holy Qur'an Jesus actually prophesied with the name of Ahmed. Also, the Greek word 'Paraclete' refers to praise which is a mercy for the whole world. As Allah Says in Qur'an

وَمَا أَرْسَلْنَاكَ إِلَّا رَحْمَةً لِّلْعَالَمِينَ³⁶

And We have not sent you, [O Muhammad], except as a mercy to the worlds.

At another place Allah Says

وَإِذْ قَالَ عِيسَى ابْنُ مَرْيَمَ يَبْنِي إِسْرَءِيلَ إِنِّي رَسُولُ اللَّهِ إِلَيْكُمْ مُّصَدِّقًا لِّمَا بَيْنَ يَدَيِّ
مِنَ التَّوْرَةِ وَ مُبَشِّرًا بِرَسُولٍ يَأْتِي مِنْ بَعْدِي اسْمُهُ أَحْمَدُ فَلَمَّا جَاءَهُمْ بِالْبَيِّنَاتِ قَالُوا
هَذَا سِحْرٌ مُّبِينٌ

And [mention] when Jesus, the son of Mary, said, "O children of Israel, indeed I am the messenger of Allah to you confirming what came before me of the Torah and bringing good tidings of a messenger to come after me, whose name is Ahmad." But when he came to them with clear evidences, they said, "This is obvious magic".

This is confirmed in the Gospel of John with the following words. "I will no longer talk much with you, for the ruler of this world is coming. He has no claim on me,"³⁸ Some Christians say that the word "comforter" mentioned in these prophecies refers to the Holy Spirit. But they have failed to understand this because the prophecy clearly states that the 'Comforter' will come when Jesus leaves this world. However, the Bible says that the Holy Spirit was already present on earth in the time of Jesus and even before that. He was in Elizabeth's womb and again when Jesus was being baptized, and so on and so forth. Therefore, this prophecy is only about Muhammad and only mentions him. George Clint Robinson admits this fact and writes " (Periclytos) which is almost a literal translation of 'Muhammad or 'Ahmad' ; see holy Quran 61: 6. When Bible was translated from Greek to English translators took the word 'Periclytos' which was the name for Muhammad and changed or corrupted it to mean 'Holy Spirit' So now the innocent readers of the Bible did not, and do not, know the Jesus Prophesied that Muhammad 'Periclytos' would come after he was gone...it was an exercise in wisdom and justice for Muhammad to come to us as the Spirit of truth. For the Christians had become too arrogant in their

³⁶ Al-'Anbiya 21:107

³⁷ AS-Saff 61:6

³⁸ John 14:30

belief that they had a monopoly on both God and Jesus. Muhammad came to prove the Oneness of God.”³⁹

The text of the present Gospel contains prophecies about the Holy Prophet; in the Book of Mathew it is written. “Jesus said to them, ‘Have you never read in the Scriptures: “‘The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone; this was the Lord’s doing, and it is marvelous in our eyes’? Therefore I tell you, the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people producing its fruits”’⁴⁰

In another place, in the Gospel of John, Christ prophesies in these words “I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth, for he will not speak on his own authority, but whatever he hears he will speak, and he will declare to you the things that are to come. He will glorify me, for he will take what is mine and declare it to you.”⁴¹ The word spirit used in the above verse does not refer to anyone other than Muhammad (PBUH). And one of the attributes of Muhammad is the attribute of truth which is explained in the following points

1. Will show people the way of truth. And it is the fact that, the Messenger Muhammad showed the people the way of truth and that is the way of the Allah Almighty.

"وَأَنَّكَ لَتَهْدِي إِلَى صِرَاطٍ مُسْتَقِيمٍ"⁴²

"O Muhammad], you guide to a straight path- "

- (i) He will say whatever he hears. He will not say anything on his own. Allah Says in Qur'an speak from Nor does he ⁴³ "وَمَا يَنْطِقُ عَنِ الْهَوَىٰ. إِنْ هُوَ إِلَّا وَحْيٌ يُوحَىٰ"

[his own] inclination. It is not but a revelation revealed.

- (ii) He will glorify and honor Jesus Christ. The Prophet (PBUH) always praised all the Prophets of Allah including the Jesus. Jesus is also praised in many places in the Qur'an. Jesus is called as the 'Spirit' in the Qur'an,

"إِنَّمَا الْمَسِيحُ عِيسَى ابْنُ مَرْيَمَ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ وَكَلِمَتُهُ أَلْفَهُآ إِلَىٰ مَرْيَمَ وَرُوحٌ مِنْهُ فَآمَنُوا بِاللَّهِ وَرُسُلِهِ"⁴⁴

The Messiah, Jesus, the son of Mary, was but a messenger of Allah and His word which He directed to Mary and a soul [created at a command] from Him, So believe in Allah and His messengers

In another verse, Jesus is called as the Word of God.

"إِذْ قَالَ الْمَلَأِكَةُ بِمَرْيَمَ إِنَّ اللَّهَ يُبَشِّرُكِ بِكَلِمَةٍ مِنْهُ اسْمُهُ الْمَسِيحُ عِيسَى ابْنُ مَرْيَمَ وَجَعَلْنَاهَا فِي الدُّنْيَا وَالْآخِرَةِ وَمِنَ الْمُقَرَّبِينَ"⁴⁵

³⁹ George Clint Robinson , Good News: New Knowledge Has Come and Blood on the Sun , Dorrance Publishing, 2009 , Pittsburgh , Pennsylvania , USA, P.184

⁴⁰ Matthew 21 :42-43

⁴¹ John 16: 12-14

⁴² 'Ash Shura 42:52

⁴³ Al-Najam 53: 3

⁴⁴ Al-Nis'a 4:171

[And mention] when the angels said, "O Mary, indeed Allah gives you good tidings of a word from Him, whose name will be the Messiah, Jesus, the son of Mary - distinguished in this world and the Hereafter and among those brought near [to Allah]

“أَنَا أَوَّلُ النَّاسِ بِابْنِ مَرْيَمَ. وَالْأَنْبِيَاءُ أَوْلَادُ عَلَاتٍ لَيْسَ بَيْنِي وَبَيْنَهُ نَبِيٌّ

Narrated Abu Huraira: I heard Allah's Apostle saying, I am the nearest of all the people to the son of Mary, and all the prophets are paternal brothers, and there has been no prophet between me and him (i.e. Jesus)

In the words of the Qur'an, the scholars of the People of the Book know the truth of what Muhammad has said in the same way that a father recognizes his sons.

الَّذِينَ آتَيْنَاهُمُ الْكِتَابَ يَعْرِفُونَهُ كَمَا يَعْرِفُونَ أَبْنَاءَهُمْ وَإِنَّ فَرِيقًا مِنْهُمْ لَيَكْتُمُونَ الْحَقَّ وَهُمْ يَعْلَمُونَ

“Those to whom We gave the Scripture know him as they know their own sons. But indeed, a party of them conceal the truth while they know [it].”

Qurtubi says that once Hazrat Umar Farooq (RA) asked Hazrat Abdullah bin Salam who was a great scholar of the Jews, do you know Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) as you know your children? He answered, "Yes, but more than that, because the trustworthy angel of the heavens descended upon the trustworthy man of the earth, and God gave him the right praise according to his status, as, Gabriel came to the Jesus." And then the Lord of the worlds described the attributes of Muhammad which are all existing in Muhammad. Then how can we doubt in his Prophethood? Why don't we recognize it with our own eyes? Rather, we have doubts about our children but there is no doubt about the Prophethood of Muhammad.⁴⁷ Means, that just as a person recognizes his son in a large gathering of people, so all the attributes of the Prophet (PBUH) in the heavenly books of the People of the Book are so prominent in the Prophet (PBUH), So Everyone can recognizes Muhammad (PBUH) There were so many verses in the Gospel about the glory and revelation of the Holy Prophet (PBUH) that they could not be erased despite the changes. Therefore, even before the revelation of the Prophet Muhammad (PBUH), many Christian monks would recognize the Holy Prophet (PBUH) by looking at his signs. So when the Prophet (PBUH) was twelve years old, he went to Syria with his uncle Abu Talib for business. On the way to Basra, a Christian monk named Buhaira met with the Prophet Muhammad (PBUH). And he said to Abu Talib, So he

⁴⁵ Al-Imrān 3:45

⁴⁶ Al-Baqra 2:146

⁴⁷ Tafs Ir Al-Qurtabī, Muhammad Abu Abdullah Al-Qurtubi , Dar Al Kotob Al Ilmiyah, Beirut, Lebanon, 1965, Vol. 2. P. 152

recognized Muhammad from the signs of the last prophet mentioned in the Gospel and said to Abu Talib: This is the ruler of the whole world and the messenger of the Lord of the worlds whom God has sent as the mercy of the worlds. I have seen that the trees and the rocks prostrating before him and the clouds cast a shadow over him and there is a seal of Prophethood between their shoulders.⁴⁸

Conclusion

If all the Divine books were in their original form today, then most of the verses in them would be found in the glory of Muhammad because they are beloved of Allah from eternity. And just as Allah described his infinite glory in the Qur'an, so He did in every one of His Divine books. Along with the privilege of being the nation of the most glorious prophet, we are also fortunate that the teachings of our prophet and the Qur'an revealed to him are preserved in their original state, and will be till the day of Judgement. Faith is only the name of confirming the greatness of the Prophet Muhammad (PBUH). The worship of one God has always been practiced by most of the people of the world and the form of faith has always been the same, whether it was before or after the arrival of the Holy Prophet (PBUH). Only the rules of Sharia had been changing for every prophet and nation till the advent of Muhammad (PBUH). Therefore all the previous Prophets, besides worshiping and preaching one God, also affirmed the greatness of Muhammad (PBUH) in all previous scriptures and urged their followers to Believe on Muhammad, which is an essential part of faith always till the day of resurrection.

⁴⁸ Ibraheem Muneer Al-Mudarris, Biography Of The Master Of The Prophets And Messengers, Dar Al Kotob Al Ilmiyah, Beirut, Lebanon, 2017, P.22

