

LETTER TO EDITOR

The Historical Impact of Holy Quran and Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) Hadith for Infection Control

Holy Quran is the sacred book of Muslims organized in 114 chapters in Arabic language in 632CE. Muslims take Holy Quran a revelation from God Almighty and was orally revealed by God to the Prophet Muhammad (PBUH), through the archangel Jibril. Muhammad (PBUH) is viewed as the final Prophet of the God Almighty and his preachings and practices narrated in hadith are followed by true believers of Islam. This letter is an attempt to revisit Holy Quran and Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) hadith to make people and societies around the globe aware of the importance of cleanliness and infection control measures. This is of particular importance especially now that we are in the wake of corona virus outbreak (COVID-19), as declared by World Health Organization. Islam is considered as the religion that emphasizes the importance of cleanliness. Holy Quran says that “*Truthfully, Supreme being loves those who submit in repentance and likes those who purify themselves.*”¹ The Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) preached the importance of isolation and quarantine among his followers to halt the spread of the infection

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1- Sahih International, 2016.

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in the society by saying that “*If you apprehend that there is a contagious disease in a land, do not set foot there ; and if the contagious disease strikes a land while you are therein, do not walk out of it*”.² The Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) also preached, “*Those with contagious diseases should be kept away from those who are healthy.*”³ The Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) warned his followers to stringently adapt cough etiquette principle in their life for infection control.⁴ The doctrines outlined regarding hygiene and infection control as stated in Holy Quran and found in Hadith attributed to Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) can have tremendous impacts in the current global scenario in the wake of outspread of corona virus disease (COVID-19). The above doctrines may be summarized as (a) stop the transmission of the disease, (b) protect the physical health of the individual, (c) stop the inhalation of polluted air due to the disease and (d) prevent interacting with diseased person to avoid disease spread.

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2- Sahih al-Bukhari.

3- Sahih Muslim.

4- Jami` at-Tirmidhi.

