

Why was Muhammad ★ The Most Influential Person In History ?

According to many historians Muhammad* was the most influential person in the history of mankind.

Bernard Shaw said that if Muhammad* were alive today he would succeed in solving all those problems which threaten to destroy human civilization in our times.

Thomas Carlyle was amazed as to how one man, single-handedly, could weld warring tribes and wandering Bedouins into a powerful and civilized nation in less than two decades.

Napoleon and Gandhi never tired of dreaming of a society along the lines established by Muhammad* in Arabia fourteen centuries ago.

The Encyclopedia Britannica calls him "The most successful of all Prophets and religious personalities of the world."

Michael H. Hart ranks Muhammad* as the most influential person in his famous book *The 100: A Ranking Of The Most Influential Persons in History* .

Hart wrote, "my choice of Muhammad* to lead the list of the worlds 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."

Although the majority of the persons "had the advantage of being born and raised in the centers of civilization, highly cultured or politically pivotal nations, Muhammad* was born in the year 570 CE in the city of Makkah, in southern Arabia, at that time a backward area of the world, far from the centers of art and learning."

Michael H. Hart explained in his book why he ranked Muhammad* above his own savior Jesus Christ. He said, "Muhammad* has been ranked higher than Jesus. There are two principal reasons for that decision. First Muhammad* played a far more important role in the development of Islam than Jesus did in the development of Christianity. Although Jesus was responsible for the main ethical and moral precepts of Christianity, St. Paul was the main developer of Christian theology, its principal proselytizer and the author of a large portion of the New Testament."

Muhammad*, however, was responsible for both the theology of Islam and its main ethical and moral principles. Additionally, he played the key role in proselytizing the new faith and establishing the religious practices of Islam. (For more details please read Michael H. Hart's book, *The 100: A Ranking Of The Most Influential Persons in History*)

(*Peace be upon him)

In the Name of Allah,
the Most Beneficent, the Most Merciful.

The Final Sermon of Prophet Muhammad★

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The Final Sermon of Prophet Muhammad ★

After praising and thanking God, the Prophet, may the mercy and blessings of God be upon him, said, "People, lend me an attentive ear, for I know not after this year, I shall ever be amongst you again. Therefore, listen to what I am saying to you very carefully and take these words to those who could not be present here today.

O people, just as you regard this month, this day, this city as sacred, so regard the life and property of every Muslim as a sacred trust. Return the good entrusted to you to their rightful owners. Hurt no one so that no one may hurt you. Remember that you will indeed meet your Lord, and He will indeed reckon your deeds. God has forbidden you to take usury (interest), therefore all interest obligation shall henceforth be waived. Your capital, however, is yours to keep. You will neither inflict nor suffer any inequity. God has judged that there shall be no interest, and that all the interest due to Al-Abbas ibn Abd'el Muttalib shall henceforth be waived.

Beware of Satan, for the safety of your religion. He has lost all hope that he will ever be able to lead you astray in big things, so beware of following him in small things.

O people, it is true that you have certain rights with regard to your women, but they also have rights over you. Remember that you have

taken them as your wives only under a trust from God and with His permission. If they abide by your right then to them belongs the right to be fed and clothed in kindness. Do treat your women well and be kind to them for they are your partners and committed helpers. And it is your right that they do not make friends with anyone of whom you do not approve, as well as never to be unchaste.

O People, listen to me in earnest, worship God, perform your five daily prayers, fast during Ramadan, and offer Zakat. Perform Hajj if you have the means.

All mankind is from Adam and Eve. An Arab has no superiority over a non-Arab, nor does a non-Arab have any superiority over an Arab; a white has no superiority over a black, nor does a black have any superiority over a white; except by piety and good action. Learn that every Muslim is a brother to every Muslim and that the Muslims constitute one brotherhood. Nothing shall be legitimate to a Muslim which belongs to a fellow Muslim unless it was given freely and willingly. Do not, therefore, do injustice to yourselves.

Remember, one day you will appear before God and answer for your deeds. So beware, do not stray from the path of righteousness after I am gone.

O people, no prophet or apostle will come after me, and no new faith will be born. Reason well, therefore, O people, and understand words which I convey to you. I leave

behind me two things, the Quran and my example, the Sunnah, and if you follow these you will never go astray.

All those who listen to me shall pass on my words to others and those to others again; and it may be that the last one understands my words better than those who listen to me directly. Be my witness, O God, that I have conveyed your message to your people."

Thus the beloved Prophet completed his final Sermon, and upon it, near the summit of Arafat, the revelation came down:

"...This day I have perfected your religion for you, completed My favour upon you, and have chosen Islam for you as your religion..." (Quran 5:3).

Even today the Last Sermon of Prophet Muhammad* is passed to every Muslim in every corner of the world through all possible means of communication. Muslims are reminded in Masajid and in lectures. Indeed the meanings found in this sermon are astounding, touching upon some of the most important rights God has over humanity, and humanity has over each other. Though the Prophet has left this world, his words are still living in our hearts.

★Peace be upon him

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