

His character ﷺ

Not praise from a distance. These are the people who shared his house, served him for years, and were asked afterwards what he was like.



★ A great character

وَإِنَّكَ لَعَلَىٰ خُلُقٍ عَظِيمٍ

“And indeed, you are of a great moral character.” Allah’s own description of him, in one of the earliest surahs.

Qur’an 68:4

★ Sent as a mercy

وَمَا أَرْسَلْنَاكَ إِلَّا رَحْمَةً لِّلْعَالَمِينَ

“And We have not sent you except as a mercy to the worlds.”

Qur’an 21:107

★ Had he been harsh

وَلَوْ كُنْتَ فَظًّا غَلِيظَ الْقَلْبِ لَانْفَضُّوا مِنْ حَوْلِكَ

“Had you been rude and harsh of heart, they would have scattered from around you.” The verse then tells him to pardon them and consult them.

Qur’an 3:159

★ Read the Qur’an

فَإِنَّ خُلُقَ نَبِيِّ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ كَانَ الْقُرْآنَ

Asked to describe his character, ‘A’ishah answered: do you not read the Qur’an? The character of the Prophet of Allah ﷺ was the Qur’an.

Sahih Muslim, Kitab Salat al-Musafirin

★ Ten years, no rebuke

Anas: “I served the Prophet ﷺ for ten years, and he never said ‘uff’ to me, and never asked why I did this or why I did not do that.”

Sahih al-Bukhari 6038

★ He struck no one

مَا ضَرَبَ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ شَيْئًا قَطُّ بِيَدِهِ

‘A’ishah: he never struck anything with his hand — no servant, no woman — except in battle, and never took revenge for himself.

Sahih Muslim, Kitab al-Fada’il • Sahih al-Bukhari 3560

★ He took the easier way

Given a choice between two matters he took the easier of them, so long as it was not a sin; and if it was, no one kept further from it.

Sahih al-Bukhari 3560

★ More giving in Ramadan

Ibn ‘Abbas: he was the most generous of people, and most generous of all in Ramadan, when Jibril met him — like a wind sent out.

Sahih al-Bukhari 6 • 1902

★ The standard he set

أَكْمَلُ الْمُؤْمِنِينَ إِيمَانًا أَحْسَنُهُمْ خُلُقًا

“The most complete of the believers in faith are the best of them in character.” He set the measure, and he met it.

Sunan at-Tirmidhi 1162 • hasan sahih (at-Tirmidhi)