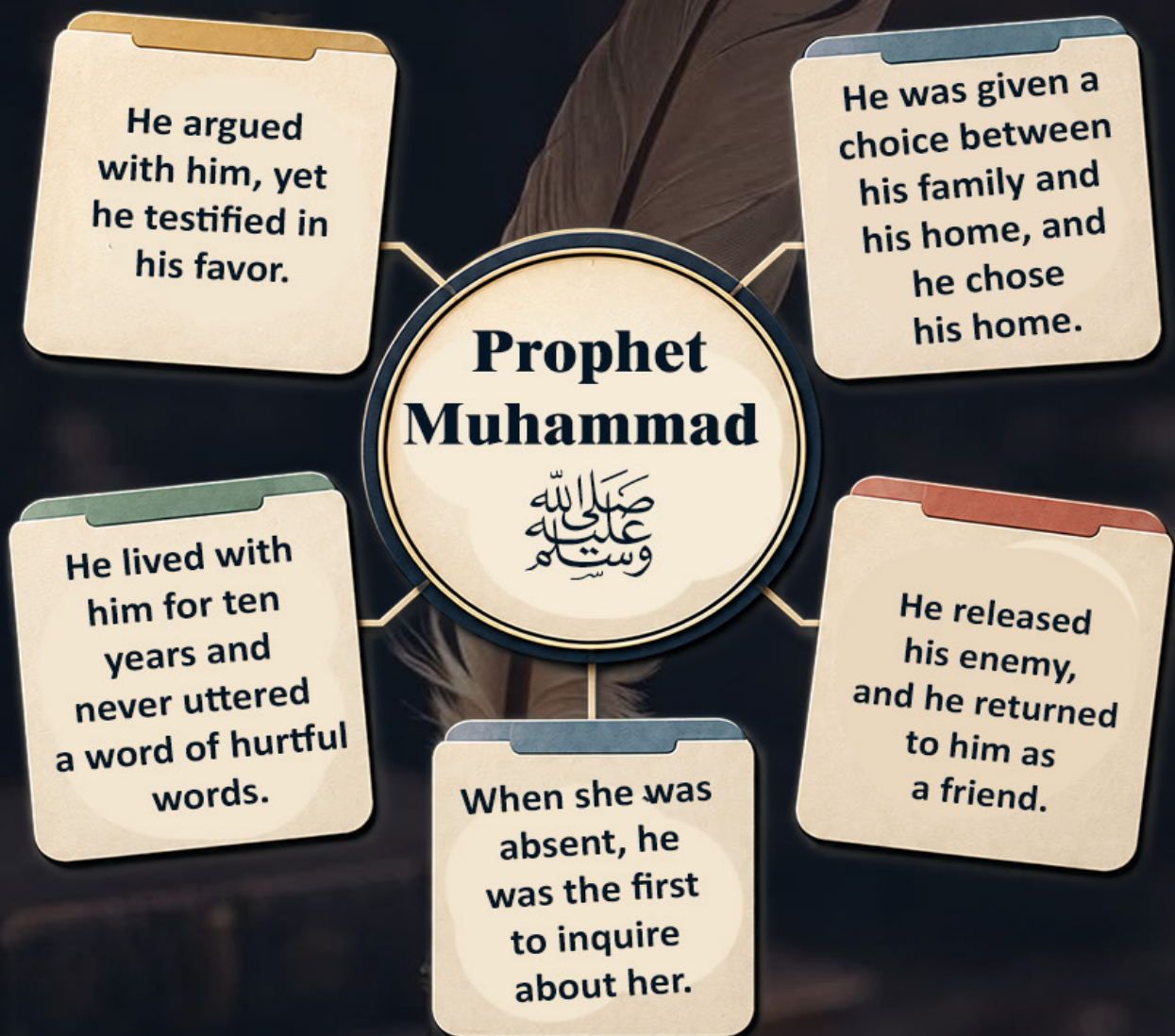




THE NEVER ENDING STORY



**How Can a Single Life Continue to
Change the World After Death?**



If I were to ask you to name the most influential figures in history, you would mention many names.

- Kings.
- Leaders.
- Philosophers.
- Inventors.

Every single one of them left an imprint on some aspect of life. Yet, there was a man who lived in a small city in the western Arabian Peninsula more than fourteen centuries ago, whose name remains present every single day in the lives of hundreds of millions of homes across the globe.





There are those who begin their day with words he taught.
And those who raise their children according to his commandments.
And those who refrain from dishonesty because he forbade it.
And those who forgive those who mistreated them because he did so.
And those who stand beside the poor, honor the neighbor, maintain family ties, and feed the needy, in emulation of him.
Not because he was a king.
Nor because he left behind wealth.
Nor because he established an empire that remained unchanged.
Rather, because his impact transcended the boundaries of place and time, reaching the hearts of people who never saw him, never spoke his language, and never lived in his era.
Here begins the real question.

What made the impact of Muhammad ﷺ different from the impact of others?

Was he an eloquent orator?

Undoubtedly, his words were deeply moving.

Was he a successful leader?

History bears witness to that.

Was he a man of far-reaching vision?

Yes.

Yet these qualities alone do not explain what happened.





For history has known great leaders whose impact ended with the downfall of their states.

And it has known thinkers who transformed minds, but whose names remained in books far more than they remained in homes. As for Muhammad ﷺ, he left an impact of a completely different kind.

He did not merely change laws; he changed the human being itself. He changed how a person views their Creator. Then he changed their relationship with themselves.

Then with their family.

Then with their neighbors.

Then even with those who disagreed with them.

Most remarkably, this transformation was not confined to a single class or demographic.

It impacted men and women.

The young and the old.

The rich and the poor.

The free and the enslaved.

Even some who once stood fiercely in opposition to him walked away from meeting him as completely transformed individuals.

These are not unsubstantiated tales passed down by word of mouth.





Rather, they are historical events preserved by the Noble Qur'an, narrated in authentic books of Hadith, and transmitted by trustworthy historians.

In the following pages, we will not try to convince you that Muhammad ﷺ was great. We will let the facts speak for themselves. We will meet just five individuals.

Each of them entered the life of the Prophet ﷺ carrying a different story. And each left it changed in a way that is impossible to ignore. When this journey comes to an end, you may find that the question is no longer:

Why did Muhammad ﷺ impact people so profoundly?

But rather:

What made this human being capable of creating such an enduring legacy?

Before all his friends were convinced by him...

And before his followers believed in his message...

There was a testimony given by a man who stood on the opposing side. It was not the testimony of a lover.

Nor the testimony of a follower.

Rather, it was the testimony of an adversary.

That was in the years preceding the Conquest of Mecca.

At that time, news of a man in the Arabian Peninsula was reaching the far corners of the world. His name was Muhammad ﷺ.

His call was no longer a local affair; it had begun to draw the attention of the major world powers.





When the Enemy Bore Witness

A letter arrived from Muhammad ﷺ to Heraclius, the Emperor of the Byzantine Empire, inviting him to worship God alone. Heraclius did not cast the letter aside; instead, he wanted to know:

Who is this man writing to him?

It so happened that a trade caravan from Quraish was present in the Levant (Al-Sham), led by Abu Sufyan ibn Harb.

At that time, Abu Sufyan was not a Muslim; rather, he was one of the most prominent opponents of the Prophet ﷺ.

He and his companions were summoned to the court of Heraclius. It was a formal court, where the Emperor of one of the greatest empires in the world sat surrounded by his patriarchs and senior dignitaries.

Heraclius did not begin by passing judgment on Muhammad ﷺ.

He began with questions.

He then turned to Abu Sufyan and commanded his companions to stand behind him, saying to them: "If he lies, expose his lie."

Abu Sufyan later recalled:

"By Allah, had it not been for the shame that they would transmit a lie against me, I would have lied about him."

Narrator: Abu Sufyan ibn Harb | Scholar: Al-Bukhari | Source: Sahih al-Bukhari,
Page/Number: 2804 | Reference: Transmitted by Muslim (1773) in detail with
slight variation.





It was a defining moment.

The man standing before Heraclius wished for nothing more than to find a way to slander his adversary.

Yet he could not.

Not because he had become a believer in him,
but because the truth was stronger than the hostility.

Heraclius asked him:

“Did you ever accuse him of lying before he said what he said?”

Abu Sufyan replied:

“No.”

He asked him:

“Does he betray his trust or break promises?”

He said:

“No.”

He asked him:

“What does he command you to do?”

He replied:

“He says: ‘Worship Allah alone and associate nothing with Him,
and abandon what your forefathers used to say.’ And he
commands us with prayer, charity, truthfulness, chastity,
and upholding family ties.”

Narrator: Abu Sufyan ibn Harb | Scholar: Al-Albani | Source: Sahih al-Jami',
Page/Number: 2820 | Reference: Transmitted by Al-Bukhari (7)
in detail with his wording, and Muslim (1773).





Ponder these words.

They were not transmitted by one of his close companions.

Nor were they spoken by a man who had accepted Islam.

They were spoken by a foe who knew that lying in that assembly would immediately be exposed by his companions standing right behind him.

Because of this, this testimony carries a very special weight.

After the dialogue concluded, Heraclius uttered words indicating the conclusion he reached from these answers, saying in part:

“If what you say is true, he will soon come into possession of the place of these two feet of mine.”

Narrator: Abu Sufyan ibn Harb | Scholar: Al-Albani | Source: Sahih al-Jami', Page/Number: 2820 | Reference: Transmitted by Al-Bukhari (7) and Muslim (1773).

This story does not prove that Heraclius embraced Islam, nor that Abu Sufyan changed his stance at that exact moment.

However, it proves something that is impossible to ignore:

Even the enemies of Muhammad ﷺ, when asked to describe him truthfully, could find no way to accuse him of falsehood or betrayal.

And here the real question arises:

How could a man who lived among his people for forty years, and with whom they later disagreed so fiercely, keep his personal history so entirely free from any allegation of lying?





In the following pages,
we will not answer this question
with theoretical arguments.
We will let those who actually lived alongside him
provide the answer:
A slave who lived under his care,
A child raised in his household,
A man who swore hostility against him,
And a woman who served in his mosque.
These people did not merely read about him...
They lived with him.





The Slave Who Refused Freedom

Before his name became well-known among the companions of Muhammad ﷺ...

He was a child.

A child who walked out one day among his family, and then vanished. We do not know the last look with which he bid farewell to his mother, nor what went through his father's heart as he searched endlessly for him. But we know what history preserved: that Zayd ibn Harithah was abducted at a young age, and then sold in the Arab markets just as commodities were sold.

In those times, a slave possessed no choice over where to live, with whom to live, or how to shape their future.

His life was written by the decisions of others.

Then fate led him to the house of a man from Mecca...

His name was Muhammad ibn 'Abdillah.

And he was not yet a prophet at that time.

Days passed...

Then months...

Then years.

Inside that household, something occurred that people never saw in the slave markets.

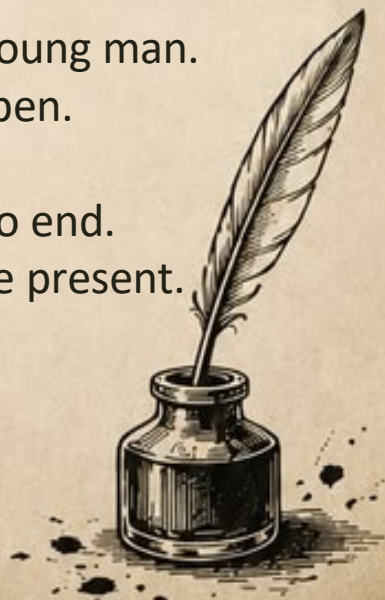




Zayd was not treated as merchandise.
Nor was he viewed as a lesser human being.
Instead, he found a man who preserved his dignity, treated him with immense kindness, and dealt with him as one human being should deal with another.
Then came the day when everything changed.
Two men arrived in Mecca, exhausted by years of searching.
A father... And an uncle...
Carrying money in their hands and hope in their hearts.
They had finally discovered where their son had ended up.
They stood before Muhammad ﷺ and offered him ransom money.
The situation seemed entirely foregone.
Who would choose to remain away from his father after finally being reunited?

Yet Muhammad ﷺ did not exploit the authority he possessed.
He did not say: "He belongs to me."
Nor did he bargain with them.
Instead, he turned to Zayd and placed the entire choice in his own hands.
Silence fell.
Now...

No one had the power to decide except this young man.
The path back to his father was wide open.
His family was waiting for him.
And the years of separation were about to end.
Yet what happened next astonished everyone present.
Zayd chose to stay.





He did not choose to stay because the road to his family was blocked.

Rather, it was because he had seen such benevolence and mercy from Muhammad ﷺ that his heart had become deeply attached to him.

He even told his father and uncle that he had seen nothing from him except pure goodness.

What kind of profound impact does a person leave in the heart of another human being, such that they choose to remain with him—even when the door to freedom, the door to family, and the door to homeland are all standing wide open before him?

This was not the power of money.

Nor influence.

Nor authority.

It was the power of sublime character.

Therefore, when Muhammad ﷺ was sent as a prophet years later, it was not surprising that Zayd was among the very first to believe in him, remaining close to him until he was martyred while leading the Muslim army at Mu'tah.

For some hearts are not changed by mere words...

They are changed by the way they are treated.





The Testimony That Took Ten Years

Before Anas ibn Malik became one of the most famous narrators of Hadith...He was a child.

A child whose mother took him by the hand and walked with him through the streets of Medina, until she stood before Muhammad ﷺ after the Migration (Hijrah). She spoke a few simple words that transformed her son's life forever:

“O Messenger of Allah, this is Unays (Anas), my young son; I have brought him to serve you, so pray to Allah for him.”

And from that day onward...

Began a testimony that would not end in an hour, nor a day, nor a week. Rather, it lasted for ten full years.

Anas grew up while witnessing the Prophet ﷺ in every detail of daily life. He saw him when he went out.

And when he returned.

On journeys.

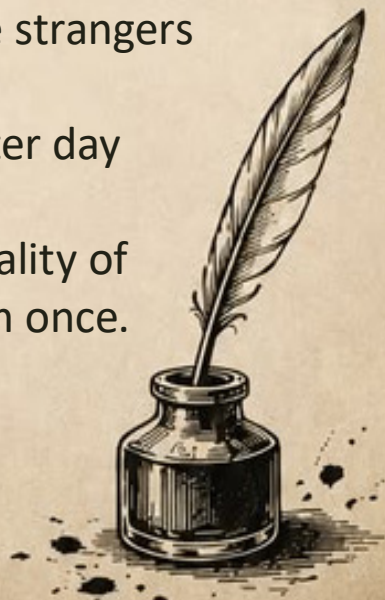
And at home. Inside the household. When people rejoiced.

And when difficult days pressed upon them. He was close enough to see what temporary visitors could never see.

For people can put on a pleasant front before strangers for a few hours...

Yet very few can maintain perfect character day after day.

Therefore, if you wish to know the true reality of person, do not ask someone who met him once.





Ask the one who lived with him.

Years went by...

The child grew up.

He became a young man.

And years later, he sat narrating what he had witnessed with his own eyes.

He did not recount a tale of military heroism.

Nor did he speak of a battlefield battle.

Nor did he mention an extraordinary, isolated incident.

Instead, he testified to something that might seem simple on the surface...

Yet it reveals the true reality of a human being more than any fleeting event ever could.

He said:

“I served the Messenger of Allah ﷺ for ten years. He never said to me regarding anything I did: ‘Why did you do it?’ nor regarding anything I failed to do: ‘Why did you not do it?’ And if some of his family members scolded me for something, he would say: ‘Leave him alone; if something was destined to happen, it would happen.’”

Narrator: Anas ibn Malik | Scholar: Ibn Taymiyyah | Source: Dar’ Ta’arud al-’Aql wa al-Naql, Page/Number: 8/420 | Reference: Transmitted similarly by Al-Bukhari (6038), Muslim (2309) concisely, and Ahmad (13442).





Pause at this testimony.

Ten years...

How many times does a child forget?

How many times does a child make mistakes?

How many times does he break something, arrive late, or fall short?

Yet despite all of that...

Anas did not retain in his memory a single word that ever wounded his dignity.

Not because the Prophet ﷺ left him without guidance,

Nor because he neglected his upbringing,

But because guidance in his hands built the human spirit...

It did not break it.

He corrected mistakes...

Without humiliating the person who made them.

That is why the words of Anas remain alive after more than fourteen centuries.

Because a child—no matter how much times, languages, or cultures change—never forgets how he was treated.

Nor does he ever forget the one who made him feel safe.

Yet the question remains...

Where did this mercy come from?

It was not merely a calm disposition or a gentle personality.

It was a deep faith that filled his heart.

Allah described him by saying:

“And We have not sent you, [O Muhammad], except as a mercy to the worlds.” (Surah Al-Anbiya’: 107)





He knew that Allah watched him in every word he uttered...
In every glance...
And in every interaction.
That is why his mercy was not a behavior displayed in front of
crowds and discarded behind closed doors.
It was a way of life lived every single day.
Even with a child serving him.

This is why millions of parents, mothers, and educators still find in
the testimony of Anas a timeless lesson that never ages.
A kind word can transform a child's entire life.
And a harsh word can leave a wound that lasts for years.
Muhammad ﷺ changed the life of Anas...
Not with a long speech...

But with the way he treated him, day after day.
Yet children were not the only ones who found this transformative
impact in his presence...





The Man Who Entered as an Enemy and Left as a Beloved Friend

Before he stood before Muhammad ﷺ declaring his acceptance of Islam...

Thumamah ibn Uthal was one of his fiercest opponents.

He was no ordinary man.

He was the chief of Banu Hanifah, one of the largest tribes in the Arabian Peninsula, holding a position of leadership where people listened and obeyed.

Then came the day when destinies shifted.

He fell as a captive into the hands of the Muslims.

The caravan took him toward Medina...

The very city that was the home of the man he had considered his enemy.

In those days, a captive knew very well what might await him.

He might be executed.

He might be ransomed.

Or he might be humiliated until his fate was determined.

Yet what Thumamah experienced was unlike anything he had known about wars.

He was not thrown into a dark dungeon.





Nor was he hidden away from the eyes of the people.
Instead, he was bound to one of the pillars inside the Prophet's Mosque.

There...

In the very place where Muslims gathered every single day.
From that pillar, he began to observe what he had never seen on battlefields. He saw men standing shoulder to shoulder in unified rows for prayer.

He saw faces that bore no arrogance or euphoria of victory over a prisoner. He saw their leader living among them without a palace to distinguish him, nor guards surrounding him.

He was observing life as it truly was...

Not as opponents depicted it.

Then Muhammad ﷺ came to him.

He did not scold him.

He did not remind him of his past hostility.

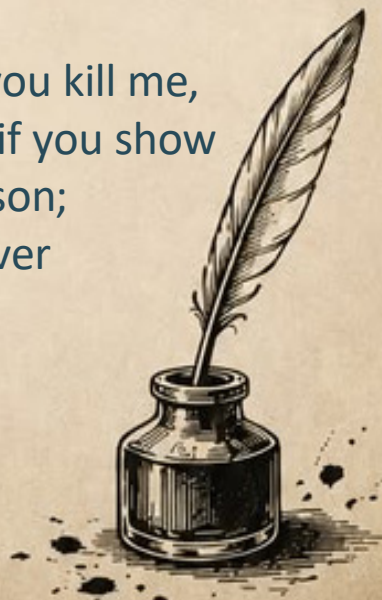
Nor did he open old accounts from the past.

He stood before him and asked a single question:

"What do you have to say, O Thumamah?"

Thumamah raised his head and replied with the firmness of a man who understood the rules of tribal conflict:

"I have good expectations, O Muhammad. If you kill me, you kill a person whose blood will be claimed; if you show favor, you show favor to a grateful person; and if you want wealth, ask for whatever you wish of it."





The Prophet ﷺ then departed...Without adding another word.
On the second day...
He returned.And asked him the exact same question.
And received the exact same answer.On the third day...
The scene repeated itself once more.
Then came an order that no one anticipated.The Prophet ﷺ said:
“Set Thumamah free.”
Everything came to an end.
No ransom.No conditions.No required compensation.
His bonds were untied.
And the path before him was wide open.
He could have walked away from Medina never to return,
and no one would have stopped him.He walked out...
Then vanished briefly from sight.
He washed himself (performed ghusl),
and then returned.Yet the man who returned...
Was not the same man who had entered.
He stood before the Prophet ﷺ and uttered words preserved by
history exactly as they left his mouth:

“By Allah, there was no face on earth more hateful to me than
your face, but now your face has become the most beloved of
faces to me. By Allah, there was no religion more hateful to me
than your religion, but now your religion has become the most be
loved of all religions to me. By Allah, there was no land more
hateful to me than your land, but now your land has become
the most beloved of all lands to me.”

Narrator: Abu Hurairah | Scholar: Al-Bukhari |

Source: Sahih al-Bukhari





Pause at these profound words.

Just a few days prior...

This man had entered Medina carrying the fiercest hatred in his heart. And today...

He leaves it carrying the deepest love.

What changed?

The Prophet ﷺ did not buy his heart with money.

Nor did he compel him by force.

Nor did he overwhelm him with long lectures.

All that Thumamah saw...

Was a reality lived openly by people right in front of him.

And a man who possessed the full power to take revenge...

Yet chose forgiveness.

Here arises the question that is impossible to ignore:

How can a person transform the heart of his adversary...

Without drawing a sword against him, or bargaining for his freedom?

Islam answers this from its very core.

For Muhammad ﷺ did not treat people with kindness seeking praise, nor out of a desire to gain political loyalty.

He knew that Allah was watching him.

He viewed benevolence as an act of worship, and mercy as a path to earning the pleasure of his Lord.

That is why not only did Thumamah's stance change...

His heart changed completely.

And when the heart changed...

His entire life transformed.





The Woman Whom the Messenger of Allah ﷺ Missed

She performed a task that most people rarely paid attention to.
She was not a public speaker.

Nor a poet.

Nor a woman of social influence.

Her name was not preserved in the most famous accounts, but her work was carefully recorded.

She used to come to the Prophet's Mosque, sweeping and collecting the dust and litter that fell in it, ensuring that the place where people gathered to worship Allah remained clean.

This might seem like a simple, modest task.

Yet in the sight of Allah, it was a great deed.

Days went by...

Then she was absent.

Perhaps her absence passed unnoticed by many people.

For those who perform humble, quiet deeds often have their names forgotten by the crowds.

Yet Muhammad ﷺ did not forget her.

He noticed her spot empty.





So he asked about her. He did not ask about a military commander. Nor a wealthy merchant. Nor a person of high social rank. He asked about a woman who used to clean the mosque.

They said to him:

“She has died.”

They added that they had buried her during the night, and did not wish to wake him.

They thought they were being considerate of him.

Yet his response revealed something to them that they had not realized.

He said:

“Why did you not inform me?”

Narrator: Abu Hurairah | Scholar: Al-Mundhiri | Source: Al-Tarhib wa al-Tarhib, Page/Number: 1/157 | Reference: Transmitted by Al-Bukhari (458) with slight variation, and Muslim (956).

Then he asked them to lead him to her grave.

He went out to the graveyard. He stood at the grave of a woman whom people might not have considered of high social standing.

He performed the funeral prayer for her and prayed for her.

Reflect upon this scene. Do not merely ask: What did he do?

Ask: What did his companions learn from this action?

They learned that human worth is not measured by status, wealth, or fame.





For the dark-skinned woman whom many might not have paid attention to during her lifetime had the Messenger of Islam himself standing at her grave.

He did not do this to put on a display for people. The woman had already been buried, and the matter was concluded. Rather, he did it because his heart viewed human beings through a completely different lens. In a world where people boasted of lineages and tribes, he taught them that Allah never forgets a good deed, no matter how small it may appear.

And that a true leader does not only know the names of the prominent; he also recognizes those who work in quiet obscurity. Perhaps this is the reason why his legacy has endured. He did not grant dignity to the powerful alone. He bestowed it upon those whom no one else noticed. And this lesson remains alive to this very day.





In every city, there are people working silently.

A sanitation worker.

A security guard.

A nurse.

A maintenance worker.

Hundreds of people may pass by them every day without giving them a greeting of peace.

Yet this incident calls upon us to ask ourselves:

How many human beings go unseen by people... while being seen and honored by Allah?

In the end...

The issue is not whether your name remains famous.

Rather, it is that you leave behind a righteous legacy with Allah that testifies for you on the Day when people stand before Him.

For a small, humble deed done with sincere devotion to Allah may weigh heavier on the scale than monumental works done for show.

That is the Second Life...

The life that does not begin after death...

But begins with what you sow before you die.





Close This Booklet Now... But Do Not Close the Question

You have traveled in these few pages through the lives of individuals of different ages, backgrounds, status, and circumstances:

A man who arrived as an enemy and departed as a beloved friend.

A child who lived in the house of the Prophet ﷺ for ten years and could not recall a single wounding word spoken to him.

A woman whose passing people thought was not worth waking the leader of the nation for, yet he refused to let her leave this world without standing at her grave to pray for her.

And a man who was among his fiercest adversaries, yet felt compelled to confess before the Emperor of the greatest state of his era that he had never known Muhammad ﷺ to lie or betray. These are not myths.

Nor are they stories invented centuries later to construct a legend. They are historical accounts preserved meticulously by Muslims, transmitted by scholars of Hadith with precise chains of narration, remaining established in the most authentic books of Islam. Yet the greatest question remains...





What drew all these hearts around a man who possessed no worldly treasures, established no earthly empire for himself, and never asked people to raise him above his rightful status?

Indeed, he used to reject any exaggerated praise, saying:

“Do not exaggerate in praising me as the Christians praised Jesus, son of Mary. For I am only His servant; so call me the servant of Allah and His Messenger.”

Narrator: ‘Umar ibn al-Khattab | Scholar: ‘Ali ibn al-Madini | Source: Tafsir al-Qur’an al-‘Azim, Page/Number: 2/430 | Scholar’s verdict: Chain of narration is authentic (Isnaduhu Sahih) | Reference: Transmitted by Ahmad (154) with this wording, and Al-Bukhari (3445).

And here the journey truly begins...

The brief answer is that every sublime character trait
you witness in his life—

Truthfulness...

Mercy...

Justice...

Loyalty...

Forgiveness...

And Humility...

Was never detached from his faith.





Rather, it was the fruitful result of a heart that knew Allah and desired to please Him in every word, every decision, and every relationship.

And perhaps for this reason, his impact did not end with his passing. To this day, during every single hour across the globe, there are those who read his words, emulate his character, and strive to live as he lived—not because they view him as a deity, nor because they worship him, but because they believe he is a Messenger who guided humanity to its Lord.

So if these pages have sparked your curiosity, do not let them be the end of the journey.

Read the Qur'an as it is, not as others describe it.

Read the biography (Seerah) of Muhammad ﷺ from its reliable sources.

And ask the big questions with sincere intent.

For the truth never fears investigation.

And Allah, to Whom Muhammad ﷺ called throughout his life, does not ask human beings to follow blindly, but to seek with an open, objective mind and a sincere heart.

And perhaps the greatest journey in a person's life...

Is the journey that begins with the question:

Who is God, Whom Muhammad ﷺ dedicated his entire life calling toward?





What if you wanted to know the true reality of a person?

Would you start with his friends...

Or with those who opposed him?

In this booklet,

you will read authentic testimonies from people who lived alongside Muhammad ﷺ up close, or once stood in the ranks of his adversaries.

An emperor interrogating his bitterest enemy.

A slave choosing to stay over gaining his freedom.

A child living with him for ten years without remembering a single hurtful word.

And a woman overlooked by people...
yet never forgotten by him.

These are not fictional tales; they are established historical testimonies, all leading to a single question:

Who was this man?