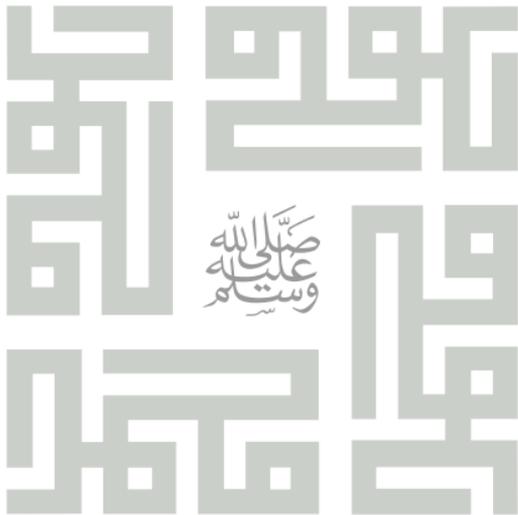


"And We Have Not Sent You
But As A Mercy To The Worlds"

The Holy Qur'an, V 107, Chapter 21 (The Prophets)

MUHAMMAD صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ WHO IS HE?

The Prophet of Islam
Biography and Testimonials



Second Edition

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*Mount of Al Noor . Makkah - Saudi Arabia
Muhammad received revelation in Hira Cave
which is in the Mount of Al Noor.*

Biography

Personal Details

Name	Muhammad
Father's Name	Abdullah, son of Abdul-Muttalib (ancestry reaches back to the Prophet Ishmael son of Prophet Abraham)
Surname (Clan)	He was from Bani-Hashim family (Bani-Hashim was from Quraysh, a tribe that was highly ranked in Arabia)
Date of Birth	22 nd April, 570 CE
Place of Birth	City of Makkah (Mecca) – Arabian Peninsula (currently in Saudi Arabia)
Date of Death	6 th June, 632 CE. (he was 63 years old when he passed away)
Death & Burial Place	City of Madinah (approximately 450 km north of Makkah)



This is the word Muhammad in Arabic written in a formative style. It looks like the upper part of a mosque with a dome in the middle. Please note the dome is the letter “h” in the word “Muhammad”. The lower part of the mosque is formed from the sentence “rasoolu-Allah”  which means the “Messenger of God”.

Courtesy of Plastic Artist Farid Al-Ali

In Arabic, the word “ Muhammad” means the person who is highly, frequently and repeatedly praised for his good deeds. Therefore, he is a praiseworthy person.



Childhood & Adolescence

Birth - 2 years old	Muhammad had no brothers or sisters. His father passed away before he was born. His mother sent him out of Makkah to be breast-fed by a wet nurse called Halima (this was an old Arab custom).
2-6 years old	He lived with his mother "Aaminah" until she passed away in the year 576 CE.
6-8 years old	He lived with his grandfather Abdul-Muttalib until he passed away.
8-25 years old	He lived with his paternal uncle (Abu-Talib) who had 10 children.

Education

Muhammad was illiterate: He could not read or write. He never lived outside Makkah or sought foreign knowledge. Muslims believe that Muhammad did not author the Qur'an but he conveyed it letter by letter and word by word without rephrasing any part of it with his own words. Muslims believe that the Qur'an is the Message of God and His Book to all people.

Muhammad's sayings and teachings were not mixed with the Holy Qur'an: They were collected in books which are called "The Sunnah of the Prophet" which means his teachings, way of life and explanation of the Book (The Holy Qur'an).



Working Life

Childhood – mid twenties	He worked as a shepherd for some time (looking after sheep and goats for others). In addition, he worked in trading with his uncle Abu-Talib. According to authentic narrations, Muhammad was 12 years old when he, for the first time, joined his uncle Abu-Talib in a trading trip to Syria.
Mid twenties - 40 years old	He worked as a merchant or a trader for a wealthy woman called Khadijah who had a general trading business (they used to buy commodities from one area and sell them in another). Muhammad was known in his community as a successful and an honest tradesman. He was famous for his fidelity, integrity and trustworthiness. It was not long before he earned the title of "As-Sadiqul Ameen" which means "the truthful and the trustworthy".
40-63 years old	When he was 40 years old (year 610 CE) Muhammad received the divine revelation and dedicated his life to conveying God's Message to all people. He taught people the oneness of God and conveyed God's Book (The Qur'an) which calls for social justice, peace, harmony and wellbeing.



Marital Status

Married to one wife for 25 years: Muhammad married Khadijah, the daughter of Khuwaylid, who came from a noble family called Asad.

She was a respected woman in her community and she was a widow. Muhammad worked for her for two years before she proposed marriage to him through a third party. She found him a very loyal, transparent and an ethical person.

Successful marriage: Although Khadijah was 15 years older than Muhammad, both of them came from a similar social class in the community.

The age difference was no obstacle to the establishment of a successful marriage which lasted for 25 years until Khadijah died in the year 619 CE at the age of 65.

Muhammad remarried after Khadijah passed away.

A father of six children and a family man

Muhammad & Khadijah lived in harmony and peace; they had four daughters (Zaynab, Ruqayya, Um Kulthoum & Fatima) and two sons (Al-Qassim who died when he was 3 years old and Abdullah who died

Muhammad loved Khadijah and was loyal to her

On several occasions he described her as the best woman of her time alike to Mary the mother of Jesus who was the best woman of her time.

(Narrated by Bukhari)

at the age of 4). Muhammad used to spend time with his family, help his wife in house matters, sew his own clothes and look after his children.

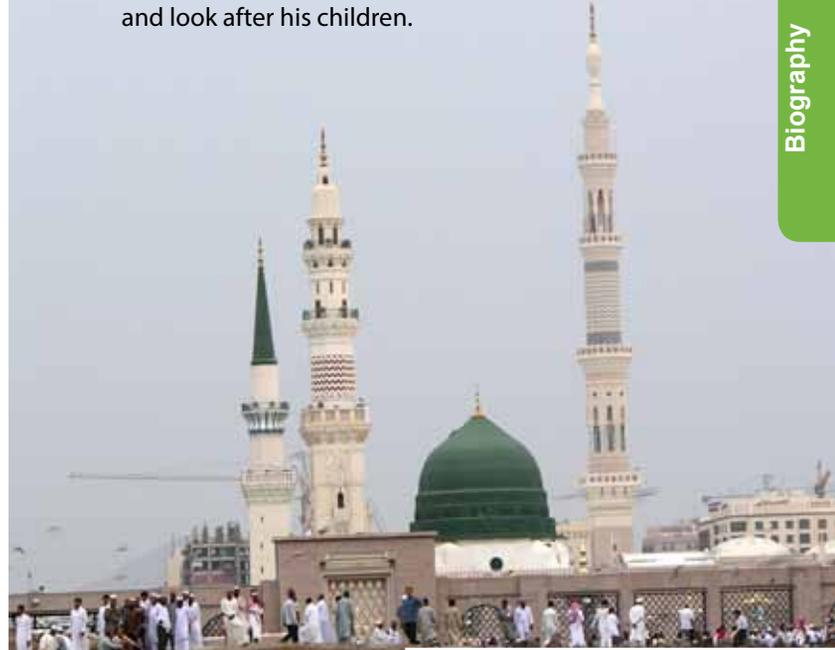


Photo taken from Baqee Cemetery which is next to Prophet Muhammad Mosque in Madinah. Some of Muhammad's companions, relatives, wives and children were buried in this cemetery.



Al-Ma'ala cemetery in Makkah where Khadijah was buried

Mission Accomplished in 23 Years

610 CE

Divine revelation commenced

Muhammad received the first revelation from God and was appointed as the Messenger of God to all people. A mission that required strong belief, dedication, commitment and honesty.



610- 612 CE

Core Muslims formed

Muhammad invited his friends, his inner circle and selected people to believe in one God and accept Islam as His final Message to humanity. In the first three years after prophecy, around 130 people accepted Islam and became a strong nucleus that was able to spread Islam publicly. These core Muslims were a mix of rich and poor people.



613- 615 CE

Muhammad's public invitation resisted

Muhammad and his followers started to talk to people openly about Islam. Although Muhammad was known as a trustworthy and an honest man,

Meccan leaders did not believe him. They described him as a poet, a magician and a crazy man.

Muhammad tempted and threatened: Meccan leaders tried to dissuade Muhammad from inviting people to Islam by tempting him one time and threatening him another time. Also, they tried to prevent people from listening to him. They showed increased hostility towards new Muslims. They persecuted and tortured the poor and weak Muslims.

Muhammad supported his followers and sent some of them to Abyssinia:

Muhammad was very close to his followers. He used to meet them at Al-Arqam House which was like a small college. He taught them values and morals and instilled feelings of responsibility and commitment.



Muhammad saw the suffering and tribulation some of his followers endured and advised them to seek refuge in Abyssinia, describing it as a land of virtue ruled by a fair Christian king, under whom no one was treated unjustly.

Two influential men embraced Islam: Two strong and well respected Meccan men accepted Islam, Omar Bin Al-Khattab and Hamza Bin Abdul-Muttalib (Muhammad's uncle). That was an important turning point for Muslims. Hamza became a strong supporter and protector for Muhammad until he (Hamza) died in the battle of Uhud (625 CE). Three years after the passing away of Prophet Muhammad, Omar became the second caliph and ruled the Islamic state for 11 years.

616- 618 CE

Muhammad boycotted: Meccan leaders boycotted Muhammad and his followers and imposed a social and economical blockade on them which lasted for 3 years. During this time, Muhammad and his followers suffered great tribulation. This period was a tough test for their patience, belief and commitment to the truth.

619- 620 CE

A Sorrowful year: Meccan chiefs cancelled the social and economical blockade as they found it not useful. In the same year, Muhammad's wife Khadijah and his uncle Abu-Talib passed away.

Muhammad lost hope in Mecca and decided to convey the Message of God and seek support outside Mecca. He went to the city of Ta'if but was met with hostility. In addition, he spoke to more than 20 Arab tribes about Islam but he didn't receive any positive response.

620- 622 CE

A glimpse of hope: Muhammad met six people from Yathrib (a city located 450 km north of Mecca) during the pilgrimage time and talked to them about Islam. They believed Muhammad and returned to their city with intentions to invite more people from their own tribe and other tribes in Yathrib. They agreed to return to Mecca the next year at the time of pilgrimage to meet again with Muhammad "the Prophet and the Messenger of God".

New Muslims pledged allegiance to Muhammad

The same group returned the following year (621 CE) with six more people. They pledged their allegiance to Muhammad. They accepted him as the Messenger of God and promised him:



Aqaba or Al-Bay'aa "Pledge" Mosque

(1) not to worship anyone except (Allah) The One God, (2) not to steal, (3) not to commit adultery, (4) not to kill, (5) not to slander neighbors and (6) not to disobey the Messenger of God.

The group went back to Yathrib and invited their tribal leaders and their people to accept Islam. They returned again in the following year (622 CE) at the time of pilgrimage with more than 70 men and two women. A similar pledge of allegiance was given by this group to Prophet Muhammad.



A new Muslim community formed 450 km north of Mecca:

The leaders of the two main tribes in Yathrib (Aws & Khazraj) embraced Islam and subsequently their people became Muslims. Muhammad the Prophet of God was invited to come to Yathrib and become its ruler and leader.

Chiefs of Mecca plotted to kill Muhammad; migration to Yathrib commenced:

Things were becoming worse in Mecca. Muhammad asked Meccan Muslims to migrate to Yathrib. Following their migration, Muhammad migrated to Yathrib in September 622 CE. His migration represented the most important turning point in the Islamic history. From Yathrib, Islam blossomed, an Islamic state was established and a just social order was born.

623-624 CE

Muhammad chosen the ruler of Yathrib

The people of Yathrib were a mix of Arabs and Jews. Although there were two main Arab tribes and three smaller Jewish tribes, the Arab community was larger than the Jewish one and had the ruling power. Muhammad, "The Prophet of God" was chosen as the ruler of Yathrib willingly and peacefully with the agreement of the majority of people.



Muhammad changed the name of Yathrib the multicultural society: "Madinah" was the new name Muhammad gave to the city of Yathrib.

After the migration of the Meccan Muslims, Yathrib no longer belonged to a certain group of Arabs, instead, it became the homeland of believers who accepted Islam.

Since there were Jewish tribes in Yathrib and other Arab people who didn't embrace Islam, Muhammad did not call it the city of Islam. Instead, it was named "Al-Madinah" which means "The City", in which all inhabitants had similar citizenship rights.



Muhammad called for peace and unity in Madinah

In his first public address to the people of Madinah, Muhammad delivered a very concise speech which promoted harmony and social cohesion. He said:

"O People, seek and spread peace and offer food to each other, look after your kinship and pray to God at night while others are sleeping so you gain God's pleasure and enter His paradise".

Muhammad linked these acts to God's pleasure in order to motivate people to love each other and live in peace and harmony in a multicultural society.



623-624 CE

Muhammad formed the first constitution and charter of human rights and liberties: Most of the Jews hoped that the last Prophet would come from a Jewish background. Although the majority of Jews did not accept Muhammad as a Messenger of God, Muhammad (as the ruler of the state) formed the first “Constitution and Charter of Human Rights and Liberties” to which all Arab and Jewish tribes agreed upon and signed.

The constitution guaranteed the freedom of conscience and worship for Muslims and Jews as well as Arabs who did not accept Islam.

In addition, the constitution protected the safety and security of all citizens in Madinah and required all parties who signed the covenant for the constitution to be part of the national defense should Madinah be attacked by enemies. The constitution stated justice, human rights, liberties and prohibition of crime and immoral practices.

624 CE

The unavoidable battle of Badr: When Muslims migrated from Makkah to Madinah, many of them were forced to abandon their homes and their properties were confiscated.

Location of Badr

The chiefs of Mecca used the confiscated money in trade and business. Muslims knew about a trade caravan belonging to the Meccan chiefs, led by their enemy Abu-Sufyan which would pass through a trade route close to Madinah.

Muhammad called upon Muslims to take the caravan in return for their wealth that was confiscated in Makkah. A force of only 313 Muslims took up the mission. The Meccan intelligence advised Abu-Sufyan to change the route of the trade caravan. In addition, Mecca sent an army of 950 soldiers to fight the Muslim force which was not prepared for war and was far less equipped than the Meccan army.

It was astonishing and beyond expectation that Muslims won their first battle against the Meccan chiefs. Many Meccan chiefs and important figures were killed in this battle.



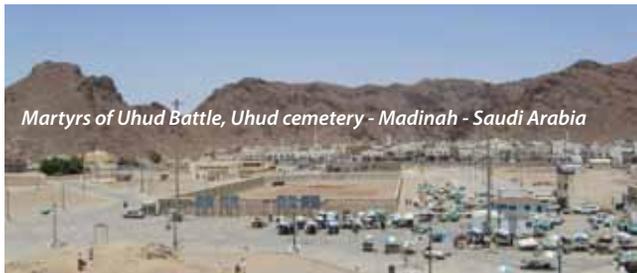
625 CE

Meccan chiefs attacked Muhammad and his followers in the battle of Uhud: In retaliation for their loss in the battle of Badr and their fear of losing their leading role in Arabia, Meccan chiefs with some Arab allies, sent an army of 3000 soldiers to attack Muslims at the mount of Uhud north of Madinah.



Location of Uhud - Madinah - Saudi Arabia

The Muslims lost this battle and Muhammad was wounded but saved. In the battle of Uhud some of Muhammad's companions were killed including his beloved uncle Hamza.



Martyrs of Uhud Battle, Uhud cemetery - Madinah - Saudi Arabia

626 CE

Meccans and other tribes attacked Muhammad and his followers in the battle of trench: This battle is also called the "Battle of Confederates". Since Muhammad was not killed in the previous battle, Meccan chiefs and some Arab & Jewish tribes called for a united effort and a comprehensive assault to kill Muhammad and destroy the Muslim community.

10,000 soldiers marched towards Madinah. After consulting his companions, Muhammad decided to adopt the proposal of a Persian Muslim named Salman to dig a trench on the northern access of Madinah (5.5 km long X 4.6 m wide).

Muslims were in their most awkward situation and tried their best including psychological warfare, to defend themselves. After a month-long siege the Meccan army and its allies became impatient and strong storms and wind blew which forced the confederates to pack up their tents and withdraw.

627 CE**Treaty of Hudaibiya, a truce for 10**

years: One year after the battle of trench, Muhammad took a peaceful initiative to perform Umrah (visit the Sacred Mosque in Mecca and perform other religious rites).

Visiting Mecca for the purpose of worship was a religious right that Mecca undertook to give to all people in Arabia.

**10-Year
Truce**

It was a great surprise for Meccan chiefs to see Muhammad approaching Mecca with 1400 civilians coming from Madinah.

After several negotiations, a truce was made between the Meccan chiefs and Muhammad for 10 years during which time Muhammad and his companions returned to their homes with a condition to come again to visit Mecca in the following year (628 CE). The truce had many other terms which were disappointing for Muslims because they weighed heavily in favor of the Meccan side.

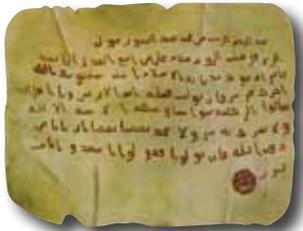


628- 629 CE

During the truce, Muhammad conveyed God's Message inside & outside Arabia: The truce was a golden chance for Muhammad to freely speak to people about Islam without being stopped or intercepted by other forces.

Muhammad sent delegations to other Arab tribes in Arabia and wrote letters to the rulers and kings of neighboring countries and superpowers such as Persia, Byzantine and

Egypt inviting them to accept Islam as "the Message of God". Muslims increased in numbers as people found the truth in Islam.



630 CE

Peaceful take-over of Makkah: Within less than 2 years, the truce was broken from the Meccan side when their allies killed 20 Muslims.

In response to this shocking act, Muhammad marched with 10,000 Muslims to conquer Makkah but asked his soldiers not to fight any one unless they were fought.

The Meccan chiefs were embarrassed and were not prepared to fight the Muslims. When the Muslim army arrived in Makkah, Muhammad addressed the whole people of Mecca confirming the oneness of God, referring victory to Him and reminding people that all of them descended from Adam and Adam was created from dust of the ground.



Then he asked the people of Makkah: “What do you expect me to do with you? They replied: “We hope for the best. After all, you have been a gracious brother and a courteous cousin”.

Exemplar of forgiveness: Despite the hardship caused by the Meccan people during the previous 21 years, Muhammad behaved with high moralities. He replied: “Have no fear today. Depart then (to your homes), you are free”. Muhammad’s address was very influential and many people came to him to make a pledge and embrace Islam.

630 - 631 CE

Arab tribes embraced Islam: After the peaceful takeover of Makkah, delegations from all over Arabia came to learn about Islam. Except the Hawazen tribe who fought the Muslims and eventually lost the battle of Hunayn, most Arab tribes embraced Islam. Muhammad sent many of his companions to various provinces in Arabia to teach people Islam “The Message of God”.

When Prophet Muhammad returned to Makkah, his main goal was to purify the Sacred Mosque. He knocked down all idols that were worshipped by the Arabs and restored the Ka'bah as the House of Allah the One God.

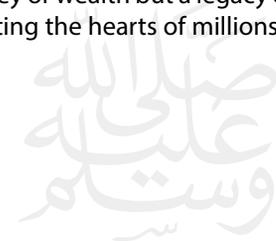
632 CE

Muhammad’s farewell address: Muhammad’s mission was accomplished and his life was nearing to an end. In the year 632 CE Muhammad performed pilgrimage and gave his final sermon to more than 100,000 people.

His sermon reminded people about belief in One God, sanctity of lives, protection of wealth and property, equality of all races, rules of justice, women’s rights and morals.

The passing away of Muhammad

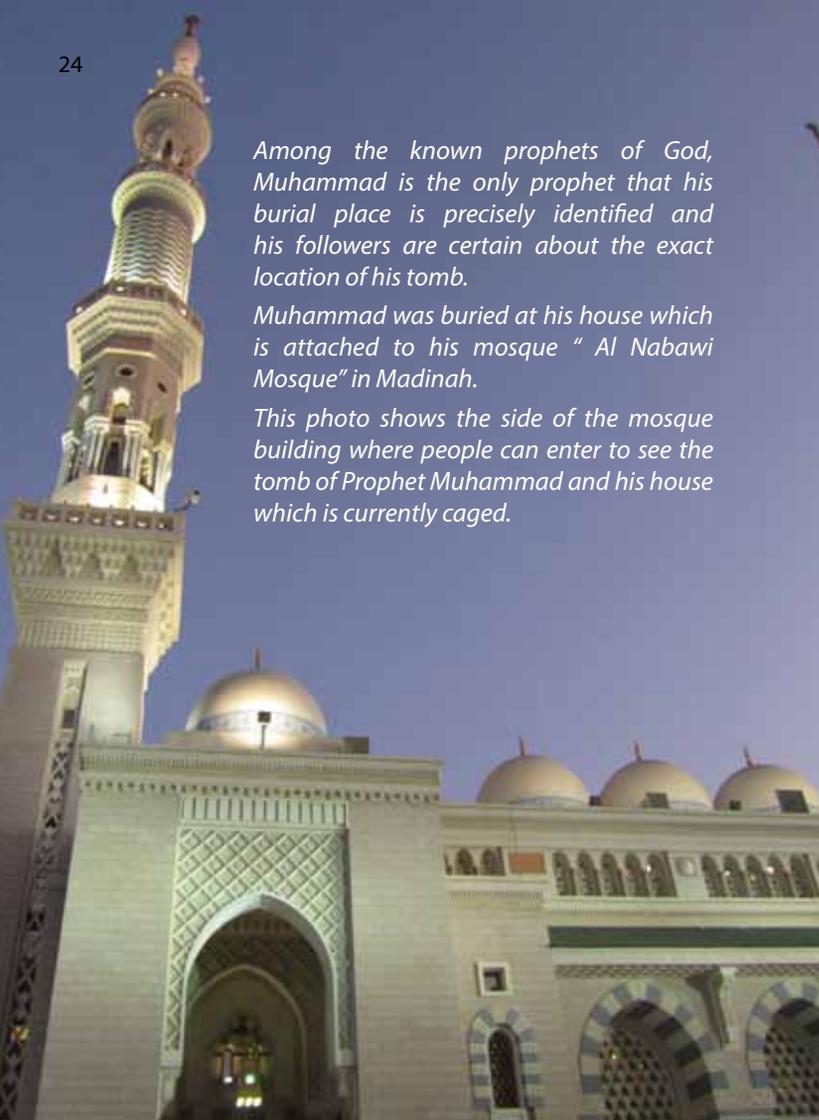
Prophet Muhammad passed away in his home in Madinah in the year 632 CE leaving only few possessions. He did not leave any money or wealth but a legacy of faith in God that is still illuminating the hearts of millions of people around the globe.



Among the known prophets of God, Muhammad is the only prophet that his burial place is precisely identified and his followers are certain about the exact location of his tomb.

Muhammad was buried at his house which is attached to his mosque " Al Nabawi Mosque" in Madinah.

This photo shows the side of the mosque building where people can enter to see the tomb of Prophet Muhammad and his house which is currently caged.



Muhammad's Character

Muslims have no drawings or pictures for prophet Muhammad or the prophets before him. However, unlike the founders of the great faith traditions prior to his time, the Prophet Muhammad is much more a recognizable historical figure as his companions and family members described him very well and recorded many stories from his life for posterity.

What did he look like?

Muhammad was an Arab of noble lineage with a white complexion and a rosy tinge. He was a little taller than average and well built with broad shoulders. His belly never protruded out from his chest. He walked briskly and firmly.



Muhammad's companions described him as a handsome person with prominent forehead, high tipped nose, long eyelashes, large black eyes with well set teeth and a pleasant smile. He had slightly curly hair and a thick beard.

His companions indicated that he had a friendly bright face that looked like a full moon. He did not laugh loudly; his laugh was mostly a smile that would show his teeth a bit like hailstones. His cheerfulness and open personality were felt by all people.

His nature

Muhammad was unfailingly cheerful, easy going by nature, and mild mannered. He never resorted to offensive speech or obscenities. He did not find fault with others nor did he overly praise the others.



The way he spoke

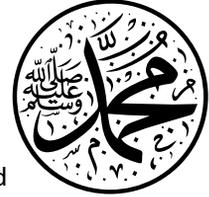
Muhammad did not speak unnecessarily and what he said was always to the point and without any padding. His sayings were precise and concise having complete meaning in few words. He spoke with excellence, and there was no excess in it and no abnormal brevity.

When he emphasized a point, he used to repeat it three times with a gesture. He spoke of nothing unless he hoped a reward from God for it. He told his companions:

"I am a guarantor for a house at the outskirts of the Paradise for those who quit arguing even if they were right and I am a guarantor for a house in the middle of the Paradise for those who quit lying even if they were kidding and I am a guarantor for a house in the highest part in the Paradise for those who behave with good manners." (Sahih Abu Dawood)

His passions

Muhammad kept his feelings under firm control. When annoyed, he would turn aside or keep silent. When someone committed an act that violates God's law, he used to show serious anger and a firm stand. No one would stand against his anger in matters of the Lord's truth being opposed, he would stand fast in protecting the truth until he had convinced another of the rightness of God's truth as revealed in the Holy Qur'an. Muhammad never got angry for his own sake.



His interactions with people

Muhammad was always the first to greet others and would not withdraw his hand from a hand shake until the other man withdrew his.

Whoever saw him unexpectedly would admire and revere him. And whoever socialized or associated with him familiarly, loved him. He was gentle by nature. He was neither coarse nor disdainful of anyone.

When he looked at the others, he looked at them in full face. If someone called him he didn't turn his face only, but gave attention with his whole body.

When he would go to visit a group, he would sit in the nearest available spot. He ordered his companions to follow his practice. He would give those seated near him his full share of attention in such a way that no one would think others had been given precedence over him. He didn't reserve fixed places among the people to be seated. He was fair with his companions and all people. They were distinguished only by virtue and devotion to God.



His style of living

Everything he did was in moderation, without excess or contrariness. He never criticized the food or drink that was prepared for him, nor did he overly praise it.



When at home, he would divide his time into three parts, one for God, one for his family, and one for himself. He always joined in household work and would at times mend his clothes, repair his shoes and sweep the floor. He used to dress well and smell good.

After dawn prayers, he preferred sitting in the mosque reciting the Holy Qur'an and praises of Allah, till the sunrise. After midnight, he used to get up for the (Tahajjud) prayers (extra prayers and supplications to God at night).

He declared unlawful for himself and his family anything given by people by way of the alms (zakat given by Muslims for the welfare of those in need). He was so particular about this, that he would not appoint any member of his family as a collector of alms for the community.



His house was but a hut with walls of unbaked clay and a roof of palm leaves covered by camel skin.

Muhammad said: "What have I to do with worldly things? My connection with the world is like that of a traveler resting for a while underneath the shade of a tree and then moving on." (Narrated by Abdullah bin Abbass).

When he died, he did not leave a cent or any property except his white mule and a piece of land which he had dedicated for the good of the community of Muslims (Sahih Bukhari).





Muhammad said (interlacing his both hands fingers):

**"Believers are a structure like,
they fasten each other"**

Narrated by Bukhari, Muslim & Tirmithi

Muhammad's sayings and teachings are very influential as they covered most aspects of life. They emanated from a base of wisdom and Divine revelation. His sayings, actions, approvals and attributes better known as "sunnah" represent the second source of Islamic legislation after the Holy Qur'an.

*"Your companion (i.e. Muhammad)
has not strayed from the path of truth
nor has he been deluded. Nor does he
speak out of whim"*

The Holy Quran, V 2,3, Ch 53

Muhammad's Teachings



Muhammad drew three lines on the sand and said: "This is the human being (who has many hopes and plans in this worldly life). While he lives to attain or accomplish these hopes death comes to him".

(Narrated by Bukhari, Turmithi)



"Avail five before five:

Your youth before senility (old age)

Fitness before sickness

Wealth before poverty (needy)

Free time before busy time

Life before death". (Riyadh Saliheen)



"The perfect believers are those who have the best manners".

(Narrated by Turmithi)

"Two graces, many people underestimate; health and free (leisure) time". (Riyadh Salihheen)



"Envy is forbidden except in two cases (you wish to have the same thing others have but no bad wishes to them). The first one is a man, God bestowed on him wealth, so he spends it righteously, the second case is a man, God bestowed on him wisdom, so he acts according to it and teaches it to others". (Bukhari, 73/15)



"Make things easy to people (concerning religious matters), and do not make it hard for them; give them good tidings and do not make them run away".

(Bukhari, 69/11)



"Those who do honest trading and business based on clear terms, God blesses them and their business (trade). Contrary, God does not bless those who lie and hide facts".

(Bukhari, 2082/22)

"You will not be a believer in God unless you like for your brethren what you like for yourself". (Bukhari, 13/7)



"Every Muslim should pay Sadaqa (spend something for charity), if he didn't find what to spend then let him work in order to benefit himself and be able to pay charity, if he didn't find a job, then let him help others (this is an act of charity), if he didn't find anyone to help, let him do good deeds and refrain from (avoid) doing bad or evil deeds. This is a charity for him". (Bukhari, 1445/30)



"When man dies, he gains no rewards except from three things; in case he had dedicated a charity that people can continuously profit from or he had left knowledge or a science that benefits the humanity or if he had left a good (faithful) son who keeps on praying and asking Gods blessings and forgiveness to his parents".

(this is applicable for both males and females)

(Narrated by Muslim, Tirmithi, Nassa'i)

"Fear Allah wherever you are, follow a bad deed with a good deed as it erases it, and deal with people with high ethics". (Tirmithi - 1987 & Ahmad 5/153)



"Goodness (rightness) is good morality; and sin (misdeed) is what embarrasses you (i.e. you are not comfortable within yourself) and you hate it to be known by others". (Muslim, 15/2553)



"A strong person is not the one who throws his adversaries to the ground. A strong person is he who contains himself when he is angry".

(Narrated by Bukhari, Muslim & Ahmad)



"Whoever believes in Allah and the Day of Judgment should say good (words) or keep silent and whoever believes in Allah and the Day of Judgment must honor (be generous with) his neighbor and whoever believes in Allah and the Day of Judgment must honor (be generous with) his guest".

(Bukhari, 6018 & Muslim 74-47)

(Please note all of the above sayings are applicable for both males and females)

"I swear by God that you will not be true believers in Him unless you love each other. I will tell you something, if you do it you will love each other. Greet each other frequently and make it a common habit". (Riyadh Al Saliheen)



"No one will become a good believer unless he wishes for his brethren what he likes for himself". (Riyadh Al Saliheen)



"Whoever helps a believer overcome a difficulty, God will help him overcome a difficulty at the Day of Judgment, and God will always help an individual as long as he/she is helping others".

(Riyadh Al Saliheen)



"Don't ever underestimate any kind act, even if you meet others with a bright (smiling) face". And he said: "The one who greets others first is closer to God than the others". On another occasion he said to someone who asked him about a good way to deal with people: "Offer people food and greet whom you know and whom you don't know".

(Riyadh Al Saliheen)

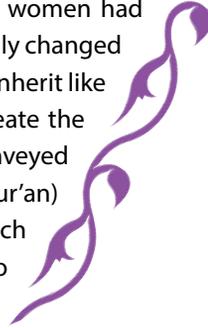
Muhammad Gave Women Their Rights

Before the advent of Islam, women had no civil rights. Arabs used to give preference to male babies over female ones to the extent that many fathers used to bury their female babies or children alive.

No gender discrimination: Muhammad condemned discrimination between male and female children and taught his companions to love their children and raise them properly regardless of their sex. In fact, he emphasized giving more care and attention to female children until they grow up and get married. Muhammad said:

“Women are the twin halves of men.”¹

Women inherit like men: Before Islam, women had no right to inherit. Muhammad successfully changed this custom. Females gained the right to inherit like males. However, Muhammad did not create the Islamic inheritance system, but he conveyed God’s Words (preserved in the Holy Qur’an) which stipulate the portions for each individual (male and female) eligible to inherit.



The word "Muhammad" in Arabic calligraphy being designed in an artistic and symmetrical way. The actual word looks like this . Letters M and H which form the first half of the word "Muhammad" are symmetrical with letters M and D which form the second half of the word "Muhammad" in Arabic.



Muhammad encouraged full respect of mothers

A man asked Muhammad: “Who would deserve my closest support and companionship? Muhammad replied: “Your mother”. Then the man asked Muhammad who will be after her? Muhammad replied: “Your mother”.



The man asked the same question again and Muhammad replied for the third time: “Your mother”. Then out of curiosity the man asked the same question for the fourth time (he realized that Muhammad wanted to emphasise the best treatment to mothers). Then Muhammad said to him: “Your father” (i.e. your father deserves your closest support and accompany after your mother)².

Scholars comment on the above story that mothers can not escape three main sufferings “ (1) pregnancy, (2) labor and delivery, (3) and finally breast-feeding and weaning.

Muhammad encouraged good treatment of wives : He stated that if a man disliked one of a woman’s traits he will be pleased with another. And he said:

The believers who show the most perfect faith are those who have the best character; and the best of the believers are those who are best to their wives.



This promotes love, harmony and mutual understanding.

Freedom, Justice & Protection

“No compulsion” is an essential rule in Islam

Muhammad proclaimed himself as a Messenger of God. He received a Divine Message to humanity and struggled to convey it to all people but he did not force any one to accept it. He recited the Holy Qur’an which confirms the freedom of belief and freedom choice for all people.

“And had your Lord Willed, all people in the earth would have believed (all of them) together. So will you (Muhammad) compel or force people until they become believers?” The Holy Qur’an, V 99, Ch 10

There is no compulsion in religion, truth (the right path) has become distinct from error (wrong path), and whoever rejects evil and believes in God has grasped the most trustworthy hand-hold that never breaks. And God is All-Hearer All-Knower. The Holy Qur’an, V 256, Ch 2

Morality & equality of all races:

In Islam, all people are considered equal under law by reason of their being members of the human race. Piety and excellence of moral character are the only criteria for individual superiority in the eyes of God. Muhammad put it in these words:

*“Your Lord is One. All humankind are from Adam and Adam was created from dust. An Arab has no superiority over a non-Arab nor does a non-Arab have any superiority over an Arab except by piety (piety motivates good deeds)”.
Riyadh Al-Salihin (1604/5)*

Muhammad’s Teachings to Preserve the Environment

Muhammad called for a green world

He linked the preservation of the environment to the belief in God Who created all beings. Therefore, a believer in God can not cause mischief to the environment because it is part of God’s Kingdom. Harming the environment and wasting or polluting its resources (water, plants, animals, soil, air, marine ecosystem, etc) is not acceptable from an Islamic point of view.



*“Any Muslim who plants a seed that grows to a level, people or animals or birds can benefit or eat from it, then this act is considered as a Sadaqa”
(a charity that is rewarded by God).*

Saying of Muhammad ﷺ

About Islam

Islam in simple words

"Islam" means submission and devotion to One God. It is a religion of monotheism where the adherent to Islam believes that God is one and incomparable. He has no partners or sons. He begets not nor was he begotten (neither gives birth nor was born).

He created the whole universe and all beings. No one shares with Him His Divinity and no one has the right to be worshiped or prayed to but Him alone.



What is the name of God? His name is "Allah".

It is pronounced Allaah with a long vowel "a". God has many attributes and adjectives. In Islam there are ninety nine acknowledged "beautiful names" and attributes for Allah. For example God is "The Most Merciful" and "All-Knowing". No one can be more merciful than Him and no one can be more knowledgeable than Him.



Courtesy of
Abdul Aziz Al Rashidi

English	Arabic	Hebrew	Aramaic
God	Elah	Eloha	Elaha

"He is Allah besides Whom there is no God: The Knower of the unseen and the seen; He is the Beneficent, the Merciful.

He is Allah, besides Whom there is no God; the King, the Holy, the Author of Peace, the Granter of Security, Guardian over all, the Mighty, the Supreme, the Possessor of greatness. Glory be to Allah from that which they set up (with Him)!

He is Allah; the Creator, the Maker, the Fashioner: His are the most beautiful names. Whatever is in the heavens and the earth declares His glory; and He is the Mighty, the Wise".

The Holy Qur'an, Verses 22,23,24, Ch 59

Muhammad and Islam: When a man asked Muhammad to explain Islam in simple words so that he should not seek any further clarification from anyone else, Muhammad concisely said:

Be
Straight

"Say, 'I believe in Allah (the one God) and then be straight'".

Embracing the Islamic faith requires following a balanced way of life without diversion to extremism in actions; sayings or deeds.

Islam and peace: Linguistically the word “Islam” in Arabic comes from the root word “salama” which means free of harm and is related to the word “Salaam” which means peace.

Prophet Muhammad defined a Muslim as “the one whom other people are safe from harm coming from his tongue and hands”, i.e. people should not receive any harm from his actions and words.



In Islam, “The Peace” is one of the magnificent names and attributes of God (Allah). The one who submits to Allah should find inner peace within him/herself and should be at peace with the environment and the people.

It is interesting to know that in a Muslim society, people greet each other with the word “Assalamo Alaykom” which means “peace be upon you” instead of the words “Hi” or “Hello”. The full version of this statement is “peace be upon you as well as Allah’s mercy and blessings”.

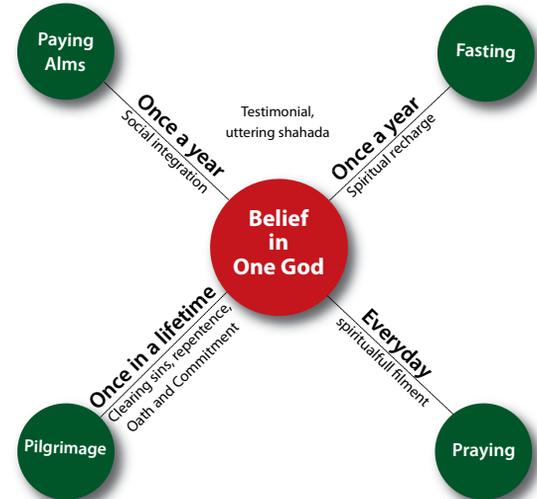
Muslims or Muhammadans? Unlike the followers of other religions, the followers of Muhammad are not called Muhammadans. An adherent to Islam or the one who embraces it as a faith and a way of life is called a “Muslim” i.e. the one who believed in one God and submitted to Him.

The six elements of the Islamic creed: The belief in One God requires the belief in His Angles, His Books, His Messengers as well as the belief in the Day of Judgment and the belief in God’s Divine Pre-ordainment.

Pillars of Islam, practicing the Islamic faith

The Islamic religion is based on five pillars that a Muslim must practice

1	Shahadah	Uttering (verbally saying) the creed of Islam (there is no God but Allah and Muhammad is a messenger of Allah)
2	Salat	Performing daily prescribed prayers
3	Siyam	Fasting the lunar month of Ramadan
4	Zakat	Paying alms as charity once a year
5	Hajj	Pilgrimage to the Sacred Mosque (the House of God) in Mecca once in a life time for those who have the physical and financial ability



1 - Uttering the Creed of Islam, Shahadah

This is to acknowledge that there is one and only one God to be worshiped. He created the universe and all beings. His name is Allah, and Muhammad is His messenger.



A person is said to be a Muslim when he or she believes in heart and utters (acknowledges verbally) the statement of Shahadah "there is no deity but Allah and Muhammad ﷺ is a Messenger of Allah". (In Arabic it is spelled Ash'hado an la Ilah illa Allah, Wa Ash'hado anna Muhammadan rasoolo'Allah).



Acknowledging Muhammad ﷺ as a Prophet and a Messenger of God requires the acknowledgement of all Prophets and messengers God sent before him.

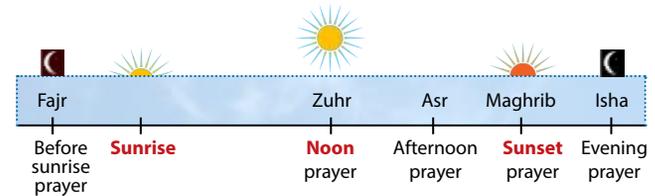


This is a testimony in Arabic calligraphy which was designed in an artistic way. It states: I witness that there is no God except Allah and Muhammad is His servant and His messenger.

2 - Prescribed Daily Prayers, Salat

Prayer (Salat) in Islam is an act of worship that enables the individual to get intimately close to God. There are five daily-prescribed prayers in Islam which are distributed during the whole day cycle. The essence of worship is to glorify, exalt and praise God with the heart, tongue and body.

Islam..
Faith in
Action



"And when My servants ask you, [O Muhammad], concerning Me - indeed I am near. I respond to the invocation of the supplicant when he/she calls upon Me. So let them respond to Me and believe in Me that they may be [rightly] guided".

The Holy Qur'an, Verse 186 Ch 2

Powerful
Meditation

In fact, the word 'salat' literally means 'hot connection'. It is a practical demonstration of faith. Each prayer includes physical movements of bowing and prostrating to Allah. Prayer shows progressively increasing levels of submission to Allah. It requires full concentration and isolation from worldly matters. Prophet Muhammad ﷺ said "a person is closest to Allah during prostration".

Praying five times a day may seem excessive to some people. In reality, it is a type of meditation that does not take more than forty minutes a day. Just as we eat three or four times a day and we never complain because we need physical nourishment to survive, we also need spiritual nourishment for our soul. Salat at spaced intervals throughout the day provides such spiritual nourishment.

3 - Zakat, Alms Giving

Zakat is an essential pillar of Islam. It means giving alms (paying a charity) once every year to poor, needy and other rightful beneficiaries as stipulated by the Qur'an. It is specified with (2.5%) of excess personal wealth.



Zakat cleanses ones' heart from greed and removes hatred and jealousy from the hearts of the poor. It fosters social integration and collaboration, compassion and respect. It enhances the wellbeing of the whole society and achieves social justice.

4 - Fasting in Ramadan

Muslims are required to fast the whole lunar month of Ramadan (29 or 30 days), from the break of dawn to sunset. During the fasting time, Muslims are required to abstain from eating, drinking and sexual contact while practicing a normal life.



Fasting for the sake of Allah, helps acknowledging that the sustenance (that may be taken for granted) actually comes directly from Allah.

When people feel the pangs of hunger, they experience the suffering needy people go through specially in areas that starve or lack the basic sustenance. The rich will be more inclined to give charity when they fast. This builds up a relationship between the rich and the poor and helps build social harmony.

Fasting enables one to curb the inner desires, learn self-control and hence achieves better spiritual development. Fasting has many health benefits and doctors recommend it to cure some diseases.

5 - Pilgrimage to Makkah, Hajj

Hajj is the pilgrimage to Makkah at the lunar month of Zul Hijjah with the intention to visit the Sacred Mosque (House of Allah) and perform certain religious rites. It is the fifth pillar of Islam that must be done once in a lifetime by all Muslims (who reached the age of puberty) provided they have the financial and physical ability to perform it.

Lunar Months

1	Al-Muharram
2	Safar
3	Rabi' Al-Awal
4	Rabi' Al-Akharah
5	Jumada Al-Oula
6	Jumada Al-Akharah
7	Rajab
8	Sha'ban
9	Ramadan
10	Shawwal
11	Zul Qui'da
12	Zul Hijjah

As people from all races and nations gather at the spiritual epicenter of the Islamic world, they are affirming their common paternal ancestry with Adam and their spiritual ancestry with Abraham

One God..One Message

The prophets and messengers of God in the Holy Qur'an

Islam acknowledges all prophets and messengers God sent before Muhammad for the guidance of humanity. They confirmed one message "monotheism" which is the belief in God's existence and oneness.



God sent them to educate people about the purpose of life, protect them from falling astray and teach them good morals.

The Holy Qur'an mentioned 25 prophets and messengers by name and focused on the stories of some of them. For example, in the Holy Qur'an Adam was mentioned 25 times, Noah was mentioned 43 times, Abraham was mentioned 69 times, Moses was mentioned 136 times and Jesus was mentioned 25 times.

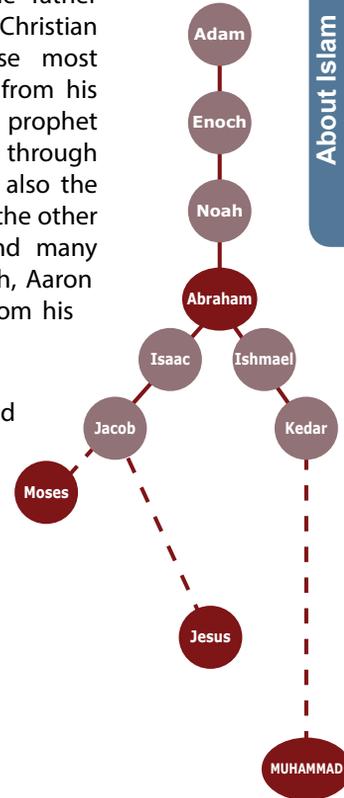
Muhammad said: "My similitude in comparison with the other prophets before me, is that of a man who has built a house completely and excellently except for a place of one brick. When people see the house, they admire its beauty and say: how splendid the house will be if the missing brick is put in its place. So I am that brick, and I am the last of the

Prophets". (Narrated by Bukhari 4.734, 4.735)

Muhammad and Abraham

Abraham is considered as the father of prophets in the Jewish, Christian and Islamic religions because most of the known prophets were from his offspring. Muslims believe that prophet Muhammad is his descendent through his first son Ishmael who was also the father of many Arab tribes. On the other hand, the nation of Israel and many prophets such as Jacob, Joseph, Aaron and Moses have descended from his second son Isaac.

Abraham dedicated his life and struggled to teach people monotheism. The Holy Qur'an frequently mentioned Abraham and indicated that after he put an effort in searching for the truth and recognized the oneness of God (The One Deity), Abraham practically proved his sincerity, honesty, thankfulness and obedience to God. He presented one of the greatest and most memorable examples in the history for full submission to One God even in the most difficult situations he went through.



It is worth mentioning that Prophet Muhammad named one of his children "Ibrahim" who died in his childhood.

The Man
Who Spoke
to God

Muhammad and Moses

Muhammad praised highly the Prophet Moses and indicated that on the Day of Resurrection he will see Moses standing and holding the side of the Throne of God (Allah).

On another occasion when Muhammad came to Madinah and found that Jews fasted on the day of "Ashura" (which God saved the children of Israel from Pharaoh of Egypt), he asked Muslims to fast this day voluntarily because Moses fasted that day as an expression of thanks to God (The day of "Ashura" is on the 10th of the first month of the lunar calendar).



Muhammad and Jesus

According to authentic narrations Muhammad said:

"I am the nearest of all the people to the son of Mary and all the prophets are paternal brothers, and there has been no prophet between me and him (i.e. Jesus)".

The Holy Qur'an describes Jesus as "God's Word" and "glad tidings" conveyed to Mary. His name is "The Messiah Jesus son of Mary".

Jesus in
the Qur'an

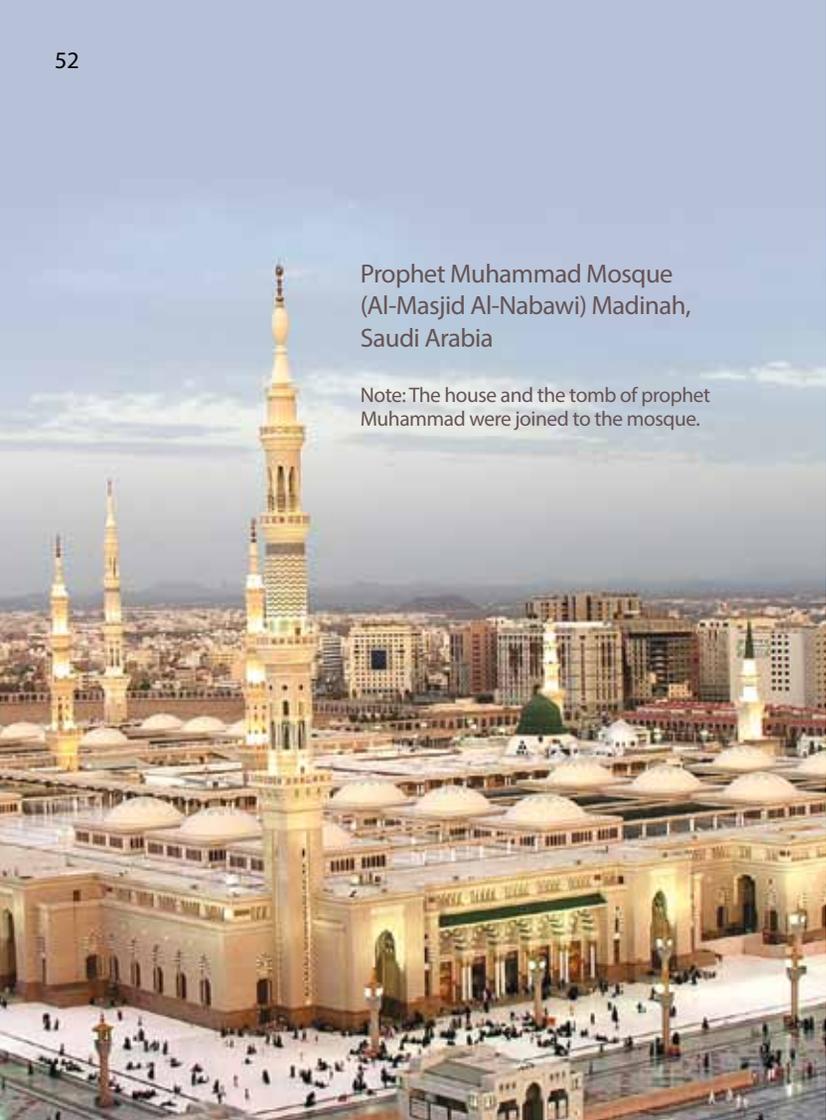
God supported him with the Holy Spirit (Archangel Gabriel) and sent him as a messenger to the children of Israel to guide them to the straight path and to worship God "Allah" his Lord and their Lord and the Lord of all beings. (V87, Chapter 2, V 45-49, Chapter 3, V171, Chapter 4).



Nazareth is a historic town in lower Galilee, Palestine. Mentioned in the Gospels as the home of Mary, it is closely associated with the childhood of Jesus Christ. According to the Roman Catholic tradition, Annunciation took place at the Church of the Annunciation in Nazareth.

Prophet Muhammad Mosque
(Al-Masjid Al-Nabawi) Madinah,
Saudi Arabia

Note: The house and the tomb of prophet
Muhammad were joined to the mosque.



Testimonials

History has recorded Muhammad's sublime and humane dealing with people. His call and teachings were based on amicability and fraternity. Adversity had no place in his conduct.

Michael Hart stated in his book
"The 100; A Ranking of the Most
Influential Persons in History":

"Of humble origins, Muhammad founded and promulgated one of the world's great religions and became an immensely effective political leader. Today, thirteen centuries after his death, his influence is still powerful and pervasive. The majority of persons in this book, had the advantage of being born and raised in centers of civilization, highly cultured and politically pivotal nations".

"It is this unparalleled combination of secular and religious influence which I feel entitles Muhammad to be considered the most influential single figure in human history".

Michael Hart



This is the word "Muhammad" in Arabic being designed in a formative style.

Arabia, at that time a backward area of the world, far from the centers of trade, art and learning”.

“It is probable that the relative influence of Muhammad on Islam has been larger than the combined influence of Jesus Christ and St. Paul on Christianity. On the purely religious level, then it seems likely that Muhammad has been as influential in human history as Jesus”.

Muhammad, the leader

Speaking objectively about Muhammad, the French writer and politician Alphonse de Lamartine wrote in his book *Histoire de la Turquie*:



“If the grandeur of the aim, the smallness of the means, the immensity of the result are the three measures of a man’s genius, who would dare humanly compare a great man of modern history with Muhammad?”.

“Never has a man proposed for himself, voluntarily or involuntarily, a goal more sublime, since this goal was beyond measure: undermine the superstitions placed between the creature and the Creator, give back God to man and man to God, reinstate the rational and saintly idea of divinity in the midst of this prevailing chaos of material and



disfigured gods of idolatry. Never has a man accomplished in such a short time such an immense and long lasting revolution in the world”.

Lamartine also indicated that Muhammad didn’t move weapons and empires to create a material power but he moved ideas, beliefs, and souls. He founded upon a Book; of which each letter has become a law; a spiritual nationality embracing people of all languages and races in the world.



Karen Armstrong the author of *“Muhammad a Prophet for Our Time”* indicated that we must approach the life of Prophet Muhammad in a balanced way in order to appreciate his considerable achievements. He had important lessons, not only for Muslims, but also for the Western people.

Muhammad literally sweated with the effort to bring peace to war-torn Arabia. His life was a tireless campaign against greed, injustice, and arrogance.

Karen trusts that If we are to avoid catastrophe, the Muslim and Western Worlds must learn not merely to tolerate but to appreciate one another. A good place to start is with the figure of Muhammad.



The tomb of Prophet Muhammad at the Nabawi Mosque in Madinah (first on the left). Next to it are the tombs of the first Caliph (successor) and ruler of the Islamic state Abu Bakir Al Siddiq and the second Caliph Omar Bin Al-Khattab.



John Adair

Author of *“The Leadership of Muhammad”*. Chair of Leadership Studies United Nations System Staff College in Turin

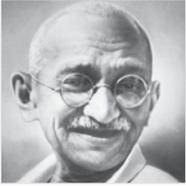
“In Islamic thought, model leaders were simultaneously both exalted and humble, capable of vision and inspiration, yet at the same time dedicated to the service of their people. As you read these pages, you will, I hope, be able to judge for yourself just how close Muhammad comes to this ideal. My argument in this book is this ideal -glimpsed more than once in the life of the Prophet Muhammad – accords well with what we know to be the universal truth about the nature and practice of leadership.”



William Montgomery Watt

(1909 – 2006) The Scottish historian and Emeritus Professor in Arabic and Islamic Studies at the University of Edinburgh. Author of *“Muhammed at Mecca”*, Oxford, 1953, p. 52

“His readiness to undergo persecutions for his beliefs, the high moral character of the men who believed in him and looked up to him as leader, and the greatness of his ultimate achievement - all argue his fundamental integrity. None of the great figures of history is so poorly appreciated in the West as Muhammad.”



Mahatma Gandhi

(1869 - 1948) *The political and spiritual leader of the Indian independence movement*

"I wanted to know the best one who holds today undisputed sway (controlling influence) over the hearts of millions of mankind. I became more than convinced that it was not the sword that won a place for Islam in those days in the scheme of life. It was the rigid simplicity, the utter self-effacement (humbleness) of Prophet Muhammad, the scrupulous regard (extreme care) for his pledges, his intense devotion to his friends and followers, his intrepidity (fearlessness) and his absolute trust in God and in his own mission. When I closed the second volume (of the book about his life) I was sorry that there was not more for me to read about his great life."



Alphonse de Lamartine

(1790 - 1869) *A French poet, writer and politician*
Histoire De La Turquie, Paris, 1854, Vol. li, Pp. 276-277

"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 him?"



William Durant

(1885-1981) *The American historian, philosopher and author of "The Story of Civilization", part 4, vol. 4, p. 25*

"His name, meaning, "highly praised," lent itself well to certain Biblical passages as predicting his advent. Muhammad was never known to write anything himself; he used an amanuensis. His apparent illiteracy did not prevent him from composing (i.e. conveying the Holy Qur'an which was revealed to him and regarded as) the most famous and eloquent book in the Arabic tongue, and from acquiring such understanding of the management of men as seldom comes to highly educated persons".

Note: The word amanuensis means someone who writes what is dictated to him. William Durant used the word "composing" which is unacceptable from the Islamic perspective as Muslims believe the Holy Qur'an is a literal Divine revelation from Allah (The Lord of all beings) to Muhammad through Archangel Gabriel.



Johann Wolfgang Von Goethe

(1749 - 1832) *A great European poet. Noten und Abhandlungen zum Weststlichen Dvan, WA I, 7, 32*

"He is a prophet and not a poet and therefore his Qur'an is to be seen as Divine Law and not as a book of a human being made for education or entertainment".



Thomas Carlyle

(1795 - 1881) *The Scottish historian, philosopher and author of "Heroes and Hero Worship and the Heroic in History"*

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

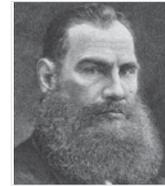
Note: Thomas Carlyle made an attempt to draw a picture of the development of human intellect by using historical people as coordinates and accorded the Prophet Muhammad a special place in the book under the chapter title "Hero as a Prophet". In his work, Carlyle declared his admiration with a passionate championship of Muhammad as a Hegelian agent of reform.



Reverend Reginald Bosworth Smith

(1839-1908) *Author of Mohammad and Mohammedanism, London, 1874, p. 92*

"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 Muhammad, 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".



Leo Tolstoy

(1828 - 1910) *The famous Russian writer and novelist. Author of "War and Peace".*

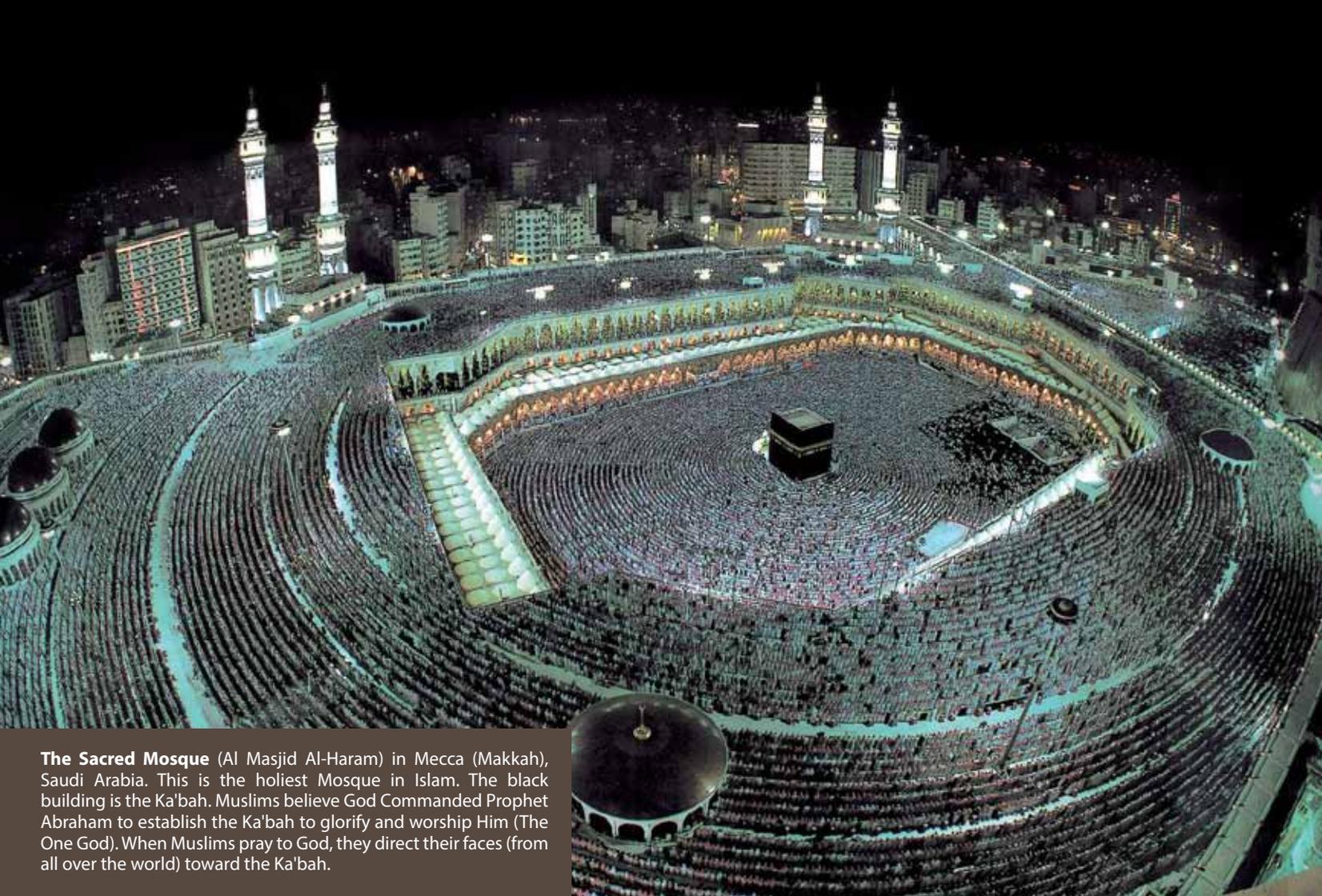
"There is no doubt that Prophet Muhammad is one of the greatest reformers who served the social framework profoundly. It suffices him that he led a whole nation to the enlightenment of truth and made it more inclined towards tranquility and peace, and prevented it from shedding blood and giving human sacrifices (though this was never proved against Arabs before Islam). He widely opened to his nation the gate to development and civilization. This is a great deed that only a strong man can do and a man like that deserves to be regarded with respect and admiration".



Maurice Bucaille

(1920 - 1998) *A French medical doctor and a specialist in gastroenterology. A member of the French Society of Egyptology. Author of "The Bible, The Qur'an and Science".*

"Islam teaches that God has given man the faculty of reason and therefore expects man to reason things out objectively and systematically. In view of the state of knowledge in Muhammad's days, it is inconceivable that the statements in the Qur'an which are connected with science could have been the work of man. A totally objective examination of the Qur'an in the light of modern knowledge, leads us to recognize the agreement between the two".



The Sacred Mosque (Al Masjid Al-Haram) in Mecca (Makkah), Saudi Arabia. This is the holiest Mosque in Islam. The black building is the Ka'bah. Muslims believe God Commanded Prophet Abraham to establish the Ka'bah to glorify and worship Him (The One God). When Muslims pray to God, they direct their faces (from all over the world) toward the Ka'bah.

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