

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

Muhammad had developed a refined integrated understanding, an intuitive capacity to connect to what has been referred to as God/Truth/Knowledge/Love. "You give to the poor, you feed guests, you work against injustice," writes I. Ishaq in *The Life of Muhammad* (translated by A. Guillaume pg.106). But Muhammad was inconsolable, so Khadija took him to the only person she could think might be able to verify the nature of what had happened, her cousin Waraqa. Waraqa, an Ebionite Christian, had been one of the founding four Hanifs. In this video Asim Al Hakeem highlights some of the exclusive characteristics of the Prophet Muhammad (SAW). This website is for people of various faiths who seek to understand Islam and Muslims. It contains a lot of brief, yet informative articles about different aspects of Islam. New articles are added every week. Also, it features Live Help through chat. 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. In "The Messenger", leading Muslim scholar Tariq Ramadan considers the ways in which the Prophet's actions, words and teachings can guide us in the modern world. Interspersed with spiritual and philosophical meditations, this profound and stimulating biography shows how Muhammad's message can be used to address some of today's most controversial issues - from the treatment of the poor and the role of women to the inter 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? "The life of Prophet Muhammad (S.A.W), to whom the Angel Gabriel revealed the verse of the Quran, has provided inspiration to Muslims for hundreds of years.