

أُولَئِكَ الَّذِينَ هَدَى اللَّهُ فَبِهِدَانُهُمْ أَقْتَدِه

THOSE WERE THE (AMBIYĀ') WHO RECEIVED ALLĀH'S GUIDANCE:  
EMULATE THE GUIDANCE THEY RECEIVED.

ALLĀH TA'ĀLĀ DIGNIFIED HUMANITY BY  
SENDING HIS BELOVED AMBIYĀ' عَلَيْهِمُ السَّلَامُ  
TO THEM, AND OPENED A DOOR BY WHICH  
THEY MAY ENTER INTO HIS PROXIMITY,  
LOVE, MERCY, AND FORGIVENESS BY  
FOLLOWING THE BELOVED AMBIYĀ' عَلَيْهِمُ السَّلَامُ.

Of the things that distinguish the prophets over the rest of mankind is being far removed from disobedience, untouched blameworthy desires, and aversion to anything that would detract from virtūs<sup>[1]</sup>, invalidate honour, or diminish the respect of a man. The Ambiyā' عَلَيْهِمُ السَّلَامُ are the most perfect of people in character, the purest of them in deeds and in soul, and have the most fragrant of biographies, because they are role-models for mankind and are beautiful exemplars for humanity.

Allāh Ta'ālā said:

لَقَدْ كَانَ لَكُمْ فِي رَسُولِ اللَّهِ أُسْوَةٌ حَسَنَةٌ

You have indeed in the Messenger of Allāh a beautiful pattern (of conduct).

Badr al-Dīn al-'Aynī رَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ عَلَيْهِمُ السَّلَامُ states:

The Ambiyā' عَلَيْهِمُ السَّلَامُ are divinely protected from both major and minor sins, before prophethood and after. [2]

Our belief, as the scholars have unanimously agreed, is that the Ambiyā' عَلَيْهِمُ السَّلَامُ are Divinely protected from major sins, and from every base act containing disgrace and deficiency. They are at the pinnacle of perfection in their spiritual, physical and mental state. The preponderance of jurists assert that they are divinely protected from all minor sins identical to their Divine protection from all major sins since we are commanded to emulate their acts, footsteps and their way of life, unrestrictedly.

If we were to conceive that they could commit minor sins, then it would be impossible to emulate them since we would then not be able to discern whether their actions would be classified under the ruling of 'gaining nearness to Allāh,' permissible, prohibited, or disobedience.

The command to emulate the Ambiyā' عَلَيْهِمُ السَّلَامُ necessitates they were Divinely protected from all sins, major and minor as well as any act that is contrary to the dignified position afforded to them by Allāh Ta'ālā.

We reiterate the Qur'ānic instruction, "**Those were the (Ambiyā') who received Allāh's guidance: Emulate the guidance they received.**" In emulating these eminent and chosen personalities our souls will be beautified by the countless and gentle torrents of Divine celestial effulgence.

[1] Virtus (Classical Latin: ['wɪr̩t̩u:s]) was a specific virtue that carried connotations of valour, masculinity, excellence, courage, character, and worth. والأنبياء معصومون من الكبائر بالإجماع، وخالف في جواز وقوع الصغيرة منهم. انتهى. قلت: مذهبى أن الأنبياء معصومون من الكبائر والصغرى قبل النبوة وبعدها، والذي وقع من بعضهم شيء يشبه الصغيرة لا يقال فيه إلا أنه ترك الأفضل وذهب إلى الفاضل - عمدة القاري ٩/١٨