

Fast 16: Holy Prophet's message is for all nations

- The Holy Quran has laid the claim, *in specific and direct words*, that its message is for the entire humanity. No other scripture makes such a claim. The Holy Prophet declared:

“And this Quran has been revealed to me that with it I may warn you and whomsoever it reaches.” — 6:19

وَأَوْحَىٰ إِلَيْنَا هَذَا الْقُرْآنَ لِأُنذِرْكُمْ بِهِ وَمَنْ بَلَغَ^ط

The Holy Prophet was thus a warner, not for the Arabs only, but for *all people whom the Quran may reach*, i.e. for the whole world. It is therefore the duty of his followers to take the Quran to the entire world.

- He addressed the whole of humanity as follows:

“Say: O mankind, surely I am the Messenger of Allah to you all, of Him Whose is the kingdom of the heavens and the earth.” — 7:158

قُلْ يَا أَيُّهَا النَّاسُ إِنِّي رَسُولُ اللَّهِ إِلَيْكُمْ جَمِيعًا
الَّذِي لَهُ مُلْكُ السَّمَوَاتِ وَالْأَرْضِ^ع

This same chapter 7 had mentioned other prophets, but about every one of them it says that he was sent to his own people. About Noah it is said: “Certainly We sent Noah to his people” (7:59). The prophet Hūd is said to have been sent to his tribe of Ād (7:65), the prophet Salih to his tribe of Thamud (7:73), and the prophet Lot to his people (7:80). Moses was sent with following message to Pharaoh: “let the Children of Israel go with me” (7:105), and when Moses was given the law by God, written on tablets of stone, God said to him: “So take hold of these (teachings) with firmness and command *your people* to take hold of the best of these” (7:145). Moses’ mission of reform was thus limited to his people, the Israelites.

But a few verses later in chapter 7, in the above verse, the Prophet Muhammad is spoken of as having been sent to *all people*, to the whole of mankind. Thus the appearance of the Prophet Muhammad was a turning point in the history of humanity. The day of the national prophet was over and a new era had dawned in which the whole of humanity was ultimately to be united under one spiritual head.

- The Prophet Muhammad was sent as “a bearer of good news” and as “a warner” to all humanity:

“And We have not sent you but as a bearer of good news and as a warner to all

وَمَا أَرْسَلْنَاكَ إِلَّا كَافَّةً لِّلنَّاسِ بَشِيرًا وَنَذِيرًا^و

humanity, but most people do not know.” —
34:28

لَكِنَّ أَكْثَرَ النَّاسِ لَا يَعْلَمُونَ ﴿٣٤﴾

The word translated as “all” in this verse is *kāffah*, which means “all without an exception”. Thus *kāffat-an li-n-nās* means “all humanity”.

- He was a guide to every people:

“And those who disbelieve say: Why has not a sign been sent down to him from his Lord? You are only a warner and for every people a guide.” — 13:7

وَيَقُولُ الَّذِينَ كَفَرُوا لَوْلَا نُزِّلَ عَلَيْهِ آيَةٌ مِنْ رَبِّهِ
إِنَّمَا أَنْتَ مُنذِرٌ وَكُلِّ قَوْمٍ هَادٍ ﴿١٣﴾

The words “for every people a guide” (*li-kull-i qaum-in Hād*) refer to the Holy Prophet. He was a warner, and was ultimately to be a guide for every people.

- The Prophet Muhammad was given the Quran so that he may be a warner to all nations:

“Blessed is He Who sent down the Criterion upon His servant that he might be a warner to the nations...” — 25:1

تَبَارَكَ الَّذِي نَزَّلَ الْفُرْقَانَ عَلَى عَبْدِهِ لِيَكُونَ
لِلْعَالَمِينَ نَذِيرًا ﴿٢٥﴾

This is the opening of chapter 25, *Furqān*. Its name comes from the word *Furqān* in this verse. *Furqān* means criterion and it is applied to the Quran to mean that it is the criterion for distinguishing or discriminating between truth and falsehood. The chapter deals with the enormous transformation which the Quran had brought about in the lives of the people. The words “he might be a warner to the nations” show that the transformation which was being brought about in Arabia would ultimately extend over the whole world and all nations would benefit.

- He is not only a warner to all nations, warning that doing evil leads to destruction, but is also a mercy to all nations:

“And We have not sent you except as a mercy to the nations.” — 21:107

وَمَا أَرْسَلْنَاكَ إِلَّا رَحْمَةً لِّلْعَالَمِينَ ﴿١٠٧﴾

His being called a mercy to the nations of the world (*rahmat-an li-l-‘ālamīn*) is to show that ultimately all nations will be received into the Divine mercy which was manifested through him. Already the teachings of the Quran have not only benefited its followers, but even those who still reject its message, for, despite their rejection of it, they have accepted many of its principles.