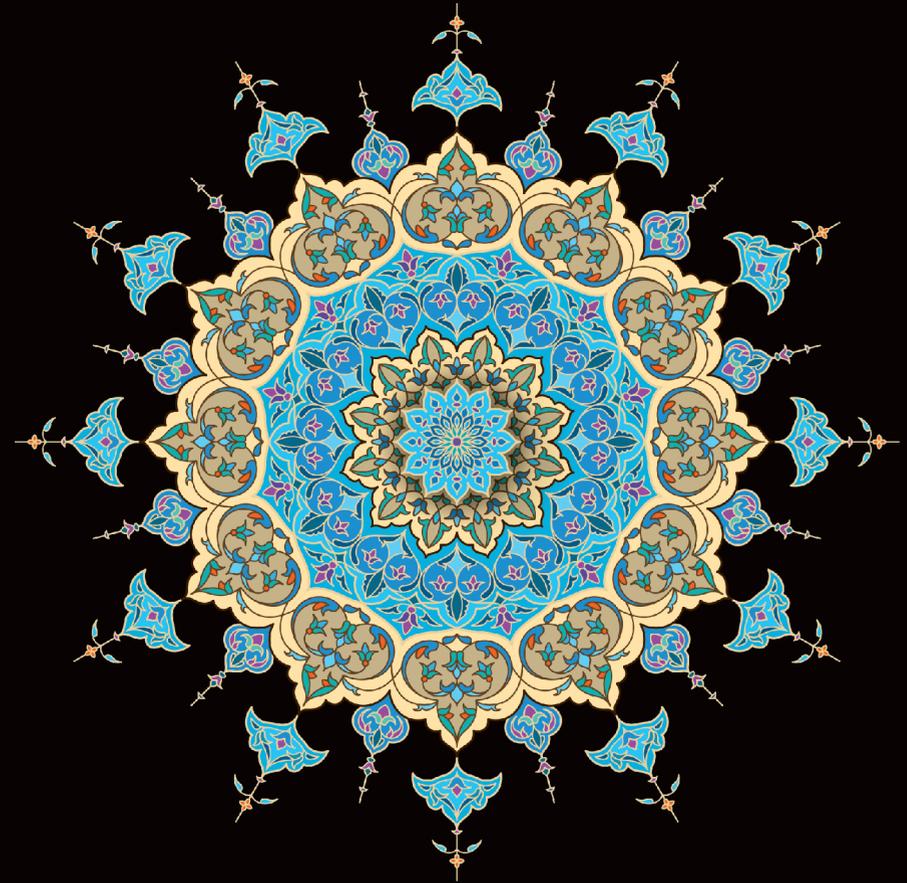


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# Muhammed pbuh The True Role Model

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# Muhummed pbuh - The True Role Model

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ISLAMIC OUTREACH  
P R O J E C T

Published & Distributed by:  
Islamic Outreach Project

First Print October 2017  
2nd Edition Feb 2019  
3rd Edition November 2019

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# Muhummed pbuh

## The True Role Model

Those who are unaware of Muhummed, peace be upon him (pbuh), usually make the mistake of seeing him as the person whom Muslims revere and also see him as a founder of the religion of Islam.

Nothing, however, can be far from the truth. Muhummed Bin Abdullah was born in 570 CE (Common Era) in the city of Makkah, in the Arabian Peninsula, and he was the last of the chain of Messengers sent to Mankind by God from time to time. He was the culmination of the process that started with the appearance of mankind on our planet wherein God sent His message through His chosen personalities among the humankind. One of the most significant differences between him and other personalities seen as Messengers of God is the fact that Muhummed is the only historic figure. The written History of mankind bears witness to the presence and appearance of Muhummed in the Arab world. His whole life history and biography has been recorded meticulously by his own companions as well as by those who rejected him as a Messenger, with precise and full details. He is not like a legend, the story of whom is passed on to or told without any historic proof. Muhummed pbuh was born in full light of human records and the language he spoke, and in which

the message to him was revealed, is a living language till date and has been rendered immutable by the book which was revealed to him-The Quran.

Muhummed pbuh was not the founder of Islam but a messenger of God to who was revealed the last testament; because the previous testaments were lost by mankind due to human interference and changing of the original text. None of the revealed books are available in the languages that they were revealed in originally, nor are the original manuscripts anywhere. The Quran however, is available in its original manuscript, in the language it was revealed and not a letter has changed over a course of almost 1500 years of its revelation.

Human history is replete with the legends of people who fought for truth and justice and those who were evil. This is the reason that The Greek Iliad, the Roman Parallel Lives, the Persian epic Shahnama and the ancient Indian Maha Bharat & Ramayan are nothing but the classic tales of that eternal conflict. Every nation has derived moral lessons from the biographies of its great men and learnt from their lives the examples of good and evil conduct.

Great thinkers and philosophers who have changed the course of life several times over and who have put forth brilliant theories to explain the riddle of life have failed to offer any practical and realistic solutions for human problems. They have failed to lighten the burden of humanity because their deep and subtle theories were not accompanied by any practical examples for the ordinary people to follow. Aristotle was the founder of the philosophy of

ethics. His philosophy is still the subject of many brilliant lectures in universities all over the world and he is paid tribute for his lofty ideas in ethical philosophy. But, realistically speaking, how many people gave up their evil ways and came to the right path because of him?

Our world has also seen great kings and powerful rulers who have made their appearance, too. They have had absolute control over vast empires. They have plundered and dominated whole nations of the world. They have devastated some countries and built others. They have degraded one nation and raised the other, snatching from one and giving to the other. The holy Quran sums it up in the words of the Queen of Sheba:

*"She said, "In fact when the kings enter a town, they put it to disorder, and put its honourable citizens to disgrace, and this is how they normally do." (.27:34)*

Although the terror of their swords forced men to submit they were only able to establish superficial peace and security in towns and streets, but they had no peace to offer to the human hearts.

There have been great law makers too, like Solon (an Athenian poet and statesman of the seventh century B.C., known for his legal reforms) but their laws did not last long and their followers could not find the secret to the purification of the human heart. The following generations found their laws unsuitable for the needs of their time or rather incompatible with their own selfish interests. So those laws were repealed and replaced by other laws

in the name of public welfare and reform. The situation is no different in our own times. In our age of modern civilization, parliaments and legislative assemblies are formed which make one law today only to be replaced by another tomorrow, usually not for the welfare of the public but to serve those in power!

We could have expected that these kings, law givers and other so called higher classes of the human race are best suited to lead the way to human welfare and reform. But you have to carefully consider and think deeply to understand the reality that the little decency that we find in the world today, the glimmer of virtue, the sincerity and purity of human hearts is only the fruit and result of the teachings of the noblest amongst the human race, known as the Messengers of God (Peace be upon them all). Wherever you find a trace of virtue, of love, of sympathy and consideration, of justice and fairness, of helping the unfortunate and the poor and caring for the orphans you will notice that it is the fruit of the teachings of one of those noble men of God.

According to the holy Quran:

*"and there was no community without a Warner (Messenger) having passed among them (.35:24)*

The best of philosophies, education, training and guidance cannot be fruitful unless there is a strong personality associated with it that can carry out this mission by setting a personal example, and thus become the centre of our adoration, love and respect. For our guidance and leadership we need men who are superior to the

common man in their sincerity of purpose, their innocence and purity of heart, their perfection of all higher values. And they can only be the Messengers of God. May God's Peace and Blessings be upon them all.

## **Muhummed pbuh as the True Guide**

Let's try to find out how only the noble and the ideal life of Muhummed pbuh can be a universal and eternal example for mankind to follow. All those good men who have contributed to the betterment of human life deserve our gratitude but the ones who have done mankind the greatest favour are the Messengers of God, ordained by Him to show His servants the right path. Each one of them, in his time and amongst his own people, demonstrated the highest and the noblest examples of human character in a miraculous manner. In the words of the holy Quran:

*"O prophet, We have sent you as a witness and as a bearer of good news and a warner, and as the one who calls (people) towards God with His permission, and as a luminous lamp."  
(33:45-46)*

The Quran describes Muhummed as the luminous beacon of light that shows the right way and removes the darkness of doubt and ignorance. And he does so through personal example and the nobility of his own flawless character. As a matter of fact, every messenger of God was sent to this world as a witness, a teacher, a

bringer of good news and a Warner. But all these qualities do not combine predominantly in one personality.

For example, many of God's Prophets stand out as witnesses, like Jacob, Isaac and Ismaiel. There were many like Abraham and Jesus who are bearers of good tidings. Some were outstanding warners like Noah, Moses, Hud and Shoaib. Yet others distinguish themselves by calling to the Truth, for example, Joseph and Jonah (May God's Peace and Blessings be upon them all).

But Muhammed's mission includes all these qualities combined in one personality. He was a witness, a bringer of good news, a Warner, a teacher of the Truth, a beacon of light all at the same time. It was only natural that it should be so because he was chosen to be the last of God's messengers after whom no messenger was ever to be sent by God. He was sent with a code of life which was complete and final. No one was ever going to come to modify it or add anything to it.

His instruction was definitive and eternal and it was to remain intact till the Day of Judgment. Therefore his personality was made an ideal personality combining the best of human qualities to the degree of perfection. We can say that Muhammed's mission is different from others in the sense that it has been made universal by God, whereas the other Prophets were sent to a particular nation at a particular time of history. Their mission was not meant to last forever. Their purpose was to provide guidance for a given period therefore the details of their lives and mission, and of the nations they guided have been lost in history.

Muhummed (Peace be upon him) has a special status because he was chosen to be the last of God's Messengers. (He has been called, "the Seal of Prophets" in the holy Quran.) His life shows the perfection in applying the divine ethical principles in all walks of life in a way that no other human being has ever achieved. He shows the way to God through personal example. Prophethood has ended with Muhummed pbuh. His life history has been miraculously preserved to its smallest details for anyone who chooses to follow the divine guidance and apply it in everyday life.

## **What Makes Muhummed pbuh Ideal?**

For a life history to become an ideal for all times, and a model for everyone to follow, it is essential that every aspect of such a person's life should be in the open. No event should be left to secrecy or the darkness of uncertainty. All the events of his life should be as clearly known as the daylight so that his life could become an ideal for the human race.

If we make this a yardstick and measure the life histories of the great men of the past, including the founders of the great religions of the world, no one comes anywhere near this standard except the last Messenger of God, Muhummed pbuh. We have already established that of the thousands of great prophets and reformers, just a few can be regarded 'historic' in the sense that the details of their life history can be verified through authentic historical

sources. Yet even they cannot lay a claim to 'comprehensiveness' because the important details of their life history are simply not available now. It is only Prophet Muhammed's life which is completely preserved and known today, even to the smallest detail.

As an example let us consider the following:

The best known of the prophets prior to Muhammed is Moses (Peace be upon them). For the sake of argument, we may disregard the point whether the present Torah is authentic and admit that whatever it says is true. What do we get to know about Moses from the five books of Torah put together? All that we know is that he was brought up in the house of the Pharaoh. When he grew up he helped the children of Israel on an occasion or two against the oppression of the Pharaoh's men. He fled to Madayin, got married and having spent a considerable period of time there, returned to Egypt. On his way to Egypt, he was ordained a prophet. He showed some miracles in front of the Pharaoh and asked him to let the children of Israel go with him. Eventually he left Egypt along with his people, pursued by the Pharaoh's army. By God's command the sea gave way to him and his people, whereas the Pharaoh and his men were drowned in the same water. He entered Arabia and then Syria and subdued a few non-believers He lived like that for a period of time, grew old and died on a hill top. The concluding sentences of the Torah contain the following:

*"So the servant of the Lord died in the valley of Moab, by the command of his Lord. His burial took place at Bethpeor but no one knows his grave to this day He was 120 years of age when he died. And no prophet like Moses was ever born among Bani Israel. '*

These sentences belong to the fifth book of Torah which is ascribed to Moses. It is crystal clear that this book, or at least the last portion of it, cannot have been written by Moses. Who wrote them? The world does not know anything about this biographer of Moses. The words that "no one knows his grave to this day" and "no prophet like Moses was ever born among Bani Israel" indicate that they were written long after the death of Moses (Peace be upon him), long enough for people to have forgotten a personality like Moses, and when the advent of a new prophet could have been expected.

What events of his life do we actually know to fill a long span of a hundred and twenty years? Apart from his birth, his migration, marriage and his being ordained a prophet, what essential details of his biography are known to us?

Same, if not worse is the case of all previous Messengers or great men who are revered in one way or the other by religious as well as non faith communities. What we need in a great biography is a way of life full of essential details to be followed as a role model of a great moral conduct. These are the very ingredients missing from the biography of Moses.

If we try to find out about the biography of Jesus (Peace be upon him) we see that his followers are known to be greater in number than those of any other religion in the world, however, you will be shocked to learn that biographically he is the least known of all the Prophets and founders of well-known religions. It is interesting to note that Christian scholars of modern Europe have made astounding discoveries in their chosen fields of antiquity and archaeology. They have unearthed and made known the ancient secrets of the Assyrian and Babylonian empires, of Arabia and Syria, of Egypt and Africa, of India and Turkistan of the old.

They have excavated the ancient ruins and studied old books and parchments to rewrite the lost pages of human history. However, the miracle of modern research has failed to resurrect the actual events of the life of Jesus, lost to the passage of time for ever.

Professor Renan did all he could, but failed to produce any authentic account of Christ's life. It might be worthwhile to quote here from an article on Jesus Christ written for the Encyclopedia Britannica by Rev Dr. Charles Anderson Scot. He says:

*“The attempt to write a "life of Jesus" should frankly be abandoned. The material for it certainly does not exist”. He has calculated that the total number of days of the life regarding which we have any record does not exceed fifty!*

The comprehensiveness of a biography is thus a must if we are to follow the example of an individual. For a biography to be a perfect, whole and a complete model for others, it is essential that

it should touch all aspects of human life. What is meant by wholeness here is that different classes or different groups of human society need an ideal example to follow. An individual too, in his various undertakings, his obligations and relations to others needs practical examples to follow. An ideal biography ought to provide that. From this perspective we can easily see that no other historical personality comes even close to this standard except the last Messenger of God, Muhammed (Peace be upon him).

In order to deal with many different situations of our life, we need to have certain qualities of mind and heart like courage, fortitude, will power, patience, gratefulness, faith, resilience, self-sacrifice, contentment modesty, humility etc.

But only a practical example can inspire in us these noble emotions. Where else can we find them all in one place except in the person of Muhammed pbuh.

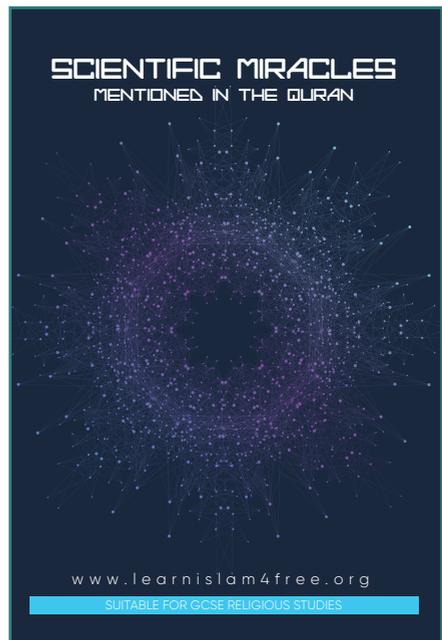
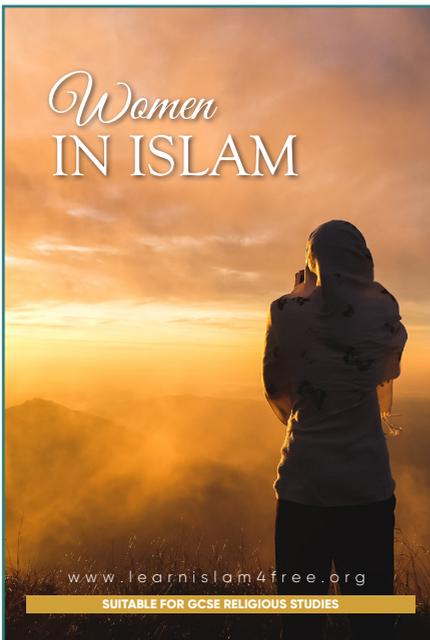
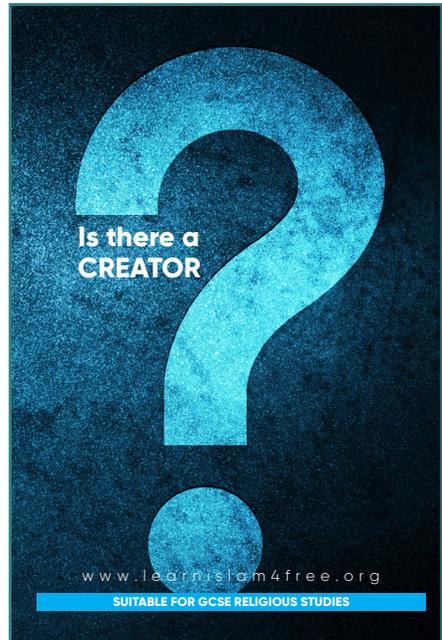
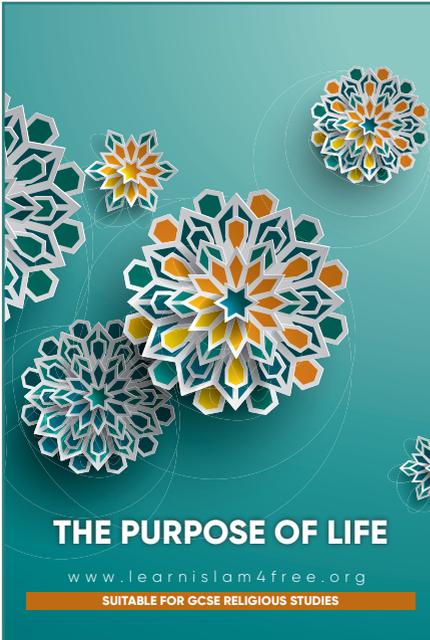
The life of Muhammed pbuh provides practical examples from his life on all aspects of life. We find in his biography details and not just small bits on how to be a strong Leader, a brave commander on battlefield, a wealthy merchant, a Judge, a common man, an orphan, a loving husband, a caring parent. His biography shows his manner and ethics as an epitome of a sincere friend, a great neighbour and in fact of any and every aspect that a human society needs or can think of. This is who Muhammed is, may the peace and blessings of God be upon him! No other personality can claim to have such a comprehensive role model to offer to humanity.

Hence the Quran declares for all mankind:

*“Indeed in the Messenger of God (Muhummed) you have a good example to follow for him who hopes in (the Meeting with) God and the Last Day and remembers God much.” (Surah Ahzab, Verse 21)*

I would urge everyone, who wants to seek guidance, to read the biography of Muhummed pbuh to confirm the facts that have been highlighted in this booklet.

## OTHER ESSENTIAL READINGS



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1. The Quran
2. The Book That Shook The World
3. World's First Written Constitution
4. The Sharia Law
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