

*The Life of The
Last Prophet*



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This edition first published in 1996
by Mountain of Light
PO Box 7404 London N7 8JQ UK

British Library Cataloguing in Publication Data
A catalogue record of this book is available
from The British Library
Library of Congress Catalog Card Number
96-76107

ISBN 1900675 00 5

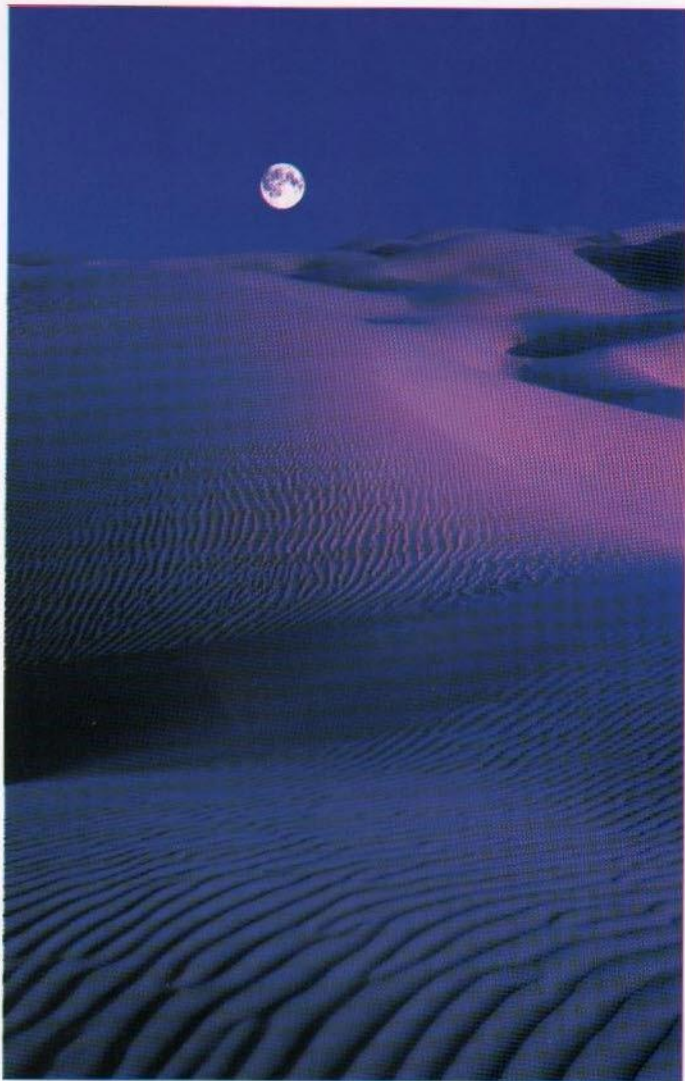
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Printing of this edition supervised by
Abdul Malik Mujahid

DARUSSALAM
Publishers & Distributors
Riyadh, Saudi Arabia
Tel: 00-966-1-4033962.4043432

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Introduction

'WE HAVE SENT YOU (O MUHAMMAD)
ONLY AS A MERCY FOR ALL THE WORLDS.'

QUR'AN: THE PROPHETS (21):107

THE BIRTH of the Prophet of Islam, peace and blessings be upon him, and the dawn of his prophethood was not the birth of a Prophet alone, nor was it the rise of a new nation, nor yet the beginning of a new era. It was the genesis of a new world which was destined to last till the end of time when all shall be returned to their Lord and Master. The influence of Muhammad's prophethood is visible in everything that the world now contains, the beliefs and patterns of thought, culture and civilization, morals and modes of living, knowledge and learning. In short, all spheres of human endeavour.¹

Strange indeed, therefore, that so many people on the face of the earth today have little or no knowledge of the life and mission of this last great Prophet of God

and his historical impact on the world we live in. It is for this reason that it was decided in all humility to try and compile a brief account of the major highlights of his biography for the general public.

Endless are the words which have been spoken to describe his noble life and personality, but the aim of this presentation is to keep the story as authentic and simple as possible. It is intended as an introduction for those perhaps approaching the subject of the Prophet for the first time. I believe no one can fail to be moved or inspired by the magnificence of his radiant character: even Muhammad's greatest enemies had to admit that no fault could be found in his behaviour or integrity. In addition, those Western scholars and historical figures who over the centuries were brave enough to gaze with an honest heart at the miracle of Muhammad's life and achievements, have testified to this. Some of their observations are remarkable. For example, George Bernard Shaw said:

*"I believe that if a man like him were to assume the dictatorship of the modern world, he would succeed in solving the problems in a way that would bring the much needed peace and happiness. Europe is beginning to be enamoured of the creed of Muhammad. In the next century it may go further in recognizing the utility of that creed in solving its problems."*²

Lamartine in his lengthy tribute to the Prophet wrote:

*"If greatness of purpose, smallness of means and astounding results are the three criteria of human genius, who could claim to compare any great man in modern history with Muhammad?"*³

Perhaps most telling of all, Gandhi wrote the following about the Prophet of Islam:

*"I become more than ever convinced that it was not the sword that won a place for Islam in those days. 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 and 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."*⁴

This very concise account of 'The Life of the Last Prophet' can in no way take the place of those precious volumes – the product of many years of devoted research – which a great constellation of scholars and historians, such as Ibn Ishaq and Ibn Hisham, have contributed to the understanding and study of the subject; nor does it attempt to. My only hope is simply that it will be able to kindle a spark of light and understanding and inspire the seeker of truth to proceed further along the Way of Guidance that leads to God and earns His good pleasure and eternal mercy.

I seek forgiveness from Allah the Most High for any mistake or error made in the execution of this task,

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beseeking Him for His pardon; praying for the guidance of those who may hear it and choose, by the will of God, to follow the noble Messenger.

All praise is due to Allah, Lord of the worlds and may He send His choicest salutations and peace on the Seal of the Prophets, Muhammad, and upon his Family and Companions together, *Amin*.

YUSUF ISLAM 1416H/1995CE

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS:

Khurram Murad; Dr. Muhammad Isa Waley; Dr. Syed Mutawalli Darsh; Sara Sharif; Dr. Mirza Azam Baig; Ghulam Sarwar; Dr. Farouk S. Shaheen; Shaykh Suhaib Hasan; Muhammad Morgan; Tayyeb Shah; Rashid Ayyub.

PHOTOCREDITS:

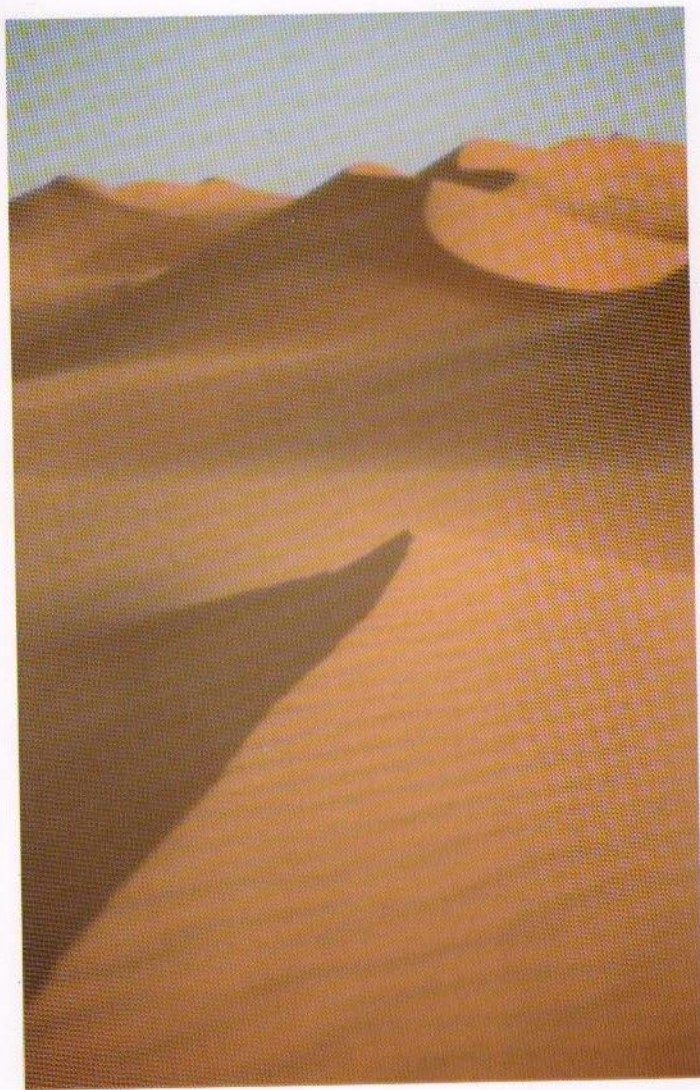
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DESIGN:

Abd al-Lateef Whiteman and Yusuf Islam

The Call to Prayer

﴿ Allāhu ﴾
akbar! Allāhu akbar!
Allāhu akbar! Allāhu akbar!
Ashhadu an lā ilāha illa Allāh. Ashhadu
an lā ilāha illa Allāh. Ashhadu anna
Muḥammadan Rasūlu Allāh. Ashhadu anna
Muḥammadan Rasūlu Allāh. Hayya 'ala al-ṣalāh.
Hayya 'ala al-ṣalāh. Hayya 'ala al-falāh. Hayya 'ala al-
falāh. Allāhu akbar! Allāhu akbar! Lā ilāha illa Allāh.
Allah is Most Great! Allah is Most Great! Allah is Most
Great! Allah is Most Great! I bear witness that there is
no god but Allah. I bear witness that there is no god
but Allah. I bear witness that Muhammad is the
messenger of Allah. I bear witness that Muhammad
is the messenger of Allah. Come to prayer.
Come to prayer. Come to success. Come to
success. Allah is Most Great! Allah is
Most Great! There is no god but
﴿ Allah. ﴾



Early Life

MUHAMMAD, *ṣalla Allāhu ‘alayhi wa sallam*,² peace and blessings of Allah be upon him, was a mercy to the universe. His life ever shines as a symbol of light and guidance for all time and for all people. He was the last Messenger of God to humanity, the Seal of the Prophets. To the oneness of God he called – *Lā ilāha illa Allāh, Muḥammadun Rasūlu Allāh*: there is no god but Allah, Muhammad is the Messenger of Allah. This is the life and message of Islam.

Muhammad, *ṣalla Allāhu ‘alayhi wa sallam*, the Last Prophet, was born in the harsh desert land of Arabia almost 600 years after Jesus, peace be upon him, in the city of Makkah, located in a deep valley surrounded by a curtain of brown and black jagged mountains.

Muhammad, *ṣalla Allāhu ‘alayhi wa sallam*, was an orphan. His father had died before he was born. So he was raised and weaned in the desert according to Arab custom. By the tender age of six, his mother Aminah also died and he was left all alone to be brought up by his grandfather ‘Abd al-Muttalib and later under the care of his paternal uncle Abu Talib.

THE LONELY
ORPHAN

