

Teaching Methods of 01

the Messenger ﷺ

TEACHING THROUGH HIS BEAUTIFUL CHARACTER AND CAPTIVATING WAY OF LIFE

When he ordered something, he would first act upon it. Then, his companions would imitate him and act upon what they saw. And undoubtedly, teaching through actions has a greater impact than teaching through speech.

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Teaching Methods of the Messenger ﷺ

TEACHING THE RULINGS OF SHARĪ'AH STEP BY STEP

He ﷺ took care in teaching gradually. He would firstly introduce the most important aspect and follow it with another, of a lesser degree so that it would be easier to understand and memorise.



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03 Teaching Methods of

the Messenger ﷺ

TEACHING MODERATELY AND REFRAINING FROM CAUSING BOREDOM

He considered the time and conditions of his companions when teaching and reminding them so that they would not become bored and tired.



Teaching Methods of 04

the Messenger ﷺ

OBSERVING THE DIFFERENT INDIVIDUALS AMONG HIS AUDIENCE

He used to take great care in addressing everyone according to their understanding. He protected the hearts of the beginners such that he wouldn't teach them what he taught seniors.

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Teaching Methods of the Messenger ﷺ

TEACHING THROUGH CONVERSATION AND QUESTIONS

He used to teach through conversations and questions so that they would yearn for the answer and actively think of it. Also, so that the Messenger's answer – if they were not able to respond – would be simple and uncomplicated.



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06 Teaching Methods of

the Messenger ﷺ

TEACHING THROUGH CONVERSATION AND RATIONAL COMPARISON

He used to choose this technique over questions and answers to remove falsehood from a person's mind and to establish the truth in the heart of those who find a certain ruling strange.



Teaching Methods of 07

the Messenger ﷺ

POSING QUESTIONS TO GAUGE THEIR INTELLIGENCE AND KNOWLEDGE

Sometimes, he would ask his companions a question even though he knew the answer to ignite their intelligence and increase their knowledge.

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Teaching Methods of the Messenger ﷺ

TEACHING THROUGH COMPARISON AND ANALOGY

Whenever the procedure of rulings became confusing for the companions, he ﷺ would clarify it by way of comparison and would inform them of its reasons.



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Teaching Methods of

the Messenger ﷺ

CITING AND MENTIONING EXAMPLES

Often, the Messenger ﷺ would resort to clarifying a matter through examples. In this way, it would be much easier to understand since it would be related to their experiences and knowledge.



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the Messenger ﷺ

DRAWING ILLUSTRATIONS ON THE GROUND

Sometimes, the Messenger ﷺ would make use of the earth and draw illustrations for a better understanding.

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Teaching Methods of the Messenger ﷺ

COMBINING BETWEEN SPEECH AND INDICATIONS

Sometimes, the Messenger ﷺ would speak and make indications with his blessed hands to clarify what he meant or to bring the addressees' attention to what he was saying.



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the Messenger ﷺ

RAISING A PROHIBITED ITEM WITH HIS BLESSED HANDS

Sometimes, the Messenger of Allāh ﷺ would lift something so the addressees could see what he was speaking about. In this way, they would hear what was prohibited, together with seeing it so that there was no doubt in their minds.



Teaching Methods of 13

the Messenger ﷺ

INITIATING A LESSON WITHOUT ANY PRIOR QUESTIONS

Often, the Messenger ﷺ would teach his companions رضي الله عنهم without being asked a question, especially regarding those matters which may go unnoticed. He used to teach them the answer to a doubt before it occurred, fearing that it might settle in their hearts later on.

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Teaching Methods of the Messenger ﷺ

ANSWERING A QUESTION TO THE POINT

The Messenger ﷺ used to answer the questions of his companions and encourage them to ask questions so that they may understand whatever concerned and confused them. He taught a great deal of Islamic law and sciences through answering the many questions of his companions رضي الله عنهم.



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the Messenger ﷺ

REPLYING TO MORE THAN WHAT WAS ASKED.

Sometimes, the Messenger ﷺ would add more information to an answer when he saw the need for it. This was due to his impeccable compassion and care for his students (may Allāh be pleased with them).



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the Messenger ﷺ

TURNING THE ATTENTION OF THE QUESTIONER AWAY FROM THE QUESTION POSED

Sometimes, the Messenger ﷺ would turn the questioner's attention away from his question due to his wisdom and foresight.

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Teaching Methods of the Messenger ﷺ

REQUESTING THE REPETITION OF THE QUESTION

Sometimes, the Messenger ﷺ would request that a question be repeated so that he may increase the questioner's knowledge with more information regarding his question, or to amend what he already answered or to explain further.



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the Messenger ﷺ

ASSIGNING ANOTHER PERSON TO ANSWER THE QUESTION

The Messenger ﷺ used to appoint one of his companions to answer a question which was raised to him ﷺ in order to train him to answer questions of Dīn in the future.



Teaching Methods of 19

the Messenger ﷺ

TESTING A KNOWLEDGEABLE PERSON

Sometimes, the Messenger ﷺ would test some of his companions and ask them a question to uncover their intelligence and knowledge. If they answered correctly, he would praise them and strike their chest as an indication that they deserve his love and veneration for their excellent response.

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Teaching Methods of the Messenger ﷺ

REMAINING SILENT REGARDING WHAT OCCURRED IN HIS PRESENCE.

This is a type of sunnah which scholars of uṣūl al-fiqh and ḥadīth have expressed as tacit approval. Actions which were witnessed by the Messenger ﷺ and statements which were made in his presence for which he remained silent is his acknowledgement that such actions and statements are permissible.



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the Messenger ﷺ

UTILISING OPPORTUNE MOMENTS

Often the Messenger ﷺ would seize opportune moments when teaching so that the occurring event would correlate with the knowledge he wished to propagate. In this way, it would be clearer and easier to understand.



Teaching Methods of 22

the Messenger ﷺ

TEACHING THROUGH HUMOUR

The Messenger ﷺ used to joke with his companions رضي الله عنهم sometimes but he only ever spoke the truth while doing so. He taught a lot of matters concerning dīn in the manner.

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Teaching Methods of the Messenger ﷺ

EMPHASISING THE ISSUE BY SWEARING

Often, the Messenger ﷺ would start his statements by swearing in the name of Allāh to draw the attention of the listeners to the importance of what he was saying.

Also, as a means to emphasis his statement and strengthen it. It is mentioned that he swore more than 80 times and was commanded to do so thrice in the Qur'ān.



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the Messenger ﷺ

REPEATING A STATEMENT THRICE

The Messenger ﷺ used to repeat his statements thrice to accentuate its contents, draw the attention of the listeners and to help them understand and accurately execute his orders.



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the Messenger ﷺ

DRAWING THE ATTENTION OF THE ADDRESSEE

Sometimes, the Messenger ﷺ would draw the attention of the addressee by grasping his hand or shoulder to increase his focus and attention to what was being taught and so that his gaze, hearing and heart will all be focused.

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Teaching Methods of the Messenger ﷺ

USING AMBIGUOUS WORDS

Sometimes the Messenger ﷺ would be ambiguous and vague to encourage the listener to seek clarification. In this way, the listener would be more inclined and motivated to learn further.



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Teaching Methods of

the Messenger ﷺ

EXPLAINING AN ISSUE BRIEFLY, THEN CLARIFYING IT FURTHER

Sometimes, the Messenger ﷺ would mention an issue briefly to encourage the addressee to ask about it. Then, he would explain it clearly so that it would simple to understand and remember.



Teaching Methods of 28

the Messenger ﷺ

ENUMERATING ISSUES AND EXPLAINING EACH OF THEM THEREAFTER

This is a similar method to the previously mentioned one. He used to enumerate issues and explain each, one at a time so that it may be easier to grasp and memorise.

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Teaching Methods of the Messenger ﷺ

TEACHING THROUGH ADVICE AND REMINDERS

This is the most important and highlighted technique of the Messenger ﷺ as it is a means of conforming to the directive of Allāh ﷻ. He says: ‘And keep reminding. Indeed, reminders benefit the believers.’ He also said: ‘(O Prophet!) Keep on reminding. You are only one who reminds.’



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the Messenger ﷺ

EMPHASISING AN ISSUE BY CHANGING HIS POSTURE AND REPETITION

Sometimes, the Messenger ﷺ would change his posture while repeating his statement indicating the significance and gravity of what he was saying.



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the Messenger ﷺ

REPEATEDLY CALLING SOMEONE AND DELAYING THE ANSWER

Sometimes, the Messenger ﷺ would repeatedly call a person and delay his statement to accentuate what he was informing them. And so that they would understand and remember precisely what occurred.

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Teaching Methods of the Messenger ﷺ

TEACHING THROUGH ENCOURAGEMENT AND WARNINGS

One of his most remarkable methods of teaching was that of encouraging to do good and warning against doing evil. He used to encourage his companions by mentioning the rewards and benefits of good deeds while warning them against evil deeds by mentioning its punishments.



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33 Teaching Methods of

the Messenger ﷺ

TEACHING THROUGH STORIES AND ANECDOTES OF PAST NATIONS

Often the Messenger ﷺ would teach his companions by narrating to them stories of the past nations. This had a great impact on them as it would draw their interest and settle in their minds and hearts easily.



Teaching Methods of 34

the Messenger ﷺ

INTRODUCING A SENSITIVE ISSUE WITH A SUBTLE PRELUDE

At times, the Messenger ﷺ used to pave the way with a subtle prelude when he intended to teach a topic which could cause embarrassment and bashfulness.

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Teaching Methods of the Messenger ﷺ

SUFFICING WITH ALLUSIONS WHEN TEACHING SENSITIVE ISSUES

Sometimes, the Messenger of Allāh ﷺ would suffice with a mere reference and indication when teaching something embarrassing. However, he would ensure that the issue was understood properly.



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the Messenger ﷺ

PAYING ATTENTION TO TEACHING AND ADVISING WOMEN

The Messenger of Allāh ﷺ used to pay particular attention to teaching essential topics to women. He used to have special gatherings and advices for them.



Teaching Methods of 37

the Messenger ﷺ

EXPRESSING ANGER WHEN NECESSARY

The Messenger of Allāh ﷺ would become very angry and express disapproval when a student crossed the limit by delving into an issue or questioning a matter which should not be delved into nor questioned.

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Teaching Methods of the Messenger ﷺ

UTILISING WRITING AS A MEANS FOR TEACHING

The Messenger of Allāh ﷺ had more than 15 scribes who used to write down the Qur'ān as dictated by him.

He also had scribes specifically designated to write letters for him to various lands and rulers, conveying to them the message of Islām and inviting them towards it.

Other scribes were designated for other tasks.



39 Teaching Methods of

the Messenger ﷺ

ORDERING SOME OF THE COMPANIONS TO LEARN THE SYRIAN LANGUAGE

Languages are keys to healthy relations between nations. They have become vital keys for mutual connection which has become essential in life. Languages are also important for the safeguarding of a person's rights in his interaction with others.



Teaching Methods of 40

the Messenger ﷺ

TEACHING THROUGH HIS NOBLE PERSONALITY ﷺ

Indeed, the Messenger of Allāh was chosen by Allāh ﷻ to teach mankind His religion and His final, everlasting sharī'ah. There's nothing more precious in this world to Allāh than His religion. So, it is for this reason, He chose the best prophet and messenger; Muḥammad ﷺ to propagate and teach it.



Teaching Methods of the Messenger ﷺ

MUḤAMMAD ﷺ ; THE PERFECT TEACHER

Which teacher - apart from the Messenger of Allāh ﷺ - impacted humanity to such an extent and whose religion and sharī'ah people accepted despite their differences in colour and language? Is there anyone else who was accepted as an example and role model in all aspects of life?



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Teaching Methods of

the Messenger ﷺ

FORTY TEACHING METHODS CONCLUDED

We ask Allāh to be pleased with this effort, accept it and grant us the opportunity of being able to follow the sunnah of the Messenger of Allāh ﷺ. We ask Him to be pleased with his companions and those who follow them in virtue until the Day of Resurrection. And all praises belong to Allāh; the Lord of the worlds.

