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# Muhammad (Critical Lives)



## Synopsis

Muhammad was a religious visionary and political leader. Raised in the harsh Arabian Peninsula and orphaned while still a child, this unlikely leader and military genius received a calling to transform his society from a collection of raiding tribes into one of the world's most progressive societies. His message of monotheism and righteousness motivated an entire people to abandon idolatry and spread the word of God to surrounding nations. Although he was a military genius, his greatest accomplishments came from the religion he preached: Islam, which called its adherents to lead a life of prayer, charity, and contemplation. The second largest religion in the world, both Islam's prophet and its values are today often misunderstood by adherents and outsiders alike. This concise, informative biography explores: Muhammad's background and boyhood, as well as the culture and society in which he lived A look at Muhammad as a family man, and how his personal life was a testament to his high regard for women Muhammad's mission as a prophet and his new religion's philosophy on topics ranging from monotheism to interfaith relations The Qur'an and how it was revealed, how Muslims view it in their religious life, and the concept of Jihad from Muhammad's perspective

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Yahya Emerick has written a masterful and gripping account of the incredible life led by the Prophet Muhammad (PBUH). His ability to keep the reader interested at all times is the key to this book. He keeps matters simple yet accurate without getting lost in the overwhelming topic literature that exists out there. Just like another reviewer mentioned earlier I too felt like I was right there with the Prophet

(pbuh) and his Companions. The tone and the content are consistent and give a fair, balanced view of the background that led to many events. A classic example of the author's writing ability is displayed in the inspiring and almost poetic narration of Al-Miraj and Al-Isra. The book also maintains its balance while educating the reader regarding the Prophet's personal, spiritual, political and uniquely influential life. The only section of the book that deviates from this incredible uniformity stretches roughly from page 154-160. The content here regarding the prelude to the Battle of Badr (missed attempts at attacking Abu Sufyan's loaded Meccan caravan) and the Prophet's actions is rather questionable in light of the authentic material available on the matter. This very small but crucial part of the book seems out of place as it ascribes actions far less than prophetic to one (the Prophet) who had such a close relationship with God and His angel Gabriel. Overall this is the finest account of the Prophet's life that I've read so far; far more interesting than Martin Lings' book and far superior to the book from Karen Armstrong. Highly recommended.

I really wanted to like this book. After reading Karen Armstrong and Martin Lings, I picked this one up for something more. However, in page 64, and in page 119, the author repeatedly mentions Ali as Muhammad's nephew. Not only this kind of errors unacceptable, they are down right misleading. After the first occurrence, I dismissed the mention as a mere error, however, when I encountered the same error second time, I decided to put down the book. I am not an expert, however, even my inexperienced eyes could pick this one up. I am not sure how many more errors are there in this book. I appreciate the author's efforts for writing this book. However, the book falls short of scholarly references, and fact checking. If this is an editing issue, please, please fix this.

I have Martin Ling's book too but whenever I open and try to read it, I get bored and quickly put it aside. But the moment I opened this one, I just had to read it to end. There is something about the way he writes. It is very simple and very magnetic. It is a great book for those who do not know and a good refresher for those who already know. It takes you from the 21 century and put you right there in the seventh century. The other good thing about it is it connects some Quran's verses with the historical context and circumstance of its revelations. And that clarifies where, how, and under what condition some verses of Quran were revealed. I highly recommend this book.

Beautifully written in a story like formate, which was easy to follow and visualize. I would highly recommend to all readers interested in this topic!

This book is at the same level as Haekal's seminal work on Prophet Muhammad (pbuh). My wife and I found it very easy to read and very inspiring. I almost cried when I read the book descriptions on the ordeals that the Prophet went through leading to the Hijrah. For Muslims, this book is full of info on not commonly known aspects of the Prophet life. For non-Muslims, because of his unique background, the author wrote lengthy and clear explanations on many issues sometimes not clearly explained in other books. Definitely a must read for everyone!

I bought this book randomly without knowing that it would turn out to be so good and I feel sorry that not many people know about it although it is as good as the one by Martin Lings. As the other reviewer has said, it actually feels like you are living in Arabia during the time of the Prophet as you read his story. I would recommend this book to anyone who wants to know about the life of the prophet Mohammed (pbuh) and who doesn't want to get bored of the regular prose of other history books.

I thought it was a very good book. I appreciated the analogies and details. I really felt like I was there and could see the events of the prophets life unfolding. Parts of the book actually made me cry. Very good. Thank you.

Must Read: This is a definite "Must Read" for all Muslims, not just converts. He writes with sensitivity beyond what one usually finds in a biographical work. I did find, in reading this, many of the passages in the Quran became clearer. I had set out to read only religious material during the month of Ramadan and this was the first book I chose. After reading it, through my local library, I immediately went into .com and bought the book. I did this with the next book I read also. That is "In The Footsteps Of The Prophet." If you want to see what I thought of that one, then check out my review when they send me the request to do so. :) Br. Emerick is a marvelous writer. I am now going to write my review of his "An Idiots Guide To Islam" Insha Allah. YUP, bought that too!

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