

What they said about Muhammed (Peace be upon Him)

All praise is due to Allah alone, and may Allah praise His prophet and render him safe from every evil.

The character of Prophet Muhammad (Peace be upon Him) not only dazzles Muslims, it also dazzles non-Muslim scholars and thinkers from the West and the East.

Before reading what is below, you may not have been aware of the statement of justice and equity uttered by numerous famous Westerners of note. Many a European or American is ignorant of these statement, about Prophet Muhammad (Peace be upon His) whether through deliberate prejudice or mere disinterest. If people respected the opinions of these people, perhaps their statement would help to break down the distorted image of Islam they have gathered from anti-Islamic criticism and the self destructive behavior of their religion. Below we will mention a few of such statement by Western scholars and thinkers from among themselves are more acceptable to the non-Muslim Westerner.(The statements in European English have been adapted to American spelling.)

1. **Washington Irving** said: ‘His military triumphs awakened neither pride nor vain glory as they would have done had they been affected by selfish purposes. In the time of his greatest power he was displeased if, on entering a room, any unusual testimonial of respect was shown to him.’(Mahomet and his Successors, London, 1909, pp.192-199)
2. **George Bernard Shaw** said: ‘I Have always held the religion of Muhammad in high estimation because of its wonderful vitality.It is the only religion which appears to possess that assimilating capability to the changing phases of existence which make itself appeal to every age- I have prophesized about the faith of Muhammad that it would be acceptable tomorrow as it is beginning to be acceptable to the Europe of today. Medieval ecclesiastics, either through ignorance or bigotry, painted Mohammedanism in the darkest hate both the man Muhammad and his religion. To them, Muhammad was an anti-Christ. I have studied him, the wonderful man, and in my opinion, he must be called the Savior of humanity – (‘The Genuine Islam,’ Vol 1, No. 8,1936.)
3. **Michael Hart** said: 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... It is this unparalleled influence which I Feel entitles Muhammad to be considered the most influential single figure in human history. (Michael Hart, The 100 – A ranking of the most influential persons in History, New York, 1978, pp.26-40.)

4. **Thomas Carlyle** said: 'A false man found a religion Why, a false man cannot build a brick house! If he does not know and follow truly the properties of mortar, burnt clay and what else be works in, it is no house that he makes, but a rubbish-heap. It will not stand for twelve centuries, to lodge a hundred and eighty millions; it will fall straightway. A man must conform himself to Nature's laws, be verily in communion with Nature and the truth of things, or Nature will answer him, "No, not at all!" Speciosities are specious- ah me! – a Cagliostro,(Alessandro, Conte di Cagliostro, a.k.a Giuseppe Balsamo, in *Mystic Rebels*, (a biography) by H.C. Schnur(1949).) many Cagliostros, prominent world-leaders, do not prosper by their quackery, for a day It is like a forged ban-note; they get it passed out of their worthless hands: others, not they, have to smart for it. Nature bursts up in fireflames; French Revolutions and such like, proclaiming with terrible like, proclaiming with terrible veracity that forged notes are forged. But of a great Man especially ; of him, I will venture to assert that it is incredible he should have been other than true. It seems to me the primary foundation of him, and of all than can lie him, this,'(Thomas Carlyle, *On Heroes, Hero Worship, and the Heroic in History*, London, pp.287-292.)

He also said: 'It goes greatly against the impostor theory, the fact that he lived in this entirely unexceptionable way, till the heat of his years was done. He was forty before he talked of any mission from Heaven. All his irregularities, real and supposed, date from after his fiftieth year, when the good Kadajah died. All his "ambition," seemingly had been, hitherto, to live an honest life; his "fame," the mere good opinion of neighbors that knew him, had been sufficient hitherto. Not till he was already getting old, the purient heat of his life all burnt out and peace growing to be the chief thing this world could give him, did he start on the "career of ambition;" and, belying all his past character and existence, set up as a wretched empty charlatan to acquire what he could now no longer enjoy! For my share, I have no faith whatever in that.'(*On Heroes, Hero Worship, and the Heroic in History*)

5. **Annie Beasant** said: 'It is impossible for anyone who studies the life and character of the great Prophet of Arabia, who knew how he taught and how he lived, to feel anything but reverence for the 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 reread them, a new way of admiration, a new sense of reverence for that mighty Arabian teacher.(Annie Beasant, *The Life and Teachings of Muhammad*)
6. **Veccia Vaglieri** said: 'Throughout the years of his youth, Mohammad (Peace be upon Him) only married one woman, even though the sexuality of man is at its peak during this period. Although he lived in the society he lived in, wherein plural marriage was considered the general rule, and divorce was very easy- he only married one woman, although she was older than him. He was a faithful

husband to her for twenty-five years, and did not marry another woman, except after her death. He at that time was fifty years old. He married each of his wives thereafter for a social or political purpose; such that he wanted to honor the pious women, or wanted the loyalty of certain tribes so that Islam would spread amongst them. All the wives Muhammad (Peace be upon Him) married were neither virgin, nor were they young or beautiful; except for A'ishah (Razi allah ho anho). So how can anyone claim that he was a lustful man? He was a man, not a god. His wish to have a son may have led him to marry; for the children that he had from Khadijah all died. Moreover, who undertook the financial responsibilities of his large family, without having large resources? He was just and fair towards them all and did not differentiate between them at all. He followed the practice of previous Prophets such as Moses (assalam alaihu), of whose plural marriages no one objected to. Is the reason why people object to the plural marriage of Muhammad (Peace be upon Him) the fact that we know the minute details of his life, and know so little of the details of the lives of the Prophets before him? (Veccia Vaglieri, In Defence of Islam)

7. **Alphonse de Lamartine** said: ‘ Never has a man set for himself, voluntarily, a more sublime aim, since this aim was superhuman; to subvert superstitions which had been imposed between man and his Creator, to render God unto man and unto God; to restore the rational and sacred idea of divinity amidst the chaos of the material and disfigured gods of idolatry, then existing Never has a man undertaken a work so far beyond human power with so feeble means, for he (Muhammed) had in the conception as well as in the execution of such a great design, no other instrument than himself and no other aid except a handful of men living in a corner of the desert . Finally, never has a man accomplished such a huge and lasting revolution in the world, because. In less than two centuries after its appearance, Islam, in faith and in arms, reigned over the whole of Aabia, and conquered, in God’s name, Persia Khorasan , Transoxania, Western India Syria, Egypt, Abyssinia, all the know continent of Northern Africa, numerous islands of the Mediterranean Sea, Spain, and part of Gaul. “ If greatness of purpose, smallness of means, and astonishing results are the three criteria of a human genius, who could dare compare any great man in history with Muhammad.” (Alphonse de LaMartaine in ‘Histoire de la Turquie,’ Paris, 1854.
8. **Edmund Burke** said: ‘The Mohammedan law, which is binding on all from the crowned head to the meanest subject, is a law interwoven with a system of the wisest, the most learned and the most enlightened world.’ (Impeachment of Warren Hastings, in The English Statesman and Orator.
9. **Stanley Lane-pool** said: ‘He was the most faithful protector of those he protected, the sweetest and most agreeable in conversation. Those who saw were suddenly filled with reverence; those who came near him loved him; they who

described him would say, "I have never seen his like either before or after." He was of great taciturnity, but when he spoke it was with emphasis and deliberation, and no one could forget what he said.' (Stanley Lane-pool, the Speeches and Table-talk of the Prophet Muhammad, London, 1882, pp.46-47

10. **Maurice Gaudefroy** said: 'Muhammad was a prophet, not a theologian, a fact so evident that one is loath to state it. The men who surrounded him and constituted the influential elite of the primitive Muslim community, contented themselves with obeying the law that he had proclaimed in the name of Allah and with following his teaching and example.' (Demombynes, Muslim Institutions, London, 1950, p.20)
11. **Reverend Bosworth Smith** said: 'If ever a man ruled by a right divine, it was Muhammad, for he had all the powers without their supports. He cared not for the dressings of power. The simplicity of his private life was in keeping with his public life.' (Reverend Bosworth Smith in Muhammad and Muhammadanism, London, 1874.)
12. **Dr. Maurice Bucaille**, said in his book: "The Qur'an, and Modern Science": ' A totally objective examination of it [the Qur'an] in the light of modern knowledge, leads us to recognize the agreement between the two, as has been already noted on repeated occasions. It makes us deem it quite unthinkable for a man of Muhammad's time to have been the author of such statements, on account of the state of knowledge in his day. Such considerations are part of what gives the Qur'anic Revelation its unique place, and forces the impartial scientist to admit his inability to provide an explanation which calls solely upon materialistic reasoning.'
13. **Dr. Gustav Weil** said: 'Muhammad was a shining example to his people. His character was pure and stainless. His house, his dress, his food – they were characterized by a rare simplicity. So unpretentious was he that he would receive from his companions no special mark of reverence, nor would he accept any service from his slave which he could do for himself. He was accessible to all at all times. He visited the sick and was full of sympathy for all. Unlimited was his benevolence and generosity as also was his anxious care for welfare of the community.' (Dr. Gustav Weil in 'History of the Islamic Peoples')
14. **Edward Montet** said: "Islam is a religion that is essentially rationalistic in the widest sense of this term, considered etymologically and historically ... the teachings of the prophet, the Qur'an, has invariably kept its place as the fundamental starting point, and the dogma of unity of God has always been proclaimed therein with a grandeur a majesty, an invariable purity and with anote of sure conviction, which it is hard to find surpassed outside the pale of Islam... A

creed so precise, so stripped of all theological complexities and consequently so accessible to the ordinary understanding might be expected to possess, and does indeed possess, a marvelous power of winning its way into the consciences of men.' (Edward Montet, 'La Propagande Chretienne et ses Adversaires Musulmans,' Paris 1890. (Aso in T.W. Arnold in 'The Preaching of Islam,' London 1913.))
