

Tariq Ramadan  
**The Messenger**  
*The Meanings of the Life of Muhammad*  
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If discovering another faith is best done through hearing the words of a representative of that faith, what better way to begin to understand the prophet Muhammad than to pick up a book by a devout Muslim scholar. Tariq Ramadan has studied in Cairo and Geneva, and is at present a professor in Switzerland. He is extensively involved in peace, social justice and dialogue issues, but has become something of a hate-figure among right-wing conservative Americans, which is perhaps as good a recommendation as anyone should need. This book paints a picture of Muhammad not often heard in the West: a leader who is tolerant, kind, gentle, scrupulously honest, and keenly aware of the needs of orphans and the poor. He concludes: 'Muhammad's life journey offered at every stage an existence devoted to the worship of God. The heart cannot but commune with such a being as he follows the path to freedom... The Prophet carried a universal message, both in the experience of love present throughout his life and in his reminders to people of the need to adhere to a universal ethic that transcends divisions, affiliations, and rigid identities...' This may not be the last word on Muhammad, but it is an important word to hear in these troubled times.

**Nicholas Alan SSF**

Underscoring the historical importance and meaning of Muhammad, The Messenger addresses the significance of the Prophet for some of today's most controversial issues, such as the treatment of the poor, the role of women, Islamic criminal punishments, war, racism, and relations with other religions. Selecting those facts and stories from which we can draw a profound and vivid spiritual picture, the author asks how can the Prophet's life remain - or become again - an example, a model, and an inspiration? In the Footsteps of the Prophet: Lessons from the Life of Muhammed by Tariq Ramadan is very well written. It is so easy to dig into, read and understand. It is beautifully written and was honestly a joy to read. The Messenger Muhammad patiently and quietly started teaching to friends and family members. This period of teaching lasted for three years, and the total number of people who embraced the new religion during this time was less than thirty. Among them were Khadijah (Messenger's wife), Ali (Messenger's cousin and ward), Zaid (a slave freed by Messenger, as slavery and equality cannot go hand in hand), Abu Bakr, Uthman and Talha (Messenger's close friends and life-long companions). After three years, God's command came to teach openly. Although toward the end of his life the Messenger was the head of a large nation, still his way of life was extremely simple and austere. At times he and his household lacked even basic necessities. Muhammad provides creation with meaning and answers such questions. If he had been fully recognized, he would have been truly loved. Although we only know him a little, we still love him. Since Prophet Muhammad came with a sacred Law that will never be abrogated, a Message that embraces humanity and jinn, and has hundreds of miracles excelling those of all other Prophets, he is the head of all Prophets. Therefore, he has the core of all their miracles and their unanimous confirmation. Prophet Muhammad appeared at a time when people had lost their knowledge of the true religion and had reverted to worshipping idols of stones, earth, bread, and even cheese. The Prophet Muhammad is both a messenger of God and a personal role model for Muslims. Born in the city of Mecca on the Arabian peninsula in 570 CE, he was raised an orphan in his uncle's house. He married an older woman, the widow Khadijah, for whom he had worked in the caravan trade. As a merchant, he was known by reputation as al-Amin, the trusted one. When Muhammad was forty years old, he had a profound experience that changed his life and ultimately established the Muslim faith. Muhammad performed devotions each year on Mount Hira, outside of Mecca. One night during the month of Ramadan, Muhammad Muhammad The Messenger of God. May God Exalt his Mention. Written by: Dr. Abdurrahman al-Sheha of the Arabian Peninsula, yet his family lived a simple life, even after they received great fortunes; the riches were piled in the Mosque. Fatima complained to him about the strenuous. P3F P. It is an inclusive term meaning: acts of worship, political practice, and a detailed code of conduct, including hygiene or etiquette matters. \_ 8. Muhammad, the Messenger of Allah e. Who is the Messenger, Muhammad (e)?