



Al-Shamail - The Noble Features of the Prophet

May Allah bless and salute him

The Messenger of Allah ﷺ was magnificent in his appearance, resplendent, more luminous than the full-moon on the 12th night of the month. His body was pure light, strong, imposing, handsome. The Prophet Yusuf (peace be on him), was famous for his beauty, but his beauty was only half as compared to the beauty of Rasul Allah Sayyiduna Muhammad – he ﷺ possessed all of it.

The true beauty in his body and character can not be described, but descriptions of his family members and companions give us a glimpse of his perfection and immense light. “Al-Shamail” of Imam Al-Tirmidhi contains almost 400 hadith describing the Messenger of Allah ﷺ, as his companions described him ﷺ.

A poet says:

“If you missed seeing the Prophet ﷺ with your own eyes, do not miss hearing his description”

“Al-Shamail” of Imam Al-Tirmidhi is a collection of almost 400 hadith describing his ﷺ handsome physique, perfect character, daily habits and dealings with people.

Listening to these descriptions places his ﷺ image in front of our eyes, and increases our love and longing for him, and maybe we will see him ﷺ in our dreams – yes even in a waking state!

Mentioning his (ﷺ) name puts an imprint in our heart and recalls these images.

We can not imagine the blessings and light in the lives of children who grow up with love to Rasul Allah ﷺ, when boys and girls grow hearing narrations of his beauty and sending salutations on him ﷺ everyday.

First hadith

حَدَّثَنَا أَبُو رَجَاءٍ قُتَيْبَةُ بْنُ سَعِيدٍ، عَنْ مَالِكِ بْنِ أَنَسٍ، عَنْ رَبِيعَةَ بْنِ أَبِي عَبْدِ الرَّحْمَنِ، عَنْ أَنَسِ بْنِ مَالِكٍ، أَنَّهُ سَمِعَهُ، يَقُولُ:

كَانَ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ، لَيْسَ بِالطَّوِيلِ الْبَائِنِ، وَلَا بِالْقَصِيرِ، وَلَا بِالْأَبْيَضِ الْأَمْهَقِ، وَلَا بِالْأَدَمِ، وَلَا بِالْجَعْدِ الْقَطَطِ، وَلَا بِالسَّبَطِ، بَعَثَهُ اللَّهُ تَعَالَى عَلَى رَأْسِ أَرْبَعِينَ سَنَةً، فَأَقَامَ بِمَكَّةَ عَشْرَ سِنِينَ، وَبِالْمَدِينَةِ عَشْرَ سِنِينَ، وَتَوَفَّاهُ اللَّهُ تَعَالَى عَلَى رَأْسِ سِتِّينَ سَنَةً، وَلَيْسَ فِي رَأْسِهِ وَلِحْيَتِهِ عَشْرُونَ شَعْرَةً بَيْضَاءَ.

Sayyiduna Anas (the young servant of the Messenger of Allah ﷺ - may Allah be pleased with him) said:

"Rasullullah ﷺ was neither tall nor short. He was neither pale, white, nor dark-skinned. His ﷺ hair was neither straight nor curly. Allah sent him ﷺ (with the Message of Islam) when he was forty years old. He lived in Makkah (delivering the Message) for ten years and in Madina for ten years, and there were not even twenty white strands of hair on his head and in his beard."

Second Hadith

حَدَّثَنَا حُمَيْدُ بْنُ مَسْعَدَةَ الْبَصْرِيُّ، قَالَ: حَدَّثَنَا عَبْدُ الْوَهَّابِ الثَّقَفِيُّ، عَنْ حُمَيْدٍ، عَنْ أَنَسِ بْنِ مَالِكٍ، قَالَ:

كَانَ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ رَبْعَةً، لَيْسَ بِالطَّوِيلِ وَلَا بِالْقَصِيرِ، حَسَنَ الْجِسْمِ، وَكَانَ شَعْرُهُ لَيْسَ بِجَعْدٍ، وَلَا سَبَطٍ أَسْمَرَ اللَّوْنِ، إِذَا مَشَى يَتَكَفَّأُ.

Sayyiduna Anas (the young servant of the Messenger of Allah ﷺ - may Allah be pleased with him) said:

"Rasullullah ﷺ was of a perfectly balanced stature – neither too tall nor too short. His body was handsome. His hair was neither curly nor straight. His skin color was slightly brown (not white). When he walked, he leaned forward."

Third Hadith

حَدَّثَنَا مُحَمَّدُ بْنُ بَشَّارٍ، قَالَ: حَدَّثَنَا مُحَمَّدُ بْنُ جَعْفَرٍ، قَالَ: حَدَّثَنَا شُعْبَةُ، عَنْ أَبِي إِسْحَاقَ، قَالَ: سَمِعْتُ الْبَرَاءَ بْنَ عَازِبٍ، يَقُولُ:

كَانَ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ، رَجُلًا مَرْبُوعًا، بَعِيدَ مَا بَيْنَ الْمَنْكَبَيْنِ، عَظِيمَ الْجُمَّةِ إِلَى شَحْمَةِ أُذُنَيْهِ الْيُسْرَى، عَلَيْهِ حُلَّةٌ حَمْرَاءُ، مَا رَأَيْتُ شَيْئًا قَطُّ أَحْسَنَ مِنْهُ.

Sayyiduna Bara'a ibn 'Aazib (a companion of the Messenger of Allah ﷺ - may Allah be pleased with him) said:

"Rasullullah ﷺ was a man of a perfect build, with broad shoulders. His hair was flowing and reached his ear-lobes. He wore a red-striped shawl. I never saw anything more handsome than him".

Fourth Hadith

حَدَّثَنَا مَحْمُودُ بْنُ غَيْلَانَ، قَالَ: حَدَّثَنَا وَكَيْعٌ، قَالَ: حَدَّثَنَا سُفْيَانُ، عَنْ أَبِي إِسْحَاقَ، عَنِ الْبَرَاءِ بْنِ عَازِبٍ، قَالَ:

مَا رَأَيْتُ مِنْ ذِي لِمَّةٍ فِي حُلَّةٍ حَمْرَاءَ أَحْسَنَ مِنْ رَسُولِ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ، لَهُ شَعْرٌ يَضْرِبُ مَنْكَبَيْهِ، بَعِيدُ مَا بَيْنَ الْمَنْكَبَيْنِ، لَمْ يَكُنْ بِالْقَصِيرِ، وَلَا بِالطَّوِيلِ.

Sayyiduna Bara'a ibn 'Aazib (a companion of the Messenger of Allah ﷺ - may Allah be pleased with him) said:

"I never saw someone with long flowing hair and red shawl as handsome as Rasullullah ﷺ. His hair reached his shoulders, his chest was broad. He was neither short nor tall."

Fifth Hadith

حَدَّثَنَا مُحَمَّدُ بْنُ إِسْمَاعِيلَ، قَالَ: حَدَّثَنَا أَبُو نُعَيْمٍ، قَالَ: حَدَّثَنَا الْمَسْعُودِيُّ، عَنْ عُثْمَانَ بْنِ مُسْلِمِ بْنِ هُرْمَزٍ، عَنْ نَافِعِ بْنِ جُبَيْرِ بْنِ مُطْعِمٍ، عَنْ عَلِيِّ بْنِ أَبِي طَالِبٍ، قَالَ:

لَمْ يَكُنِ النَّبِيُّ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ بِالطَّوِيلِ، وَلَا بِالْقَصِيرِ، شَتْنُ الْكَفَّيْنِ وَالْقَدَمَيْنِ،
ضَخْمُ الرَّأْسِ، ضَخْمُ الْكَرَادِيْسِ، طَوِيلُ الْمَسْرِبَةِ، إِذَا مَشَى تَكْفَأُ تَكْفُؤًا، كَأَنَّمَا يَنْحَطُّ مِنْ
صَبَبٍ، لَمْ أَرِ قَبْلَهُ، وَلَا بَعْدَهُ مِثْلَهُ، صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ.

Sayyiduna 'Ali ibn Abi Talib (the cousin of the Messenger of Allah ﷺ - may Allah be pleased with him) said:

"The Prophet ﷺ was neither tall nor short. His hands and feet were (strong), fully fleshed. His head was wide, and his bones were broad. There was a thin line of hair from the chest to the navel. When he ﷺ walked, he leaned forwards, as if he were walking downhill. I have never seen, before or after him, anyone like him."