

What Modern Non Muslim Scholars say about 'Muhammed (PBUH)

● Michael H.Hart, *The 100: A Ranking of the Most Influential persons in History*, New York: Hart Publishing Company, Inc. 1978, p.33.

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 level.

● W. Montgomery, *Mohammed at Mecca*, Oxford, 1932, p.52.

His readiness to undergo persecutions for his beliefs, the high moral character of the men who believed in him and looked up to him as leader, and the greatness of his ultimate achievement all argue his fundamental integrity. To suppose Muhammad 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.

● Young India, quoted in *The Light*, Lahore, for 16th September 1924, Mahatma Gandhi.

I wanted to know the best of the life of one who holds to-day 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 utter self effacement of the prophet, the scrupulous regard for pledges, his intense devotion to his friends and followers his interpidity, 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.

● Annie Besant, *The Life and Teachings of Muhammed*, Madras 1932, p.4

It is impossible for anyone who studies the life and character of the great Prophet of Arabia, who knows how he taught and how he lived, to feel anything but reverence for that mighty Prophet, one of the great messengers of the Supreme. And although in what I put to you I shall say many things which may be familiar to many, yet I myself feel whenever I re-read them, a new way

of admiration, a new sense of reverence for that mighty Arabian teacher.

● Boworth Smith, *Mohammad and Mohammadanism*, London 1974, P.92

He was Caesar and Pope in one; but he was Pope without Pope's pretensions, Caesar without the legions of Caesar; without a standing army, without a bodyguard, without a palace, without a fixed revenue; if ever any man had the right to say that he ruled by the right divine, it was Mohammad, for he had all the power without its instruments and without its supports.

● Edward Gibbon and Simon Ockley, *History of the Saracen Empire*, London, 1970, p.54.

It is not the propagation but the permanency of his religion that deserves our wonder; the same pure and perfect impression which he engraved at Mecca and Medina is preserved, after the revolutions of twelve centuries by the Koran...The Mohametsans have uniformly withstood the temptation of reducing the object of their faith and devotion to a level with the senses and imagination of man. 'I believe in One God and Mohamet the Apostle of God' is the simple and invariable profession of Islam. The intellectual image of the Deity has never been degraded by nay visible idol; the honours of the prophet have never transgressed the measure of human virtue; and his living precepts have restrained the gratitude of his discipline within the bounds of reason and religion.

● Lamartine, *Historie de la Turquie*, Paris 1854, Vol.II, PP. 276-77.

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 men 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 inno manner striving for an empire; his endless prayers, his mystic conversations with God, his death and his triumph after death; all these atleast not to an imposture but to a firm conviction which gave him the power to restore a dogma. This dogma was twofold, the unity of God and the immateriality of God; the former telling what God is, the latter telling what God 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 founder of twenty terrestrial empires and of one spiritual empire, that is Muhammad.

● James A. Michener, 'Islam: The Misunderstood Religion' in *The Reader's Digest* (American Edition) in May 1955, PP. 68-70.

Like almost every major prophet before him, Muhammad fought shy of serving as the transmitter of God's word, sensing his own inadequacy. But the angel commanded 'Read'. So far as we know, Muhammad was unable to read or write, but he began to dictate those inspired words which would soon revolutionize a large segment of the earth: "There is one God." In all things Muhammad was profoundly practical. When his beloved son Ibrahim died, as eclipse occurred, and rumours of God's personal condolence quickly arose. Whereupon Muhammad is said to have announced, 'An eclipse is a phenomenon of nature. It is foolish to attribute such things to the death or birth of a human-being'.

At Muhammad's own death an attempt was made to deify him, but the man who was to become his administrative successor killed the hysteria with one of the noblest speeches in religious history: 'If there are any among you who worshipped Muhammed, he is dead. But if it is God you worshipped, He lives for ever.'

(Source-Islamic Foundation Trust,
Madras Publication)