

صلى الله عليه وسلم

محمد رسول الله

MUHAMMAD

THE MESSENGER OF GOD

By Attiyatullah

May Allah have mercy on him



Muhammad

the Messenger of God

Muhammad, the Messenger of God, is the son of Abdullah, who was the son of Abd al-Muttalib, who was the son of Hashim, who was the son of Abd Manaf, who was the son of Qusay. He is a Quraishite, an Ishmaelite and an Abrahamite.

He is a man from among the Arabs hailing from the town of Makkah, which is located in the country of the Arabian Peninsula, most of which today falls within the borders of the state called the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

This Makkah is said by many geologists, astronomers and geographers to be the heart of the world, or to be the place most likely to be the center of the earth's globe. It is a hilly and arid desert town in which the Arab race of humans has lived since ancient times.

The Arabs existed before Abraham, the patriarch of the Prophets, and they had large tribes well-known to ancient history with marvelous and deep-rooted civilizations.

Historians say that all of those ancient Arab tribes – or the vast majority of them – have become extinct and ceased to exist, and that the Arabs of today are other tribes who learnt Arabic from them and are for the most part descended from the noble Prophet Ishmael, the brother of Isaac and son of Abraham.

In what is called the Middle East, and in the heart of the world and cradle of the Prophets and Divine Messages (on the Arabian Peninsula, to be exact), these people lived a simple life as close as possible to nature and to some extent removed from the complexities of urban life. This is why they were distinguished by moderation in their natures and mindsets, and characterized by wonderful traits like honesty; frankness; loyalty; generosity; courage; self-respect and rejection of oppression and humiliation; philanthropy; vying in manly characteristics; respect for agreements; strength of will and determination; great fervor; eloquence, cleverness and concern for the arts; and strength and soundness of memory, as they didn't know how to write. It must have been out of great wisdom that this patch of the world was chosen to be the place of all the Heavenly Messengers and Messages!

Muhammad – a great man according to all historians, whether Muslims (those who believe in his prophethood

and follow him) or non-Muslims (Jews, Christians and others) – was born in the year 571 after the birth of Christ and was raised an orphan, as his father died while he was in his mother's womb. His mother also died at an early stage, in his sixth year of life, and so he was brought up an orphan in the care of his uncle following the death of his grandfather, until he became a young man.

After reaching the age of 40 years – i.e., after becoming a complete man who had known and experienced life; had married and fathered and raised children; and had known the people and become known to them, and had acquired a value among his people, a value which according to all historians revolved around the attributes of honesty, trustworthiness, cleverness, a powerful intellect, an eloquent tongue, fine manners, noble morals, and being saturated with the virtues which intelligent men usually compete with each other to acquire and take pride in, like generosity; rejection of tyranny, oppression, and humiliation; care for the needy; sympathy for the weak; service and help for the people; and freedom from flaws, evils and the objectionable traits which all intelligent people detest, despite the fact that he, along with all that, was (like the vast majority of the people of his time) illiterate, unable to read or write...after reaching this age,

he announced that revelation had come to him from heaven, and that God had sent an angel to him to teach him the religion and Message and inform him that God had chosen him to be a Messenger to the worlds and that he is the Seal of the Prophets and Messengers after whom there is no Prophet.

At first, Muhammad promulgated his call in a secret fashion among his trusted friends, acquaintances and relatives. A group of men and women from the local population responded positively to him, after which he began to expand his call and publicize and proclaim it openly. This is when his people began to oppose him and stand up to him in all stubbornness and with all means at their disposal, accusing him of lying and throwing at him all manner of allegations. They called him a sorcerer; they called him a liar; they called him a man possessed; they called him an eloquent poet who bewitches people with his words; they said these and many other contradictory things about him.

He patiently withstood their denial of him and their hurting of his honor and reputation and even his body, and he did that in the interest of spreading God's call which He had commanded him to preach to the people, as the call would never have spread had its maker not been patient in making

it and not begun with his own people and not fashioned supporters out of them. He confronted the ferocity of his people and the violence they committed against him with leniency, gentleness, forgiveness and tolerance. Even as they were hurting him; torturing his weak companions; and mocking, ridiculing, boycotting and besieging them, he would continue to invite them to goodness and explain to them the message with which God sent him. He would invite them to the worship of God Alone, who has no partner; he would forbid them from worshipping that which their fathers worshipped instead of God or along with Him; and he would command them to observe prayers, charity, honesty and chastity; to be faithful to their covenants, discharge their trusts and strengthen the ties of kinship; and to adhere to the principles of good. He would remind them of this day and night and with all ways and means at his disposal; would carry on despite their inappropriate words; and would wish for them the best. Goodness was truly to be found in his call, but the human being is often hostile towards that of which he is ignorant. He wished for them goodness, honor, nobility and happiness in this world and the next, but they wished for themselves loss, and the chiefs and elders of his people waged against him campaigns of defamation and scaremongering with all the power and money they had.

The truth is, the majority of his people were cloaked in a veil of ignorance and sin as a result of numerous factors which piled up on and around them, like their preoccupation with this present life and heedlessness of the real meaning of existence; like their obedience and submission to their elders and leaders; and like their fearing any change in conditions and their preferring to be safe and suffice with the status quo. Because of these reasons, all of which were – and are – unjustifiable, they lost out and missed their opportunity, and were any one of them to be resurrected today for us to quiz him, we are certain that he would tell of an unparalleled state of guilt and regret!

As for their chiefs and elders, they were led astray by the chieftom and leadership which they feared they would lose were they to follow the truth to which Muhammad was calling them, and so they demonstrated a severe form of stubbornness. But...did that do them any good? Here we are, centuries later, remembering them, remembering him and remembering what happened, so which of them was victorious and remained standing, and which of them went away a loser, to be cursed ever after and remembered only in infamy?

Muhammad continued to invite in a gradual fashion, inasmuch as the revelation was coming down to him little

by little, and continued to teach the people the true religion which contains all mercy, justice, charity, righteousness, wisdom and reform; which good souls like; and which orders every good thing and forbids every evil thing. He continued in this until he despaired of his people ever accepting Islam, and after they conspired to kill him, God ordered him to emigrate, and so he emigrated to the city of al-Madinah, in which today his grave and mosque are to be found.

There in al-Madinah lived a number of Arab tribes, some members of which had believed in Muhammad and his call after seeing him and listening to his words and invitation during the season of the Hajj pilgrimage to Makkah. Due to the strength of their faith in the Message of God to which he invited them, they were eager to aid and help him, and so they proposed to him that he migrate to their country so he could be with them and they could help and support him and he could spread his call from there.

Muhammad did in fact emigrate, and ordered every one of his companions who was capable to do the same, and so they migrated – men, women and children – for the sake of the religion. They had no worldly or personal reason for migrating, whether economic, political or otherwise, other than the religion in which they had believed and recognized

as truly being the Message of God, who had created them and brought them into being and wanted them to worship Him and was testing them with these tests in the life of this world.

Those simple Arab tribes didn't have political ambitions or expansionist aims, nor did they have a civilization worth mentioning among the world civilizations of the day. This is why their convictions about reality and belief in the ultimate truth had a major impact on their spirit and nature, and why they responded to it in a way many historians say has almost no parallels except among some of the followers of previous Messengers.

In that city to which he immigrated and among those people – both its original residents as well as the immigrant Muslims – Muhammad built the nucleus of his state. He began to disseminate his call with greater freedom, and began to organize his followers' social, economic and political affairs and legislate for them – with God's permission and through His revelation – laws which made their way towards completion gradually so they could be assimilated by the movement of the people's ideological and cultural transformation.

Wars broke out between him and his original people, the Quraysh tribe, who had expelled him from his native land, and he was victorious over them with small, lightly-armed forces. The first battle between him and them was the battle of Badr, which has a special status for the Muslims and holds an important place in the history of Islam. Then the wars between him and them came one after the other, as they did their utmost to eliminate him, his call, his followers and his fledgling state, until God helped him against them and he was able to beat them and conquer their capital, which was his home city from which they had expelled him: Makkah, the heart of the world.

Thus ended the wars between him and his people, who were the noblest of the Arabs in pedigree as well the most respected, as they were the residents of Makkah and the caretakers of the Kaaba, the venerable and ancient House of God built by Abraham and Ishmael. In the wake of that, almost the entire population of the Arabian Peninsula entered the fold of Muhammad's religion and believed in and followed him; in other words, almost all the Arabs, as at that time, there were no Arabs outside the borders of this region, the Arabian Peninsula.

Next, Muhammad began to send messages to the kings of other states in which he called on them to enter the religion

of Islam and believe in the Message with which God had sent him. Among those to whom he sent messages were the king of the Byzantine Roman Empire and the kings of the kingdom of Persia, as well as others.

It was at this time that Muhammad passed away, and so it was that he didn't live long enough to personally enter into full interaction with these major states. In accordance with the fundamentals and principles contained in the Shari'ah (Law) of Islam with which Muhammad was sent and through election by prominent persons, the post of Caliph – equivalent to the presidency– was filled after him by his friend and deputy Abu Bakr, known as al-Siddeeq or the Truthful, who was one of the first to believe in Muhammad and among all his companions, the one closest and most beloved to him; the most knowledgeable; and the one best equipped with the necessary traits and qualifications.

And so the state of Islam and Muslims continued after him: every time a Caliph died, another succeeded him through an election, until disputes and civil war broke out among the Muslims and went on for several years until reconciliation and peace was achieved. Then one of the Caliphs appointed his son as his successor in a discretionary move demanded by the circumstances of his day, and from that moment onward, the system became one

of hereditary monarchy and continued as such throughout most periods of Muslim history.

The wheel of history won't stop turning until the world's time comes, and so state after state came into being for the Muslims, some of which were good, and others of which weren't so good. Some of them held to the religion of Islam and message of Muhammad, which others neglected the religion and took from it only the name and some of the slogans without the true contents...and so on.

The Ummah – or nation – of Islam went through varying stages of strength and weakness during its history, and in all spheres: whether political, military, economic, cultural, societal, ideological, scientific or otherwise. At one time in its history, it was the world's leader, and under its leadership, the world tasted the flavor of justice, mercy and charity, three attributes which one group of impartial historians says never came together at any time in history in the way they came together under the leadership of Islam.

Those righteous ones among the Caliphs stuck to the path of the Messenger Muhammad, and spread Islam and invited to it and conquered the countries of the world with this religion. Their conquests and expansions were unique in history, as they weren't undertaken for economic motives,

nor out of mere political expansionism, nor to fulfill lusts, nor to exact revenge. Instead, they were carried out to spread the true religion and the goodness which the Message of Muhammad brought and bring it to the weak and oppressed, then leave it up to them to freely choose to adopt it or reject it, after their liberation from every power which had been preventing them from making this choice.

Eventually, the Muslims' state weakened and declined, for numerous reasons, including (but not limited to): hubris; being deluded by mere names, titles and assertions; and becoming preoccupied with lusts and desires, among other illnesses which befall nations. However, despite all the weakness and deterioration with which the Muslim nation has been afflicted, it continues to - as a whole - demonstrate endurance and be resolute in adhering to the same principles, fundamentals, frameworks and laws which its Prophet Muhammad brought. Moreover, it is today witnessing a powerful renaissance, after the emergence of strong reformers from its midst and after it tasted the bitterness of aggression, oppression and repression at the hands of - in particular - some of the Europeans, and then became aware of its situation and condition and the world around it and realized that it had neglected a lot of things and had fallen behind on the racetrack of nations, all of

which led it to shake from itself the dust accumulated over the years and restlessly move to arise and return to the race and take the lead once more. It now knows that its honor, power and happiness in this life and the final life is only to be achieved by adhering to its religion and the virtues, morals and good and praiseworthy values to which its religion calls it.

A Look at the Call Made by Muhammad

Muhammad came to the people and told them, “I’m the Messenger of God to all of you, sent with His religion, al-Islam, which is the same religion of all the Prophets sent by God before me.”

He continued, “We Prophets are all brothers. All of us have been sent by God, and our religion is one and doesn’t differ. It is unification of God: i.e. worship of God Alone, who has no partner. Not only do we not worship anyone or anything other than Him or anyone or anything along with him, but we also disbelieve in and reject every other object of worship, as everything that is worshipped other than him is a false god which doesn’t deserve to be worshipped. God alone is deserving of worship, and no one else has any

share of that devotion. This is the basis of my religion and message, and it is the religion of all the Prophets and Messengers before me, without any difference.”

So he called on people to believe in all the Messengers of God and all His Books, and not to differentiate between them by believing in some of them and disbelieving in others, but instead, to believe that all of them are true and all of them are from God.

This is the religion of all the Messengers and this is the appeal they made to the people: worship God alone and don't associate anything with Him. As for laws, rules and codes, they might differ from one Prophet's message to another. So for example, rules regarding acts of worship like prayer, fasting, charity and the like might vary from one message to another in their forms, times, number, amount, and so on. The same goes for legalization and prohibition: some rules differ from one message to another, and so God might prohibit something for one people in a particular message and not do so for another people in the message of their Prophet. God is the possessor of full wisdom, and He wishes for us goodness, mercy and happiness.

Previous Prophets were sent by God to their own peoples. Muhammad, the bringer of the final Message, said, “I’m the last Messenger of God, sent to all people and all races everywhere on earth until the end of the world and its annihilation. Thus, my Message – since it is the final Message after which there will be no other message – is the most complete, most extensive and most comprehensive Message as well as the most detailed, the easiest and the one containing the most characteristics of perfection.” So every created being on the face of the earth is called upon to believe in Muhammad and in the Message with which God sent him. It is the duty of every human to believe in him and what he brought and follow him, in which case he will be a Muslim. Nothing other than that will ever be accepted by God from anyone.

The followers of Jesus can’t say, “We’re the followers of Jesus, and our following of Jesus and his Law suffices us,” because with that, they will have disbelieved in Muhammad and called him a liar, and the one who disbelieves in one of God’s Prophets or Messengers has disbelieved in the very God who sent him.

It isn’t for you, the weak, powerless created human being, to turn down and refuse God’s Message, or to say, “I don’t accept this Messenger or that Message.” It’s a case of

either/or: either you believe in Muhammad and believe that he is the Messenger of God, and follow him and take everything he brought, as he tells you, “This Message from God is the final Message, everything which opposes it is null and void, and God will only accept from the people worship according to it”; or you disbelieve in and deny him, and say that he is a liar who God neither sent nor commanded to do anything! In the second case, one of two things applies to you:

1) Either you don't want guidance and aren't seeking it and don't care about it, and your only concern, ambition and preoccupation is in fulfilling your desire and having fun or dealing with your current worldly and material concerns, in which case you are a type of person who – generally speaking – only awakens from his or her heedlessness and drunkenness at death, at which point waking up will be of no benefit to you because the examination period will have finished. Such people deserve the anger and punishment of God, the Strong and Almighty, and they are destined for the Fire.

2) Or you say, “I looked and searched, but I didn't find any evidence for him being the Messenger of God,” to which we reply, “And have you found evidence for the prophethood of Jesus or his being – as your people claim –

the “Son of God” (far be God above that)?” Any evidence with which you might prove the prophethood of any of the Prophets in which you believe is more appropriately applied to Muhammad.

Ask yourself, for example: “Do you testify to the prophethood of Noah, or Abraham, or Moses, or David, or Sulayman, or Jesus (or whichever of them you believe to be Prophets)? If so, how did you prove it?” Once you have proven it, we tell you, “The same evidence proves the prophethood of Muhammad, and more deservingly so.” Furthermore, we tell you, “Look at the proof and evidence which shows that he is truly the Messenger of God; search and study if the matter concerns you and you are one of those who seeks success in the real, eternal life. Look at his timeless miracle, the Quran, and read it and appreciate the guidance and light which is in it, then answer the question, ‘Is this the speech of a human? Can this really have been made up by a mortal?’ Look at this Law which he brought, and look at what it is to which it calls and what it is which it prohibits. Look at the wisdom, goodness, justice and righteousness in his religion and Law, and look at its consistency with sound reason and logic and with what upright, uncorrupted souls know and what the Prophets before him brought. Look at his biography and the history

of the Muslim nation and the goodness, righteousness, purity, knowledge, wisdom, devotion and virtue found in them.”

The Gist of the Matter

Islam says to people that this life which we are living – which it calls the immediate life and the first abode – is a transitory, vanishing abode and not somewhere we shall remain, in that we weren't created to remain in it, but rather, created to pass through it and cross over it and be tested in it with divine orders and assignments. As for the eternal, never-ending abode, it is the final abode, which comes after death and resurrection, and in which the people are either in permanent bliss or in painful, constant punishment. This is the real test, exam and assignment.

We were created by God and He put us in this world and created it for us to test us and see which of us worships Him alone without partners and obeys Him and follows His Messengers and Books, and which of us doesn't care about that and acts as if the matter doesn't concern him. This is the greatest truth, and if you understand it, you will find rest and will come to know the facts of the matter; and you

won't have much difficulty in arriving at the essence of the true religion which God loves and with which He is pleased, nor will you be deceived by this abode and this world and the enjoyment it has to offer.

You will, for example, come to know that according to God and the intelligent believers among His Creation, if an impoverished Muslim who calls one of the deserts of Africa his home and is backwards according to all modern world standards of backwardness, dies there due to famine, poverty and disease, but dies while adhering to the true religion, then he is better than any millionaire disbeliever in Muhammad who doesn't believe in the religion of God and lives in Scandinavia or Los Angeles and has every worldly pleasure known to man, but dies while adhering to something other than the true religion.

At the same time, Islam doesn't tell you to be backwards nor poor, nor to die from hunger and disease: on the contrary, it tells you to be strong, complete and sound, and it doesn't ask you to give up your wealth or property.

What is important is the eternal and everlasting. As for the transitory, its importance is akin to the neglected value in mathematics.

The benchmark is what is pleasing to God, not what we suggest with our own minds. Our minds are a blessing from God which He gave us in order for us to use them to arrive at righteousness and goodness and know what God wants from us. So if we were to use them to contradict what God has clearly commanded us to do, then we will have used them in an illegitimate way which leads to the wrong outcome.

What Is Preventing You From Entering the Religion of Islam?

One of them says, “I have a religion, and it’s the religion of my father and grandfathers and has been our religion for centuries.”

Islam says to him, “What would you say if we were to bring you something better, more guided and more fitting than the religion which you follow and which you found your forefathers following for ages?”

“Are you searching for the truth, and that which is best, and that which will lead you to success and profit? Or is it in your eyes a matter of ‘this is ours and this is our identity’ and nothing else?”

“It’s possible that your forefathers and people were mistaken. Yes, this is a possibility. If it isn’t, then why do you say that all Muslims are mistaken? Also, why did God send Messengers and destroy so many peoples throughout history?”

“Forget about something called ‘the religion of my father, grandfathers, and people.’ Free yourself of all of this, and go out and search and you will make some discoveries...”

Another says, “Islam is a religion of backwardness.”

He has based his statement on what he has seen of the condition of the Muslims, but this is a mistake, as the Muslims have been the torchbearers of civilization, urbanism and technological and cultural progress whenever they have adhered to their religion, because the religion of Islam urges them to acquire knowledge and impart it; to avail themselves of all wisdom, be dynamic and make use of all beneficial research, and to take all possible measures to ensure strength, eminence and glory; and it cautions them against laziness, ignorance and wastefulness.

How can an impartial seeker of truth possibly say that Islam is a religion of backwardness if he knows that Europe, which languished under the weight of ignorance, repression, utter tyranny and the despotism of the kings,

feudal lords and priests during its Dark Ages, was enlightened by way of the rays of the religion of Islam and the civilization of Islam which reached it through the geographic and cultural points of contact in Spain, the Maghreb, Sicily, Anatolia, the Levant and elsewhere?

Did Europe come to know of legislation, law and the methods of research, observation and analysis in any way other than what reached it from the Muslim Arabs through those meeting points?

Researchers today still say that the French, Spanish and Swiss laws and statutes bear the fingerprints of the Malikite school of Islamic jurisprudence, which was the dominant school in Islamic Andalusia [Spain] and the Islamic Maghreb during the Muslims' glory days.

When the Muslims were setting up a giant historical civilization on the soil of Andalusia, were they backwards?

Here we have only mentioned that approximate to you in Europe; otherwise, there's much more than that to talk about.

Yes, Islam doesn't tell the people, "Make your sole concern your lusts and pleasures, and exert yourselves in play as long as you live and exploit every moment of your time in enjoyment as much as you can." Islam doesn't say that, but

what it does say is, “Take from your lust and from enjoyment what God has permitted for you, and in which is to be found much good and which is sufficient for you, and make it help you to reach your objective, and make reaching that objective your greatest concern and priority, that objective being that you worship God and obey Him and prepare to go to Him on the Day of Resurrection while obedient to Him, so that He be pleased with you.”

So to the one who desires for him-or-herself good: forget about the backwardness of the Muslims, and concern yourself with yourself and where you are vis-à-vis the truth and reality; why you are here; who created you and why; and where you will go after death.

In the end, you can be a Muslim and be advanced if you so desire. Be an advanced Muslim if you don't like the backwardness which the Muslims are in!

Another (female) voice says, “Islam is the enemy of the woman and her rights and freedoms.”

First, Islam tells her: either believe in God and His Books and Messengers, which means submitting to everything brought by the Messenger of God; or say “I don't want

what the Messengers of God brought” and spare us the trouble!

If the question is one of knowing what God has ordered and allowed us to do and what the boundaries of His laws are so we can adhere to them, then it’s a simple matter. If, on the other hand, you are only interested in your lusts and enjoyment and the circumstances you’re used to and the distinctions you’ve acquired, all of which are based on lust and enjoyment, and want to impose that on God’s religion, then you won’t benefit in any way and will just exhaust yourself. You might deceive many of your sisters and they might follow you. Yes, this is a possibility. But beyond that, where are you going? Where is Miss So-and-so, or Mrs. So-and-so, or Ms. So-and-so?

Ask yourself and take some time to reflect: is what you seek in terms of what you call the freedom and rights of the woman good for women and the human race? Is it right and wise? Or is goodness and right something else altogether?

Second: your understanding of Islam is a mistaken one. Islam is not an enemy of the woman, just as it isn’t an enemy of the man. On the contrary, it came for the good and happiness of both in this life and the next, and it gave each of them the best and most appropriate rights and

burdened each of them with the duties which he or she is able to do and is appropriate for each of them and with which he or she and his or her society is reformed. So what enmity are you talking about? This is nothing but an unjust and ignorant allegation.

Isn't Islam the religion which honored the woman, protected and safeguarded her and liberated her – just as it liberated the man – from the darkness of polytheism, ignorance, superstition and prejudice and from being controlled and subjugated by created beings? Isn't Islam the religion which made her the full sister of men, raised her status and spoke highly of her reputation? Look at the examples of women in Islam to know just which Islam and which woman it is you're talking about.

Third: have you searched for the true religion and looked, thought and reflected, and found that Islam is the true religion, except that you have had some difficulty with the subject of the women? Is this the one issue which didn't appeal to you? Or is it the religion as a whole? Pose this question to yourself, because it's beneficial.

If this is the only issue you've a problem with, then reason and wisdom say to you, "Don't reject this religion and disbelieve in it because of one question which you had

difficulty with and didn't appeal to you. It could be that it has an answer which you have yet to come across; or perhaps you didn't understand it properly; or maybe you weren't convinced of it for other personal reasons which influence you, like the traditions, habits and the like which you are used to and familiar with; or it might be that you deem it difficult to dissent from what the people are doing, whatever that might be; and so on. So if you want to be fair, you should hold on to this religion, as long as you have been guided to it and known that it is the true religion of God; and wait, for it just might be that this problem with that question will disappear over time; and beseech God and ask Him to open the way for you and guide you.

A Call to the Heedless

Whoever among you would like to listen, then let him listen. You are in ignorance and blindness because you live in affluence; because you reside in strong states with stable political and economic systems, which come and go at random; because you see the weakness of the Muslims and their backwardness in their daily life; and because you have a limited view of existence and look only at this worldly life. But this isn't everything! Come out of this cage and

awake from this intoxication and you will find reality; and ask yourselves: “If Islam had a strong, dominant, rich and prosperous state leading the world, would you enter Islam?” Yes, many of you would do so! So don’t make that your scale and yardstick, but rather, keep to the truth, for it is what is eternal, and its companion is the one who will be successful and happy after all is said and done.

We ask God to guide you.

Attiyatullah

1/27/2006

ادعوا لإخوانكم المجاهدين



إخوانكم في

مركز الفجر للإعلام