



THE HOLY PROPHET'S FAREWELL SERMON

(The Farewell Pilgrimage of the Holy Prophet (peace be upon him) might well be called the culminating point in his Prophetic career. It was in the sixty third year of the Prophet's life which coincided with the close of the 10th. of Hijra that he decided to perform the Hajj, which in history, goes by the name Hajjah-tul-Wada. The Prophet's Mission had by this time been completed to all intents and purposes. To a people steeped in ignorance he gave light and inspired them with belief in Allah, the sole Creator, Master and Sustainer of the Universe. To a disunited mass, engaged in perpetual warfare, he gave unity of thought and action. He had revealed the love of God and His Will to mankind and had given it a visible expression by founding a society on the basis of righteousness, piety and God-consciousness the like of which is not to be found in the whole history of mankind. In short, Muhammad (peace be on him) had delivered to the human race the final Truth with all its necessary implications.

The completion of his Prophetic Mission implied his departure from his earthly home to his heavenly abode. The Holy Prophet - peace be upon him - had clearly visualized it. He therefore decided to give the finishing touch to his massive work and imprint its salient points on the minds of his devoted followers so that they might always keep before them the system of life-values enunciated by Islam. It was with this object in view that messengers were sent to all parts of Arabia inviting people to join him in this great pilgrimage.

Five days before Dhu al-Hajj, the Holy Prophet (peace be upon him) put on the pilgrims garb and set out to Mecca with more than 114,000 Muslims. All his wives accompanied him. As he rode, he recited "*Labbaik! Labbaik!*" signifying:

"Here I am at Thy service, here I am, O Lord, here I am to declare that there is no partner with Thee. All Praise and Blessings belong to Thee and all sovereignty is Thine. I am here at Thy service, and Thou hast no partner, O Allah".

As the Holy Prophet recited the above call, all the companions repeated the same loudly.

The Holy Prophet (peace be on him) reached Mecca on the 5th. of *Dhu- al-Hijjah*. He made seven circuits (*tawaaf*) of the Ka'ba, offered two rak'ats of prayer at 'the station of Ibrahim' and, climbing the Mount of Safa declared:

"There is no god but Allah, He has no partner, all sovereignty and praise belong to Him. He gives life and brings death – He is All-Powerful and Supreme over everything."

On the 8th. of *Dhu al-Hijjah* the Prophet (peace be on him) left with his Companions for Mina and passed the night there, and on the 9th., after the morning, he proceeded to Arafat where he delivered the famous sermon which we have the honour to present in these pages.

The sermon of the Holy Prophet is not only remarkable for its eloquence, but it contains a sublime message for the human race. The world has not been able to lay down better principles of ethics and morality than those enunciated in it. Every word of it breathes a spirit of magnanimity and aims at establishing righteousness among men on a workable basis. It establishes brotherhood among Muslims irrespective of the divergences of their geographical, racial and colour backgrounds and provides an outline of a social order, perfectly free from oppression and injustice.)

"O Ye men! Listen to me; I do not think that after this you and I shall ever meet in this place. (Remember) there is none worthy of being worshipped except Allaah. He is One. He has no partner. The sovereignty belongs to Him. All Praise is due to Him. He is the Giver of life and death, and He has power over all things.

"O ye men! Your blood, your possession and your honour are as sacred as you revere the sanctity of this day, this city (Makkah) and this month (Zil Haj). Soon you have to meet your Lord; and He will question you about your deeds. Beware lest you should lose your way and begin cutting each other's throat.

"O ye men! I trample under my feet everything pertaining to the days of Jaahillya (ignorance). I bury the blood feuds of the days of Jaahillya. I forsake the claim for the first murder in my family, that is, of Rabia bin Al-Haaris, who was a scion of Bani Sa'ad and who was killed by Buzail. The interest due on the loans of the days of Jaahillya is hereby completely cancelled. I hereby give up the claim for the interest due to my family, that is, Abbass Bin Abdul Mutallib. The total therein is renounced.

"O ye men! Continue to fear Allaah in regard to your wives. You have taken them to yourself on the authority of the name of Allaah and it is in His Name that you exercise your claim on their persons. Your right over them is that they should not permit others to sleep in your bed (that is, they observe chastity). If however they do not do so, you may punish them without causing visible injury. Your wives have rights over you, that you should feed them and clothe them well.

"O ye men! I am leaving with you something if you will hold fast to it, you shall never go astray. It is Q-ur-aan Majeed and my Sunnah.

"O ye men! There is going to come neither any Prophet after me nor any new 'Ummah (people to be raised after you.)

"Listen carefully (to me). Worship your Rabb (Guardian Lord) and observe your five time daily prayers and your fasting for the full month of Ramadaan. Pay your zakaat with pleasure. Perform haj of the House of your Rabb and obey those who administer your affairs. (Your reward being that) you will enter Paradise of your Rabb.

"O ye men! You will be asked about me on the day of judgment. Tell me, what will be your answer?"

All those present replied in one voice:

'We hereby do give testimony that you have conveyed to us the Commands of Allaah and you have fulfilled your duties and responsibilities as the Prophet of Allaah. You have told us clearly a sto what is false and counterfeit and what is true and real.'

At this the Holy Prophet (p.b.o.h.) raised his index fingers towards the heavens. He raised his fingers towards the sky and then directed it at the audience, saying

"Yaa Allaah! Be Thou a witness."

He repeated these words thrice. Then commanded that those present (make it a point to) convey his words to all others. May be that those not in the assembly may be better at preserving and practising his words than some of those who had listened to him.

(The End)
