

# PROPHET MUHAMMAD (PBUH)

You should know this man



# Who is Muhammad (peace be upon him)?

*"Indeed, in the Messenger of Allah you have an excellent example for whoever has hope in God and the Last Day, and remembers God often."*

*The Clear Quran 33:21*

Muslims believe that Muhammad (peace be upon him) is the final Prophet in a long chain of Prophets sent to call the people to the obedience and worship of God alone ('Allah' in Arabic). Some of these Prophets include Adam, Noah, Abraham, Ishmael, Isaac, Jacob, Joseph, Moses, David, Solomon and Jesus (peace be upon them all). Just as Moses (peace be upon him) was sent with the Torah (the original uncorrupted revelation sent to Moses) and Jesus (peace be upon him) with the Gospel (the original, uncorrupted revelation – not the present-day versions), Muslims believe that Muhammad (peace be upon him) was sent with the Quran to demonstrate how its teachings should be applied.

The Prophet's (peace be upon him) wife, 'A'isha, was once asked to describe the Prophet (peace be upon him), and she replied that he was 'the walking Quran', meaning he meticulously implemented the noble teachings of the Quran into his daily life. We will demonstrate how he translated these noble teachings into noble actions.

## Mission of Mercy

*"We have sent you 'O Prophet' only as a mercy for the whole world."*

*The Clear Quran 21:107*

As well as calling people to pray, fast and give charity, the Prophet (peace be upon him) taught that one's faith in God should also affect one's treatment of others. He said: *"The best of you are they who have the best character."*

Many sayings of the Prophet (peace be upon him) emphasize the relationship between belief and action, for example: *"Whoever believes in Allah and the Last Day, should not hurt his neighbor, and whoever believes in Allah and the Last Day, should serve his guest generously, and whoever believes in Allah and the Last Day, should speak what is good or keep quiet."*

The final Messenger (Peace be upon him) taught humans to show mercy and to respect each other: "He who does not show mercy to others, will not be shown mercy."

In another narration, some people requested the Prophet (peace be upon him) to invoke God to punish the disbelievers but he replied: "I have not been sent as one to curse but as a mercy."

## Forgiveness

*"Let them pardon and forgive. Do you not love to be forgiven by God? And God is All-Forgiving, Most Merciful."*

*The Clear Quran 24:22*

The Prophet (peace be upon him) was the most forgiving of all people and the kindest. If someone abused him, he would forgive him, and

the harsher a person was, the more patient he would become. He was extremely lenient and forgiving, especially when he had the upper hand and the power to retaliate.

Muhammad (peace be upon him) was all for forgiveness and no amount of crime or aggression against him was too great to be forgiven by him. He was the best example of forgiveness and kindness, as mentioned in the following verse of the Quran:

*"Be gracious, enjoin what is right, and turn away from those who act ignorantly."*

*The Clear Quran 7:199*

## Equality

*"Surely the most noble of you in the sight of God is the most righteous among you. God is truly All-Knowing, All-Aware."*

*The Clear Quran 49:13*

In the following sayings of the Prophet (peace be upon him), he taught that all humans are equal in the sight of God:

*"All humanity is from Adam and Adam is from clay. There is no superiority for an Arab over a non-Arab, nor for a black over a white; except through piety."*

*"God does not judge you according to your appearance and your wealth, but He looks at your hearts and looks into your deeds."*

It is related that once a companion of the Prophet (peace be upon him) called another companion in an offensive way, "Son of a black woman!" The Prophet (peace be upon him), became angry and replied,

*"Do you condemn him because of the blackness of his mother? You still have within you traces of ignorance from the pre-Islamic period."*

## Tolerance

*"Good and evil cannot be equal. Respond 'to evil' with what is best, then the one you are in a feud with will be like a close friend."*

*The Clear Quran 41:34*

*"You should not do evil to those who do evil to you, but you should deal with them with forgiveness and kindness."*

This is how the final Messenger of God (peace be upon him) reacted to personal attacks and abuse. Islamic sources include a number of instances where the Prophet (peace be upon him) had the opportunity to take revenge upon those who wronged him, but refrained from doing so. He taught man to exercise patience in the face of adversity:

*"The strong is not the one who overcomes people by his strength, but the strong is the one who controls himself while in anger."*

Practicing patience and tolerance does not mean that a Muslim should be a pacifist and not defend himself in case of attack. Prophet Mohammad (peace be upon him) stated that,

*"Do not wish to meet the enemy, but when you meet (face) the enemy, be patient (i.e. stand firm when facing the enemy)."*

## Gentleness

*"It is out of God's mercy that you 'O Prophet' have been lenient with them. Had you been cruel or hard-hearted, they would have certainly abandoned you. So pardon them, ask God's forgiveness for them, and consult with them in 'conducting' matters. Once you make a decision, put your trust in God. Surely God loves those who trust in Him."*

*The Clear Quran 3:159*

A companion who served Muhammad (peace be upon him) for ten years said that Muhammad (peace be upon him) was always gentle in his dealings with him. "When I did something, he never questioned my manner of doing it; and when I did not do something, he never questioned my failure to do it. He was the friendliest of all men." On one occasion, the wife of the Prophet (peace be upon him) reacted angrily after being insulted by a person.

The Prophet (peace be upon him) advised her: "Be gentle and calm, O 'Aisha, as Allah likes gentleness in all affairs." He also said: "Show gentleness! For if gentleness is found in something, it beautifies it, and when it is taken out from anything, it makes it deficient."

## Humbleness

*"The 'true' servants of the Most Compassionate are those who walk on the earth humbly, and when the foolish address them 'improperly', they only respond with peace."*

*The Clear Quran 25:63*

The Prophet (peace be upon him) used to prevent people from standing up for him out of respect. He used to sit wherever there was a place available in an assembly and never sought a prominent or elevated place. He never wore anything to distinguish himself from his companions or appear in higher rank than them. He used to mix with the poor and the needy; he used to sit with the elderly and support the widows. People who did not know him could not tell him apart from the rest of the crowd. Addressing his companions, he said: "Allah has revealed to me, that you must be humble. No one should boast over one another, and no one should oppress another."

Such was his humbleness that he was fearful of being worshiped, a privilege only befitting God: "Do not exceed bounds in praising me as the Christians do in praising Jesus, Son of Mary. I am only the Lord's servant; then call me the Servant of Allah and His Messenger."

## The Ideal Example

*"And you are truly 'a man' of outstanding character."*

*The Clear Quran 68:4*

What has preceded is only a glimpse of how Muhammad (peace be upon him) lived his life. The examples of kindness and mercy mentioned may come as a surprise to some people given the portrayal of Islam in the media and its constant misrepresentation. It is important when trying to understand Islam that one goes directly to its sources: The Quran, and the sayings and actions of Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him), and that anyone does not judge Islam based on the errant actions of a few Muslims.

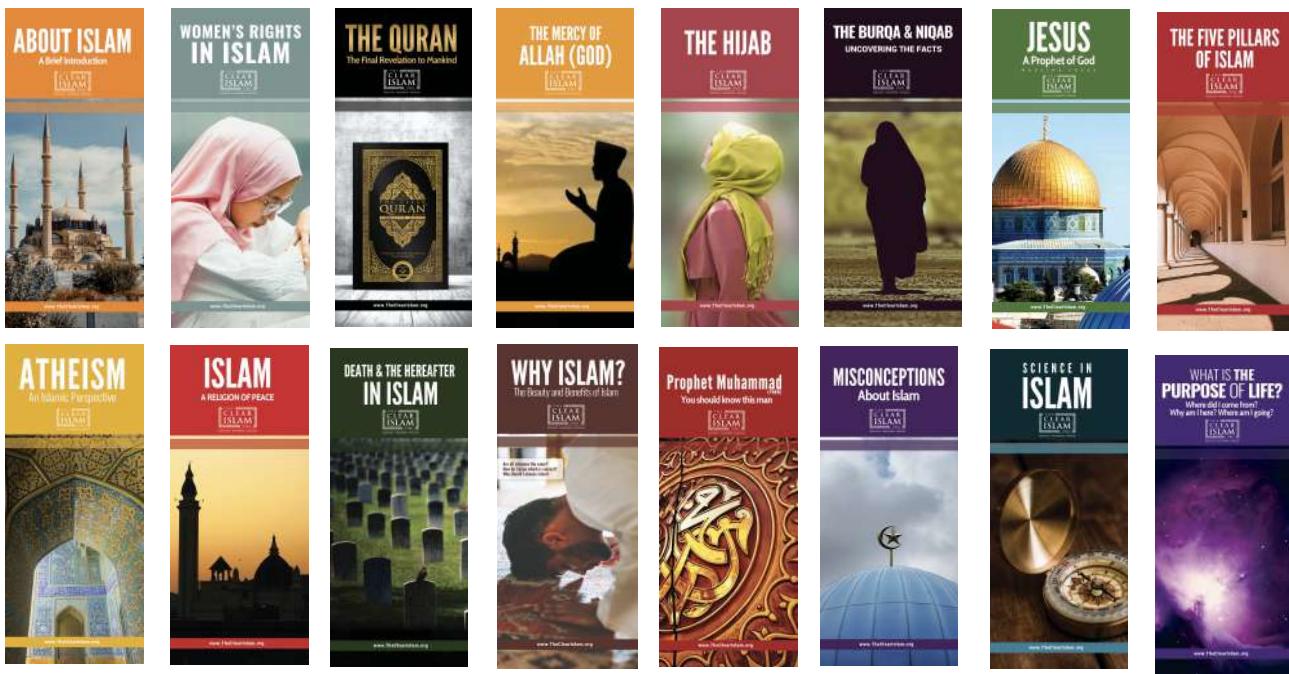
## Comments from Non-Muslim

**Mahatma K Gandhi**, a major political and spiritual leader of the Indian independence movement, remarked: "It was the rigid simplicity, the utter self-effacement of the Prophet, the scrupulous regard for his 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."

**George Bernard Shaw**, the British playwright, declared: "The world is in dire need of a man with the mind of Muhammad; religious people in the Middle Ages, due to their ignorance and prejudice, had pictured him in a very dark way as they used to consider him the enemy of Christianity. But after looking into the story of this man I found it to be an amazing and a miraculous one, and I came to the conclusion that he was never an enemy of Christianity, and must be called instead the saviour of humanity. In my opinion, if he was to be given control over the world today, he would solve our problems and secure the peace and happiness which the world is longing for."

**Rev. Bosworth Smith** stated in his book *Mohammed and Mohammedanism*, "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 divine right, it was Mohammed, for he had all the power without its instruments and without its supports."

**Montgomery Watt** writes in his book, *Mohammad at Mecca*, "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. To suppose Muhammad 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."



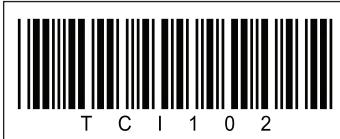
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