

# Prophet Muhammad



## Prophet Muhammad

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## The Ahlul Bayt Muhammad Fatima Ali Hasan Husain

Prophet Muhammad and his immediate family members are referred to as the "Ahlul Bayt" and hold a special place in the hearts of all Muslims. Their role in Islamic history is remembered with great pride.

## Muhammad: The Last Messenger of God

The two most common names in the world today are Muhammad and Ali. Who is Muhammad (Peace Be Upon him)? Why is he revered? What is his role in history, and how does he impact modern society?

The answers to these questions will help give a clearer picture of one of the world's largest religions: Islam. Understanding the importance of Muhammad to a significant portion of the world's population can help build bridges of understanding, and replace mistrust with friendship.

The story begins with the creation of Adam and his arrival on this Earth. Adam would be the father to all humanity, and God bestowed another blessing upon him: He would be the first of a long line of Prophets, or messengers of God. Their responsibility would be to teach humanity, to uplift them, to bring them the beautiful message of God. This would be done in the hopes of helping humanity fulfill its ultimate potential of true service to God, in helping one an-

other, making the world a better place, and worshipping the Almighty.

The word "Prophet" is used to indicate that a person is a messenger of God, that he is God's representative on Earth, and that the individual can be trusted in all matters, without any fear of corruption, malice, or ill-advisement. Historically, Prophets have lead or saved nations, redefined history, and been the moral compass by which philosophers have theorized. Prophet Muhammad, then, was the last in this ancient line of Prophets. His mission was clear: he was to bring the final message of God, to clear matters of confusion, to restore the truth about religion, and guide humanity back to its noble origin: worship of God.

Muhammad, joined by his daughter, Fatima (AS), her husband, Ali (AS), and their grandchildren, Hasan and Husain, embarked on a journey to bring peace, harmony, and friendship to the world. Their actions changed the world forever.

\* AS - "Alayhis Salaam" or "Peace be Upon Them"

## What is the IIC?

The Islamic Information Center is a "grass-roots" organization that has been formed for the purpose of informing the public, mainly through the media, about the real image of Islam and Muslims.

## Who is running the IIC?

The IIC is run by our chairman, Imam Syed Naqvi, our committees, and supported by our volunteers. As of now, we have 50-75 people working in these active committees.

## Inside:

Read quotes on what **Mahatma Ghandi, famous historians, and leaders of others religions** have to say about **Prophet Muhammad**.

Read more about why **Muhammad** was ranked as **#1** in **Michael Hart's Top 100 Most Influential People in History**



## The mausoleum of Prophet Muhammad in modern day Medina, Saudi Arabia

## Muhammad's Prophethood: A Divine Mission

A "Prophet" is what is used to describe a messenger of God. Prophets, throughout history have been sent by God, to represent His affairs on Earth. They include such figures as Adam, Noah, Abraham, Moses, and Jesus. Prophets are considered to be brothers to one another, and all members of the same true religion of God, passing on the same message throughout history. While the Prophets acted as messengers of God and leaders to humanity, the Prophethood ended with Prophet Muhammad. After him, however, God continued to leave just and pious leaders on the earth, each one called "Imam" (literally: "Leader").

Muhammad was born a Prophet, yet maintained his mission as a close secret for the majority of his life. He worked quietly, behind the scenes, cultivating diplomacy, establishing ties, and preparing for the final stage of Prophethood. When he was forty years old, God sent an angel, Gabriel, to tell him that it was finally time to spread the message of Islam.

When announced that Muhammad was the final Prophet of God, he immediately gained followers in droves. Many of the residents of Mecca and Medina (in modern day Saudi Arabia) had heard the ancient sayings that the final Prophet would come to them in Arabia, and moved there in search

of him.

Others immediately opposed him, seeing him as a threat to the status quo.

The next few decades saw Arabia going through an amazing change. Gone was the warlike society that pervaded ancient times. In its place, Prophet Muhammad left a new lifestyle. One that enjoined daily prayer, a month of fasting, a spiritual pilgrimage, charity, and a profound emphasis on *Haqq*, or righteousness.

Muhammad continued the message of his brother Prophets, Adam, Noah, Abraham, Moses, and Jesus. He showed the world that humanity, by value of its noble characteristics, could overcome any obstacle.

## History's longest lasting miracle: The Holy Qur'an

Whether it's the news, the movies, or coffee table discussions, the world's most talked about book is the Quran. What's written between its covers has been foundational to what Muslims have believed ever since Prophet Muhammad.

The Quran was revealed, piece by piece, to Prophet Muhammad over the course of his Prophethood. In it, Muslims found the divine word of God, guiding and enlightening humanity.

The Quran was different from other historical narratives. It was not a collection of other stories, but God's direct words to humanity.

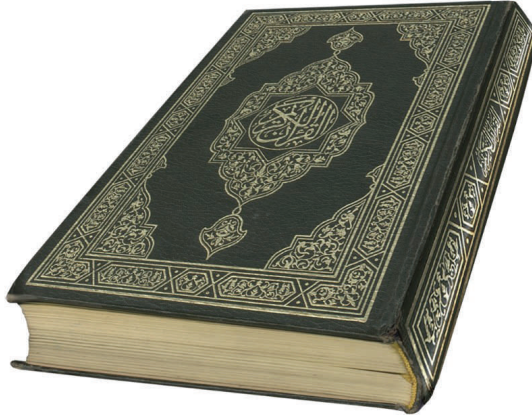
God discusses the reason for the Quran:

*This is the Book; in it is sure guidance, without doubt, to those who fear God (Chapter 2, Verse 2)*

And also discusses how to read and understand the Quran, and warns against those who seek to improperly subvert the peaceful teachings in its chapters:

*He it is Who has revealed the Book to you; some of its verses are decisive, they are the basis of the Book, and others are allegorical; then as for those in whose hearts there is perversity they follow the part of it which is allegorical, seeking to*

*mislead and seeking to give it (their own) interpretation. but none knows its interpretation except God and those who are firmly rooted in knowledge... (Chapter 3, Verse 7)*



Supporters and detractors of Muhammad both seized upon this book, scrutinizing its contents, looking for any evidence of God's work.

What they found was a book that contained more than they could have ever imagined. The Qur'an taught philosophy alongside secular matters. It taught interpersonal relations and in the same book explained Heaven and Hell. It was a comprehensive guide to humanity and its words were quickly disseminated throughout the world. What was even more miraculous, was that Prophet Muhammad not only knew everything in the book, he seemed to have the same divine teachings in his day to day life as well. The Quran, being an obviously divine book, was exemplified by the actions of Prophet Muhammad, providing further proof that he was no ordinary man. 1400 years later, Quranic verses still seem to amaze and astonish the world.

The relationship born is that studying the Prophet leads to studying the Quran, and studying the Quran leads to studying the Prophet.

**Alternative Spellings**  
**Mohamad**  
**Mohammad**  
**Mohammed**  
**Muhammad**  
**Muhamad**  
**Mohamed**  
**Mohamet**  
**Mehmet**

**Ali**  
**Aly**  
**Aley**

**Fatima**  
**Fatimah**  
**Fatema**

**Hasan**  
**Hassan**

**Husain**  
**Hussain**  
**Husain**  
**Husein**  
**Hosein**  
**Hussein**  
**Hosain**  
**Hosayn**  
**Hossain**

Why are there so many ways to spell the same name?

*In the Arabic language, the spelling and pronunciation of these names is quite clear, however, when transliterated into the English alphabet, various differences arise based upon the conversion method used.*

# Literary Analysis: What have historians written about Muhammad?

## Edward Gibbon and Simon Oakley in 'History of the Saracen Empire,' London, 1870

"The greatest success of Mohammad's life was effected by sheer moral force."

"It is not the propagation but the permanency of his religion that deserves our wonder, the same pure and perfect impression which he engraved at Mecca and Medina is preserved after the revolutions of twelve centuries by the Indian, the African and the Turkish proselytes of the Koran....The Mahometans have uniformly withstood the temptation of reducing the object of their faith and devotion to a level with the senses and imagination of man. 'I believe in One God and Mahomet the Apostle of God' is the simple and invariable profession of Islam. The intellectual image of the Deity has never been degraded by any visible idol; the honors of the prophet have never transgressed the measure of human virtue, and his living precepts have restrained the gratitude of his disciples within the bounds of reason and religion."

## Michael Hart in 'The 100, A Ranking of the Most Influential Persons In History,' New York, 1978.

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 su-

preremely successful on both the secular and religious level. ...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. ...It is this unparalleled combination of secular and religious influence which I feel entitles Muhammad to be considered the most influential single figure



ure in human history.

## Arthur Glyn Leonard in 'Islam, Her Moral and Spiritual Values'

It was the genius of Muhammad, the spirit that he breathed into the Arabs through the soul of Islam that exalted them. That raised them out of the lethargy and low level of tribal stagnation up to the high watermark of national unity and empire. It was in the sublimity of Muhammad's deism, the simplicity, the sobriety and purity it inculcated the fidelity of its founder to his own tenets, that acted on their moral and intellectual fiber with all the magnetism of true inspiration.

## Understanding the Role of Prophet Muhammad

### *How one man changed the world forever*



Prophet Muhammad occupies a very special place in the hearts of Muslims. Not only was he God's final messenger to humanity, he is the supreme interpreter of the Quran, the Book of God, and God's other edicts. In fact, his sayings and actions are some of the most important sources of Islamic tradition.

To truly understand the Prophet, one cannot simply examine him in the strictest academic sense, but one must understand him

from the standpoint of a Muslim. One must try to discover the place he holds in the hearts of all Muslims, how he is thought of, how he is referred to, and why he is so readily followed.

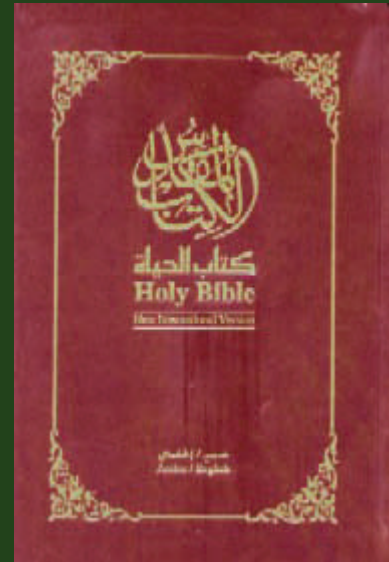
Islam has many Prophets, in fact the Quran mentions approximately twenty five by name alone. Countless others are referred to, but whenever a Muslim mentions the "Prophet" without any name, it is widely understood that Prophet Muhammad is being referred to.

Whenever his name is fully referenced, a short prayer immediately follows: "May God bless Muhammad, and the family of Muhammad".

Whereas sometimes other previous Prophets are misconstrued as being only concerned with spiritual matters, while ignoring any details of regular, Prophet Muhammad is known to be intricately engaged in the social, political, economical matters of his nation. At the same time, he continued to serve as the spiritual role model for all those that surrounded him.

It is in this way the Prophet of Islam is a dynamic figure in history. Other figures in history have focused either entirely on spiritual matters or entirely on secular ones, and only Prophet Muham-

# Allah? God?



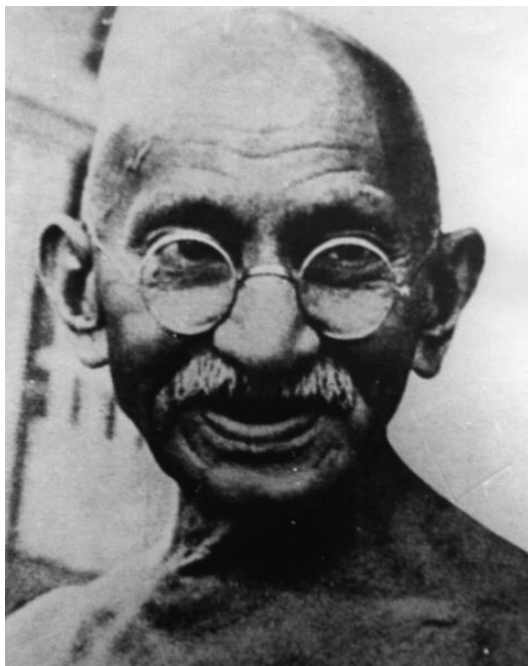
***In the Arabic language, "God" is simply pronounced "Allah". In fact, the Arabic version of the Bible uses "Allah" as the word for God. Its simply a difference in language, not a difference in belief. Countless Arab, then, Christians and Jews worship "Allah" just as their counterparts in other countries worship the same God, however His name is pronounced.***

Reverend Bosworth Smith in 'Muhammad and Muhammadanism,' London, 1874.

"Head of the State as well as the Church, he was Caesar and Pope in one; but he was Pope without the Pope's pretensions, and Caesar without the legions of Caesar, without a standing army, without a bodyguard, without a police force, without a fixed revenue. If ever a man ruled by a right divine, it was Muhammad, for he had all the powers without their supports. He cared not for the dressings of power. The simplicity of his private life was in keeping with his public life."

Edward Montet, 'La Propagande Chretienne et ses Adversaires Musulmans,' Paris 1890. (Also in T.W. Arnold in 'The Preaching of Islam,' London 1913.)

"Islam is a religion that is essentially rationalistic in the widest sense of this term considered etymologically and historically....the teachings of the Prophet, the Qur'an has invariably kept its place as the fundamental starting point, and the dogma of unity of God has always been proclaimed therein with a grandeur a majesty, an invariable purity and with a note of sure conviction, which it is hard to find surpassed outside the pale of Islam....A creed so precise, so stripped of all theological complexities and consequently so accessible to the ordinary understanding might be expected to possess and does indeed possess a marvelous power of winning its way into the consciences of men."



I wanted to know the best of the life of one who holds today an undisputed sway over the hearts of millions of mankind.... I became more than ever 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 of the Prophet the scrupulous regard for pledges, his intense devotion to his friends and followers, his intrepidity, his fearlessness, his absolute trust in God and in his own mission. These and not the sword carried everything before them and surmounted every obstacle. When I closed the second volume (of the Prophet's biography), I was sorry there was not more for me to read of that great life.

## ***Mahatma Ghandi***

mad struck an appropriate balance. While it is clear to non Muslim observers that the Prophet excelled in the political sciences, had great adeptness at statesmanship, and was a proliferative orator, often the deeper character of Prophet Muhammad is ignored. One thousand and four hundred years later, Muhammad is the religious and spiritual guide to more than 1/5 of the world's population .

The type of man that the Prophet was, is extremely rare in historical accounts. In fact, the personality

type is extremely rare even in modern accounts. "Real life" has been so ardently separated from "religious" life, that most leaders in Western cultures have aspired to master one domain, leaving the other behind almost entirely.

The Prophet participated in normal life as much as any other man or woman does today. He married, he worked, and he had children. At the same time, he delivered sermons, he was a ruler, and he was a guide to the entire Muslim nation. He underwent many trials and tribula-

tions. At one point, it was common in olden Arabia for individuals to throw garbage at the Prophet for espousing his views.

In one particular story, an elderly woman made it a point of her daily routine to throw garbage at the Prophet every day from her window. One day, as the Prophet passed by, she failed to do so. The Prophet went to her home to inquire what had happened, and upon learning she had fallen ill, expended significant resources to help her and ensure her health. This is just one exam-

ple of the nature of the Prophet, and his practice of limitless kindness—even in the face of adversity.

Muhammad had no aspirations for power or gain. According to most accounts, he was in fact focused on meditation and prayer. Before God enjoined him to preach the message of Islam to his surrounding community, he would spend days and weeks praying in solitude.

Enemies and supporters alike marked the Prophet as a man devoted to the love of God and the love of his family. The Prophet was known to have repeatedly prayed to God, asking

*“O Lord, grant to me the love of Thee. Grant that I love those that love Thee. Grant that I may do the deed that wins Thy love. Make Thy love dear to me more than my self, family and wealth.”*

In fact, dozens upon dozens of books show similar prayers from the Prophet, praying with love, to God. As such it is undeniable, that while a family man, while a leader of a nation, Muhammad was also a man of God, anchored in the love of the Almighty. Such is the nature of the Prophet.

The Prophet symbolizes perfection in humanity. He symbolizes perfection in society. Many modern works are focused on promoting a particular

agenda. Whether its portraying him as a product of society, or just as an ordinary man - few discussions of Prophet Muhammad in western literature do justice to who he really was.

Over the centuries, countless Muslims have not been fixated on a “product of society”, nor is it logical to assert that today’s 1.3 billion Muslims are devoted to an “ordinary man”. Instead, the Prophet was a profoundly noble, philosophical, champion of God. He led the Arab world from an age of ignorance, to discovering and expanding the sciences of math, medical surgery, chemistry, to a golden age of humanity. Every word the Prophet uttered, every sermon he delivered, every speech he gave showed the world that the Prophet was extraordinary. He is the personification of nobility, of honor, and he represents hope.

To many people living in the world today, and countless individuals throughout history, the image of the Prophet is that of a man with the strongest character, the highest expectations for himself, and the greatest hope for the world. It is an image of a man who embodies righteousness, a man who shows the world what a true man of God is.

Muhammad, then, truly was the final messenger of God.

## Sayings of Prophet Muhammad

*He who travels in the search of knowledge, to him God shows the way of Paradise.*

*Deal gently with a people, and be not harsh; cheer them and condemn not.*

*The best of friends is he who is best in behavior and character.*

*Whoever loves to meet God, God loves to meet him.*

*God is not merciful to him who is not so to humankind. He who is not kind to God's creation and to his own children, God will not be kind to him.*



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Islamic Information Center (IIC) is a non-profit grass-roots organization formed for the purpose of informing the public, mainly through the media, about the true teachings of Islam and beliefs of Muslims.

The mission of Islamic Information Center is to provide an accurate source of Islamic Information and to correct misconceptions about Islam. The Islamic Information Center disseminates information about Islam in accordance with the Divine teachings of the Holy Quran.

Islamic Information Center was established by a group of concerned professionals from all walks of American life under the leadership of an eminent Scholar, Imam Syed Naqvi. The IIC headquarters are located in the National Press Building in Washington D.C

# Frequently Asked Questions About Islam

### What does Islam mean?

Islam means peace achieved through the submission to the Almighty God.

### If Islam steps from peace and understanding, why are there certain so-called Muslims who do not believe in peace?

People are like that because of their ignorance. Islam believes in a philosophy of co-existence, live in peace, and let others live in peace. If one doesn't believe this, it is because of ignorance.

### What is the Qur'an and what is it about?

The Qur'an is the last revelation of God among the divine revelations such as the Psalms, Torah, and the Bible. It is a comprehensive book that talks about every aspect of creation. Holy Qur'an "There is not a wet or dry thing on the earth that is not in the Qur'an."

### What does Islam say about those who die who are not Muslims, but still possess good virtues, ie. Martin Luther King, Mother Teresa, and so forth?

Islam is philosophically based on justice. Whoever does good, will be rewarded by God either in this life or in the next.

### What is a 'Muslim'?

A Muslim is a person who submits to his Creator only.

### How does someone become a Muslim?

A person must completely believe in the God, following the Prophet, and doing good deeds.

### Why is Islam so demanding on rules and restrictions, like praying five times a day?

Islam wants followers to always have love and remembrance of God. In this way, we are continually reminded of His Mercy.

### Do Islam, Judaism, and Christianity have different origins?

No, we believe Judaism, Christianity and Islam have the same origin, each believing in monotheism.

### How did Muhammad become a Prophet and a Messenger of God?

Prophet Muhammad (saw) was the last Prophet in the chain of Prophets chosen by God.

### Does Islam tolerate other beliefs?

Islam is the most tolerant philosophy as the Qur'an rightly says: "There is no compulsion in religion."

### Why is the family structure so important to Muslims?

The family is the foundation block of the society through which the society can achieve tranquility.

### What is the status of women in Islam?

Islam believes in the equality of the status of men and women, and as a mother, women are given higher status. Our traditions say: Paradise lies under the foot of your mother.

Your source for authentic information about Islam and Muslims.



[www.IslamicInformationCenter.org](http://www.IslamicInformationCenter.org)

