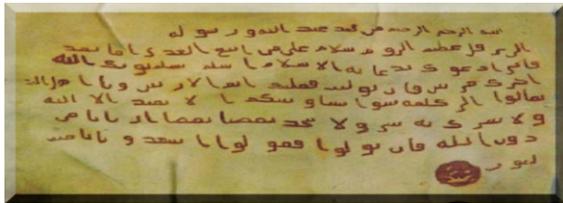


public, in social, political and economic, even military action, was an objective fact that he not only NEVER denied but encouraged. In the light of spiritual teachings, he guided them to assert themselves, be present, and express themselves. Islamic feminism sees a woman's empowerment as coming from God, not from man.

Believe in that Man: Jesus (p) went into the wilderness beyond Jordan with his disciples, and when the midday prayer was done he sat down near to a palm-tree with his disciples. Jesus said: "So secret is predestination, that I say to you, truly, only to one man shall it be known. He it is whom the nations look for, to whom the secrets of God are so clear that, when he comes into the world, blessed shall they be that shall listen to his words, because God shall overshadow them with his mercy even as this palm-tree overshadows us. Even as this tree protects us from the burning heat of the sun, even so the mercy of God will protect from Satan them that believe in that man."



One Letter: The letter to the Eastern Roman Emperor Heraclius said: "In the Name of Allah, Most Gracious, Most Merciful. This letter is from Muhammad, the Servant of Allah & His Messenger to Heraclius the ruler of Byzantine. Peace be upon him who follows the right path. I invite you with the call of Islam. Accept Islam & you will find peace. Allah will double your reward. But if you turn away then you will have upon you the sin of your subjects. O People of the Book! Come to common terms as between us and you: That we worship none but God; that we associate no partners with him; that we erect not, from among ourselves, lords and patrons other than God." If then they turn back, say: "Bear witness that we are bowing to God's Will." (3: 64)

Imperial, Investigative Cross Examination Of The Prophethood by Heraclius. He asked serious questions. And came to a serious conclusion. Heraclius derived his opinion of the Prophet (p) saying, "All the prophets came from noble families, I asked you if anyone before him from your tribe claimed to be a prophet & your reply was no. If your reply had affirmed it then I would have deduced he was mimicking that man. I asked if any of your ancestors had been a king,

you replied they had not. If your answer had been otherwise I would have assumed that he wanted to reclaim his ancestral kingdom. When I asked if he lied, you replied that he did not, so I wondered how a person who does not lie could ever tell a lie about God. I also asked you about his followers, whether they were rich or poor and you replied they were poor – **the followers of all the Prophets were poor.** When I asked if his followers were increasing or decreasing, you replied increasing; this is the course of true belief. Then, I asked if there was anyone, who, after embracing Islam recanted & you replied that you knew of none; this is another sign of belief as it enters the heart. When I asked you if he had ever been known to betray, you replied that he had not; this is the way of all Prophets. Then I asked you what he ordered his followers to do, and you told me that he orders that Allah alone is to be worshipped, and forbade the worship of idols. Then you told me that he orders you to pray, speak the truth & be chaste. If what you say is true, he will, in the near future occupy this seat." Then Heraclius made this astounding statement: "I knew he was about to appear, but did not know he would be from you. If I could meet him I would wash his feet with water." Then Heraclius called for the letter the Prophet (p) had sent him & read it aloud.

So forget the Danish cartoons & Rushdie's blasphemous mad ramblings "The Satanic Verses." You, the reader of this brochure, has something in common with Heraclius...commence to cross-examine the Prophet's life. Real glory springs from the silent questioning & conquest of ourselves. And to start with the contemplative words of a mighty leader as Heraclius is better than to burden your mind with Western filth like Rushdie's.

In all things Muhammad (p) was profoundly practical. When his beloved son Ibrahim died, an eclipse occurred & rumors of God's personal condolence quickly arose. Whereupon Muhammad (p) announced, "An eclipse is a phenomenon of nature. It is foolish to attribute such things to the death or birth of a human being."

Prophet Muhammad's (p) lifestyle and ideology presents solutions to the economic crisis of the 21st century. His ideas can renew economies and rebuild communities.

E.F Schumacher, the late economist, noted that the meaning of life is in the purification of character, not in the accumulation of things.

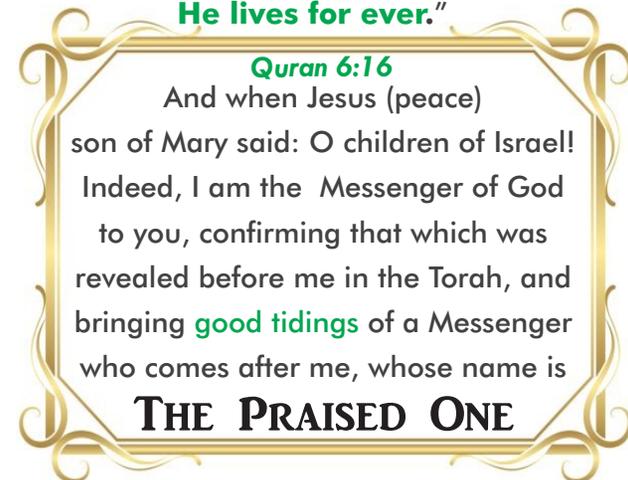
The Moral Compass for the World



have an **Exalted** (QURAN, 68,4)
standard of character."

At Muhammad's death an attempt was made to **deify** him. The man who became his administrative successor killed the hysteria with one of the noblest speeches in religious history:

"If there are any among you who worshipped Muhammad, he is dead. But if it is God you worshipped, He lives for ever."



The disciples answered, "O Master, who shall that man be of whom you speak, who shall come into the world?" Jesus answered with joy of heart: **"He is Muhammad, Messenger of God.** When he comes into the world, even as the rain makes the earth to bear fruit when for a long time it has **not** rained, even so shall he be an occasion of good works among men, through the abundant mercy which he shall bring. For he is a white cloud full of the mercy of God, which mercy God shall sprinkle upon the faithful like rain."

Reference: The Gospel of Barnabas, Ch 163

You have indeed in the Messenger of God A Beautiful Pattern

QURAN: 33: 21

It is this unparalleled combination of secular & religious influence which entitles Muhammad to be considered the most influential single figure in human history. (*The 100* by Michael Hart) Its important that one should take a perceptive look at such a figure; a man whose life was eventful, gripping & highly charged. He was a dynamic leader who launched a religion & inspired a vast empire. Whilst any human analysis that is truthful would have Muhammad (p) leading any list, on God's supercomputer he is the real Superman: "Verily, God & His angels bless the Prophet. O you who have attained to faith, bless him also & give yourselves up in utter self-surrender!" (33:56)

The Catholic Emile Dermenghem in his *Life of Mohamet*, – writing of "the barriers which must be destroyed" – said that "the sense of true relativity does not destroy the sense of the Absolute," adding that, "The Divine Revelation comes from the mouths of human beings, adapting itself to times & places..what seems to us **contradictory** is only the refraction of the eternal ray in the prism of time." This resonates with the Quranic statement: "We certainly sent into **every nation** a messenger, saying: 'Worship God & avoid false deities.'" Put aside your learnt barriers. Re-open your minds.

Learning of Muhammad (p) you will gain insight to the significance of his example for some of today's most controversial issues; treatment of the poor, the role of women, war, racism & relations with other religions. His lifestyle can remain – or become again – a model & an inspiration. By following his teachings Muslims can move from formalism – **fixation on ritual** – toward a committed spiritual & social presence. From his birth to his death, his life is strewn with events that point to the deepest spiritual edification. Adherence to faith, dialogue with God, self-doubt, inner peace are themes that speak to us and remind us that nothing has changed. His life points to primary & eternal existential questions, and in this sense, his life is an initiation.

Imagine America, today. A country beset with racial problems. Imagine Arabia, 1400 years ago. Racism eradicated on the words of Muhammad: "No

Arab has any superiority over a non-Arab, nor does a non-Arab have any superiority over an Arab. Nor does a white man have any superiority over a black man, or the black man any superiority over the white man. You are all the children of Adam, and Adam was created from clay." For such a statement to work the society must be inclined to Godliness...at the home, education, business and political levels. Any man-made attempts will falter because it does not address deep-rooted problems at the soul-level. "Among His Signs is the creation of the heavens & the earth & the difference of your languages & colours. Verily, in that are signs for those who know." No words that man can invent & inject into a constitution can come close to destroying all traces of racism as this verse revealed to Muhammad (p). Revelation speaks for all eternity: "You have indeed in the Messenger of God an excellent example for the one who hopes in God & the Final Day & who remembers God intensely." The Messenger is the master whose teachings one studies, the guide one follows on the Way, the model one aspires to resemble, and above all, the elect whose sayings, silences & actions one is invited to ponder.

Throughout the twenty-three years of his mission, Muhammad (p) sought the way to spiritual freedom and liberation. He received Revelation, step by step, in the midst of the circumstances of life, as if the Most High was conversing with him in history, for eternity. The Prophet (p) listened to Him, spoke to Him, and contemplated His signs day and night, in the warm company of his companions or in the solitude of the Arabian desert. He prayed while the world of humans was asleep. He invoked God while his brothers and sisters despaired. He remained patient and steadfast in the face of adversity and insults while so many beings turned away. His deep spirituality had freed him from the prison of the self. He kept seeing and recalling the signs of the Most High, whether in a flying bird, a standing tree, falling darkness, or a shining star.

Muhammad (p) gave and offered his presence, his smiles, his being. Belonging to God, he was nobody's possession; he simply offered his love to all. **He knew what light and peace can surge in the heart of a being who is offered a tender word, an affectionate name, comfort.** Freed from his own self, he neglected nobody's self. His presence was a refuge. Every day he begged God to forgive his own failings.

He covered other people's mistakes from the sight of others. He did this 1400 years ago. Today, in a godless world (mistakenly called liberated & modern) the "free" press exposes the mistakes of one & all. He taught the need for personal rigour and discipline. When laziness moved anyone to ask him for minimal practice, he always answered positively and invited them to use their intelligence to understand, improve and free themselves from their own contradictions while accepting their own fragility. He taught responsibility without guilt and adherence to ethics as the conditions for freedom.

Muhammad (p) was of consecutive sorrows, continuous thought, never finding rest, long in silence. He did not speak without cause. His speech was just, with neither excess nor deficiency. He was not pompous, nor denigrating. He exalted all blessings no matter how small and never belittled a single one. He would never praise his food nor criticize it. He was never angered by matters of this life nor that which was associated with it. **However, if justice was transgressed nothing could stand up to his anger until justice was established.** He never became angry for his own self nor sought retribution for himself.

Women's Rights 1400 YEARS Ago

Muhammad had listened to women in his society, who experienced denial of their rights, exclusion and ill-treatment. Revelation recalls this listening and this accessibility: "God has indeed heard the statement of the woman who pleads with you concerning her husband and carries her complaint to God. God hears the argument between both of you. For God hears and sees." Similarly, he listened to a woman who wanted to divorce her husband because she did not like him anymore. He heard her, looked into the matter, and separated them. He also received another woman who complained that her father had married her off without asking for her opinion. He was ready to separate her and her husband, but she was actually satisfied with her father's choice but wanted to make it known to fathers that this was not "their" decision. They must seek the daughters' consent. The Prophet (p) conveyed to women the twofold requirement of spiritual training and of asserting a femininity that is not imprisoned in the mirror of men's gaze. Women's presence in society, in

He must be called the

Saviour of Humanity

George Bernard Shaw

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