

*In the Name of Allah (God),
the Most Gracious, the Most Merciful*

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I spent a very enjoyable time writing this booklet, during which I learnt that facts are precious things and need personal proximity and ambitious effort to find them.

I feel honoured to have had the time and capabilities to compile this booklet and write about Muhammad (peace be upon him) the man, the husband, the father, the leader, the Prophet and the Messenger of God. I strived to uncover and bring together the most authentic stories, narrations and sayings of Muhammad (peace be upon him) who said: "Whoever (intentionally) ascribes to me what I have not said then (surely) let him occupy his seat in Hell-fire." *Al-Bukhari* (1/109).

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Finally, I wish to express my gratitude and thanks to my wife, family and friends for their support and encouragement.

Dr. Husam Deeb

14th May, 2009

Chapter 1

Testimonials



Michael H. Hart

The 100: A Ranking of the Most Influential Persons in History
New York: Hart Publishing Company, Inc., 1978, Page. 33

“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 supremely successful on both the religious and secular levels.”

Reverend R. Bosworth-Smith

“Mohammed & Mohammedanism”, 1946

“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.”

Wolfgang Goethe

*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 Koran is to be seen as Divine Law and not as a book of a human being, made for education or entertainment”.

Lamartine

Histoire De La Turquie, Paris, 1854, Vol. Ii, 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?”.

Mahatma Gandhi

A political and spiritual leader of the Indian independence movement

“I wanted to know the best one who holds today undisputed sway 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 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. When I closed the second volume I was sorry that there was not more for me to read about his great life.”

K. S. Ramakrishna Rao

An Indian (Hindu) professor of Philosophy, “Muhammad the Prophet of Islam”

“The personality of Muhammad, it is most difficult to get into the whole truth of it. Only a glimpse of it I can catch. What a dramatic succession of picturesque scenes. There is Muhammad the Prophet. There is Muhammad the Warrior; Muhammad the Businessman; Muhammad the Statesman; Muhammad the Orator; Muhammad the Reformer; Muhammad the Refuge of Orphans; Muhammad the Protector of Slaves; Muhammad the Emancipator of Women; Muhammad the Judge; Muhammad the Saint. All in all these magnificent roles, in all these departments of human activities, he is like a hero.”



Muhammad's Brief Biography



Personal Details

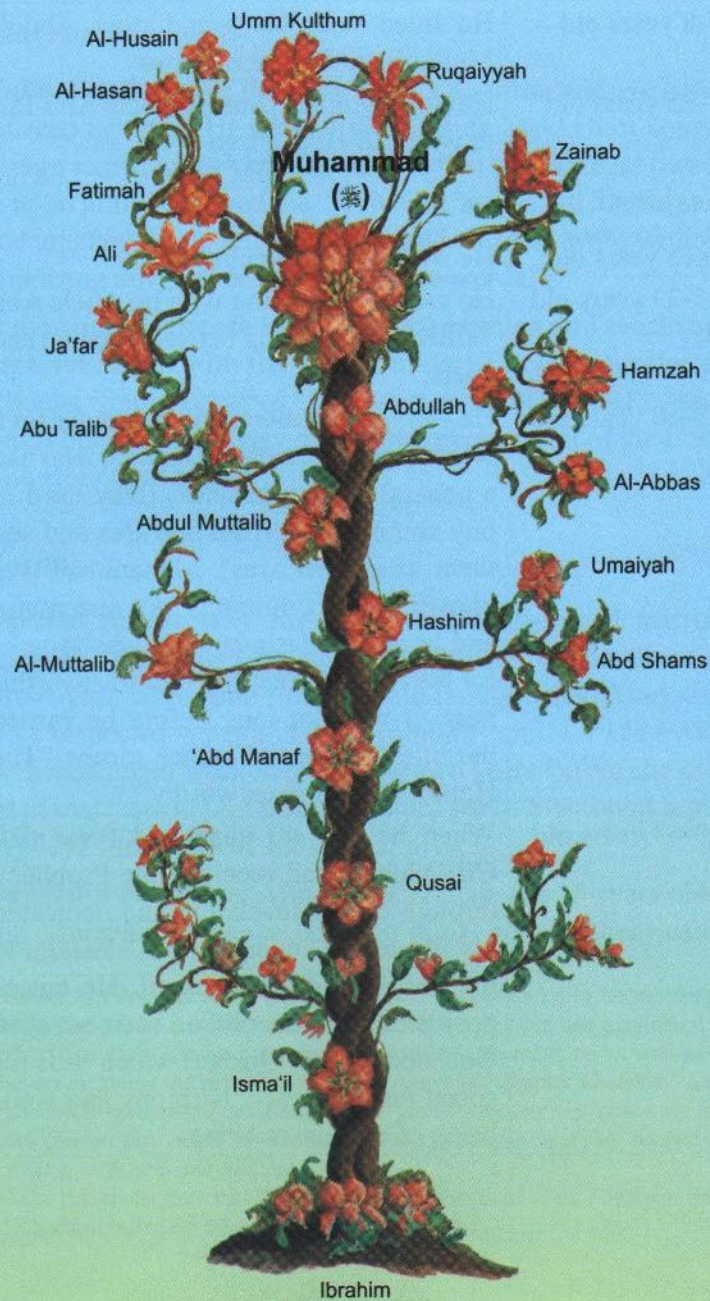
Name	Muhammad
Father's Name	Abdullah Abdul-Muttalib (Ancestry reaches back to the Prophet Ishmael son of Prophet Abraham)
Surname	He was from Bani-Hashim family (Bani-Hashim was from Quraysh tribe which was highly ranked in Arabia)
Date of Birth	20 th April, 570 CE.
Place of Birth	City of Makkah – Arabian Peninsula (Saudi Arabia)
Date of Death	6 th June, 632 CE. (he was 63 years old when he passed away).
Place of Death	City of Madinah (approximately 450 km north of Makkah)

Childhood & Adolescence

Birth - 2 years old	Muhammad's father passed away before he was born. His mother sent him out of Makkah to be breastfed by a wet nurse called Halima (this was an old Arab custom)
2-6 years old	He lived with his mother Amina until she passed away in the year 576 CE.

Note: According to some narrations Muhammad (pbuh) was born in the year 571 CE approx.

The Lineage of the Prophet (ﷺ)



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

Working Life

8-15 years old	He worked as a shepherd
15-23 years old	He worked in trading with his uncle Abu Talib merchandising between Yemen and Syria
23-40 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 area). Muhammad was known in his community as a successful and honest tradesman. He was famous for his fidelity, integrity and trustworthiness. It was not long before he earned the title " <i>Al-Ameen</i> " which means "The Honest and the Trustworthy".
40-63 years old	When he was 40 years old (year 610 CE) Muhammad received the Prophecy through divine revelation and dedicated his life to conveying God's Message to his people and all mankind. He taught people the oneness of God and conveyed God's book (The Qur'an) which calls for social justice, peace, harmony and well-being of all human beings.

Education

Muhammad (peace be upon him) was illiterate: He could not read or write. He never lived outside Makkah or sought foreign knowledge. Muslims believe that Muhammad (peace be upon him) conveyed the "Holy Qur'an" as the Message of God and His Book, letter by letter and word by word without rephrasing any part of it with his own words.

Muhammad's (peace be upon him) 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).¹

Marital Status

Married to one wife for 25 years²: Muhammad married Khadijah (may Allah be pleased with her), 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 ethical person.

Successful marriage: Although Khadijah was 15 years older than Muhammad (peace be upon him), both of them came

1. Unlike physical miracles, the Holy Qur'an is considered to be an eternal miracle that can be touched, seen, read and conveyed from one generation to another. The Holy Qur'an contains eternal calls to all mankind as well as to believers including the people of the Book. Verse 88, Chapter 17 states "Say: *If the whole of mankind and Jinns were to gather together to produce the like of this Qur'an they could not produce the like thereof even if they backed up each other with help and support*".

2. Some narrations state that the marriage of Muhammad (peace be upon him) and Khadijah lasted for 24 years and several months

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Muhammad (peace be upon him) and Prophecy



3.1 How did Muhammad become a Prophet?

Muhammad (peace be upon him) didn't know that he will be a Prophet. He led an ethical and ordinary life. He was known for his fidelity, integrity and trustworthiness. He never worshipped idols when idol worship was rife in a polytheistic society. He always believed in One God and used to retreat to a cave (634m above sea level) in a mount 4 km east of Makkah. The cave is known as cave Hira in the mount of Hira or Noor where Muhammad (peace be upon him) received the first revelation from God when he was worshipping Him in this cave.

It wasn't illusion and it wasn't a dream: For the first time in his life, Muhammad (peace be upon him) met a creature like no other. He descended from the sky and approached him. He was Archangel Gabriel who recited to him God's Words: *"Read in the Name of your Lord who created (every thing), He created man from a clot (clinging to the wall of the womb)...Read ! and your Lord is the All-Munificent... Who has taught man by the pen...He taught man what he didn't know!"*¹⁰. Archangel Gabriel disappeared after this short

10. The Qur'an (96:1-5). Please note that Muhammad (peace be upon him) encouraged people to seek all types of useful knowledge and science and utilise it for the well-being of humanity and not to cause mischief on the Earth. Muhammad (peace be upon him) told his Companions that who ever seeks beneficial

meeting and did not tell Muhammad that he will be a Messenger of God.

Muhammad was terrified and escaped: Muhammad (peace be upon him) was extremely scared. He ran back to his home. He was trembling. He told his wife what happened to him and asked her to cover him. Khadijah (may Allah be pleased with her) tried to cool him down and as a believer in God, she reminded him that he believed in God and had retreated to worship Him. She told him that God will not let him down or allow devils to touch him as he kept good relations with his relatives, helped the poor and liked doing charity.

A Divine revelation or satanic whispers?: Muhammad (peace be upon him) was afraid that he was possessed by evil. He went with Khadijah to tell the whole story to her cousin, the old and venerable Waraqa bin Nawfal who was knowledgeable in both Judaism and Christianity. Waraqa predicted that Muhammad (peace be upon him) would be a Prophet. He told Muhammad (peace be upon him) that what he received was similar to what Moses the Prophet of Jews received. Also, he told him that he will be resisted by many people and fought even by his tribe.

You are God's Messenger: Muhammad (peace be upon him) needed few days to restore his balance. He did not return to the mount for some time. After several days Archangel Gabriel came back to Muhammad (peace be upon him) and informed him that he was the Prophet and Messenger of God.

"O you [Muhammad (peace be upon him)] enveloped in garments, arise and warn; and glorify your Lord; and purify your garments; and keep away from bad deeds and give not a thing in or-

knowledge for humanity, God will open for him a route to *Jannah* (Paradise).

be upon him) that it was cold on that night and if he showered his body he could fall sick.

Anas bin Malik said that he served Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) for ten years and he (peace be upon him) never asked “why did you do this and why didn’t you do that.”

He (peace be upon him) encouraged consultation: The Messenger (peace be upon him) always consulted his Companions and even his wives. He advised his followers to be objective and use rational thinking. He empowered them and involved them in the decision making process. When the polytheists along with other Arab tribes planned to attack Madinah, his Companion Salman Al-Farsi put forward a proposal to dig a trench on the northern side of Madinah. Although that was a foreign concept never applied before in Arabia, Muhammad (peace be upon him) considered it seriously and approved it.

Practical democracy: On another occasion (in the Battle of Badr) a Companion told Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him): “O Prophet, if your choice to camp in this area is not inspired by a revelation, can I suggest to move to another area?”. The Companion put forward the reasons for his suggestions and the Messenger (peace be upon him), likewise other Muslims, liked it and moved to the other area.

Prophet Muhammad's Teachings in Relation to Women



5.1 The Messenger (peace be upon him) called for women's rights.

No gender discrimination: Before the advent of Islam, Arabs used to give preference for male babies over female ones to the extent that many fathers used to bury their female babies or children alive. Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) condemned such unethical behaviours and taught his Companions to raise their children properly regardless of their gender. In fact he emphasised giving more care and attention to female children until they grow up and get married.

Women inherit like men: Before Islam, women had no right to inherit. Islam changed this custom. Females gained the right to inherit like males. The Qur'an stipulates the portions for each individual (male and female) eligible to inherit.

A woman is not a sex tool: The Messenger (peace be upon him) banned people from forcing their slave girls to practice prostitution to get money. He taught people God's commandments in this context.

“Don't force your maids to practice prostitution in order that you may make a gain in the (perishable) goods of this worldly life. But if anyone