

The teachings of Muhammad (peace be upon him)

Muslims say 'peace be upon him' after saying the name Muhammad. This is done out of utmost respect and love for him and the sacrifices he made during this lifetime.

It also may serve, as a reminder to Muslims over the ages, that Muhammad (peace be upon him) was, in no way divine and that Muslims ask for God's peace even for His messenger.



Arabic Calligraphy: 'Muhammad'



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***What did
Muhammad
teach?***

Understanding Islam

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What did Muhammad teach?

Islam has two major sources of religious teachings. The first is the Holy Quran revealed to Muhammad—peace be upon him (pbuh). The second are the teachings and sayings of Muhammad (pbuh). Although, his teachings are not considered the direct words of God like the Quran, his teachings were divinely guided and inspired.

Certainly, in the messenger of God [Muhammad] you have a good example, for those who look unto God and the Last Day, and remember God often.

Quran 33:21

The teachings of Muhammad have been passed down through the ages. Muslims were the first to invent the system of scholarly referencing, to ensure that the Prophet's teachings had been passed down from reliable sources.

Jafar's summary

In the early days of Islam, many people in Makkah rejected Muhammad's teachings and many of his followers were violently persecuted. Some of early followers were given permission to seek refuge in a neighbouring kingdom.

When they arrived, Jafar, one of the early companions of the Prophet (pbuh), explained Islam and the teachings of Muhammad to the King of the land:

"O King, we were a people in a state of ignorance and immorality, worshipping idols and eating the flesh of dead animals [dead of disease or prey], committing all sorts of abominations and shameful deeds, break-

ing the ties of kinship, treating guests badly, and the strong amongst us exploited the weak. We remained in this state until God sent us a Prophet, one of our own people whose lineage, truthfulness, trustworthiness and integrity were well-known to us.

He called us to worship God alone, and to renounce the stones and the idols which we and our ancestors used to worship besides God.

He commanded us to speak the truth, to honour our promises, to be kind to our neighbours, to cease all forbidden acts, to abstain from bloodshed, to avoid obscenities and false witness, not to appropriate an orphan's property nor slander chaste women.

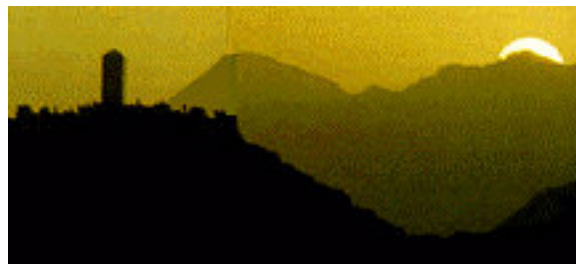
He ordered us to worship God alone and not to associate anything with him, to uphold our prayers, to give charity and to fast for the month of Ramadan.

We believed in him and what he brought to us from God and we follow him in what he has asked us to do and we keep away from what he forbade us from doing.

Thereupon, O King, our people attacked us, visited the severest punishment on us to make us renounce our religion and take us back to the old immorality.

So we left for your country, choosing you before anyone else, desiring your protection and hoping to live in justice and in peace in your midst."

The land was a Christian land, and the King allowed the Muslims who had emigrated to stay, where the tiny Muslim community flourished alongside the native Christians.



The Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) was born in Makkah, Arabia.

The Prophet's character

Muhammad was born into a tribal and a warring Arabian society close to 600 years after Jesus (peace upon them both). He was a righteous man, and had earned the nickname "the Trustworthy" amongst his community, long before the Quran was revealed to him.

When he began to recite the Quran to his early companions, who were amazed at its linguistic beauty and power. It was well known that Muhammad (peace be upon him) was unable to read or write, and so the source of these powerful words intrigued many.

Muhammad (peace be upon him) was persecuted for much of his life. By the time he died however, almost the entire Arabian peninsula had become Muslim and followed his teachings devoutly. Yet the Prophet Muhammad continued to live a humble life and died without a possession or a penny.

He enjoined people to mercy, justice, patience and faith, and abhorred oppression towards people, animals and the environment.

Amongst his many sayings are:

Everyone starts his day and is a vendor of his soul, either freeing it, or bringing about its ruin.

Be in this world as though you are a stranger and a traveller.

Part of someone's being a good Muslim, is leaving alone that which does not concern him.

None of you will [truly] be a believer, until he wishes for his brother [in faith] what he wishes for himself.

[An-Nawawi's collection of 40 Hadith]

The best gift from a father to his child is education and upbringing

[At-Tirmidhi's collection of Hadith]