



DAY 3

RAMAḌĀN 2024



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الَّذِينَ يَتَّبِعُونَ الرَّسُولَ النَّبِيَّ الْأُمِّيَّ

Those who follow the Messenger, the Ummiyy (unlettered) prophet [7:157]

ANSWER:

Al-'Ummiyy

COMMENTARY

The phrase **“The Messenger, the unlettered prophet”**, has mentioned three qualities of the Holy Prophet ﷺ. The Arabic word 'Ummī know the art of reading and writing. The Holy Qur'ān has referred to the Arabs as: 'Ummiyyīn because the Arabs generally had very little to do with reading and writing. Being incapable of reading and writing is, obviously not a quality, rather it is an indication of imperfection. No matter how unusual it may seem, the same sign of imperfection has come to serve the Holy Prophet ﷺ as a sign of his perfection of the highest degree, taking in view the unparalleled erudition and exemplary wisdom and learning preached and demonstrated by him.

A demonstration of perfect wisdom, showing wise practices and behaviour by a man of letters is considered to be a fruit of his education, but when these and many other attributes of perfections of the highest humanly imaginable degree come out of a personality, who did not even know how to read and write, makes it as bright a miracle as daylight. It is more surprising when we see him living in Makkah (Mecca) for forty years without ever having any opportunity to learn. Exactly when he is forty years of age, suddenly he starts speaking things of such great wisdom and, in such a linguistic style and diction that none in the world could produce a match of even the smallest part of this word - the Qur'ān.* This is, indeed, a self-evident witness affirming that the Holy Prophet ﷺ was the true Messenger of Allah and Qur'ān, the true word of Allah. The quality of being unlettered, therefore, may be a defect for others but for the Holy Prophet ﷺ it is a commendable attribute.**

* The author here, refers to a verse of the Holy Qur'ān (2:23) throwing a challenge to the whole world to produce a *sūrah* (chapter) comparable to any of the Qur'ānic Sūrahs. Inability in meeting this challenge by the Arabs who were as boastful of their oratory as to call the whole mankind excepting themselves, the *Ajam* signifying a dumb person is certainly a clear evidence of the miraculous character of the Holy Qur'ān. [(Translator)]

** The verse under discussion has mentioned this attribute along with as great attributes as Messenger and Prophet. This Qur'ānic witness is enough to show that his being unlettered was equally a great attribute of the Holy Prophet ﷺ. [(Translator)]

And Allāh Ta'ālā knows best.

