

# MUHAMMAD

## CHALLENGING PRECONCEPTIONS

صلى الله  
عليه  
وسلم

“He was the most faithful protector of those he protected, the sweetest and most agreeable in conversation. Those who saw him were suddenly filled with reverence; those who came near him loved him; they who described him would say, "I have never seen his like either before or after." He was of great taciturnity, but when he spoke it was with emphasis and deliberation, and no one could forget what he said...” (Lane-Poole)

“Be kind to your neighbour. Draw the veil over him. Avoid injury to him. Look to him with kindness. If you see him doing evil, forgive him. If you see him doing good to you, proclaim your thankfulness'. These are words to be treasured and the man who said them should be weighed in gold.” (David de Santilan)

“He brought his tidings to his people with a grand dignity sprung from the consciousness of his high office, together with a most sweet humility.” (Stanley Lane-Poole)

Leaders must fulfil three functions, provide for the well being of the led, provide a social organization in which people feel relatively secure and provide them with one set of beliefs.

People like Pasteur and Salk are leaders in the first sense. People like Gandhi and Confucius, on one hand and Alexander, Caesar and Hitler on the other, are leaders in the second and perhaps the third sense. Jesus and Buddha belong in the third category alone.

Perhaps the greatest leader of all times was Mohammed, who combined all three functions. To a lesser degree Moses did the same. (Jules Masserman)

I wanted to know the best of the life of one who holds today an undisputed sway over the hearts of millions of mankind.... I became more than ever 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 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 second volume (of the Prophet's biography), I was sorry there was not more for me to read of that great life. (Mahatma Gandhi)

“I have studied him, the wonderful man, and in my opinion far from being an Antichrist, he must be called the saviour of humanity. I believe that if a man like him were to assume the dictatorship of the modern world, he would succeed in solving it's problems in a way that would bring it the much needed peace and happiness: I have prophesied about the faith of Muhammad, that it would be acceptable to the Europe of tomorrow as it is beginning to be acceptable to the Europe of today.” (G.Bernard Shaw)

If greatness of purpose, smallness of means, and astonishing results are the three criteria of a human genius, who could dare compare any great man in history with Muhammad? (Alphonse de LaMartaine)

To suppose Muhammad as an impostor raises more problems than it solves. Moreover, none of the great figures of history is so poorly appreciated in the West as Muhammad. Thus, not merely must we credit Muhammad with essential honesty and integrity of purpose, if we are to understand him at all: if we are to correct the errors we have inherited from the past, we must in every particular case hold firmly to the belief in his sincerity... (W. Montgomery Watt)

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)

Four years after the death of Justinian, 569 AD, was born at Mecca, in Arabia, the man who, of all men exercised the greatest influence upon the human race ...Mohammed (John William Draper)

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 he? (Lamartine)

