

The Influence of the Seerah of Muhammad PBUH on Islamic Law and Jurisprudence

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Abstract

This paper deals with the great impact of Prophet Muhammad's (ﷺ) life (Seerah) on the formation of Islamic Law (Sharia) and legal science (Usul al-Fiqh) in details. The Seerah is actually a historical account but as well as a practical model that "shows" how the Prophet (ﷺ) enacted Quranic principles in his life. The research is being carried out to understand how the legal interpretations were derived from the Prophet's (ﷺ) true actions and decisions and also how this further shaped the legal areas like in prayer, fasting and family law. In addition, it solves the issue of the Seerah in developments of Ijtihad (scholarly reasoning) for fresh challenges that are faced by Muslim communities. The role of seerah in the process of legal reasoning is stressed in the paper, bringing to the attention the difficulties involved, and highlighting the need to accurately determine the historical context and critically evaluate the reliability of hadith narrations. In the end, it also hints on domains for research that is yet to be discovered which include inter alia; the role of the Seerah in bioethics and environmental welfare.

Keywords: Prophet's Seerah, Legal System, Environmental welfare, Reasoning, Hadith

Introduction

The Seerah, the full biography of the Prophet Muhammad (ﷺ), is the heart of and the ultimate cherished of the Muslims from every corner of the world. From her inauguration birth in the holy city to his Prophet's Mecca to his migration to Menora and eventual migration, the Seerah minutely illustrates how the Last Messenger finished his journey. Muslims do not regard the Seerah as a historical account, but they look at it as it is a providence-inspired map which guides Muslims to righteousness and offers them an example of ethical behavior and way of spiritual satisfying. Among its greatest assets are the contributions of renowned scholars such as Martin Lings and Muhammad Khalifa who, with their combined wisdom, have penned down the Seerah (ﷺ) in such an organized manner, giving the reader an in-depth understanding of the Prophet's (ﷺ) teachings, action, and interactions. The first and fundamental source of Islamic law (Sharia) is the divine principles present in the Quran and which in turn are clarified and exemplified by the conduct of Prophet Muhammad (ﷺ). Among all Muslims, the Sharia stands out as the ethical and legal standard ruling them in both religious and secular aspects of life. Practical matters such as worship, morality, social relations, economics and governance have all to be referred to this standard.

As an Islamic rationalizing tool, Fiqh relies on the foundations of the Quranic revelations, the Prophet's (ﷺ) teachings, which were meant to provide guidance to Muslims in every aspect of their lives. Scholars utilize various methodologies to understand prophetic injunctions and distill them into legal rulings that are applicable and relevant to a variety of situations around

them. The principles on which the rules of Jurisprudence are based (Usul al-Fiqh) provides scholars with tools for dealing with the sources of Islamic Law, including the Quran, Sunnah, consensus (Ijma) taking into account *an-qilah* and *Qiyas*, and enable the application of justice in judgmental opinion (Fatwa). This research shall focus on the extensive impact of the Seerah on the evolution and development of Shariah (Islamic Law) and Fiqh (jurisprudence). The scholars are able to define the principles and the matrix of Islamic jurisprudence through a careful consideration of the life of the Prophet (SAW), his actions during the seventh century Arabia, and his legal verdicts in this historical context. A multidisciplinary approach that includes a historical analysis and written interpretation together with legal doctrine for the sake of explaining the complex interaction between the Seerah and the development of Islamic jurisprudence is my research. In the end, the aim is to place the Seerah in the expectation of Muslims so that in this way, every legal and moral challenge that they face, in the framework of the fundamental principles of Islamic law, they can have guidelines.

Justification of the Study

The role of the Seerah (Prophet Muhammad's life-story) in Islamic law and its implications is something intriguing and significant in many aspects. For one thing, the Seerah serves as the backbone text for the Muslims, conveying a specific lifestyle and conduct inspired by Islamic principles on the daily basis. Perhaps, the clearest way for scholars to draw legal implications from the Quranic teachings is by analyzing the behavior patterns and actions of the Prophet Muhammad (may peace be upon him) who put these teachings into practice in his lifetime. Therefore, this piece of work is a window onto the process of creation of Islamic Legal System. When jurists look to the Seerah for obtaining fatwas (legal opinions), remarkable ideas may be found on the application of the Divine Law by jurists at different times. Besides that, the other factor explaining the live relevance of the Seerah in the modern legal interpretation stands for every true line and the ability to resolve the contemporary issues of Muslim communities. Primarily, such deepening of the connection among Seerah and Islamic Law leads to a more comprehensive and articulated understanding of the historical as well as contemporary approach to the active Islamic principles.

The Seerah as a Source of Law

The Quran, which Muslims consider being the unmodified, immutable and perfected word of God, which was revealed to Prophet Muhammad (peace and blessings upon him) (Eglin, 2009), is considered to be the fundamental source of fiqh or Sharia (Islamic Law) (Hallaq, 2009). It encompasses the regarded rules and the regulation on different aspects of life such as the worship, social conduct and the court. But, as a matter of fact, the Koran seldom talks about the every-day things in a detail (Rahman, 2009). In this point Sunnah (the traditions and principles of Prophet Muhammad (ﷺ)), plays a role of being the middleman between two gaps (Schacht, 2002). Hadiths, which are the words and deeds of the Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) with respect to his tacit approvals, are the primary source of the Sunnah. This has been affirmed by Khalifa (2001). The hadith is the collections from which the manifested life of the Prophet Muhammad

(ﷺ) is drawn out. The collections are gathered and authenticated throughout centuries making the prophet's life to be understood clearly (Lings, 2006). Through the examination of Seerah, Muslims attain higher comprehension of the prophetic life during Holy Quran's teachings in the end (Ahmed, 1992). For example, since Quran says (u201cNamaazu201d or daily prayers must be performed, the exact time and position were set through the Prophet's (PBUH) practice as described in the Hadith and are explained in the Seerah (Eglin, 2009). Henceforth, Seerah serves both as a medium of practical application of the Quranic principles set broadly and to explain the life of the Prophet (ﷺ).

The Seerah's Influence on Specific Legal Areas

Shari'ah, in the view of Islam, represents a full set of laws covering both the horizons of directial acts for the persons and the intricate issues of family ties and justice. Through studying the Seerah (the biography of the Prophet Muhammad (ﷺ)), scholars discover the means to which the rules and judgments of the Prophet were the ones that had impacted Islamic jurisprudence. The five prayers a day which became obligatory deeds of the Islam are mentioned in Seerah which tells us the Prophet Muhammad (ﷺ) having indicated the precise timings, positions, and rituals to be performed in every prayer of the day. The Quran has broad principles regarding prayer which offers guidance to Al-Rasool and establishes particular worship in the Seerah offering Muslim and non-Muslim a practical framework to follow in prayers. As well, the Seerah is indeed a famous outlet for actualizing the particulars of fasting during Ramadan which as every part of Islam is vitally important. Through the study of the Prophet's (saw) privileges and Abdications while it was Ramadan, Muslims get an insight on how to improve the way they fast, including the spiritual side and the rules of it as well. Further, family law in Islam like marriage, divorce, and inheritance is very Islamize by the action and ruling of the Prophet (PBUH), which we can examine in Seerah. This historical background serves as an element reference for the scholars in their talk about legal interpretations, where they rely upon these precedents to make sure that Islamic family law is exactly in accordance with the Prophet's (ﷺ) teachings as well as his Sunnah. Another imperative aspect of Seerah is the Prophet's belief in the equal distribution of rights and duties which became the founding pillar of the Islamic model. By means of his deeds like the constitution of Medina, the Prophet (PBUH) set rules of justice, equality and justice among different communities upon the world of peace and harmony. Meanwhile, the Seerah does not come only to offer historical scopes on the life of the Prophet (PBUH) but it also a cornerstone for the Islamic law, as well as a pillar for righteous principles guiding Muslim lives in various circles.

The Role of Seerah in Legal Reasoning

Ijtihad (which is an Arabic term) is "struggling" or "concentrating your effort" (Gianani, 2017), a rigorous process that qualified jurists (Mujtahids) use to derive legal rulings (fatawa) on new issues which are not exactly covered in the Qur'an and Sunnah (Ghazali in Bader This process is accomplished by diligent and thorough examination of existing texts, in which there are methods like induction (Qiyas) and juristic precedent (Mashood, 2017). While ijtihad has a central position in the history of the Seerah, it has also led it to new strides. Scholars refer to parables of

the Prophet's (ﷺ) actions, rulings and tacit approvals recorded in the seerah to establish context and gain insight when they are reading Quran and Sunnah (Rahman, 2009). To exemplify all this, the Seerah narrates plenty of the situations the Prophet (ﷺ) faced that haven't been previously addressed, and the jurists use these accurate details to develop juristic (fatwa) opinions when relating to the new situations (Hallaq 2009).

Although the Quran applies for legal reasoning it has some limitations which should be taken into account. Historical contexts around Prophet's (ﷺ) decisions or cases needs to be examined carefully before making misconstrued statements (Kurzman, 2002). Lastly, different sources of hadith and various levels of *sittati* raise an imperative of making a critical evaluation to form a base for *Ijtihad* (al Schacht, 2002). Having its place at the forefront as a valuable source of law, the scholars have less complexities, but everybody should be cautious regarding *Ijtihad*, facilitating legal interpretation of contemporary Muslim life that is sound and has context meaning fitting for the current situation.

Conclusion

The implications of this investigation have shown the impact of the Seerah on the formation of the Islamic fiqh and the Islamic thought. Seerah not only gives a religious record of the Prophet's life but also acts as a life guide and shows how he applied the Quranic principles in his daily life. Through such laws and resolutions, legal scholars have translated some legal meanings pertaining to the conduct of life and even justice in society, being the basis for prayers, fasting, family issues, etc. The historicity of this biography, however, is only one aspect of its relevance in addition to the fact that it is extremely rich in various knowledge and ethical perspectives. It is still a relevant source of jurisprudential authorities (limited *ijtihad*) in modern legal jurisprudence. By looking into the type of decision that the Prophet (ﷺ) took to new matters of his time, jurists could get much benefit when struggling with fresh issues faced by Muslim societies in this era. Surely, such a method however is really does require a careful application to the law. The historical context and critical consideration of a Hadith narration before jumping to any conclusions is necessary to minify the false interpretations that tend to occur. More in-depth studies can be carried out about the mentions of the Seerah in contemporary issues to contribute to the legal debates. Further delving into how judges have dealt with new issues in the Quran such as in bioethics and environmental justice by narrating the Seerah's wisdom would be the most significant contribution in comprehending how the Prophet (ﷺ)'s story still relevant today for the Islamic law and jurisprudence of the 21st century.

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