

*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. These, and not the sword, carried everything before them and surmounted every obstacle.*

*When I closed the 2nd volume (of the Prophet's biography), I was sorry there was not more for me to read of the great life."*

Michael H. Hart in his book on the ratings of men who contributed towards the benefit and upliftment of man, writes,

*"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."*

(M.H. HART, 'THE 100: A RANKING OF THE MOST INFLUENTIAL PERSONS IN HISTORY', NEW YORK, 1978 PP.33).

Today after a lapse of fourteen centuries, the life and teachings of Muhammad (pbuh) have been preserved by the providence of God without change or interpolation. We invite you to make a discovery of this wonderful man, Muhammad (pbuh), the like of who has never walked on the face of this earth again.

\* (pbuh) 'peace be upon him' is a conventionally honorific phrase that is said after the mention of Prophets names. An extended variant 'peace & blessings be upon him' is a phrase used after mentioning the name of Prophet Muhammad to show respect and honour to him.



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# Prophet Muhammad

(Peace be upon him\*)

INFORMATION GUIDE



He was by far the most remarkable man that ever set foot on this earth. He preached a religion, founded a state, built a nation, laid down a moral code, initiated numerous social and political reforms, established a powerful and dynamic society to practice and represent his teachings, and completely revolutionised the worlds of human thought and behaviour for all times to come. His name is Muhammad (pbuh\*).

Annie Besant, British theosophist, women's rights activist and writer, said of Muhammad,

*"It is impossible for anyone who studies the life and character of the great Prophet of Arabia, who knows how he taught and how he lived, to feel anything but reverence for that mighty Prophet, 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."*

(THE LIFE AND TEACHINGS OF MUHAMMAD, MADRAS, 1932, P. 4)

## About Prophet Muhammad

(Peace be upon him)

Born in Arabia in the year 570 CE, he started his mission of preaching the religion of Truth, Islam (belief in the One God) at the age of forty and departed from this worldly existence when he was sixty-three. During this short period of 23 years he changed the entire Arabian Peninsula from paganism and idolatry to the worship of God alone.

Alphonse de Lamartine, the renowned French historian, said,

*If greatness of purpose, smallness of means and astounding results are the three criteria of human genius, who could dare to compare any great man in modern history with Muhammad? The most famous men created arms, laws, and empires only...*

*They founded, if anything at all, no more than material powers which often crumbled away before their eyes. This man moved not only armies,*

*legislations, empires, peoples and dynasties, but millions of men in one-third of the (then) inhabited world; and more than that, he moved the altars, the gods, the religions, the ideas, the beliefs and souls...his forbearance in victory, his ambition, which was entirely devoted to one idea and in no manner striving for an empire; his endless prayers, his mystic conversations with God, his death and his triumph after death – all these attest not to an impostor, but to a firm conviction which gave him the power to restore a dogma. This dogma was twofold, the unity of God and the immateriality of God; the former telling what God is, and the latter telling what God is not; the one overthrowing false gods with the sword, the other starting an idea with the words.*

*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 the standards by which human greatness may be measured, we may well ask, is there any man greater than he?"*

(LA MARTINE, HISTORIC DE LA TURQUIE, PARIS, 1854, VOL. II, PP. 276-277)

Mahatma Gandhi, speaking on the character of Muhammad (pbuh), says

*"I wanted to know the best of 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*