

# Who is he & what is his role?

The Prophet Muhammed (Peace Be Upon Him) unlike most Prophets, was sent for all mankind to benefit from. His message is preserved and passed on through the Quran and the Sunnah. Muslims regard him as being the perfect role model and follow his example on how to live a virtuous life.

# Why so many prophets?

A core belief in Islam is that God sent thousands of Prophets to mankind throughout history. Every nation and people has received at least one prophet to help guide them towards worshipping God. However, sometimes this message would get corrupted, distorted, lost or forgotten. This is why God sent down Prophets to help revive and restore this message to their people to help guide them back on the straight path.

An important belief in Islam is that Muslims respect and believe in all of the Prophets that have been sent to us by God. Abraham, Moses, Noah and Jesus are all part of this special group of individuals, with the Prophet Muhammed (PBUH) representing the final Prophet to be sent to mankind.

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# MUHAMMAD

The Prophet

PBUH



## Most influential man

The author Michael H Hart remarked that the Prophet Muhammed (PBUH) was the only man who was supremely successful both on the secular and religious level. Certainly fourteen centuries after his death, his legacy endures in the billions of Muslims who continue to praise his name throughout the world. Prophet Muhammed (PBUH) was responsible for both the theology of Islam and its main ethical and moral principles. In addition, he played the key role in establishing the religious practices of Islam. Through revelations people recorded and remembered word for word the messages that Allah had sent down. After his death they were all collected through a method to filter out the right from the wrong. After his death, the verses were collected together and compiled to form what is known as the Qur'an.

## First revelation

The first verse of revelation to be sent down to Muhammed (PBUH) occurred while he was in solitude in the cave on Mount Hira. The Angel Gabriel seized him in a close embrace and uttered a single command: 'Read!' The prophet Muhammed (PBUH) replied: 'I cannot read!' He was commanded twice more to read, with each response the Prophet replied with the same answer. The Angel Gabriel finally grasped him with incredible force and then released him. The first verse of the Quran was thus revealed: **"Read in the name of your Lord who created - created man from a clot. Read: for your Lord is Most Bountiful, who teaches by the pen, teaches man that which he knew not."** (Quran 96:1-5).

# Character

By nature he was gentle and kind hearted, always inclined to be gracious and to overlook the faults of others. He reportedly said "Show gentleness! For if gentleness is found in something, it beautifies it, and when it is taken out from anything, it makes it deficient." He was extremely polite and courteous and always greeted people with a smile. He was regarded as being a humble and compassionate man, who lived a very austere lifestyle despite his high standing in society. In the cause of justice he was resolute and firm, standing up for the rights of the indigent and oppressed. He was an eloquent and skilled orator, able to inspire crowds with his speech. He extended friendship to his neighbours and constantly listened to the complaints and request of his people. He was known as a skilled arbitrator and was famous for resolving disputes between different tribes and clans.

**"God has sent me as an apostle so that I may demonstrate perfection of character, refinement of manners, and superiority in behavior."**

There was no type of household work too low or too undignified for him. Aiysha (ra) has stated, "He always joined in household work and would at times mend his clothes, repair his shoes and sweep the floor. He would milk, tether, and feed his animals and do the household shopping."

## Miracles performed

Prophet Muhammed (PBUH) performed a number of miracles that were bestowed upon him by God, to establish proof of his prophet hood. Muslims regard the Noble Quran as being his greatest miracle. It is regarded as an eternal miracle of the Prophet, one that is relevant for all people and all time. It's remarkable linguistic perfection and inimitability, as well as the numerous historical, archaeological and scientific phenomena that are mentioned in the Quran as being proof of its divine origin. Another well known miracle of the Prophet was the 'Night Journey', during which he ascended to heaven from the Dome of the Rock in Jerusalem. The five daily prayers were mandated for Muslims after this journey.

The miracle of the Quran, has inspired billions of Muslims around the world to follow its commandments. It moves people to tears when recited and is a source of solace and comfort when feeling unhappy or anxious. Through it Muslims receive spiritual guidance and nourishment.

