

QUESTION: Muslims say that the testimony that 'Muhammad (peace and blessings be upon him)' has pillars to it. What does this mean?

ANSWER: Muslims believe that Muhammad (peace and blessings be upon him) was the 'Abd (meaning servant or slave) of Allah and His final Rasool (Messenger) to mankind. ¹

Therefore the first pillar refers to his being an '*abd*..
And the second pillar refers to his being a *rasool*.

The first pillar necessitates that he was a human being like the rest of mankind; those things which befall us also befell him, such as tiredness, hunger, happiness, birth and death, etc.

The Quran mentions that Muhammad (peace and blessings be upon him) was told to say:

I am only a man like you.

Surah al Kahf (the 18th chapter) ayah 110

And indeed Allah addresses him as being a slave:

All praises and thanks are for Allah, who sent down the Book to His Slave.

Surah al Kahf (the 18th chapter) ayah 1

The second pillar necessitates that he was the final messenger, who was given the message of Islam to convey to all of mankind, a bringer of glad tidings to those who accepted his message and a warner to those who refused.

These two pillars taken together counteract the two extremes which people go to with regards to this man.

¹ Refer to '*aqeedah ut tawheed* p52 to 53 of Shaykh Saalih al Fawzaan for more information

The first extreme is found amongst many Muslims nowadays who exaggerate his status - to the extent that they take him from being someone who worshipped Allah to the level where they worship him as well as Allah.

So we can find Muslims in many different lands actually calling upon Muhammad (peace and blessings be upon him) to answer requirements which only Allah can give.

This counts as '*shirk*', associating partners with Allah, and is the very opposite of what Muhammad (peace and blessings be upon him) actually called to!

The other extreme is where people are negligent of what Muhammad (peace and blessings be upon him) came with, and may reject it completely.

This is the case with many people around the world today – in many cases, out of ignorance about what Muhammad (peace and blessings be upon him) actually said and did.

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NEXT TIME:

Muslims believe that stating the testimony of faith has certain conditions, such as saying it with sincerity. What are these conditions?