

“I have always held the religion of Muhammad [ﷺ] in high estimation because of its wonderful vitality. It is the only religion which appears to me to possess that assimilating capacity to the changing phase of existence which can make itself appeal to every age. I have studied him - the wonderful man and in my opinion for from being an anti-Christ, he must be called the Saviour of Humanity. I believe that if a man like him were to assume the dictatorship of the modern world, he would succeed in solving its problems in a way that would bring it the much needed peace and happiness: I have prophesied about the faith of Muhammad [ﷺ] that it would be acceptable to the Europe of tomorrow as it is beginning to be acceptable to the Europe of today.”

**George Bernard Shaw, THE GENUINE ISLAM.**

“My choice of Muhammad [ﷺ] to lead the list of the world’s most influential persons may surprise some readers and may be questioned by others, but he was the only man in history who was supremely successful on both the religious and secular level.”

**Michael H. Hart, THE 100: A RANKING OF THE MOST INFLUENTIAL PERSONS IN HISTORY, New York: Hart Publishing Company, Inc., 1978**

“He was Caesar and Pope in one; but he was Pope without Pope’s pretensions, 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 the right divine, it was Mohammad [ﷺ], for he had all the power without its instruments and without its supports.”

**Bosworth Smith, MOHAMMAD [ﷺ] AND MOHAMMADANISM, London, 1874**

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 [ﷺ] 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 [ﷺ] biography), I was sorry there was not more for me to read of that great life.

**Mahatma Gandhi, statement published in ‘Young India,’ 1924**

It is impossible for anyone who studies the life and character of the great Prophet of Arabia [ﷺ], who knows how he taught and how he lived, to feel anything but reverence for that mighty Prophet [ﷺ], one of the great messengers of the Supreme. And although in what I put to you I shall say many things which may be familiar to many, yet I myself feel whenever I re-read them, a new way of admiration, a new sense of reverence for that mighty Arabian teacher.

**Annie Besant The Life and Teachings of Muhammad [ﷺ], Madras 1932**

His readiness to undergo persecution 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. To suppose Muhammad [ﷺ] an impostor raises more problems than it solves. Moreover, none of the great figures of history is so poorly appreciated in the West as Muhammad [ﷺ].

**W Montgomery Watt Mohammad [ﷺ] At Mecca, Oxford, 1953**

The founder of twenty terrestrial empires and of one spiritual empire, that is Muhammed [ﷺ]. As regards all standards by which human greatness may be measured, we may well ask, is there any man greater than he?

**Lamartine, Historie de la Turquie, Paris 1854**



# Muhammad

THE PROPHET

PEACE AND BLESSINGS OF GOD BE WITH HIM

At the age of forty, Muhammad ﷺ was given the final revelation and guidance by God - The Noble Qur'an. His mission was to communicate the message of the Oneness of God to all people. He was the last in the line of many Prophets who brought the same message - from Adam, Noah, Jonah, Abraham to Jesus, peace be upon them all.

From a small town in the Arabian desert to a faith that now covers a quarter of the world's population. His remarkable life is a testament to the commitment of the establishment of a just, equitable and pluralist world in which our common humanity is bound together by the faith that we are all God's creation.



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# HIS LIFE AND MESSAGE

## Early Life:

Muhammad ﷺ was born in Makkah in 570 AD. His father died before his birth. The infant was handed to a Bedouin wet nurse to be brought up by her in the healthy atmosphere of the desert.

Muhammad ﷺ married at the age of 25 to Khadijah bint Khuwaylid. He stayed with her until she died and she was a pivotal support for him in his early Prophethood.

## Revelation

Whenever the iniquities of his people oppressed him, Muhammad ﷺ retired to the solitude of a cave in Mount Hira' outside Makkah. It was on one of these occasions, when at the age of 40 years, Muhammad ﷺ received the call. One night, while absorbed in his thoughts in the solitude of the cave, Muhammad ﷺ was commanded by a mighty voice to go forth and preach. This was the voice of the Angel Gabriel

## First Converts

Khadijah was the first to accept the message of Islam. Muhammad ﷺ then communicated his experience to his cousin `Ali, his adopted son Zayd, and his intimate friend Abu Bakr. The Prophet began by preaching his mission secretly first among his intimate friends, then among the members of his own tribe, and thereafter publicly in the city and suburbs.

## Spreading the Word

The Prophet ﷺ climbed to the top of Mount Safa, a small hillock near the Ka'bah (the House of God) to try and tell the people of his message but the people rejected him. Only a handful of the youth and the elderly joined him in the early stages. The more he called to Islam the more it enraged the tribal leaders of Makkah, and the more the persecution grew.

## Miraculous Night Journey

In his greatest year of sorrow, when his uncle and his wife died, the Prophet ﷺ was taken on a miraculous journey to Jerusalem & into the heavens where he met the previous Prophets and was given the 5 daily prayers.

## Hijrah (Migration) to Madinah

Muhammad ﷺ took council with his Makkah followers, and it was decided that they should immigrate to Madinah. They left gradually and unobtrusively, Muhammad ﷺ remaining to the last.



# HIS LIFE AND MESSAGE

## Life in Madinah

This is where the first Islamic State was founded. Muhammad ﷺ was now free to preach, and his followers increased rapidly. The Muslims could now worship freely and live according to the laws of God Almighty. He ﷺ united the warring tribes of the area to make a significant political shift in the entire region.

## Battles of Badr, Uhud & Ahzab(Khandaq)

These were the first significant skirmishes that took place between the fledgling Islamic state and the powerful tribes of Makkah. The first resulted in a resounding victory against all the odds for the Muslims, the second was a defeat that left them pondering & the third was the defeat of a massive confederate army by use of trench warfare.

## Treaty of Hdaybiyah

Eventually the Makkans and Muslims concluded the Treaty of Hdaybiyah to maintain peace and to observe neutrality in their conflicts with third parties. According to the treaty, the Muslims were to return to Madinah that year without performing the pilgrimage, but they could come to do that the following year when the Quraysh would vacate the city for them for three days.

## Conquest of Makkah

It was not until 629CE that the Muslims were able to put an end to this war by gaining a bloodless victory over Makkah when the Makkans violated the terms of their treaty. The people of Makkah, who had relentlessly oppressed Muhammad ﷺ and his followers for 21 years, expected dire vengeance, but in the hour of their defeat, they were treated with the greatest magnanimity.

## His Death

In 631CE, Muhammad ﷺ went to Makkah as a pilgrim, and he felt it was for the last time. On his return to Madinah, he fell ill of a mortal fever. It lasted for 15 days, but he continued to lead the prayers until 3 days before his death, when he deputed Abu Bakr. The Prophet of Islam breathed his last, at the age of 63 in the year 632CE. After his death, his followers faithfully carried the message of Islam, and within 90 years, Islam reached Spain, North Africa, the Caucasus, China, and India.



# ESTABLISHING SOCIAL JUSTICE

Islam is the integrated, organic merger between religion and justice. Muhammad ﷺ emulated this spirit and embraced the practical application of justice in society as it is laid out by God in the Qur'an. His life was a movement to reform society, to establish justice and to create an environment conducive to the service of God.

The Qur'an repeatedly condemns injustice, aggression and oppression and emphasises human rights and justice. The message of Muhammad ﷺ is clearly highlighted,

... He exhorts them to be righteous, enjoins them from evil, allows for them all good food, and prohibits that which is bad, and unloads the burdens and the shackles upon them. Those who believe in him, respect him, support him, and follow the light that came with him are the successful ones. (Qur'an: Chapter 7, verse 157)

Social justice in Islam means equality in law and justice for all. Muhammad ﷺ was known for his justice even before he declared his Prophethood - he said and believed that all individuals are equal like the teeth of a comb.

Muhammad ﷺ emphasised the equality between all human beings in his final sermon before he died,

“All mankind is from Adam and Eve, an Arab has no superiority over a non-Arab nor a non-Arab has any superiority over an Arab; also a white has no superiority over a black, nor a black has any superiority over a white- except by piety and good action.”

Muhammad ﷺ established social justice and entitlement for the poor and needy in society by instating the collection and distribution of the Zakah (compulsory charity).

Muhammad ﷺ taught that education is a right and compulsory on every individual, man and woman.

Muhammad ﷺ established human rights for prisoners of war by declaring that they should not be tortured, but rather treated humanely.

Muhammad ﷺ also promoted social justice through engaging in constructive dialogue with all communities of faith without denigrating their beliefs, sacred texts and Prophets.



# WOMEN'S RIGHTS

In the pre-Islamic 7th century Arabian society, women had few, if any rights. One of the legacies of Muhammad ﷺ is that he brought an end to the unequal treatment of women and established explicit rights for women.

The Qur'an recognises, with emphasis and clarity, that men and women are spiritual equals to one another and equal before God. It grants women divinely sanctioned social, economic, political, marriage and spiritual rights.

*“Indeed for all of them-the men who resign themselves to God and the women who resign themselves, And the believing men and the believing women, And the devout men and the devout women, And the truthful men and the truthful women, And the men who are patient and the women, who are patient, And the men who are endowed with humility and the women, who are endowed with humility, And the men who give alms*

*and the women, who give alms, And the men who observe the prescribed fast and the women, who observe the prescribed fast, And the men who preserve their chastity and the women, who preserve their chastity, And the men who oft remember God and the women who oft remember God,- For all of these God holds out forgiveness and great recompense.”*  
*(Qur'an: Chapter 33, verse 35)*

Muhammad ﷺ frequently counselled men to treat their wives, daughters, and mothers equally,

“You have rights over your women, and they have rights over you”.

Muhammad ﷺ also said,

“The most perfect of the believers is the best of you in character, and the best of you are those among you who are best to their wives.”

Muslim women have been at the forefront of society since the advent of Islam.

During the time of the Prophet, his wife Aisha was one of the leading individuals in the field of knowledge and teaching.

The first person to accept Islam was a woman - Khadijah bint Khuwaylid.

The first person to die for the cause of Islam was also a woman - Sumayyah bint Khabbab.

On the battlefield, women played an important role not only in taking care of the wounded, but also in combat. During the battle of Uhud, Muhammad ﷺ was protected by Nusaybah bint Ka'ab.



# GOVERNANCE

The first Islamic State was established in Madinah in 622 CE under the political leadership of Muhammad ﷺ. It was one of the first examples of a democratic and pluralist state. It was based on a social contract, was constitutional in character and Muhammad ﷺ was accepted as leader with the consent of all of the citizens of the state.

The first act by Muhammad ﷺ was to write the Constitution of Madinah which was the first of its kind in history. It laid out a system of governance aimed at regulating relations between all members of society regardless of religion, ethnicity, age and gender.

The Constitution was signed by Muhammad ﷺ and all of the main non-Muslim tribes residing in Madinah at the time. This was binding on all of the inhabitants of Madinah included those who chose not to convert to Islam - Pagans, Christians and Jews.

The Constitution established religious freedom and the principle of equal enfranchisement of all citizens of the same polity.

The State and its administration, was organised based on the teachings of the Qur'an, which advocated justice and equality.

The political and economic administration of the Islamic state comprised of the modern day equivalent of a Foreign Office, Home Office, Ministry of Defence, Department of Trade & Industry and Department of Education, and so on.

After the death of Muhammad ﷺ the system of government continued to evolve, develop and refine the state and its functions as the Muslims rapidly increased in numbers.



Children are a blessing from God. With their tender hearts, children can be nurtured into righteous people only with a positive and tender approach. Islam considers children to be a trust given to the family and says it is obligatory for the family to raise a child in a righteous manner.

Muhammad ﷺ loved children and this is most clear in his compassionate attitude toward them. He often played with children and got involved in their games. He would have fun with the children who had come back from Abyssinia and tried to speak in Abyssinian with them. It was his practice to give lifts on his camel to children when he returned from journeys.

Muhammad ﷺ taught that one should not favour one child over another. All children should be treated equally. A man called Bashir once visited Muhammad ﷺ and requested he witness a gift to his son, Nu'man. The Prophet asked him whether he had any other children. On hearing that he had several other sons and daughters Muhammad ﷺ asked if he was giving an equal gift to his other children. "I cannot afford it. I do not have enough to give an equally valuable gift to each of my other children", said Bashir.

The Prophet Muhammad ﷺ said:

"Do you not wish that all your children should be equally good to you. Being good to others works both ways. If you wish all your children to be equally good to you, then you must treat them equally and justly."

In Islam, both male and female children should be treated equally and should be loved and cherished.

A man was visiting Muhammad ﷺ in the mosque. After a while the man's son came in and his father kissed him and sat him on his lap. A short while later the man's daughter came into the mosque and approached her father. He did not kiss her or put her on his lap. Instead he motioned the little girl to sit in front of him. Muhammad ﷺ was concerned when he saw this. He asked the man why he had not kissed his daughter and sat her on his lap as he had done with his son. The man felt ashamed. Muhammad ﷺ said:

"Sons and daughters are both gifts of God. Both are equally great gifts, and so they should always be treated equally."

Muhammad ﷺ advised his companions to provide for their children and families. He emphasised the rights of children. Children have certain rights over their parents; it is the family's obligation to shelter, feed, clothe, educate, support, nurture, and love them.

