

Tariq Ramadan  
**The Messenger**  
*The Meanings of the Life of Muhammad*  
ISBN: 9780 1410 2855 2  
*Allen Lane (Penguin), 2008, £8.99*

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**

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 The life of the Prophet Muhammad, to whom the Angel Gabriel revealed the verses of the Quran, has provided inspiration to Muslims for hundreds of years. Read full description. See details and exclusions - The Messenger: The Meanings of the Life of Muhammad. See all 10 brand new listings. Qty He is Visiting Professor at the Faculty of Islamic Studies and Director of the Research Centre of Islamic Legislation and Ethics (both in Qatar), and Senior Research Fellow at Doshisha University in Japan. Country of Publication. United Kingdom. The aims of the life of Muhammad Mustafa, as the Last Messenger of God on this earth, were: to destroy idolatry and polytheism; to proclaim the absolute Oneness of the Creator; to deliver the Creator's Message to mankind; to complete the system of religion and law; to purify the souls of men and women; to eradicate injustice, iniquity and ignorance; to establish a system of.