

WHAT MODERN NON MUSLIM SCHOLARS SAY ABOUT ISLAM?

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1. Mahatma Gandhi: (Quoted in "Muhammed The Prophet of the Islam") "Some one has said that Europeans in South Africa dread the advent of Islam - Islam that civilized Spain - Islam that took the torch of light to Morocco and preached to the World the Gospel of brotherhood. The Europeans of South Africa dread the advent of Islam, as they may claim, equality with the whiterace. They may well dread it. If brotherhood is a sin, if it is equality of coloured races that they dread, then their dread is well founded."

2. G.B. Shaw: (The Genuine Islam, Vol. 1, 1936) I have always held the religion of Muhammed in high estimation because of its wonderful vitality. It is the only religion which appears to me to possess that assimilating capacity to the changing phase of existence which can make itself appeal to every age. I have studied him the wonderful man and in my opinion far from being an anti-Christ, 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 the much needed peace and happiness; I have prophesied about the faith of Muhammed that it would be acceptable to the Europe of tomorrow as it is beginning to be acceptable to the Europe of today".

3. W. Montgomery Watt (Islam and Christianity Today London)

"I am not a Muslim in the usual sense, though I hope I am a 'Muslim' as 'one surrendered to God' but I believe that embedded in the quran and other expressions of the Islamic vision are vast stores of divine truth from which I and other occidentals have still much to learn; and Islam is certainly a strong contender for the supplying of the basic framework of the one religion of the future."

4. Swami Vivekananda (Letter of Swami Vivekananda, p 463)

"The HINDUS may get the credit of arriving at it earlier than other races, yet practical Advaitism, which looks upon and behaves to all mankind as one's own soul, was never developed among the Hindus." "On the other hand, my experience is that if ever any religion approached to this equality in an appreciable manner, it is Islam and Islam alone, I am firmly persuaded, therefore, that without the help of practical Islam, Theories of Vedantism, however fine and wonderful they may be, are entirely valueless to the vast mass of mankind"...

5. H.A.R. GIBB (Wither Islam, London, 1932 p.379)

But Islam has a still further service to render to the cause of humanity. It stands further service to render to the cause of humanity. It stands after all nearer to the real East than Europe does, and it possess a magnificent tradition of inter-racial understanding and co-operation. No other society has such a record success in uniting in an equality of status, of opportunity, and of endeavours so many and so various races of mankind. Islam has still the power to reconcile apparently irreconcilable elements of race and tradition. If ever the opposition of the great societies of East and West is to be replaced by co-operation, the mediation of Islam is an indispensable condition. In its hands lies very largely the solution of the problem with which Europe is faced in its relation with East. If they unite, the hope of a peaceful issue is immeasurably enhanced. But if Europe, by rejecting the co-operation of Islam, throws it into the arms of its rivals, the issue can only be disastrous for both."

6. De Lacy O'Leary (Islam at the Cross roads, London 1923 p.8) "His tory makes it clear however, that the legend of fanatical Muslim sweeping through the world and forcing Islam at the point of the sword upon

conquered races is one of the most fantastically absurd myths that historians have ever repeated."

7. Sarojini Naidu (The Ideals of Islam p.167)

"Sense of justice is one of the most wonderful ideals of Islam, because as I read in the Qur'an I find those dynamic principles of life, not mystic but practical ethics for the daily conduct of life suited to the whole world"

8. Canon Taylor (Paper read before the Church Congress at Walverhamton) "It (Islam) replaced monkishness by manliness. It gives hope to the slave, brotherhood to mankind, and recognition of the fundamental facts of human nature."

9. A.M.L. STODDARD (Islam - The Religion of All Prophets)

The rise of Islam is perhaps the most amazing event in human history. Springing from a land and a people like previously negligible. Islam spread within a century over half of the earth.

The closer we examine this development the more extraordinary does it appear. The other great religions won their way slowly by painful struggle and finally triumphed with the aid of powerful monarchs converted to the new faith. Christianity had its constantine, Buddhism its Asoka, and Zoroastrianism its Cyrus, each lending to his chosen cult the mighty force of secular authority. Not to Islam, arising in a desert land sparsely inhabited by a nomad race previously undistinguished in human annals. Islam sallied forth on its great adventure with the slenderest human backing and against the heaviest material odds. Yet Islam triumphed with seemingly miraculour ease; and a couple of generations saw the Fiery Crescent borne victorious from the Pyrenees to the Himalayas and from the desert of Central Asia to the deserts of Central Africa."

(Source. Publication Islamic Foundation Trust Madras).