

*By Um e Abdullah*

Intelligence demands that one must always look at a situation from different angles. Without fail, it broadens the mind, offers solutions and inculcates deeper understanding. We, as Muslims, invite you to examine things from a different point of view. We invite you to set all pre-conceived notions, inherited ideas and frequently heard clichés to one side and give this a fair, broad-minded, democratic hearing.

Let us tell you something about the man, Mohammad ﷺ<sup>1</sup> that the Danish press did

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<sup>1</sup> ﷺ Every time the Muslims mention, read or write the name of Prophet Mohammad, they are required to say 'sallallahu alaihi wasallam' (may Allah shower His blessings upon him). There is an (s) written after his name in this book for ease, although the greeting should be said in full. When the name of any Prophet is mentioned we are required to say a similar invocation. Muslims also express respect for the Prophet's companions by saying 'radhiAllahu anhu/anha' (may Allah be pleased with him/her) after their names, which is denoted here with an (r).

not. By the end of this book that consists mostly of quotes from non-Muslim writers, historians, Nobel Prize winners and the like, you will be more than amazed. We believe, and have done so for more than 14 centuries, that every human deserves to hear about this man - **a man who perfected humanity, yet was perfectly human.**

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 what Prophet Mohammad (s) accomplished.

All his striving was for the sole purpose of uniting mankind for the worship of One God on the codes of moral excellence. Prophet Mohammad (s) 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 he always was, and is even today - considered as only a Messenger chosen by God. He continues to inspire faith in more than a billion men and women. Vouched for as **“the most successful of all religious personalities”** by **Encyclopedia Britannica**, it is an established fact that every event of his personal and

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public life has been immaculately recorded, even the minutest details preserved conscientiously for posterity. His life and works are not shrouded in mystery or doubt but open for all to study. Yet it is sad that instead of the truth becoming clearer with the growth in

information and mass communication, many a times, fabrication overshadows and outstrips the truth.

As **Thomas Carlyle**, the Scott biographer, historian, philosopher and author admits: **“The lies which well-meaning zeal has heaped round this man (Mohammad) are disgraceful to ourselves only.”**

[Thomas Carlyle, ‘ON HEROES, HERO WORSHIP AND THE HEROIC IN HISTORY’, 1841]

So let us see who Prophet Mohammad (s) really was, what was it about this man that he is accepted as the greatest example of humanity by friend and foe alike. So many aspects of greatness did he encompass, so many roles did he excel at, that it is difficult to summarize a lifetime of character in a few lines.

**Professor K. S. Ramakrishna Rao**, Head of the Department of Philosophy, University of Mysore, India, and a professing

Hindu, writes in his book '**Muhammad, The Prophet of Islam**': "There is Muhammad, the Prophet. There is Muhammad, the General; Muhammad, the King; Muhammad the Warrior; Muhammad, the Businessman; Muhammad, the Philosopher; Muhammad, the Statesman; Muhammad, the Preacher;

Muhammad, the Businessman; Muhammad the Orator; Muhammad the Reformer; Muhammad, the Refuge of Slaves; Muhammad, the Emancipator of Women; Muhammad, the Judge; Muhammad, the Saint.

All, in all these magnificent roles, in all these departments of human activities, he is like a hero."

(Professor K. S. Ramakrishna Rao, 'MUHAMMAD, THE PROPHET OF ISLAM', 1989)

Not a god; not an angel; nor a supernatural, omnipresent, all-knowing being; he was simply the servant of God and His Messenger.

In the words of **Simon Ockley**, an English orientalist and Professor at Cambridge University: "I believe in one God, and

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Mahomet, the 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 honors of the prophet have never transgressed the measure of human virtue: and his living precepts have restrained the gratitude of his disciples within the bounds of reason and religion."

(Simon Ockley, 'THE HISTORY OF THE SARACENS', London, 1857)

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## MOHAMMAD: THE PRAISEWORTHY

'Mohammad' means 'the one who is praised'- and the past and present have witnessed how people from all walks of life have praised him. Even his enemies could not deny his excellent qualities. When his enemy, Abu Sufyan was summoned by Heraclius to his court and questioned about the Prophet (s), he was forced to admit his virtues. Even the Jews and those who did not believe in his message would come to him for arbitration in their disputes due to his justice and honesty. He was named '*Al-Ameen*' (The Trustworthy) and '*As-Sadiq*' (The Truthful) by his contemporaries. Even after centuries people admit his sterling qualities.

In his book, **Michael H Hart** ranked Prophet Mohammed (s) first in the list of people who contributed towards the benefit and uplift of mankind.

He defended his choice in the following words: "**My choice of Mohammad 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

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successful on both the religious and secular levels.”

[M.H. Hart, “THE 100: A RANKING OF THE MOST INFLUENTIAL PERSONS IN HISTORY”, New York, 1978]

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 with Prophet Mohammad (s).

**Lamartine**, the French writer, poet and politician, 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 Mohammad?”

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, legislation, 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 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 MOHAMMAD.

As regards all the standards by which Human Greatness may be measured, we may well ask, IS THERE ANY MAN GREATER THAN HE?"

## A NATION TRANSFORMED

When Prophet Mohammad (s) appeared as a prophet in the uncultivable, harsh nothingness of the Arabian desert in 610 AD, he possessed only the power of God's message and a lifelong commitment to his mission. With these, he transformed the barbaric Bedouins in two decades, and shaped a new moral and religious civilization spanning 3 continents- Asia, Africa and Europe. Never would the world be the same again. It was destined not to be.

The people he invited to the submission of One God alone and to universal brotherhood were a people who loved warfare, fighting bloody and savage wars. One such war, which consumed 70,000 lives and went on for 40 years was provoked by the slightest of pretexts (a camel straying into the land belonging to the other tribe).

Prophet Mohammad (s) taught self-



restraint, forgiveness and compassion to such people. He taught them to pray in the battlefield and laid down rules for battle, humanizing the battlefield itself. Islam teaches not to mutilate, not to kill minors, women and the old, not to breach trust even with the enemies. It teaches not to destroy farmland or fruit trees unnecessarily, not to molest monks and priests.

What was even more amazing was that Prophet Mohammad (s) exemplified these teachings and so did many generations of Muslims. That is why even today, one hardly ever hears of Muslims desecrating a church or the Bible, or Muslims harassing nuns in their typical garb or Muslims blaspheming Jesus. Non-Muslim minorities have lived peacefully for hundreds of years under Muslim rule in many countries (like Spain, Jerusalem, Turkey), their life, honour and freedom completely protected by the rulers.

At the advent of Islam, debauchery, gambling, burying daughters alive and mistreatment of women were common social



vices. Prophet Mohammad (s) taught such a people to live a life governed by accountability before God, to pray side-by-side and to respect and love their women. Islam bestowed on women innumerable rights more than 14 centuries back, when contemporary civilizations were still considering whether a woman could be regarded as a human being. Islam gave women a status the Western woman is still fighting for. Centuries ago Islam gave women the right to: life, honour (for which *Hijab* plays a major role), education, property (England only passed such a law 12 centuries later in 1881), inheritance, testimony, financial

maintenance and a compulsory marital gift from the husband.

**Thomas Carlyle** was amazed, “**How one man single-handedly, could weld warring tribes and wandering Bedouins into a most powerful and civilized nation in less than two decades.**”

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## EQUALITY AND BROTHERHOOD

The principle of the equality of mankind has been preached by all great religions, but the last Prophet (s) put it into actual practice and achieved the greatest success.

The famous poetess and freedom fighter of India and the first woman President of the Indian National Congress, **Sarojini Naidu** says: **“It (Islam) was the first religion that preached and practiced 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: ‘God Alone is Great’... I have been struck over and over again by this indivisible unity**



of Islam that makes man instinctively a brother.”

(Sarojini Naidu, IDEALS OF ISLAM, vide Speeches & Writings, Madras, 1918)

This is the miracle that history witnessed in Madina, when the Prophet (s) migrated from his homeland of Makkah with his followers after facing severe persecution for proclaiming his message. The homeless migrants were united in a historical bond of brotherhood with the Madinites. The love, sacrifice, help and kindness that the migrants received from these surrogate brothers went beyond the norms of human capacity. They shared everything that they possessed, their properties, houses and incomes, with their brothers in faith. Our present world has so much to learn from this history if we are to survive peacefully together.

It was Islam alone which first achieved an almost complete abolishment of slavery without passing a single bill or law. Thousands of slaves were freed at a time when slavery was the norm. These slaves were not just freed to face further discrimination in society but due to the moral education of the entire society, these very slaves went on to become scholars of Islam, commanders of Muslim armies and lived

at par with their contemporaries. This is all well documented in Islamic history

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Prophet Mohammad (s) appointed a black slave, Bilal (r) to the office of proclaiming *adhaan* 5 times a day calling Muslims to prayer. At the time of the last pilgrimage that the Prophet (s) made to the Ka'aba, the holiest place in the Islamic world, this black freed slave stood on the roof of the Ka'aba and called out the *adhaan*. People of the caliber of Umar (r), known historically as Umar the Great, the 2nd caliph of Islam would welcome Bilal whenever he saw him saying, "*Here comes our master, here comes our lord.*"

Prophet Mohammad (s) told Bilal (r) that he had heard his footsteps in Paradise in a dream, thus giving him glad tidings of Paradise. This was complete equality, in this world and the next, based not on colour, creed or status, but on the level of piety. Compare this to how the black people are treated by the 'civilized' white races of today, how even after centuries of struggle, they have not attained equal rights everywhere or at least not in the hearts of their fair-skinned counterparts.

In the words of **Professor Hurgronje**, a Dutch colonial official and a scholar of oriental cultures, "**The league of nations founded by the prophet of Islam put the principle of**

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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.”

[C. Snouck Hurgronje, ‘MOHAMMEDANISM – LECTURES ON ITS ORIGIN, ITS RELIGIOUS AND POLITICAL OUTGROWTH, AND ITS PRESENT STATE’, 1916]

Every year the world witnesses this amazing spectacle of unity and equality when millions of Muslims gather from all over the world for pilgrimage at the Kaa’ba. Leaving behind all worldly identities of race, colour and rank, this universal family of Europeans, Africans, Indians, Persians and Chinese all merge into one body, clad in white, throbbing with the pulse that unites them, “Here I am, O God; at Your command; You are One and the Only One; Here I am.”

## PEACE

The word '**Islam**' means '**submission**' (to the Will of God) and is related to the word '*salam*' (the daily greeting of the Muslims) meaning 'peace'. Nothing in the teachings of the Prophet (s) or his life represents anything other than peace. He is described in the Quran as '**mercy for the worlds**'. And he lived up to this title showing compassion to Muslims and non-Muslims, friends and foes, humans and animals alike. The first pact that he concluded with the Jews upon coming to Madina was a peace treaty.

Peace was the main object why he allowed war as the last resort - to put an end to religious persecution and to perpetuate peace. We can understand this since even today not all human beings are in favour of peace and many would disrupt it for their own vested interests thus sometimes force has to be used to maintain peace. Just like the police has to use force against criminals and anti-social elements to maintain peace in the country, the Prophet (s) had to resort to war to protect his very existence and to establish a society based on equality, justice and peace.

Throughout his life the Prophet (s) practiced such exemplary forgiveness and magnanimity that it has no parallel in human

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history. In his personal life he never hit a woman or child, never even spoke to his servants harshly, never held a personal grudge. When he went to preach his message in the town of Taif, a few miles away from Makkah, the people set loose a mob of ruffians on him. They called him names and threw stones at him till his shoes were full of blood. God sent angels to ask him if he wanted this town destroyed. Bleeding and beaten, he not only forgave them, but also prayed for them.

He was forgiving not just in weakness but more so when he gained victory and had the power to punish. For 13 years he suffered inhuman torture at the hands of his enemies who rebuked him, beat him mercilessly, tried to kill him and continued their aggression against him even after he migrated to another city, in the form of conspiracies and fierce battles. When at last he returned to his hometown as a victor leading an army of 10,000, the city lay at his feet. Instead of a massacre in the name of *'jihad'*, plundering or even public beheadings what did this great man do? He forgave his bitterest enemies saying *"This day there is no reproof against you and you are all free."* Is this the image of a turbaned terrorist? Has the world ever seen such

mercy? Compare this with the cruelty and

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injustices victorious armies wreck on the masses. Compare this with the crusades, the frequent rapes of Muslim women in occupied territories, the ongoing persecution of Muslims and the ethnic cleansing and genocide of minorities in different parts of the world. Compare this to the horrors of Guantanamo Bay, Iraq and Palestine, where even unborn generations suffer at the hands of world politics.

As he entered Makkah victorious, Prophet Mohammad (s) was the picture of humility. There was no fanfare, no display of arrogance, no aggression by any Muslim that day. He forgave Hind, who had mutilated his uncle's corpse after a battle and chewed his liver. He forgave Abu Sufyan who had instigated and fought vicious wars against him. He pardoned Habbar who had attacked his daughter with a spear while she was on her way from Makkah to Madina so grievously that she ultimately died of the fatal injuries. The list goes on. He would have been justified by the laws of war to avenge the great cruelties he and his followers had suffered, yet all he had for his enemies was well-wishing and sincerity. So how can a man like him be portrayed so wickedly?

**Diwan Chand Sharma** wrote,  
"Mohammad was the soul of kindness, and

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**his influence was felt and never forgotten by those around him.”**

(D.C. Sharma, **THE PROPHETS OF THE EAST**, Calcutta, 1935)

In Madina, he constantly faced intrigues and setbacks at the hands of the hypocrites. They would spread rumours about his own wives, they withdrew their forces just before the battle of Uhud began, yet the Prophet (s) dealt with them with forbearance and patience. When the leader of the hypocrites died he gave his own shirt for his burial and prayed for him at his grave. He entertained the Christian delegation from Najran in Madina for 3 days; he was married to Safia, a Jewess revert; and Maria, the Coptic Christian was the mother of his son, Ibrahim. Where does anyone find proof that he hated or terrorized non-Muslims?

It was his kindness and noble qualities that won people's hearts and not the sword. He was unlettered yet spoke with such eloquence and feeling as to melt the hearts of the listeners.

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The famous Hindu leader, **Mahatama Gandhi** said about Prophet Mohammad's (s) character, "I wanted to know the best of one who holds today's 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 scheme 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 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 the great life.

[M. K. Gandhi, statement published in 'YOUNG INDIA', 1924]

## RULER OF HEARTS

Despite ruling more than a third of the then inhabited world, Mohammad (s) was a man of heartbreaking simplicity. After Islam spread far and wide, wealth began to accumulate, yet this ruler mended his own shoes, swept the floor and helped his wives in household chores. Many weeks would lapse before fire could be kindled in his house, his meals mostly consisted of only dates and water. He would spend his nights standing in worship till his feet swelled and slept on a coarse palm

mat. A day before he died, he gave away the 7 coins he owned as charity and gifted his weapons to the Muslims.

**Reverend Bosworth Smith** remarks, “**Head of the State as well as the Church, he was Caesar and Pope in one; but he was Pope without the Pope’s pretensions, and**

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Caesar without the legions of Caesar, without a standing army, without a body guard, without a police force, without a fixed revenue. If ever a man had the right to say that he ruled by a right divine, it was Mohammad, for he had all the powers without their supports. He cared not for all the dressings of power. The simplicity of his private life was in keeping with his public life.”

[Reverend Bosworth Smith, MOHAMMED AND MOHAMMEDANISM, London 1876]

One of the tests of a person's greatness is whether he was found to be of true mettle by his contemporaries. Prophet Mohammad (s) was loved and followed by men of the greatest caliber of his time. It speaks volumes of his sincerity and truth that his most intimate companions and relations believed first and most strongly in his message and supported him unconditionally. He was not only followed by the weak and the downtrodden but soon by

the noblest and best of society. Had they not

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found him up to his claim they would not have laid down their lives for his mission. His followers braved excommunication, torture and even death for the sake of their faith.

**Encyclopedia Britannica (Vol. 12) confirms:**

**“A mass of detail in the early sources show 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.”**

Even after his death, his companions carried on his mission in the most scrupulous and dedicated manner, following his teachings to the letter. Unlike other leaders, no skeletons in the cupboard were discovered, no scandals and deception, nothing to mar the image that Prophet Mohammad (s) had left in the hearts of millions to come.

**Thomas Carlyle** praised him in the following words, **“A silent great soul, one of that who cannot but be earnest. He was to kindle the world, the world’s Maker had ordered so.”**

[Thomas Carlyle 'HEROES AND HERO WORSHIP AND THE HEROIC IN HISTORY,' 1840)

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OF **Mohammad**

## THE LAST MESSENGER

**Allah says: “(The believers say) We make no distinction between one another of His (God’s) Messengers.” (Al Quran 2: 285)**

As Muslims, it is incumbent upon us that we accept all the Messengers of God and honour them equally. Not believing in even ONE of them is tantamount to disbelief. In other words a Muslim’s faith is not acceptable unless he or she believes in every one of the Messengers sent by God such as Abraham, Moses, Jesus and the rest (peace be upon them all).

Yet what distinguishes the last Prophet Mohammad (s) from the rest is that while each of the previous Messengers was sent to a certain people in a specific time, he was the final Messenger and consequently his message was for all of mankind and for all times till eternity. God perfected and completed the guidance He wanted to give to humanity through His Final Messenger and made sure

it would be preserved forever and remain unchanged. The Quran is the literal word of God. It has remained intact, undistorted and undisputed even after over 14 centuries.

Not a word or alphabet has changed in it to date which is a miracle in itself. Countless

prophesies and scientific facts stated in the Quran centuries ago have now been confirmed as true.

Even a hostile critic like **Sir William Muir** admits, “**There is probably in the world no other book which has remained 12 centuries (now 14 centuries) with so pure a text.**”

As such for Muslims, their book is not irrelevant at any place or time, nor their Prophet a mere historical figure, but for them these are their active guides at every point in their daily lives.

In the words of **George Bernard Shaw**, “**I have always held the religion of Mohammad**

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**in high estimation because of its wonderful vitality. It is the only religion, which appears to me to possess that assimilating capacity to make itself appeal to every age.”**  
[Sir George Bernard Shaw, *THE GENUINE ISLAM* Vol. 1, 1936]

## LET US UPHOLD TRUTH AND JUSTICE

A faith must never be judged by the actions of its followers. What Muslims or Christians have done should not be the criteria for judging their respective faiths or prophets. Muslims are raised to love Prophet Mohammad (s) more than their parents, children or their own selves. This love is part of a Muslim's faith. It deeply hurts

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the Muslims if their Prophet or any Prophet is insulted. The Quran asks us to honour the beliefs and symbols that others hold dear. No Muslim has responded by insulting Jesus (peace be upon him) or the Bible, though some have reacted passionately and sometimes imprudently to the way their Prophet has been insulted.

But before blaming the Muslims for the entire episode of protesting against the caricaturing of the Prophet (s) let us ask ourselves, would any person belonging to any faith accept humiliation of their most respected ones? Are Muslims the only people that use violence on provocation? More than a decade ago, a film called *'The Last Temptation of Christ'* showed Jesus making love to a woman (we seek Allah's protection from such things). In Paris someone set fire to the cinema showing the movie resulting in the tragic death of a young man. A few years go there was public uproar

in North America and Europe against 'DaVinciCode'.

It is not right for anyone belonging to any



faith to resort to indiscriminate violence at any excuse. But the fact these incidents prove is that no one likes their faith and Prophet to be degraded, that too on the basis of untruth. Let us ask ourselves: What does the law call public defamation without proof? *Libel? Slander? Discrimination?* What does the heart, the internal law giver call it? *Deliberate provocation? Playing with emotions and hurting sacred sentiments?* Islam strongly condemns all such yellow journalism and scandal-mongering.

To add insult to injury, we are told that this is freedom of the press. Did you know that in some European nations such as France, Germany and Austria it is forbidden by law to deny acts of genocide such as saying that the Jewish Holocaust did not happen?

So it is in fact impermissible to make certain statements in several countries including European nations. Hence freedom of speech is not “unconditional freedom” but subject to certain rules and limits.

Let us remind ourselves that freedom of expression must not be allowed to undermine human sentiments and human freedom or to

disrupt peace. We must not forget that freedom of any sort does not mean transgressing the limits set by God or by our own humanity.

## ISLAM: A LEGACY TO THE WORLD

Islam, misunderstood as a pro-terrorism faith, is in fact far from it. Islam paved the way for a nation of uncivilized Bedouins to become pioneers of science and enlightened civilization.

**Robert Briffalut** concludes in his well-known book, **'The Making of Humanity'**, **"The debt of our science to the Arabs does not consist in startling discoveries or revolutionary theories. Science owes a great deal more to the Arab culture: it owes its existence."**

[Robert Briffalut, 'THE MAKING OF HUMANITY', London 1938]

**George Bernard Shaw** said, **"I have**

studied him (Mohammad) - the wonderful man and in my opinion for from being an anti-Christ, he must be called the Savior of Humanity.”

He also said, “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 Mohammad that it would be acceptable to the Europe of tomorrow as it is beginning to be acceptable to the Europe of today.”

Hence, to say that Islam was spread by the sword is the greatest of myths. On an average, the Muslims ruled Arabia for 1400 years. Yet today, there are 14 million Arabs who have been Christians for generations. If the Muslims had used the sword there would not have been a single Arab who would have remained a Christian

An article in **Reader's Digest 'Almanac'**,

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**year book 1986**, gave the statistics of the increase in percentage of the major religions of the world in half a century from 1934 to 1984. At the top was Islam, which increased by **235%**, and Christianity had increased only by **47%**. May one ask, which war took place in this century which forcibly converted millions of people to Islam?

The noted historian **De Lacy O'Leary** writes in the book **"Islam at the Crossroads"**,

**"History makes it clear however, that the legend of fanatical Muslims sweeping through the world and forcing Islam at the point of the sword upon conquered races is one of the most fantastically absurd myth that historians have ever repeated."**

[De Lacy O'Leary, 'ISLAM AT THE CROSSROADS', London 1923]

The world needs to benefit from this faith that many of their wise men have already hailed.

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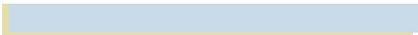
**Carlyle** bids the world to listen, “**The word of such a man (Mohammad) is a voice direct from nature’s own heart; men do and must listen to that, as to nothing else; all else is wind in comparison...**”

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