

Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) and his small group of followers endured persecution for 13 years in Mecca. Eventually, they were forced to leave and migrate to Medina, a city whose people eagerly welcomed them.

Here, Muhammad (PBUH) established the very first Islamic society which eliminated the spiritual and social problems rampant in the Arabian Peninsula.

Freedom of religion was instituted in Medina; women were honoured and respected as equals; racial discrimination was practically eliminated; tribal warfare was replaced with united ties of brotherhood; usury and alcohol were completely forbidden.

By the end of his life in 622 C.E, the powerful teachings of Islam had overcome even its most ardent enemies. Convinced by the truth of Muhammad (PBUH)'s message and inspired by the purity of his character, the entire Arabian Peninsula had embraced Islam.

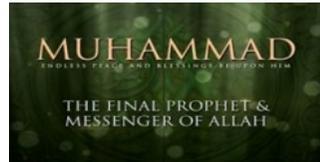
Muhammad (PBUH): The Legacy

In the century following Muhammad (PBUH)'s death, Islam expanded in all directions, absorbing the Persian and Byzantine Empires to the North, reaching as far as Spain in the West, and extending its borders to include parts of India and China to the East.

This rapid spread of Islam and its call towards the worship of One God and peace, in such a short period of time, has caused many to marvel at how a man with a sublime character and simple message, could produce such an astonishing impact on the world.

This impact is felt to this day with over a quarter of the world's population following the message of Islam, and with more everyday accepting and embracing the faith.

Muhammad (PBUH) is the final prophet in a long line of prophets (PBUT) who were all sent by the same God to remind people about their Creator and Maker. God refers to this in the Quran and states:



“O you who have believed, believe in Allah (God) and His Messenger (Muhammad PBUH) and the Book that He sent down upon His Messenger and the Scripture which He sent down before. And whoever disbelieves in Allah, His angels, His books, His messengers, and the Last Day has certainly gone far astray.” (Quran 4:136)

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In the name of God, the Most Kind, the Most Merciful

**Who Is
Muhammad?**

Peace Be Upon Him

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Muhammad (PBUH), the final prophet of Islam, is widely considered one of the most influential men in history. Islam is currently the fastest growing religion in the world today, and nearly one quarter of the world's population follows the message he (PBUH) delivered.

Yet, despite Muhammad (PBUH)'s lasting influence, many misconceptions continue to surround his persona and teachings. In this article we will briefly explain the message he delivered and his biography (PBUH).

Muhammad (PBUH): His Message

In Islam, all the prophets including Adam, Noah, Abraham, Moses, David, Solomon, Jesus, John (the Baptist) and Muhammad (PBUH) all worshipped the same God. God refers to this in the Quran:

Say, "We have believed in Allah (God) and in what was revealed to us and what was revealed to Abraham, Ishmael, Isaac, Jacob, and the Descendants, and in what was given to Moses and Jesus and to the prophets from their Lord. We make no distinction between any of them, and we are Muslims (who) submit to Him (God alone)." (Quran 3:84)



Muhammad (PBUH) is the final prophet sent by this same God. God was always there from the very beginning and will always be there. He is the Creator and Sustainer of everything around us; including us. He was never created and will never die.

Sleep and tiredness never inflicts Him, and it is through His Kindness, Might, Power, Mercy, Love and Patience that he effortlessly provides for His Creation every day and every second; both in this world and the next.

Islam invites people to recognise and worship our Creator and Maker - God.

Muhammad (PBUH): The Man

Muhammad (PBUH) was born in 570 C.E. in Mecca. He was orphaned at a young age; his father died before his birth, followed by his mother six years later. Muhammad (PBUH)'s grandfather, and then his uncle, cared for him for the remainder of his youth. As a result, no single figure moulded Muhammad (PBUH)'s beliefs and outlook on life from an early age.

As a young boy, he worked as a shepherd. This was significant, as he stated much later when asked by Jabir (RA) that "...there was no prophet who was not a shepherd" (Bukhari). Muhammad (PBUH) then adopted the premier Arab occupation of trading and was widely respected for his integrity, trustworthiness and sincerity.

However, despite his intelligence, he could not read or write, nor was he skilled in composing poetry; a hallmark of Arab society. Therefore, the claim that Muhammad (PBUH) authored the Quran is unfounded. To this effect, God declares in the Quran:

"Your companion (Muhammad (PBUH)) has not strayed; he is not deluded; he

does not speak from his own desire. It is not but a revelation revealed (unto him)." (Quran 53: 2-4)

Prior to prophethood, Muhammad (PBUH) was greatly regarded for his superior character and exceptional manners, earning him the title of the 'Truthful One.' Meccans entrusted him with their possessions for safekeeping and he was often asked to mediate disputes as an impartial judge.



At the same time, Muhammad (PBUH) detested the polytheistic Arab customs and did not participate in idolatry. He was also deeply bothered by the many social evils in Arabia, such as the ill treatment of women, widespread alcoholism, constant warfare and the subjugation of the poor. He often escaped the atmosphere of Mecca to a cave outside of the city, isolating himself for days at a time in meditation.

Although Muhammad (PBUH)'s pre-prophetic life was highly reputable, it does not indicate that he was poised to make any significant worldly impact. Yet, these life experiences and the development of his character were God's way of preparing Muhammad (PBUH) for the monumental task ahead.

Muhammad (PBUH): The Prophet

One night, in the year 610 C.E., God sent the Angel Gabriel with revelation to Muhammad (PBUH). This was one of the most significant events in human history. It marked the beginning of his prophethood and transformed his life entirely. As the prophet of God receiving divine inspiration, all his endeavours henceforth were devoted to leading humanity back to the pure worship of God. He led an earnest life based on the most sublime values, initiating tremendous changes in Arabia and beyond.

Whereas earlier he removed himself from the social and spiritual corruption in Mecca, he now proactively worked to reform it. Muhammad (PBUH) called his fellow Meccans to cease their worship of idols and to affirm the Oneness of God; he also invited them to live a life of righteousness and piety.

He warned them of an afterlife where they will be held accountable for their earthly deeds and also gave joyful news of paradise to those who believed and lived a God-conscious life. Like previous prophets, Muhammad (PBUH)'s message was rejected by many of his people. They insisted on maintaining the religious and social customs of their ancestors.

The elite mocked Muhammad (PBUH), accusing him of deceit and madness – the same man whom they had freely trusted and honoured before. Only a few people believed in him, particularly the poor and disadvantaged, who were attracted to his message due to its emphasis on equality and justice.

