

This is a collection of short quotations from a wide range of Non-Muslim notables, including academics, writers, philosophers, poets, politicians, and activists belonging to the East and the West.

Michael H. Hart

(Born in 1932) Professor of astronomy, physics and the history of science

Michael H. Hart ranks Muhammad as the most influential person in his famous book: *The 100: A Ranking of The Most Influential Persons in History*. Hart wrote: "My choice of Muhammad to lead the list of the world's most influential persons may surprise some readers and may be questioned by others, but he was the only man in history who was supremely successful on both the religious and secular levels. Although the majority of the persons had the advantage of being born and raised in centers of civilization, highly cultured or politically pivotal nations, Muhammad was born in the year 570 CE in the city of Makkah, in southern Arabia, at that time a backward area of the world, far from the centers of art and learning."

Hart explained in his book why he ranked Muhammad above his own saviour Jesus Christ. He said, "Muhammad has been ranked higher than Jesus. There are two principal reasons for that decision. First, Muhammad played a far more important role in the development of Islam than Jesus did in the development of Christianity. Although Jesus was responsible for the main ethical and moral precepts of Christianity, St. Paul was the main developer of Christian theology, its principal proselytizer and the author of a large

portion of the New Testament. Muhammad, however, was responsible for both the theology of Islam and its main ethical and moral principles. Additionally, he played the key role in proselytizing the new faith and in establishing the religious practices of Islam." Hart goes on to say: "Muhammad (unlike Jesus) was a secular as well as a religious leader. In fact, as the driving force behind the Arab conquests, he may well rank as the most influential political leader of all time."

Bernard Shaw

(1856-1950) An Irish playwright, critic, polemicist and political activist.

"I believe if a man like him were to assume the dictatorship of the modern world he would succeed in solving its problems in a way that would bring much needed peace and happiness.

I have studied him - the man and in my opinion is far from being an anti-Christ. He must be called the Savior of Humanity. I have prophesied about the faith of Muhammad that it would be acceptable to Europe of tomorrow as it is beginning to be acceptable to the Europe of today."

[*The Genuine Islam*, Singapore, Vol. 1, No. X 1936]

Mohandas K. Gandhi

(1869-1948) Indian thinker, statesman, and nationalist leader

"I wanted to know the best of the life of one (Muhammad) who holds today an undisputed sway over the hearts of millions of mankind. I became more than ever convinced that it was

not the sword that won a place for Islam in those days in the scheme of life. 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, 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." [Young India (periodical), 1928, Volume X]

Edward Gibbon

(1737-1794) Considered the greatest British historian of his time

"The greatest success of Muhammad's life was effected by sheer moral force without the stroke of a sword." [History Of The Saracen Empire, London, 1870]

John William Draper

(1811-1882) American scientist, philosopher, and historian

"Four years after the death of Justinian , A.D. 569, was born in Mecca, in Arabia, the man Muhammad, who of all men, has exercised the greatest influence upon the human race. To be the religious head of many empires, to guide the daily life of one-third of the human race, may perhaps justify the title of a Messenger of God."

[A History of the Intellectual Development of Europe, London, 1875, vol.1, pp. 329-330]

The Encyclopaedia Britannica

The Encyclopaedia Britannica calls him "The most successful of all Prophets and religious personalities of the world."

[11th Edition, under Koran]

Washington Irving

(1783-1859) Well-known as the "first American man of letters".

"He was sober and abstemious in his diet, and a rigorous observer of fasts. He indulged in no magnificence of apparel, the ostentation of a petty mind; neither was his simplicity in dress affected, but the result of a real disregard to distinction from so trivial a source ... In his private dealings he was just. He treated friends and strangers, the rich and poor, the powerful and the weak, with equity, and was beloved by the common people for the affability with which he received them, and listened to their complaints ... His military triumphs awakened no pride nor vain glory, as they would have done had they been effected for selfish purposes. In the time of his greatest power he maintained the same simplicity of manners and appearance as in the days of his adversity. So far from affecting regal state, he was displeased if, on entering a room, any unusual testimonial of respect were shown to him."

[Life of Mahomet, London, 1889, pp. 192-3, 199]

Annie Besant

(1847-1933) British theosophist and nationalist leader in India. President of the Indian National Congress in 1917

"It is impossible for anyone who studies the life and character of the great Prophet of Arabia, who knows how he taught and how he lived, to feel anything but reverence for that mighty Prophet, one of the great messengers of the Supreme. And although in what I put to you I shall say many things which may be familiar to many, yet I myself feel whenever I re-read them, a new way of admiration, a new sense of reverence for that mighty Arabian teacher."

[The Life And Teachings Of Muhammad, Madras, 1932, p. 4]

Conclusion:

Therefore, many historians believe that none of the other great leaders of the world combined in themselves so many different qualities to such an amazing level of perfection as did Muhammad. While he was nothing more than a human being, he was indeed a man with a noble and exalted mission to unite humanity on the principle of the worship of the One God (Allah).

Why was
Muhammad
Peace be upon him

The Prophet of Islam

The most successful leader
with amazing level of
perfection in history ?

Read what Non Muslims say:
Michael H. Hart, Bernard Shaw,
Mohandas K. Gandhi & more

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