

Hazrat Muhammad (PBUH) in light of the golden words of Non Muslims Scholars

Zafar Hussain ⁱ

Muhammad Ayaz ⁱⁱ

Abstract

Friends like and foes dislike is one of the facts of the world. It is because people deal; friends with politeness, decency, decorousness and civility while foes with rudeness, harshness, insolence and impudence. But as exceptions are always there, the highly improved and standardized behaviour gives similar likeness to an individual in all the people irrespective of the relationships.

The behaviour of the Prophet of Islam Muhammad (PBUH) has made such great impacts and left imprints to the rest of the world which compelled the intellectuals of the world to express their opinions in the golden words regarding the greatness of the Holy prophet Muhammad (PBUH). Some of the common peoples around the world due to their ignorance and illiteracy have expressed their opinions against the personality and greatness of the Prophet of Islam (PBUH) but the fact behind their opinions is their biasness and denial of the truth that is accepted by the intellectuals of the world. Those ignorant and illiterate people might not have enough time to study the complete life of the Holy Prophet (PBUH) hence this article is presented to them for opening their eyes and minds through the opinions of the well known intellectuals of the world regarding the greatness of the Holy Prophet Muhammad (PBUH).

The opinions by the intellectuals are expressed about the different qualities; talents and temperamental genius of Holy prophet Muhammad (PBUH) are as follow.

1. The temperament of the Holy Prophet Muhammad (PBUH)

Reverend Bosworth Smith

"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 Caesar without the legions of Caesar, without a standing army, without a bodyguard, without a police force, without a fixed revenue. If ever a man ruled by a right divine, it was Muhammad, for he had all the powers without their

i Assistant Professor, Department of Islamic Theology, Islamia College University, Peshawar

ii Assistant Professor, Department of Islamic Studies, Agriculture University, Peshawar

supports. He cared not for the dressings of power. The simplicity of his private life was in keeping with his public life."

"In Mohammadanism everything is different here. Instead of the shadowy and the mysterious, we have history... We know of the external history of Muhammad....while for his internal history after his mission had been proclaimed, we have a book absolutely unique in its origin, in its preservation...on the Substantial authority of which no one has ever been able to cast a serious doubt¹".

2. About the Character of Hazrat Muhammad (PBUH)

W. Montgomery Watt

His readiness to undergo persecution for his beliefs, the high moral character of the men who believed in him and looked up to him as a leader, and the greatness of his ultimate achievement - all argue his fundamental integrity. To suppose Muhammad an impostor raises more problems that it solves. Moreover, none of the great figures of history is so poorly appreciated in the West as Muhammad.... Thus, not merely must we credit Muhammad with essential honesty and integrity of purpose, if we are to understand him at all; if we are to correct the errors we have inherited from the past, we must not forget the conclusive proof is a much stricter requirement than a show of plausibility, and in a matter such as this only to be attained with difficulty².

D. G. Hogarth

Serious or trivial, his daily behavior has instituted a canon which millions observe this day with conscious memory. No one regarded by any section of the human race as Perfect Man has ever been imitated so minutely. The conduct of the founder of Christianity has not governed the ordinary life of his followers. Moreover, no founder of a religion has left on so solitary an eminence as the Muslim apostle³.

Prof. K. S. Ramakrishna Rao

An honest man, as the saying goes, is the noblest work of God, Mohammad was more than honest. He was human to the marrow of his bones. Human sympathy, human love was the music of his soul. To serve man, to elevate man, to purify man, to educate man, in a word to humanize man - this was the object of his mission, the be-all and end all of his life. In thought, in

word, in action he had the good of humanity as his sole inspiration, his sole guiding principle⁴.

Professor Will Durant,

"If we evaluate this great man's effect on people, we have to say that prophet Muhammad (PBUH) is one of the greatest men in the human history. He sought to raise the knowledge level and ethic of people who had become barbarized due to highly intensive warmth and drought of desert. He attained such a success that is more than any other world reformers' success. We can hardly find a man who has fulfilled all of his religious causes. He succeeded since he believed in religion. He unified the infidel outspread tribes to organize the Ummah (a unified nation). He revealed a simple, vivid and strong creed with spiritualities based on bravery and self-esteem, more valuable than Judaism, Christianity and an old religion of Arabia. The next generation of the Ummah triumphs over enemies in 100 battles, created a great emperor during a century and in the contemporary age is a strong force that dominates half of the world⁵."

Jawaharlal Nehru

Religion publicized by Islam's prophet was welcomed by the neighboring countries due to its simplicity, honesty, and tasteful of democracy and equivalence⁶.

French thinker

"The Holy Prophet Muhammad indubitably was a great man. He was a mighty conqueror, a wise legislator, a just king and a pious prophet. He fulfilled the greatest possible role in front of ordinary people on the earth⁷."

3. *Personal life of Holy Prophet Muhammad (PBUH)*

Lamartine

The world has had its share of great personalities. But these were one-sided figures who distinguished themselves in only one or two fields, such as religious thought or military leadership. The lives and teachings of these great personalities are shrouded in the mists 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 this man The Prophet Muhammad accomplished so much in so many fields of human thought and behavior in the fullest blaze of human history. Every detail of his private life and public utterances has been accurately

documented and faithfully preserved to our day The authenticity of the records so preserved are vouched for not only by the faithful followers but even by his prejudiced critics. Muhammad was a religious teacher, a social reformer, a moral guide, an administrative colossus, a faithful friend, a wonderful companion, a devoted husband, a loving father-all in one. No other man in history ever excelled or equaled him in any of these different aspects of life- but it was only for the selfless personality of Muhammad to achieve such incredible perfection⁸.

Mahatma Gandhi

I wanted to know the best of the life of one who holds today an undisputed sway over the hearts of millions of mankind.... I became more than ever 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 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 that great life⁹.

The Encyclopaedia Britannica

A mass of detail in the early sources show that [Muhammad] was an honest and upright man who had gained the respect and loyalty of others who were like-wise honest and upright men¹⁰.

Diwan Chand Sharma

Mohammad was the soul of kindness, and his influence was felt and never forgotten by those around him¹¹.

Edward Gibbon

The greatest crime, the greatest 'sin' of Mohammad in the eyes of the Christian West is that he did not allow himself to be slaughtered, to be 'crucified' by his enemies. He only defended himself, his family and his followers; and finally vanquished his enemies. Mohammad's success is the Christians' gall of disappointment: He did not believe in any vicarious sacrifices for the sins of others¹².

John William Draper

The towering personality of Muhammad has left bright and indelible imprints on all mankind¹³.

Sir Thomas Carlyle

A man of truth and fidelity, true in what he did, in what he speaks and thought - this is the only sort of speech worth speaking.

I like Muhammad for his hypocrisy-free nature with clear and sound words he addresses the Roman Tsars and Kings of Persia. He guides them to what he loves for them in this life and in the eternal life¹⁴.

Stanley Lane Poole

He was the Messenger of the One True God: And never to his life's end did he forget for a moment who he was! He was one of those happy few who have attained the supreme joy of making one great truth their very life-spring.

Mohammad was an enthusiast in the noblest sense¹⁵.

Pringle Kennedy

The height of human achievement and glory, Mohammad¹⁶.

Hercules, the Great Roman Emperor

If I were in his presence, I would wash his feet¹⁷.

4. About the Leadership Qualities of the Holy prophet Muhammad (PBUH)

Sir George Bernard Shaw

"If any religion had the chance of ruling over England, nay Europe within the next hundred years, it could be Islam."

"I have always held the religion of Muhammad in high estimation because of its wonderful vitality. It is the only religion which appears to me to possess that assimilating capacity to the changing phase of existence which can make itself appeal to every age. I have studied him - the wonderful man and in my opinion for from being an anti-Christ, he must be called the Savior of Humanity."

"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 Muhammad that it would be acceptable to the Europe of tomorrow as it is beginning to be acceptable to the Europe of today¹⁸."

Michael Hart

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 secular and religious level. ...It is probable that the relative influence of Muhammad on Islam has been larger than the combined influence of Jesus Christ and St. Paul on Christianity. ...It is this unparalleled combination of secular and religious influence which I feel entitles Muhammad to be considered the most influential single figure in human history¹⁹.

Charles Stuart Mills

Deeply read in the volume of nature, though extremely ignorant of letters, his mind could expand into controversy with the wisest of his enemies or contract itself to the apprehension of meanest of his disciples. His simple eloquence was rendered impressive by a manner of mixed dignity and elegance, by the expression of a countenance where the awfulness of his majesty was so well tempered by an amiable sweetness, that it exerted emotions of veneration and love. He was gifted with that authoritative air or genius which alike influences the learned and commands the illiterate²⁰.

Dr. William Draper

Four years after the death of Justinian, A.D. 569, was born in Mecca, in Arabia, the man who, of all men, has exercised the greatest influence upon the human race... To be the religious head of many empires, to guide the daily life of one-third of the human race, may perhaps justify the title of a Messenger of God²¹.

J.W.H. Stab

Judged by the smallness of the means at his disposal, and the extent and permanence of the work that he accomplished, his name in world's history shines with a more specious luster than that of the Prophet of Makkah. To the impulse which he gave numberless dynasties have owed their existence, fair cities and stately palaces and temples have arisen, and wide provinces became obedient to the Faith.

And beyond all this, his words have governed the belief of generations, been accepted as their rule of life, and their certain guide to the world to come. At a thousand shrines the voices of

the faithful invoke blessings on him, whom they esteem the very Prophet of God, the seal of the Apostles.... Judged by the standards to human renown, the glory of what mortal can compare with his²²?

Pierre Simon Laplace

"Although we do not believe in Divine religions, Hazrat Muhammad (PBUH)'s ritual and his precepts are two social exemplars for humanity's life. So we confess that the advent of his religion and its wise rules have been great and valuable. Therefore we are not needless of Muhammad's instructions²³."

Jules Masserman

Perhaps the greatest leader of all times was Mohammad, who combined all the three functions. To a lesser degree Moses did the same²⁴.

James Gavin

Among leaders who have made the greatest impact through ages, I would consider Muhammad before Jesus Christ²⁵.

4. Military Abilities of Holy Prophet Muhammad (PBUH)

Washington Irving

His military triumphs awakened no pride nor vain glory as they would have done had they been effected by selfish purposes. In the time of his greatest power he maintained the same simplicity of manner and appearance as in the days of his adversity. So far from affecting regal state, he was displeased if, on entering a room, any unusual testimonial of respect was shown to him²⁶.

Edward Gibbon

The greatest success of Mohammad's life was affected by sheer moral force without the stroke of a sword²⁷.

Pandit Gyanandra Dev Sharma Shastri

The critics are blind. They cannot see that the only 'sword' Muhammad wielded was the sword of mercy, compassion, friendship and forgiveness - the sword that conquers enemies and purifies their hearts. His sword was sharper than the sword of steel. But the biased critics of Islam are prejudicial and partisan, who are narrow minded and whose eyes are covered by a veil of ignorance. They see fire instead of light, ugliness instead of beauty and evil instead of good. They

distort and present every good quality as a great vice. It reflects their own depravity²⁸.

Sikh Journalist

In the beginning the Prophet's enemies made life difficult for him and his followers. So the Prophet asked his followers to leave their homes and migrate to Medina. He preferred migration to fighting his own people, but when oppression went beyond the pale of tolerance he took up his sword in self-defense. Those who believe religion can be spread by force are fools who neither know the ways of religion nor the ways of the world. They are proud of this belief because they are a long, long way away from the Truth²⁹.

5. About the family life of Hazrat Muhammad (PBUH)

Gibbon

The good sense of Muhammad despised the pomp of royalty. The Apostle of God submitted to the menial offices of the family; he kindled the fire; swept the floor; milked the ewes; and mended with his own hands his shoes and garments. Disdaining the penance and merit of a hermit, he observed without effort of vanity the abstemious diet of an Arab³⁰.

6. About Social Life of Holy Prophet (PBUH)

Lane-Poole

He was the most faithful protector of those he protected, the sweetest and most agreeable in conversation. Those who saw him 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...³¹.

W.C. Taylor

So great was his liberality to the poor that he often left his household unprovided, nor did he content himself with relieving their wants, he entered into conversation with them, and expressed a warm sympathy for their sufferings. He was a firm friend and a faithful ally³².

Dr. Gustav Weil

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 and 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 the welfare of the community³³.

Washington Irving

He was sober and abstemious in his diet and a rigorous observer of fasts. He indulged in no magnificence of apparel, the ostentation of a petty mind; neither was his simplicity in dress affected but a result of real disregard for distinction from so trivial a source. In his private dealings he was just. He treated friends and strangers, the rich and poor, the powerful and weak, with equity, and was beloved by the common people for the affability with which he received them, and listened to their complaints.

His military triumphs awakened neither pride nor vain glory, as they would have done had they been affected for selfish purposes. In the time of his greatest power he maintained the same simplicity of manners and appearance as in the days of his adversity. So far from affecting a regal state, he was displeased if, on entering a room, any unusual testimonials of respect were shown to him. If he aimed at a universal dominion, it was the dominion of faith; as to the temporal rule which grew up in his hands, as he used it without ostentation, so he took no step to perpetuate it in his family³⁴.

James Michener

"No other religion in history spread so rapidly as Islam. The West has widely believed that this surge of religion was made possible by the sword. But no modern scholar accepts this idea, and the Qur'an is explicit in the support of the freedom of conscience."

"Muhammad, the inspired man who founded Islam, was born about A.D. 570 into an Arabian tribe that worshiped idols. Orphaned at birth, he was always particularly solicitous of the poor and needy, the widow and the orphan, the slave and the downtrodden. At twenty he was already a successful businessman, and soon became director of camel caravans for a wealthy widow. When he reached twenty-five his employer recognizing his merits, proposed marriage. Even though she was fifteen years older, he married her and as long as she lived remained a devoted husband."

"Like almost every major prophet before him, Muhammad fought shy of serving as the transmitter of God's word sensing his own inadequacy. But the Angel commanded 'Read'. So far as we know, Muhammad was unable to read or write, but he began to dictate those inspired words which would soon revolutionize a large segment of the earth: "There is one God"."

"In all things Muhammad was profoundly practical. When his beloved son Ibrahim died, an eclipse occurred and rumors of God's personal condolence quickly arose. Whereupon Muhammad is said to have announced, 'An eclipse is a phenomenon of nature. It is foolish to attribute such things to the death or birth of a human being'."

"At Muhammad's own death an attempt was made to deify him, but the man who was to become his administrative successor killed the hysteria with one of the noblest speeches in religious history: 'If there are any among you who worshiped Muhammad, he is dead. But if it is God you worshiped, He lives forever'.³⁵"

Prof. K. S. Ramakrishna Rao

The principles of universal brotherhood and doctrine of the equality of mankind which he proclaimed represents one very great contribution of Mohammad to the social uplift of humanity. All great religions have preached the same doctrine but the prophet of Islam had put this theory into actual practice and its value will be fully recognized, perhaps centuries hence, when international consciousness being awakened, racial prejudices may disappear and greater brotherhood of humanity come into existence³⁶.

Conclusion

The intellectual proponents around the world quite clearly explore the personality, character, abilities and qualities of the Holy Prophet of Islam Muhammad (PBUH). The temperamental beauty of Muhammad (PBUH) got magnetic attraction for the people around him with in his life and attracted even more people after his life span in the world. The character of the Holy Prophet (PBUH) made him center of gravity for the groups of the people in the surrounding territories. The simplicity in outlook, decency in the behavior, dignity in the manners and reliability in relationships give an immense glorification to his personality. Moreover, the intellectuals have globally deemed other such qualities of the Holy Prophet (PBUH) which make him a complete package for

the social, political, familial, religious, educational, ethical and economical dimensions of life. The aforementioned opinions of the intellectuals would compel the opponents of the Holy Prophet (PBUH) to become sanguine and unbiased.

References

- 1 Reverend Bosworth Smith, *Muhammad and Muhammadanism*, London, 1874.
- 2 W. Montgomery Watt, *Muhammad at Mecca*, Oxford. 1953
- 3 G. Hogarth, *Arabia*, Oxford University Press 26 MAY 1922. Page 23
- 4 Prof. K. S. Ramakrishna Rao "Islam and Modern age", Hyderabad, March 1978
- 5 Professor Will Durant, *comments on charismatic personality of Islam's prophet*
- 6 Jawaharlal Nehru, *A Look at the World History*, 1934
- 7 French thinker, *Voltaire and Islam*, 1736
- 8 Lamartine: *Histoire de la Turquie*, Paris, 1854 Vol.11, pp 276-277
- 9 Mahatma Gandhi, *Young India*, 1924
- 10 *The Encyclopedia Britannica*, 12th edition
- 11 Diwan Chand Sharma, *The Prophets of the East*, Calcutta 1935, pp. 12
- 12 Edward Gibbon, *The history and decline of Roman empire*, 1776
- 13 John William Draper, *The Intellectual Development of Europe*, Harper & Brothers, 1863
- 14 Sir Thomas Carlyle, *British author*
- 15 Stanley Lane Poole, *British Orientalist and Archaeologist*
- 16 Pringle Kennedy, *Arabian Society at the Time of Mohammad*
- 17 Hercules, *the Great Roman Emperor*
- 18 Sir George Bernard Shaw, *The Genuine Islam*, Vol. 1, No. 8, 1936
- 19 Michael Hart, *The 100*, New York, 1978
- 20 Charles Stuart Mills, *History of Mohammadanism*
- 21 Dr. William Draper, *History of Intellectual Development of Europe*
- 22 J.W.H. Stab, *Islam and its Founder*
- 23 Pierre Simon Laplace, *Islam Doctrine journal*, May of 1352, p. 69
- 24 Jules Masserman, *Who Were Histories Great Leaders*, TIME Magazine, July 15, 1974
- 25 James Gavin, *Speeches of a U.S. Army General*
- 26 Washington Irving, *Life of Muhammad*, New York, 1920
- 27 Edward Gibbon, *The Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire*, 1823
- 28 Pandit Gyanandra Dev Sharma Shastri
- 29 Sikh Journalist, *Nawan Hindustan*
- 30 Edward Gibbon, *The Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire*, 1823
- 31 Lane-Poole, *Speeches and Table Talk of the Prophet Muhammad*
- 32 W.C. Taylor, *The History of Muhammadanism and its Sects*
- 33 Dr. Gustav Weil, *History of the Islamic Peoples*
- 34 Washington Irving, *Mahomet and His Successors*
- 35 James Michener, *Islam: The Misunderstood Religion*, Reader's Digest, May 1955, pp. 68-70.
- 36 Prof. K. S. Ramakrishna Rao, "Islam and Modern age", Hyderabad, March 1978.