



DAY 5

RAMAḌĀN 2024



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يَتَأْتِيهَا النَّبِيُّ إِنَّا أَرْسَلْنَاكَ شَهِيدًا

O prophet, We have sent you as a witness [33:45]

ANSWER:

Shāhid / Witness

COMMENTARY

Special Attributes of the Holy Prophet ﷺ

Shāhid (a witness) means that the Holy Prophet ﷺ will be a witness of the Ummah on the Day of Judgment according to a hadīth narrated by Sayyidnā Abū Saʿīd al-Khudrī *radīʿallāhu ʿanhu* and reported by Bukhārī, Nasaʿī and Tirmidhī. It is mentioned in some parts of that Hadīth that on the Day of Judgment when Sayyidnā Nūh *ʿalayhis salām* will be presented before Allah, he will be asked whether he had conveyed Allah's Message to his Ummah. He will reply that he did. Then his Ummah will be presented and they will deny having received any message of Allah. Then Sayyidnā Nūh *ʿalayhis salām* will be asked whether he has any witness to his claim of having conveyed the message of truth, and he will reply that Muhammad ﷺ and his Ummah are witnesses. Some narrations have it that he will present the Ummah of Muhammad ﷺ as witness and this Ummah will give evidence in his favour. At this, the Ummah of Sayyidnā Nūh *ʿalayhis salām* will argue 'How can they, who were not even born at that time, give evidence in our case?' Now the Ummah of Muhammad ﷺ will be asked to substantiate their evidence and they will answer that no doubt they were not born at that time but they were told about it by their Holy Prophet ﷺ in whom they believe and trust. At this time the Holy Prophet ﷺ will be asked to give testimony regarding the veracity of his Ummah's statement.

Briefly, the Holy Prophet ﷺ through his testimony, will confirm and verify the statement of his Ummah that, of course, he had given them that news.

Another general meaning of being a witness for the Ummah may be that the Holy Prophet ﷺ will give evidence about the good and bad deeds of all the individuals of his Ummah. And this evidence would be on the basis that the deeds of the Ummah are presented before the Holy Prophet ﷺ every morning and evening daily; some narrations state that the deeds are presented once a week. The Holy Prophet ﷺ thus recognises each and every individual of his Ummah by their deeds and as such he will be made witness for the Ummah on the Doomsday. (Ibn al-Mubarak from Saʿīd Ibn al-Musayyab, Mazharī)

And Allāh Taʿālā knows best.

