

Prophet Muhammad (PBUH)

Allah (swt) says about him in the Holy Qur'an:

"And We have sent you (O Muhammad (pbuh)): not but as a mercy for the 'Alamin (mankind, jinn and all that exists)." - Al-Qur'an 21:107

Even his enemies called him the truthful and trustworthy. Over 1400 years ago a man known as Muhammad (peace be upon him) was chosen by Allah (the Most High) to deliver a message, a message that would change the world forever. A man, a son, a husband, a father, a leader, a warrior and a Messenger, but who exactly was Muhammad (pbuh)?

BRIEF INTRODUCTION (Courtesy of: Islam-Guide.com)

Muhammad (pbuh) was born in Makkah in the year 570. Since his father died before his birth and his mother died shortly thereafter, he was raised by his uncle who was from the respected tribe of Quraysh. He was raised illiterate, unable to read or write, and remained so till his death. His people, before his mission as a prophet, were ignorant of science and most of them were illiterate. As he grew up, he became known to be truthful, honest, trustworthy, generous, and sincere. He was so trustworthy that they called him the Trustworthy. Muhammad (pbuh) was very religious, and he had long detested the decadence and idolatry of his society.

At the age of forty, Muhammad (pbuh) received his first revelation from God through the Angel Gabriel. The revelations continued for twenty-three years, and they are collectively known as the Quran.

As soon as he began to recite the Quran and to preach the truth which God had revealed to him, he and his small group of followers suffered persecution from unbelievers. The persecution grew so fierce that in the year 622 God gave them the command to emigrate. This emigration from Makkah to the city of Madinah, some 260 miles to the north, marks the beginning of the Muslim calendar.

After several years, Muhammad (pbuh) and his followers were able to return to Makkah, where they forgave their enemies. Before Muhammad (pbuh) died, at the age of sixty-three, the greater part of the Arabian Peninsula had become Muslim, and within a century of his death, Islam had spread to Spain in the West and as far East as China. Among the reasons for the rapid and peaceful spread of Islam was the truth and clarity of its doctrine. Islam calls for faith in only one God, Who is the only one worthy of worship.

The Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) was a perfect example of an honest, just, merciful, compassionate, truthful, and brave human being. Though he was a man, he was far removed from all evil characteristics and strove solely for the sake of God and His reward in the Hereafter. Moreover, in all his actions and dealings, he was ever mindful and fearful of God.

WHAT DO OTHERS SAY ABOUT HIM (PBUH)?

Many non-Muslims of the past and present have testified to his Noble Characteristics and the Message he brought, following are some quotes from Non-Muslims and Non-Muslim sources (Courtesy of: **ProphetOfIslam.com**):

His complete biography has been authenticated and circulated amongst scholars around the world starting while he was still alive and continuing up until today. One of the first examples we quote from is from the **Encyclopaedia Britannica**, as it confirms: (Regarding Muhammad (pbuh)) "... a mass of detail in the early sources shows that he was an honest and upright man who had gained the respect and loyalty of others who were likewise honest and upright men." [Vol. 12]

Another impressive tribute to Muhammad, peace and blessings be upon him is in the very well written work of **Michael H. Hart**, "The 100: A Ranking of the Most Influential Persons in History." He states that the most influential person in all history was Muhammad, peace and blessings be upon him, with Jesus second. Examine his actual words:

"My choice of Muhammad to lead the list of the world's most influential persons may surprise some readers and may be questioned by others, but he was the only man in history who was supremely successful on both the religious and secular level." [**Michael H. Hart, THE 100: A RANKING OF THE MOST INFLUENTIAL PERSONS IN HISTORY, New York: Hart Publishing Company, Inc., 1978, page. 33.**]

According to the Quran, Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) was the most excellent example for all of humanity. Even non-Muslim historians recognize him to be one of the most successful personalities in history. Read what the **Reverend R. Bosworth-Smith** wrote in "Mohammed & Mohammedanism" in 1946:

"Head of the state as well as the Church, he was Caesar and Pope in one; but, he was pope without the pope's claims, and Caesar without the legions of Caesar, without a standing army, without a bodyguard, without a palace, without a fixed revenue. If ever any man had the right to say that he ruled by a Right Divine, it was Mohammad, for he had all the power without instruments and without its support. He cared not for dressing of power. The simplicity of his private life was in keeping with his public life."

While we are reviewing statements from famous non-Muslims about Prophet Muhammad, peace and blessings be upon him, consider this:

"Philosopher, orator, apostle, legislator, warrior, conqueror of ideas, restorer of rational dogmas, of a cult without images; the founder of twenty terrestrial empires and of one spiritual empire, that is Muhammad. As regards all standards by which human greatness may be measured, we may well ask, is there any man greater than he?" [**Lamartine, HISTOIRE DE LA TURQUIE, Paris, 1854, Vol. II, pp. 276-277.**]

English author **Thomas Carlyle** in his 'Heroes and Hero Worship', was simply amazed:

"How one man single handedly, could weld warring tribes and wandering Bedouins into a most powerful and civilized nation in less than two decades."

These are just a few of many many tributes paid to Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) by Non-Muslims.