

Fulfilling the Trust

Abu Rumaysah

Allah, Exalted is He says in several parts of the Noble Quran, "Allah commands you to return the things you hold on trust to their owners."

"If you leave things on trust with one another the one who is trusted must deliver up his trust."

"You who have faith! Do not betray Allah and His Messenger and do not knowingly betray your trusts."

"It is the believers who are successful, ..., those who honour their trusts and their contracts... such people are the inheritors, who will inherit *Firdaus* (the highest Paradise), remaining in it timelessly, forever."

"We offered the Trust to the heavens, the earth, and the mountains but they refused to take it on and shrank from it. But man took it on, he is indeed wrongdoing and ignorant."

The trust (*Amanah*) in this last verse of Al-Quran, the verse of surah Al-Ahzab, refers to the fulfilment of the laws that Allah has revealed. These laws have been referred to as a trust to stress the fact that the undertaking of obeying Allah was something freely taken on by man, without any coercion, and that he now has a duty of discharging that trust. (*Ruh al-Ma'ani*)

Amanah is the mannerism of the Prophets and Messengers. In surah Asy-Syu'ara Allah, Exalted is He, informs us that the Prophet Nuh, Hud, Salih, Lut and Syu'ayb all said, "I am to you a trustworthy Messenger."

The Messenger of Allah was known amongst his people, both before and after his being entrusted with the Message, as *Al-Amin* (the Trustworthy One).

Al-Miswarah bin Makhramah



Reuters

said, "I asked Abu Jahl, my uncle, 'Uncle, did you ever accuse Muhammad of lying before he came with his message?' He replied, 'Son of my sister, by Allah, while he was yet young, Muhammad would be called *Al-Amin* (the Trustworthy One) by us. Even when his hair started turning white, he would still not lie.' I asked, 'Uncle of mine, so why don't you follow him?' He replied, 'Son of my sister, we and Bani Hasyim were always competing with each other for nobility, they fed people and so we did too, they gave others drink and so we did too, they granted protection and so we did too. We've kept pace with each other

like two race-horses, then they said, 'A Prophet has arisen from us, how could we possibly compete in this?' " (reported by Yunus bin Bukair, *Al-Maghaziy* and quoted from him by Az-Zahabi, *As-Sirah*)

There are numerous *ahadith* stressing the importance of *Amanah*, amongst which are:

Bukhari and Muslim record on the authority of Abu Hurayrah that the Messenger of Allah said, "The signs of the hypocrite are three: when he speaks he lies; when he makes an oath he breaks it; and when he is entrusted with something he betrays that trust." The version of Muslim has

the additional wording, "Even if he fasts, prays and thinks that he is a Muslim."

Ahmad records that Anas that the Messenger of Allah said, "There is no faith for the one who has no *Amanah* and no religion for the one who does not keep his promises."

Al-Munawiy, may Allah have mercy upon him said, "*Amanah* is the core of faith and its position is that

of the heart to the body. *Amanah* is to be found in seven limbs: the eyes, ears, tongue, hand, foot, stomach, and the private parts. Whoever leaves off fulfilling the *Amanah* of any of these limbs, his faith will be sullied, and whoever leaves off the *Amanah* of all of them, he will leave the circle of faith." (Al-Munawiy, *Fayd al-Qadir*)

It is in this light that 'Umar ibn al-Khattab, may Allah be pleased with him, would say, "The one who has no *Amanah* is devoid of religion." (narrated by Bayhaqi)

The *Salaf* (pious predecessors) would look to a person's *Amanah* and truthfulness as an indication of his religiosity rather than his prayer and fasting. Ibn 'Umar would say, "Do not look to the prayer of anyone, nor his fasting, but look to the truthfulness of his speech when he talks, his fulfilment of trusts when he is entrusted, and his scrupulousness when he is given a position of responsibility." (Bayhaqi)

Al-Hakim and At-Tirmizi records on the authority of Zayd bin Thabit that the Messenger of Allah said, "The first thing to be lifted from this nation will be trust (*Amanah*), and the last thing to remain of their religion will be the prayer, and it is possible that one praying have no lot with Allah, Exalted is He."

Ibn Hibban records on the authority of 'Ubadah bin as-Samit that the Messenger of Allah said, "Guarantee me six months and I will guarantee you Paradise: be truthful when you speak; fulfil your promises; carry out what you are entrusted with; safeguard your private parts; lower your gaze; and restrain your hands."

Islamic Network

"There is no faith for the one who has no *Amanah* and no religion for the one who does not keep his promises."

Islamia Quiz

1. How many *surahs* (chapters) of Al-Quran were revealed during the Mekah period of the prophethood?
2. When did the Battle of Badr take place between the Muslims and the Polytheist Mekans?

2. 17 Ramadhan 2 Hijriyah

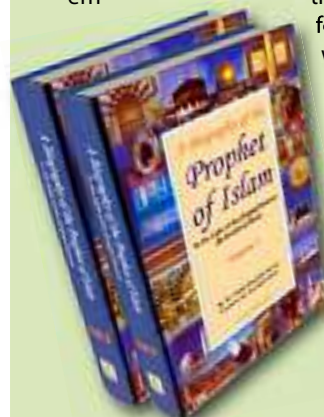
1. 93 *surahs*.

ANSWERS

Books

A Biography of the Prophet of Islam: In the Light of the Original Sources stands out from other works in quite a few ways. First, every detail mentioned has been traced back to original sources, whose authenticity has been discussed extensively in the footnotes. Second, the events of the Prophet's life

have been related to modern times and lessons drawn for the benefit of those who happen to face similar situations in their struggle to spread the Prophetic message. Today, after more than 1400 years, details of the life, manners, actions and teachings of the Prophets are available without any loss, alteration or modification.



The Biography of Imam Bukhaaree. This beautiful book deals with the biography of the Imam of Hadith scholars, whose lifelong pursuit of knowledge culminated in the authorship of a book that, in terms of its importance and truthfulness, ranks second only to the Book of Allah. Referring to of course to none other than Muhammad ibn Isma'il Al-Bukhari - may Allah have mercy on him. The focus of this book not just on their contributions to the vast wealth of Islamic knowledge with which Allah has blessed this nation, but also on the more private and personal aspects of their lives.

