

# You Should Know This Man!

*You may be an atheist or an agnostic; or you  
may belong to any of the religious denominations that  
exist in the world today.*

*You may be a communist or a believer in democracy and freedom.*

*No matter what you are, and no matter what your  
ideological and political beliefs, personal and  
social habits happen to be.*

## YOU MUST STILL KNOW THIS MAN

Encyclopedia Britanica confirms: "... a mass of detail in the early sources shows that he was an honest and upright man who had gained the respect and loyalty of others who were like-wise honest and upright men." (Vol. 12).

Bernard Shaw said about him: "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 its problems in a way that would bring it much-needed peace and happiness". (The Genuine Islam, Singapore, Vol. 1, No. 8, 1936)

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 practise and represent his teachings and completely revolutionized the worlds of human thought and behaviour for all times to

come. His name is

## “MUHAMMAD”

May Peace of Allah Be Upon Him

Born in Arabia in the year 570 A.D., started his mission of preaching the religion of Truth, Islam (submission to One God) at the age of forty and departed from this world when he was sixty three.

During this short period of 23 years of his Prophethood, he changed the complete Arabian peninsula from paganism and idolatry to worship of One God, from tribal quarrels and wars to national solidarity and cohesion, from drunkenness and debauchery to sobriety and piety, from lawlessness and anarchy to disciplined living, from utter bankruptcy to highest standards of moral excellence. Human history has never known such a complete transformation of a people or a place before or since— and imagine all these unbelievable wonders in **just** over two decades.

Lamartine, the renowned historian speaking on the essentials of Human Greatness wonders:

*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 imposture but to a firm conviction which gave him the power to restore a dogma. This dogma was two-fold, the unity of Allah and the immateriality of Allah the former telling what Allah is, the latter telling what Allah 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*

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*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?*

—Lamartine  
*Historie de la Turquie*  
Paris, 1854, Vol. II, pp.276-277

The world has had its share of great personalities. But these were one-sided figures who distinguished themselves in but one or two fields, such as religious thought or military leadership. The lives and teachings of these great personalities of the world are shrouded in the mist of time. There is so much speculation about the time and place of their birth, the mode and style of their life, the nature and detail of their teachings and the degree and measure of their success or failure that it is impossible for humanity to reconstruct accurately the lives and teachings of these men.

Not so this man, Muhammad (Peace be upon him) accomplished so much in such diverse fields of human thought and behaviour in the fullest blaze of human history. Every detail of his private life and public utterances has been accurately documented and faithfully preserved to our day. The authenticity of the records so preserved are vouched for not only by the faithful followers but even by his prejudiced critics.

Muhammad (Peace be upon him) was a religious teacher, a social reformer, a moral guide, an administrative colossus, a faithful friend, a wonderful companion, a devoted husband, a loving father—all in one. No other man in history ever excelled or equalled him in any of these different aspects of life—but it was only for the selfless personality of Muhammad (Peace be upon him) to achieve such incredible perfections.

**Mahatma Gandhi**, speaking on the character of Muhammad (Peace be upon him) says in *Young India*:

*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 in those days in the schedule 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*

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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.

Thomas Carlyle in his *Heroes and Heroworship*, was simply amazed as to: "how one man single handedly, could weld warring tribes and wandering bedouins into a most powerful and civilized nation in less than two decades".

Diwan Chand Sharma wrote: "Muhammad was the soul of kindness, and his influence was felt and never forgotten by those around him" (D.C. Sharma, *The Prophets of the East*, Calcutta, 1935, p.12).

Edward Gibbon and Simon Ockley speaking on the profession of Islam write:

*I believe in one God, and Mahomet, a Apostle of God, is the simple and invariable profession of Islam.*

*The intellectual image of the Deity has never been degraded by any visible idol, the honour of the Prophet has never transgressed the measure of human virtues; and his living precepts have restrained the gratitude of his disciples within the bounds of reason and religion.*

*History of the Saracen Empires*  
London, 1870, p.54

Muhammad (Peace be upon him) was nothing more or less than a human being. But he was a man with a noble mission, which was to unite humanity on the worship of One and *Only One* Allah and to teach them the way to honest and upright living based on the commands of Allah. He always described himself as, 'A Servant and Messenger of Allah', and so indeed every action of his proclaimed to be.

Speaking on the aspect of equality before God in Islam, the famous poetess of India, Sarojini Naidu says:

*It was the first religion that preached and practised democracy; for, in the mosque, when the call for prayer is sounded and worshippers are gathered together, the democracy of Islam is embodied five times a day when the peasant and king kneel side by side and proclaim: Allah Alone is Great".*

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*I have been struck over and over again by this indivisible unity of Islam that makes man instinctively a brother.*

—S. Naidu

*Ideals of Islam, vide Speeches and Writings*  
Madras, 1918, p.169

In the words of Prof. Hurgronje: “the league of nations founded by the prophet of Islam put the principle of international unity and human brotherhood on such universal foundations as to show candle to other nations.” He continues: “the fact is that no nation of the world can show a parallel to what Islam has done towards the realization of the idea of the League of Nations.”

The world has not hesitated to raise to divinity, individuals whose lives and missions have been lost in legend. Historically speaking none of these legends achieved even a fraction of what Muhammad (Peace be upon him) accomplished. And all his striving was for the sole purpose of uniting mankind for the worship of One Allah on the codes of moral excellence. Muhammad (Peace be upon him) or his followers never at any time claimed that he was a Son of God or the God-incarnate or a man with divinity—but always was and is even today considered as only a Messenger chosen by Allah

Michael H. Hart in his recently published book on ratings of men who contributed towards the benefit and uplift of mankind 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.*

—Michael H. Hart

*The 100: A ranking of the most influential persons in History*  
New York, 1978, p.33

Today after a lapse of fourteen centuries, the life and teachings of Muhammad (Peace be upon him) have survived without the slightest loss, alteration or interpolation. They offer the same undying hope for treating mankind's many ills, which they did when he was alive. This is not a claim of Muhammad's (Peace be upon him) followers but also the inescapable conclusion forced upon by a critical and unbiased history.

## *YOU SHOULD KNOW THIS MAN*

The least you could do as a thinking and concerned human being is to stop for a moment and ask yourself: Could these statements sounding so extraordinary and revolutionary be really true? And supposing they really are true and you did not know the man Muhammad (Peace be upon him) or hear about him, isn't it time you responded to this tremendous challenge and put-in some effort to know him?

It will cost you nothing but it may prove to be the beginning of a completely new era in your life.

We invite you to make a discovery of this wonderful man, **Muhammad** (Peace be upon him), the like of whom never walked on the face of this earth.

