SIR, YOU SAID IT!

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Recommendation: The reader may enjoy the last ten pages of the book first.

INTRODUCTION

With the Name of God the Instant and Sustaining Source of all Mercy and Kindness.

Billions of people in the last millennium have loved, revered and honored Islam. Conversely, billions have hated, criticized and defamed it. As a matter of fact, the situation applies equally to any other major religion.

Although Islam in its original form is not a religion, the Muslim clergy have indeed reduced it to a set of dogmas, rituals, superstitions, myths, legends, and means of attaining 'salvation', the essential hallmarks of a "religion".

Through the centuries, we come across brilliant minds that have been able to see the diamond in the rough. They have scratched the surface and let the reality shine forth in all splendor. Then they have immediately realized that Islam is not a religion per se although it has been made to appear so. In fact, Islam being the most pragmatic System of Life is a massive challenge to religion.

ABOUT THE TITLE: Let not the title of this booklet be misunderstood as primarily addressing men. It has been chosen for simplicity and for the fact that an overwhelming majority of the quotes given in this booklet have come from men.

A reader may wonder, "Well, I never said it, so why this title?" With the possibility of rare disagreement, the answer is quite simple. The renowned intellectuals, writers, thinkers, theologians, poets, artists and intelligentsia become the voice of a society. Their very popularity hinges upon, and

attests to, their ability to echo the silent voice of the masses. How many lines from Aristotle, Plato, William Shakespeare, Benjamin Franklin and Abraham Lincoln have blended with the intellectual and social fabric of civilizations!

The question may be raised that other greats have said things contrary to what the author has compiled in this booklet. Quite a valid objection, isn't it? But every writer must do his best to drive home the point he or she is trying to make. Being consciously aware of this fact, and for the sake of intellectual honesty, I have selected quotes from the best of the best and overwhelmingly non-controversial figures.

It is quite natural for the casual observer to judge an ideology by the results it achieves. To paraphrase from the Bible, a tree is known by its fruit.

Mathew 7:18 A good tree cannot bring forth evil fruit, neither can a corrupt tree bring forth good fruit.

To paraphrase from the Qur'an, a good land brings forth decent vegetation.

The Qur'an 7:58 A good soil brings forth decent produce by the leave of its Lord, while the bad one yields that which is of poor quality ——.

This point has been extensively elaborated in my new book, *Islam: The True History And False Beliefs.* The parables of the tree and soil apply well to the spoiled fruit of today's counterfeit Islam.

Now let us see what greatness the true Qur'an-based Islam has achieved in the past and how wonderful are its prospects to regain its lost glory.

The central themes of the pristine Islam are service of humanity and benefiting God's creation. As soon as the dust of myth is wiped off, Islam will once again become the Beacon of Light for all humanity. And surely it will be the front-line force in making this planet a better place to live.

Let me stop here and let us all listen to the great non-Muslim minds, predominantly Western. These greats might very well be echoing the inherent voice of truth within our inner selves.

Note: Any where in this book Muhammad (S) will denote Muhammad, our salutations unto him.

SOME OUTSTANDING INTELLECTUALS EXTOLLING ISLAM

- Thomas Carlyle, Heroes and Hero Worship and the Heroic in History
- A. S. Tritton, Islam
- De Lacy O'Leary, Islam at the Crossroads
- Edward Gibbon, History of The Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire

- <u>Stanley Lane-Poole</u>, Speeches and Table Talk of the Prophet Muhammad
- Annie Besant, The Life and Teachings of Mohammad
- W. C. Taylor, The History of Muhammadanism and its Sects
- Reverend Bosworth Smith, Muhammad and Muhammadanism
- Simon Ockley, History of the Saracen Empire
- Edward Montet, La Propagande Chretienne et ses Adversaries Musulmans, 1890.
- Dr. Gustav Weil, History of the Islamic Peoples
- Alphonse de LaMartaine, Historie de la Turquie, 1854.
- "Mahatma" Gandhi, Statement published in Young India, 1924.
- Sir George Bernard Shaw, The Genuine Islam, 1936.
- Michael Hart, The 100, A Ranking of the Most Influential Persons In History
- Dr. William Draper, History of Intellectual Development of Europe
- J. W. H. Stab, Islam and its Founder
- · Washington Irving, Life of Muhammad
- Arthur Glyn Leonard, Islam, Her Moral and Spiritual Values
- Charles Stuart Mills, History of Mohammadanism
- Philip K. Hitti, History of the Arabs
- Stanley Lane-Poole, Studies in a Mosque
- J. M. Rodwell, Preface to his translation of the Holy Qur'an
- W. Montgomery Watt, Muhammad at Mecca
- D. G. Hogarth, Arabia
- Washington Irving, Mahomet and His Successors
- James Michener, Islam: The Misunderstood Religion
- Lawrence E. Browne, The Prospects of Islam
- K. S. Ramakrishna Rao, Mohammed: The Prophet of Islam
- <u>Jules Masserman</u>, *Who Were History's Great Leaders?* TIME Magazine July 15, 1974

Some of the well known scholars who had the blessed fortune of having learned Arabic by socializing with the Bedouins:

- The Swiss Muslim Johann Ludwig Burckhardt in the 1810s.
- The British Muslim Sir Richard Burton in the 1850s.
- The German (openly non-Muslim, confidentially Muslim) Heinrich von Maltzan during 1860s.

- The Austrian Muslim Leopold Weiss (Muhammad Asad) in the 1950s.
- The French surgeon Maurice Buccaille in the 1950s.

In the quotations given below, the Western writers have sometimes used the term *Muhammadanism* for Islam. They were perhaps unaware that, for a Muslim, *Muhammadanism* conveys the erroneous impression that Islam was founded by Prophet Muhammad, or that the Muslims might be worshiping him.

Muslims accept no deity other than the God of Noah, Abraham, Moses and Jesus. Prophet Muhammad obeyed and propagated the Message of the One and Only God (in Arabic, Allah), the Creator and Sustainer of the Universe. Hence, his Mission was essentially the same as that of the earlier Prophets of God. He was the last Prophet Messenger and sent for the entire humanity for all times to come.

Let us begin with the greatest social philosopher of Victorian England, Thomas Carlyle.

Thomas Carlyle - *Heroes, Hero Worship, and the Heroic in History* London 1841:

.... As there is no danger of our becoming, any of us, Mahometans, I mean to say all the good of him I justly can....

When Pococke inquired of Grotius, where the proof was of that story of the pigeon, trained to pick peas from Mahomet's ear, and pass for an angel dictating to him? Grotius answered that there was no proof!

A greater number of God's creatures believe in Mahomet's word at this hour than in any other word whatever. Are we to suppose that it was a miserable piece of spiritual legerdemain [trick], this which so many creatures of the almighty have lived by and died by?

A poor, hard-toiling, ill-provided man; careless of what vulgar men toil for. Not a bad man, I should say; Something better in him than hunger of any sort, — or these wild Arab men, fighting and jostling three-and-twenty years at his hand, in close contact with him always, would not revere him so! They were wild men bursting ever and anon into quarrel, into all kinds of fierce sincerity; without right worth and manhood, no man could have commanded them. They called him prophet you say? Why he stood there face to face with them; bare, not enshrined in any mystery; visibly clouting his own cloak, cobbling his own shoes; fighting, counseling, ordering in the midst of them: they must have seen what kind of man he was, let him be called what you like! No emperor with his tiaras was obeyed as this man in a cloak of his own clouting. During three-and-twenty years of rough actual trial, I find something of a veritable Hero necessary for that, of itself...

These Arabs, the man Mahomet, and that one century, - is it not as if a spark had fallen, one spark, on a world of what proves explosive powder,

blazes heaven-high from Delhi to Granada! I said the Great man was always as lightning out of Heaven; the rest of men waited for him like fuel, and then they too would flame...

The lies [Western slander] which well-meaning zeal has heaped round this man [Muhammad] are disgraceful to ourselves only. He was a great soul, one of that who cannot but be earnest. He was to kindle the world; the world's Maker had ordered so A man of truth and fidelity, true in what he did, in what he spake and thought—this is the only sort of speech worth speaking.

A. S. Tritton - Islam 1951:

The picture of the Muslim soldier advancing with a sword in one hand and the Qur'an in the other is quite false.

De Lacy O'Leary - Islam at the Crossroads London 1923:

History makes it clear, however, that the legend of fanatical Muslims sweeping through the world and forcing Islam at the point of sword upon conquered races is one of the most fantastically absurd myths that historians have ever repeated.

Edward Gibbon - *History of The Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire* London 1788:

The good sense of Muhammad despised the pomp of royalty. The Apostle of God submitted to the menial offices of the family; he kindled the fire; swept the floor; milked the ewes; and mended with his own hands his shoes and garments. Disdaining the penance and merit of a hermit, he observed without effort of vanity the abstemious diet of an Arab The creed of Mohammad is free from ambiguity and the Qur'an is a glorious testimony to the unity of God The greatest crime, the greatest "sin" of Mohammad in the eyes of the Christian West is that he did not allow himself to be slaughtered, to be "crucified" by his enemies. He only defended himself, his family and his followers; and finally vanquished his enemies. Mohammad's success is the Christians' gall of disappointment He did not believe in any vicarious sacrifices for the sins of others.

George Rivorie - Visages de L' Islam:

He laid the foundation of a universal government. His law was one for all. Equal justice and love for everyone.

Stanley Lane-Poole - Speeches and Table Talk of the Prophet Muhammad:

He was the most faithful protector of those he protected, the sweetest and most agreeable in conversation. Those who saw him were suddenly filled with reverence; those who came near him loved him; they who described him would say, "I have never seen his like either before or after." He was of

great taciturnity, but when he spoke it was with emphasis and deliberation, and no one could forget what he said....

Sir William Muir - *Life of Mohammad*, India 1860:

Mohammad brought an end to idol worship. He preached monotheism and infinite Mercy of God, human brotherhood, care of the orphan, emancipation of slaves, forbidding of wine—No religion achieved as much success as Islam did.

Simon Ockley - History of the Saracen Empire 1823:

A rugged, strife-torn and mountaineering people...were suddenly turned into an indomitable Arab force, which achieved a series of splendid victories unparalleled in the history of nations, for in the short space of ninety years that mighty range of Saracenic [Nomad Arabs] conquest embraced a wider extent of territory than Rome had mastered in the course of eight hundred.

The greatest success of Mohammad's life was affected by sheer moral force. It is not the propagation but the permanency of his religion that deserves our wonder, the same pure and perfect impression which he engraved at Mecca and Medina is preserved after the revolutions of twelve centuries by the Indian, the African and the Turkish proselytes of the Koran.... The Mahometans have uniformly withstood the temptation of reducing the object of their faith and devotion to a level with the senses and imagination of man. 'I believe in One God and Mahomet the Apostle of God' is the simple and invariable profession of Islam. The intellectual image of the Deity has never been degraded by any visible idol; the honors of the prophet have never transgressed the measure of human virtue, and his living precepts have restrained the gratitude of his disciples within the bounds of reason and religion.

M. H. Hyndman - The Awakening of Asia:

Mohammad never assigned himself a status more than a common man and a messenger of God. People had faith in him when he was surrounded by poverty and adversity and trusted him while he was the ruler of a great Empire A man of spotless character who always had confidence in himself and in God's help No aspect of his life remained hidden nor was his death a mysterious event.

Annie Besant - The Life and Teachings of Mohammad, Madras, 1932:

It is impossible for anyone who studies the life and character of the great Prophet of Arabia, who knew 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 reread them, a new way of admiration, a new sense of reverence for that mighty Arabian teacher.

Pringle Kennedy - Arabian Society at the Time of Mohammad:

The height of human achievement and glory was Mohammad.

W. C. Taylor - The History of Muhammadanism and its Sects:

So great was his liberality to the poor that he often left his household unprovided, nor did he content himself with relieving their wants, he entered into conversation with them, and expressed a warm sympathy for their sufferings. He was a firm friend and a faithful ally.

Reverend Bosworth Smith - *Muhammad and Muhammadanism*, London, 1874:

Head of the State as well as the Church, he was Caesar and Pope in one; but he was Pope without the Pope's pretensions, and Caesar without the legions of Caesar, without a standing army, without a bodyguard, without a police force, without a fixed revenue. If ever a man ruled by a right divine, it was Muhammad, for he had all the powers without their supports. He cared not for the dressings of power. The simplicity of his private life was in keeping with his public life.

In Mohammadanism every thing is different here. Instead of the shadowy and the mysterious, we have history.... We know of the external history of Muhammad.... While for his internal history after his mission had been proclaimed, we have a book absolutely unique in its origin, in its preservation, on the Substantial authority of which no one has ever been able to cast a serious doubt.... Absolutely unique in history, Muhammad is a three-fold founder of a nation, of an empire and of a religion. The unlettered one bestowed upon the world the Book which is a miracle, the eternal miracle and the true miracle.

Rev E. Stephenson - My Reflections:

The message of Mohammad, Islam, is nothing but a blessing for mankind— The usher from darkness to light and from Satan to God.

Edward Montet - La Propagande Chretienne et ses Adversaries Musulmans, Paris 1890: [Also in T.W. Arnold in 'The Preaching of Islam,' London 1913]

Islam is a religion that is essentially rationalistic in the widest sense of this term considered etymologically and historically.... The teachings of the Prophet, the Quran has invariably kept its place as the fundamental starting point, and the dogma of unity of God has always been proclaimed therein with a grandeur a majesty, an invariable purity and with a note of sure conviction, which it is hard to find surpassed outside the pale of Islam.... A creed so precise, so stripped of all theological complexities and consequently so accessible to the ordinary understanding might be expected to possess and does indeed possess a marvelous power of winning its way into the consciences of men.

Mohammad never assigned himself a status more than a common man and a messenger of God. People had faith in him when he was surrounded by poverty and adversity and trusted him while he was the ruler of a great Empire.... A man of spotless character who always had confidence in

himself and in God's help No aspect of his life remained hidden nor was his death a mysterious event. (M. H. Hyndman, *The Awakening of Asia*).

Dr. Gustav Weil - History of the Islamic Peoples:

Muhammad was a shining example to his people. His character was pure and stainless. His house, his dress, his food - they were characterized by a rare simplicity. So unpretentious was he that he would receive from his companions no special mark of reverence, nor would he accept any service from his servant which he could do for himself. He was accessible to all and at all times. He visited the sick and was full of sympathy for all. Unlimited was his benevolence and generosity as also was his anxious care for the welfare of the community.

Tor Andre - Muhammad, the Man and His Faith:

Islam is a forceful spiritual energy. Its true meaning will manifest itself when it will be implemented on large scale.

Johann Wolfgang von Goethe - *Letter to Eckermann 1830,* Sir Henry Elliott's collection, 1865:

The teachings of Islam can fail under no circumstances. With all our systems of culture and civilization, we cannot go beyond Islam and, as a matter of fact, no human mind can go beyond the Koran.

Alphonse de LaMartaine - *Historie de la Turquie*, Paris, 1854:

Never has a man set for himself, voluntarily or involuntarily, a more sublime aim, since this aim was superhuman; to subvert superstitions which had been imposed between man and his Creator, to render God unto man and man unto God; to restore the rational and sacred idea of divinity amidst the chaos of the material and disfigured gods of idolatry, then existing. Never has a man undertaken a work so far beyond human power with so feeble means, for he [Muhammad] had in the conception as well as in the execution of such a great design, no other instrument than himself and no other aid except a handful of men living in a corner of the desert. Finally, never has a man accomplished such a huge and lasting revolution in the world....

If greatness of purpose, smallness of means, and astonishing results are the three criteria of a human genius, who could dare compare any great man in history with Muhammad? The most famous men created arms, laws, and empires only. They founded, if anything at all, no more than material powers which often crumbled away before their eyes. This man moved not only armies, legislations, empires, peoples, dynasties, but millions of men in one-third of the then inhabited world; and more than that, he moved the altars, the gods, the religions, the ideas, the beliefs and the souls.

On the basis of a Book, every letter of which has become law, he created a spiritual nationality which blends together peoples of every tongue and race. He has left the indelible characteristic of this Muslim nationality the hatred of false gods and the passion for the One and Immaterial God. This avenging patriotism against the profanation of Heaven formed the virtue of the followers of Muhammad; the conquest of one-third of the earth to the dogma was his miracle; or rather it was not the miracle of man but that of reason.

The idea of the unity of God, proclaimed amidst the exhaustion of the fabulous theogonies [accounts of the origin and descent of the gods], was in itself such a miracle that upon its utterance from his lips it destroyed all the ancient temples of idols and set on fire one-third of the world. His life, his meditations, his heroic revelings [rebellion] against the superstitions of his country, and his boldness in defying the furies of idolatry, his firmness in enduring them for fifteen years in Mecca, his acceptance of the role of public scorn and almost of being a victim of his fellow countrymen: all these and finally, his flight, his incessant preaching, his wars against odds, his faith in his success and his superhuman security in misfortune, his forbearance in victory, his ambition, which was entirely devoted to one idea and in no manner striving for an empire; his endless prayers, his mystic conversations with God, his death and his triumph after death; all these attest not to an imposture but to a firm conviction which gave him the power to restore a dogma. This dogma was twofold the unity of God and the immateriality of God: the former telling what God is, the latter telling what God is not; the one overthrowing false gods with the sword, the other starting an idea with words.

Philosopher, Orator, Apostle, Legislator, Conqueror of Ideas, Restorer of Rational beliefs.... The founder of twenty terrestrial empires and of one spiritual empire-that is Muhammad. As regards all standards by which human greatness may be measured, we may well ask, is there any man greater than he?

J. H. Denison - Emotions as the Basis of Civilization:

Muhammad saved the human civilization from extinction. Ponder! Which person is it who taught mankind the way to establish the greatest society; the society in which blessings descend upon every individual.

Mahatma Gandhi - Young India, 1924:

The more I study, the more I discover that the strength of Islam does not lie in the sword. The more I desired to know the best of the life of one 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. When I closed the second volume of the Prophet's biography, I was sorry there was not more for me to read more of that great life.

The verified sayings of Muhammad are a treasure of wisdom not only for Muslims but for all mankind - (M. K. Gandhi's Preface to "The Sayings of Muhammad" by Sohrawardi).

Sir George Bernard Shaw - The Genuine Islam, Vol. 1, No. 8, 1936:

If any religion had the chance of ruling over England, nay Europe within the next hundred years, it could be Islam.

.... I have always held the religion of Muhammad in high estimation because of its wonderful vitality. It is the only religion which appears to me to possess that assimilating capacity to the changing phase of existence which can make itself appeal to every age. I have studied him - the wonderful man and in my opinion far from being an anti-Christ, he must be called the Savior of Humanity.

.... I believe that 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 it the much needed peace and happiness: I have prophesied about the faith of Muhammad that it would be acceptable to the Europe of tomorrow as it is beginning to be acceptable to the Europe of today.

Dr. Mawde Royden - The Problem of Palestine:

Mohammad introduced the concept of such Glorious and Omnipotent God in Whose eyes all worldly systems were pieces of straw. Islamic equality of mankind is no fiction as it is in Christianity. No human mind has ever thought of such total freedom as established by Mohammad.

F. J. C Hearushaw - The Science of History:

The Christian World came to wage crusades against Muslims but eventually knelt before them to gain knowledge. They were spellbound to see that Muslims were owners of a culture that was far superior to their own. The Dark Ages of Europe were illuminated by nothing but the beacon of Muslim civilization.

Michael Hart - The 100 A Ranking Of The Most Influential Persons In History, New York, 1978:

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 secular and religious level.... It is probable that the relative influence of

Muhammad on Islam has been larger than the combined influence of Jesus Christ and St. Paul on Christianity.... It is this unparalleled combination of secular and religious influence which I feel entitles Muhammad to be considered the most influential single figure in human history.

Dr. William Draper - History of the Intellectual Development of Europe, London 1875:

Four years after the death of Justinian, A.D. 569, was born in Mecca, in Arabia, the man 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 justify the title of a Messenger of God.... The towering personality of Muhammad has left bright and indelible imprints on all mankind.... The man who of all men exercised the greatest influence upon the human race.... During the period of the Caliphs the learned men of the Christians and the Jews were not only held in great esteem but were appointed to posts of great responsibility, and were promoted to the high ranking job in the government.... He (Caliph Haroon Rasheed) never considered to which country a learned person belonged nor his faith and belief, but only his excellence in the field of learning.

H. N. Spalding - Civilization in the East and West:

Mohammad was the greatest Executive Officer for implementation of the Divine Will. Like other prophets he knew that time will come when all mankind will become one community In Islam the believer is a worshiper and a soldier ever ready to go to the battlefield but only for that battle which is waged to eradicate the evil.

Robert Briffault - The Making of Humanity:

The Renaissance of Europe did not take place in the 15th century. Rather it began when Europe learned from the culture of the Arabs. The cradle of European awakening is NOT Italy. It is the Muslim Spain.

J. W. H. Stab - Islam and its Founder:

Judged by the smallness of the means at his disposal, and the extent and permanence of the work that he accomplished, his name in world's history shines with a more specious luster than that of the Prophet of Mecca. To the impulse which he gave numberless dynasties have owed their existence, fair cities and stately palaces and temples have arisen, and wide provinces became obedient to the Faith. And beyond all this, his words have governed the belief of generations, been accepted as their rule of life, and their certain guide to the world to come. At a thousand shrines the voices of the faithful invoke blessings on him, whom they esteem the very Prophet of God, the seal of the Apostles.... Judged by the standards to human renown, the glory of what mortal can compare with his?

Arthur Glyn Leonard - Islam, Her Moral and Spiritual Values:

It was the genius of Muhammad, the spirit that he breathed into the Arabs through the soul of Islam that exalted them. That raised them out of the

lethargy and low level of tribal stagnation up to the high watermark of national unity and empire. It was in the sublimity of Muhammad's deism, the simplicity, the sobriety and purity it inculcated the fidelity of its founder to his own tenets that acted on their moral and intellectual fiber with all the magnetism of true inspiration.

Charles Stuart Mills - History of Mohammadanism:

Deeply read in the volume of nature, though extremely ignorant of letters, his mind could expand into controversy with the wisest of his enemies or contract itself to the apprehension of meanest of his disciples. His simple eloquence was rendered impressive by a manner of mixed dignity and elegance, by the expression of a countenance where the awfulness of his majesty was so well tempered by an amiable sweetness, that it exerted emotions of veneration and love. He was gifted with that authoritative air of genius which alike influences the learned and commands the illiterate.

Philip K. Hitti - History of the Arabs:

Within a brief span of mortal life, Muhammad called forth of unpromising material, a nation, never welded before; in a country that was hitherto but a geographical expression he established a religion which in vast areas suppressed Christianity and Judaism, and laid the basis of an empire that was soon to embrace within its far flung boundaries the fairest provinces of the then civilized world Kingdom of God on Earth: God's messenger serving as the greatest proponent of human brotherhood, His viceroy on earth in the form of Muhammad.

Islam does not set impossible goals. There are no mythological intricacies in this message. No hidden meanings or secrets and absolutely no priesthood.

Encyclopedia Britannica, 4th & 11th editions:

Muhammad was the most successful of all religious personalities.

Stanley Lane-Poole - Studies in a Mosque:

He was one of those happy few who have attained the supreme joy of making one great truth their very life spring. He was the messenger of One God, and never to his life's end did he forget who he was or the message which was the marrow of his being. He brought his tidings to his people with a grand dignity sprung from the consciousness of his high office, together with a most sweet humility.... Mohammad was an enthusiast in the noblest sense.

Rev. J. M. Rodwell - The Preface to Translation of the Holy Quran:

Mohammad's career is a wonderful instance of the force and life that resides in him who possesses an intense faith in God and in the unseen world. He will always be regarded as one of those who have had that influence over the faith, morals and whole earthly life of their fellow men,

which none but a really great man ever did, or can exercise; and whose efforts to propagate a great verity will prosper.

W. Montgomery Watt - Muhammad at Mecca, Oxford, 1953:

His readiness to undergo persecution for his beliefs, the high moral character of the men who believed in him and looked up to him as a leader, and the greatness of his ultimate achievement - all argue his fundamental integrity. To suppose Muhammad an impostor raises more problems than it solves. Moreover, none of the great figures of history is so poorly appreciated in the West as Muhammad.... Thus, not merely must we credit Muhammad with essential honesty and integrity of purpose, if we are to understand him at all; if we are to correct the errors we have inherited from the past, we must not forget the conclusive proof is a much stricter requirement than a show of plausibility, and in a matter such as this only to be attained with difficulty.

D. G. Hogarth - Arabia:

Serious or trivial, his daily behavior has instituted a canon which millions observe this day with conscious memory. No one regarded by any section of the human race as Perfect Man has ever been imitated so minutely. The conduct of the founder of Christianity has not governed the ordinary life of his followers. Moreover, no founder of a religion has left on so solitary an eminence as the Muslim Apostle.

Washington Irving - Mahomet and His Successors:

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 a result of real disregard for 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 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 a regal state, he was displeased if, on entering a room, any unusual testimonials of respect were shown to him. If he aimed at a universal dominion, it was the dominion of faith; as to the temporal rule which grew up in his hands, as he used it without ostentation, so he took no step to perpetuate it in his family.

Ramsey Clark, Former U.S. Attorney General, *Our Planet 1994, Lecture*:

Islam is the only religion that gives dignity to the poor.

James Michener - *Islam: The Misunderstood Religion*, Reader's Digest, May 1955, pp. 68-70:

No other religion in history spread so rapidly as Islam. The West has widely believed that this surge of religion was made possible by the sword. But no wise modern scholar accepts this idea, and the Koran is explicit in the support of the freedom of conscience.

Muhammad, the inspired man who founded Islam, was born about A.D. 570 into an Arabian tribe that worshiped idols. Orphaned at birth, he was always particularly solicitous of the poor and needy, the widow and the orphan, the slave and the downtrodden. At twenty he was already a successful businessman, and soon became director of camel caravans for a wealthy widow. When he reached twenty-five his employer recognizing his merit proposed marriage. Even though she was fifteen years older, he married her and as long as she lived remained a devoted husband.

Like almost every major prophet before him, Muhammad fought shy of serving as the transmitter of God's word sensing his own inadequacy. But the Angel commanded 'Read'. So far as we know, Muhammad was unable to read or write, but he began to dictate those inspired words which would soon revolutionize a large segment of the earth: "There is one God."

In all things Muhammad was profoundly practical. When his beloved son Ibrahim died, an eclipse occurred and rumors of God's personal condolence quickly arose. Whereupon Muhammad is said to have announced, "An eclipse is a phenomenon of nature. It is foolish to attribute such things to the death or birth of a human being."

At Muhammad's own death an attempt was made to deify him, but the man who was to become his administrative successor killed the hysteria with one of the noblest speeches in religious history: "If there are any among you who worshiped Muhammad, he is dead. But if it is God you worshiped, He lives for ever."

Lawrence E. Browne - The Prospects of Islam, 1944:

.... Incidentally these well-established facts dispose of the idea so widely fostered in Christian writings that the Muslims, wherever they went, forced people to accept Islam at the point of the sword.

Under his influence people became united in one bond which they knew not, the bond of true monotheism. (The Eclipse of Christianity in Islam)

K. S. Ramakrishna Rao - Mohammed: The Prophet of Islam, 1989:

My problem to write this monograph is easier, because we are not generally fed now on that (distorted) kind of history and much time need not be spent on pointing out our misrepresentations of Islam. The theory of Islam and sword, for instance, is not heard now in any quarter worth the name. The principle of Islam that "there is no compulsion in religion" is well known In the person of the prophet of Islam we see the rarest phenomenon on earth walking in flesh and blood i.e. the union of the theorist, the organizer and the leader in one man.

P. D. Ouspensky - Tertium organum:

Any science that collides with the Koran will turn out to be false.

Jules Masserman - Who Were History's Great Leaders? TIME Magazine, July 15, 1974:

The greatest leader of all times was Mohammad, who combined all the three functions; religious, political and moral. To a lesser extent, Moses did the same.

Napoleon Bonaparte as Quoted in Cherfils, *Bonaparte et Islam*, Paris, France:

Moses has revealed the existence of God to his nation. Jesus Christ to the Roman world, Muhammad to the old continent....

Arabia was idolatrous when, six centuries after Jesus, Muhammad introduced the worship of the God of Abraham, of Ishmael, of Moses, and Jesus. The Ariyans [The Unitarian followers of Father Arius] and some other sects had disturbed the tranquility of the east by agitating the question of the nature of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost. Muhammad declared that there was none but one God who had no father, no son and that the trinity imported the idea of idolatry....

I hope the time is not far off when I shall be able to unite all the wise and educated men of all the countries and establish a uniform regime based on the principles of Koran which alone are true and which alone can lead men to happiness.

Bertrand Russell - *History of Western Philosophy*, London, 1948:

Our use of phrase 'The Dark ages' to cover the period from 699 to 1,000 marks our undue concentration on Western Europe.... From India to Spain, the brilliant civilization of Islam flourished. What was lost to Christendom at this time was not lost to civilization, but quite the contrary.... To us it seems that West-European civilization is civilization, but this is a narrow view.

Herbert George Wells - Happiness of Mankind, Kent, 1938:

The Islamic teachings have left great traditions for equitable and gentle dealings and behavior, and inspire people with nobility and tolerance. These are human teachings of the highest order and at the same time practicable. These teachings brought into existence a society in which hard-heartedness and collective oppression and injustice were the least as compared with all other societies preceding it Islam is replete with gentleness, courtesy, and fraternity.

Diwan Chand Sharma - The Prophets of the East, 1935:

Mohammad was the soul of kindness, and his influence was felt and never forgotten by those around him.

Raymond Lerouge - Life de Mohamet:

The Arabian Prophet Mohammad is the founder of a revolution unparalleled in history. He founded a political state that will ultimately embrace the entire planet. The law of that Government would rest on justice and kindness. His teachings revolve around human equality, mutual cooperation and universal brotherhood.

Dr. Marcus Dods - Mohammad, Buddha and Christ:

Mohammad's religion reformed all existing dogmas and brought the Arabs ahead of the super powers of the time.

Phillip Hitti - Short History of the Arabs:

During all the first part of the Middle Ages, no other people made as important a contribution to human progress as did the Arabs, if we take this term to mean all those whose mother-tongue was Arabic, and not merely those living in the Arabian peninsula. For centuries, Arabic was the language of learning, culture and intellectual progress for the whole of the civilized world with the exception of the Far East. From the 9th to the 12th century there were more philosophical, medical, historical, religious, astronomical and geographical works written in Arabic than in any other human tongue.

Carra de Vaux - The Philosophers of Islam, Paris, 1921:

Finally how can one forget that at the same time the Mogul Empire of India (1526-1857 CE) was giving the world the Taj-Mahal (completed in 1648 CE) the architectural beauty of which has never been surpassed, and the 'Akbar Nameh' of Abul Fazl: That extraordinary work full of life ideas and learning where every aspect of life is examined, listed and classified, and where progress continually dazzles the eye, is a document of which Oriental civilization may justly be proud. The men whose genius finds its expression in this book were far in advance of their age in the practical art of government, and they were perhaps in advance of it in their speculations about religious philosophy. Those poets those philosophers knew how to deal with the world or matter. They observe, classify, calculate and experiment. All the ideas that occur to them are tested against facts. They express them with eloquence but they also support them with statistics.... the principles of tolerance, justice and humanity which prevailed during the long reign of Akbar.

Marcel Clerget - La Turquie, Passe et Pressent, Paris, 1938:

Many proofs of high cultural level of the Ottoman Empire during the reign of Suleiman the Magnificent are to be found in the development of science and law; in the flowering of literary works in Arabic, Persian and Turkish; in the contemporary monuments in Istanbul, Bursa, and Edirne; in the boom in luxury industries; in the sumptuous life of the court and high dignitaries, and last but not least, in its religious tolerance. All the various influences - notably Turkish, Byzantine and Italian mingle together and help to make this the most brilliant epoch of the Ottomans.

Thomas Arnold - The Call to Islam:

We have never heard about any attempt to compel Non-Muslim parties to adopt Islam or about any organized persecution aiming at exterminating Christianity. If the Caliphs had chosen one of these plans, they would have wiped out Christianity as easily as what happened to Islam during the reign of Ferdinand and Isabella in Spain; by the same method which Louis XIV followed to make Protestantism a creed whose followers were to be sentenced to death; or with the same ease of keeping the Jews away from Britain for a period of three hundred fifty years.

Michael the Elder (Great) as Quoted in *Michael the Elder, Chronique de Michael Syrien, Patriarche Jacobite d' Antioche,* J. B. Chabot, Editor, Vol. II, Paris, 1901:

This is why the God of vengeance, who alone is all-powerful, and changes the empire of mortals as He will, giving it to whomsoever He will, and uplifting the humble beholding the wickedness of the Romans who throughout their dominions, cruelly plundered our churches and our monasteries and condemned us without pity, brought from the region of the south the sons of Ishmael, to deliver us through them from the hands

of the Romans. And if in truth we have suffered some loss, because the Catholic churches, that had been taken away from us and given to the Chalcedonians, remained in their possession; for when the cities submitted to the Arabs, they assigned to each denomination the churches which they found it to be in possession of (and at that time the great churches of Emessa and that of Harran had been taken away from us); nevertheless it was no slight advantage for us to be delivered from the cruelty of the Romans, their wickedness, their wrath and cruel zeal against us, and to find ourselves at people.

[Michael the Elder, Jacobite Patriarch of Antioch wrote this text in the latter part of the twelfth century, after five centuries of Muslim rule in that region.]

James Addison - The Christian Approach to the Moslem:

Despite the growth of antagonism, Moslem rulers seldom made their Christian subjects suffer for the Crusades. When the Saracens finally resumed the full control of Palestine the Christians were given their former status as citizens. The Coptic Church, too had little cause for complaint under Saladin's strong government, and during the time of the earlier Mameluke sultans who succeeded him, the Copts experienced more enlightened justice than they had hitherto known. The only effect of the Crusaders upon Egyptian Christians was to keep them for a while from pilgrimage to Jerusalem, for as long as the Frank were in charge heretics were forbidden access to the shrines. Not until the Moslem victories could they enjoy their rights as Christians.

Marmaduke Pickthall - Tolerance in Islam, Lecture, 1927, Madras, India:

In the eyes of history, religious toleration is the highest evidence of culture in a people.... It was not until the Western nations broke away from their religious law that they became more tolerant, and it was only when the Muslims fell away from their religious law that they declined in tolerance and other evidences of the highest culture. Before the coming of Islam tolerance had never been preached as an essential part of religion....

If Europe had known as much of Islam, as Muslims knew of Christendom, in those days, those mad, adventurous, occasionally chivalrous and heroic, but utterly fanatical outbreaks known as the Crusades could not have taken place, for they were based on a complete misapprehension....

Innumerable monasteries, with a wealth of treasure of which the worth has been calculated at no less than a hundred millions sterling, enjoyed the benefit of the Holy Prophet's Charter to the monks of Sinai and were religiously respected by the Muslims. The various sects of Christians were

represented in the Council of the Empire by their patriarchs, on the provincial and district council by their bishops, in the village council by their priests, whose word was always taken without question on things which were the sole concern of their community....

The tolerance within the body of Islam was, and is, something without parallel in history; class and race and color ceasing altogether to be barriers.

Sir John Bagot Glubb - Reflections on a Great ERA:

The Abbasid Khalifa [Caliph] Al-Ma'mun's period of rule (813 - 833 CE) may be considered the 'golden age' of science and learning. He had always been devoted to books and to learned pursuits. His brilliant mind was interested in every form of intellectual activity. Not only poetry but also philosophy, theology, astronomy, medicine and law all occupied his time.

By Mamun's time, medical schools were extremely active in Baghdad. The first free public hospital was opened in Baghdad during the Caliphate of Haroon-ar-Rashid. As the system developed, physicians and surgeons were appointed who gave lectures to medical students and issued diplomas to those who were considered qualified to practice. The first hospital in Egypt was opened in 872 AD and thereafter public hospitals sprang up all over the empire from Spain and the Maghrib [Morocco] to Persia.

On the Holocaust of Baghdad (1258 CE) Perpetrated by Hulagu: The city of Haroon and Mamun was systematically looted, destroyed and burnt. Eight hundred thousand persons are said to have been killed. The Khalifa Mustasim was sewn up in a sack and trampled to death under the feet of Mongol horses. For five hundred years, Baghdad had been a city of palaces, mosques, libraries and colleges. Its universities and hospitals were the most up-to-date in the world. Nothing now remained but heaps of rubble and a stench of decaying human flesh.

R. V. C. Bodley - *The Messenger*, London, 1946:

No man whose external conditions changed so much ever changed himself less to meet them.

James Gavin - Dialogue with a U.S. General:

Among leaders who have made the greatest impact through ages, I would consider Muhammad before Jesus Christ.

Giyani Balbir Singh - Navan Hindustan, 1947:

Those who believe Islam was spread by force are fools who neither know the ways of Islam nor the ways of the world.

W. A. R. Gibb - Whither Islam:

The Message of Mohammad is not a set of metaphysical phenomena. It is a complete civilization.

Rev. B. Margoliouth - *Biographies of Mohammad:*

The Book revealed to Mohammad is one and unique of its kind. It has left indelible impression on the hearts of humanity. Nothing can overcome its majesty. The Quran has given new dimensions to human thinking. Surprising reforms, stunning success! The power that created in Muslims ravenous appetite for knowledge sprung from the Quran.

Sir Richard Gregory - Religion in Science and Civilization:

The Book revealed to Muhammad defines an unalterable guide to individual and collective life of people.

Lewis Mumford - Transformation of Man:

Fellow inhabitants of the planet! Search for the ideal Prophet, who in the 7th century, has shown you the way to total success.

* * * * * * * *

Respected readers,

We have seen a glimpse of the illumination issuing forth from some brilliant minds, mostly Western. Isn't it time that we listened to these sincere voices and did some of our own reflection instead of getting carried away by the false propaganda?

Why Should We Know Muhammad?

We must, because he was by far the most remarkable and the most influential man that ever set foot on this earth. If we do not know him, we will remain oblivious to what phenomenal potential we as humans are endowed with and how this potential can be actualized.

He preached a most glorious System of Life, founded a state, built a nation, set up a moral code, initiated countless social and political reforms, set forth a dynamic and powerful society, and revolutionized human thought

and behavior for all times to come. And he accomplished all these wonders in an astonishingly short span of 22 years!

When Muhammad died in 632 CE, the whole Arabia had changed from paganism and idol worship to the devotion of One True God, from tribal quarrels and wars to national solidarity and cohesion, from drunkenness and debauchery to sobriety and piety, from violence to tranquility, from lawlessness and anarchy to orderly living, from moral bankruptcy to the highest standards of moral excellence. History has never known such a complete transformation of a people or a place before or since.

He was a most versatile personality, a social reformer, a moral guide, a political thinker, a military genius, a superb administrator, a faithful friend, an honest and successful merchant, an ideal neighbor, a wonderful companion, a devoted husband, a loving father, and a farsighted, inspiring leader. And he was a model of perfection in each of these areas.

Yes, there have been other great leaders in the world. But none combines so many qualities to such an amazing level of perfection as did Muhammad. The lives and teachings of other great figures in history are shrouded in the mist of time and legend. There is so much speculation about the time and place of their birth, the mode and style of their lives, the nature and detail of their teachings that it is impossible for humanity today to reconstruct accurately and precisely the personalities and teachings of those great figures. Not so with this man, Muhammad. Not only was he born in the fullest blaze of recorded history, but every detail of his private and public life, of his actions and utterances, has been accurately documented and preserved to our day in one simple Book, the Qur'an.

Muhammad not only preached the most wonderful ideas, but also successfully translated each one of them into action. At the time of his death his teachings were not mere precepts and ideas straining for fulfillment. They had become the very core of life of tens of thousands of perfectly trained individuals. In a few decades, his followers had established the greatest empire in history. Such was the prosperity and peace in this empire that it was almost impossible to find a single person worthy of receiving alms and charity. A young woman could travel alone hundreds of miles without any fear but the fear of God. At what other time or place and in relation to what other political, social, religious system, philosophy or ideology - did the world ever witness such a perfectly astounding phenomenon? The answer is, NEVER AND NOWHERE!

In spite of the phenomenal success that crowned his success, he did not for a moment claim to be anything but only a human being who was chosen and ordained by the Creator to be a teacher of truth to mankind and be a complete model and pattern for their actions. He was a man with a noble and exalted Mission - and his unique Mission was to unite humanity under One God and to teach them the way to honest and upright living in accordance with the Command of God.

Today, after the lapse of some 1,400 years, the life and teachings of Muhammad have survived without the slightest loss, alteration or interpolation. Today they offer the same undying hope for treating mankind's many ills as they did when Prophet Muhammad was alive. This is our honest claim and this is the inescapable conclusion forced upon us by the critical and unbiased study of the dynamics of human history.

As thinking, sensitive, concerned human beings, we owe it to ourselves to stop for one brief moment and ask, "Could it be that these statements, extraordinary as they sound, are really true? Supposing they are really true and we did not know this man, Muhammad or hear about his teachings - Or did not know him well enough to be able to benefit from his guidance and example. Is it not time we responded to this tremendous challenge and made some effort to know this man?" It will cost us nothing but it may well prove to be the beginning of a brand new vibrant era in our lives.

Come! Let us make a new discovery, know this wonderful man Muhammad, the like of whom never walked this earth, whose example can change our lives and our world for the better.

The reader may ask for a free booklet, "The Ideal Prophet", by calling 954-746-2115 just for the mailing cost.

THERE IS YET ANOTHER FACET HONORING THE TRUTH OF PROPHET MUHAMMAD (S):

WHO WROTE THE QURAN?

Introduction:

The Quran is a relatively small book, even smaller than the New Testament. It has only about 7,200 verses and 80,000 words.

Who wrote the Quran? The non-Muslims' answer to this important question is all too familiar:

- 1. "The Quran was authored by a human being. It is not a revelation from God."
- 2. "It is a book created by human intelligence, like any other book."
- 3. "As a matter of historical fact, it was written by Muhammad of Mecca, fourteen centuries ago."

If your view is similar to this, rest assured that, you have plenty of 'good' company. However, you should also know that this point of view brings with it some serious difficulties. To hold such views, you must believe that Muhammad knew the most amazing scientific facts about the Universe – facts about which humanity was in total darkness until recently.

[Note: According to the common methodology, the Surahs (Chapters of the Quran) and their verse numbers are given like this: Surah 4, verse 82 will be written as 4:82. CE will mean the Common Era (through the solar calendar). Muhammad (S) will mean, the exalted Muhammad.]

Who revealed the Quran if not God?

The skeptics come up with much conjecture and accusation. For example:

- 1. "Muhammad was a lunatic." How could a lunatic possess the profound knowledge, a glimpse of which you are about to see?
- 2. "Sorry, he was a liar." Show me in the Quran some of the lies he told.
- 3. "No, he was a deluded man who sincerely believed in his delusions." Then he was not a liar. Show me one delusion in the Quran.
- 4. "Oh, someone tutored Muhammad." Did this tutor have access to the 20th century technology? Did he possess spacecrafts, diver's gear, an electron microscope, the most advanced telescope, or archaeology equipment? Did he master history, geography, sociology, astronomy, physics, chemistry, psychology, anthropology, zoology, botany, embryology, all modern science, the Bible and other scriptures all? And that too in the 7th century?!
- 5. "Let me take that back. It was written by the devil." Well, is the devil mightier than God? Why don't we find any contradictions in the Quran, then? Can the devil even think of such a benevolent Message as the following?
- 2:190 God does not love aggressors.
- 5:2 Let not the hatred of a people lead you to transgression, Help one another in acts of collective benefit and in being mindful of God,

and do not help one another in deeds that hurt humanity and in creating a wedge between people.

- 5:8 ... Be upholders of justice for the sake of God as witnesses to the truth. Let not the hatred of any people move you away from justice. Deal justly. ...
- 13:17 The real existence on earth is of the person or the system that benefits humanity. (Paraphrased)
- 41:34 Since good and evil cannot be alike, repel evil with what is decent.
- 59:9 ... They (the true believers) give them preference over themselves, even though poverty be their own lot. And whoever is saved from greediness of the heart, such are the ones who truly prosper.
- 76:9 (They do all this selflessly) saying, "We provide for you for the sake of God alone. We want no return from you, not even a word of thanks."

These are just a few examples out of hundreds that we find in the Quran. Could these be the devil's teachings?

Could the devil tell us to begin his book in the following manner?

A'UZUBILLAHI-MIN-ASH-SHAYITAAN-IR-RAJEEM

- (I seek refuge with God against devil, the rejected. Please note that the devil or Satan is no extrinsic entity. It is the human ego or selfish desire that rebels against Divine commands).
- 6. "Oh, sorry again! 'Koran' is nothing but deception and it is loaded with mistakes." Would you oblige me by pointing out one place where it deceives? Or, tell me a single mistake that you are aware of?
- 7. "Well, it denies the sonship of Jesus Christ." Is that a mistake or a powerfully documented and logical disagreement with the Pauline Doctrine?

Conclusion: Many of our Muslim and non-Muslim friends are well aware of the position the Catholic Church has taken in the late 20th century: All Christian theories promulgated about the origination of the Quran during the last 14 centuries have proven to be false.

If the Quran was "authored" by Muhammad (S), you must also believe the following:

1. He knew that the earth and the heavenly bodies were once a single cohesive mass that was exploded asunder.

21:30 Are the disbelievers not aware that the heavens and earth used to be one solid mass and We exploded them asunder? ...

Here is a clear allusion to the Big Bang theory. Numerous celestial bodies came into being and started swimming along in their orbits. Almost all modern astrophysicists believe that this Universe has originated as one entity from one single element, Hydrogen, that became consolidated with gravity and then broke apart into celestial bodies. 21:33, 24:45, 36:40, 79:30.

If you do not believe that he had access to special knowledge that made possible this prefiguring of the modern Big Bang theory - a theory entirely unknown to the seventh century world - you must conclude that 21:30 of the Quran is merely an intriguing coincidence, a matter of getting something right by chance.

Perhaps this passage is simply an intriguing coincidence. If it is, however, it is not the only one.

- 2. He must have known what modern science knows about the life on earth: That life originated from water and that all living beings have water in their composition.
- 24:45 And God has created every living creature from water. Some of them crawl on their bellies, some walk on two legs, and some walk on four ...
- 21:30 ... And that out of water We made every living thing? Will they not, then, acknowledge the truth?
- 3. He knew that things are created in pairs?

By the way, this discovery earned the British physicist, Paul Dirac, the Nobel Prize in 1933.

36:36 Glory to Him Who has created pairs of everything that the earth grows, and of themselves, and of things they have no knowledge yet.

43:12 And He it is Who has created all things in pairs

Let us think of animal and plant life, male and female flowers, acid and alkali, positive and negative magnetic poles, the electrical currents, action and reaction, matter and antimatter, explosion and implosion and so on. The apparent few exceptions to the rule will qualify for 'and of things they have no knowledge yet'.

- 4. Muhammad (S), the supposed "author" of the Quran, must have known about the relativity of time.
- 22:47 And so (O Prophet) they challenge you to hasten the doom, but God never fails to fulfill His promise. A day of your Lord is like a thousand of your years.
- 23:112 He (God) will ask, "What number of years have you spent on earth?"
- 23:113 They will say, "We stayed a day or part of a day. But ask those who keep count."
- 23:114 He will say, "You stayed only a little, if you had only realized then!"
- 70:4 The Universal forces and the Divine Energy ascend unto Him in a Day the measure of which is fifty thousand years.

All things in the Universe evolve in stages to fulfill the Divine Plan. Some of these stages take one thousand years each, and others fifty thousand years by the human calendar. Either the exalted Prophet had some extraordinary source of knowledge that allowed him to discuss the relativity of time thirteen and a half centuries before Einstein, or we are looking at another intriguing coincidence!

Which is it?

And yet:

5. The same "author" must have known that the Universe is constantly expanding.

51:47 And it is We Who built the Universe with power, and certainly, it is We Who are steadily expanding it.

The Belgian cosmologist Georges Lemaitre and the Russian scientist A. Friemann first proposed the continued expansion of the Universe. Then, in 1929, the American astronomer Edwin Hubble was the first to observe and document the phenomenon. Today, all experts on astronomy accept this astounding scientific discovery. The Quran had given us this knowledge 14 centuries ago!

6. The Prophet must have known that the celestial bodies 'swim along' in their orbits through their own power.

'Sabah' means swimming along.

- 21:33 And He is the One Who created the night and the day, and the sun and the moon. They swim along, each in an orbit.
- 31:29 ... He has subjected the sun and the moon to His laws, each running along its course for an appointed term ...
- 36:40 It is not for the sun to overtake the moon, nor can the night outrun the day. All of them swim along in their orbits.

7. He must have known that there is cosmic material between galaxies.

- 5:17 God's is the Dominion of the heavens and earth and all that is between them.
- 19:65 Lord of the heavens and the earth and of all that is between them! Therefore, serve Him and be constant in His service. Do you know any whose name is worthy of mentioning side by side with His? ['all that is between them' = 'The stardust' = Intergalactic material]
- 8. He knew that iron is not native to earth. It has, instead, extraterrestrial sources.

57:25 We sent Our Messengers with the evident truth and revealed with them the law and the Standard of right and wrong that mankind may deal in justice. And We have bestowed on from high the iron in which there is awesome power and many benefits for people. For, God marks out those who help Him and His Messengers although the victory may initially be obscure to them. Surely, God is Strong, Almighty.

[As proven by modern science, the iron is not native to earth. It has come down from higher celestial bodies, the Nova stars. In 1920, Charles Edouard Guillaume was awarded the Nobel Prize in physics in recognition of the service he had rendered to this research.]

9. He must have known about Time Zones.

7:97 Can the people of any community ever feel secure that Our requital will not come upon them at night, while they are asleep?

7:98 Or do the people of townships feel secure from the coming of Our requital upon them in the daytime while they play?

[The Hour will come upon the Universe suddenly. Some areas on earth will have day, and others night.]

6:31 Losers are those who deny meeting with God, until the Hour suddenly comes upon them.

7:187 They ask you (O Messenger), about the Hour, when the end of the world will come to pass. Say, "That knowledge is only with my Lord. He alone will manifest it at the appropriate time. Heavy it is in the heavens and earth. It will come upon you suddenly."

10. He knew about winds pollinating the plants?

15:22 We send the winds as pollinators that fertilize plants, and cause water to come down from the height for you to drink. Who holds the stores of the Universe? You do not.

It took eleven centuries after the exalted Prophet for science to learn that winds play a major role in fertilizing the plants!

11. If Muhammad (S) is the author of the Quran, he must have known that the earth is ovoid in shape.

This was impossible to know in the 7th century.

39:5 He is the One Who has created the heavens and earth with a definite purpose. He rolls the night over the day, and rolls the day over the night. And He has subjected the sun and the moon, each running along its course for a term appointed. Is He not the Almighty, the Absolver of Imperfections?

Yukawwir = 'He rolls' comes from the word *Kurah* = Ball.

79:30 And after that, He made the earth shoot out from the Cosmic Nebula and spread it out oval (flattened at its poles). [Dhahaha entails all the meanings rendered. 21:30, 41:11]

All these might be coincidences. But the skeptic's problems are not over yet. There are far too many coincidences in the Book that is supposed to have been written by a man who died in the seventh century, year 632.

- 12. He was aware of the gravitational force between heavenly bodies.
- 13:2 God is the One Who raised the skies without pillars visible to you. Then, upon the Throne of His Almightiness, He assumed Supreme Control of the entire Universe. ...
- 13. He must have known that even the sun is not stationary. It is fast moving to an appointed destination.

36:38 And the sun: it is running to its appointed destination. That is the measure of the Almighty, the Knower.

Until recently, the sun was thought to be static. But, the celebrated Russian philosopher, astronomer and mystic, P.D. Ouspensky (author of Tertium Organum, 1878-1947), had maintained that any science that contradicted the Quran would turn out to be false. Then, during Ouspensky's lifetime, it was discovered that the sun is moving towards a specified destination at 12 miles per second, 43,200 miles

per hour! This destination has been assigned names such as the Solar Apex, the Constellation of Hercules. Guess what Ouspensky did! He embraced Islam.

14. He knew that the earth's atmosphere is a protective shield around the planet.

21:32 And We have rendered the height a canopy well guarded. Yet, they turn away from the signs that these things point to.

[Canopy: The atmosphere keeps in safe balance the gases and temperature, and protects from the incoming noxious rays and meteorites.]

15. The Prophet must have known that human development in the womb takes place in well-defined stages.

Modern experts in human embryology confirm this observation. To cite one example, Dr. Keith Moore of Toronto, the foremost embryologist in the world, has made changes in his textbooks ('Before We Are Born', 'Clinical Embryology') to mention the Quran's 'Alaqa' (leech-like lump of flesh), seeing a picture of leech and comparing it with the early appearance of the embryo.

- 23:13 Then We placed him as the male and female gametes (zygote, the product of conception) in a safe lodging.
- 23:14 Then We fashioned the gametes into zygote, then a leech-like mass of flesh, then the hanging little lump, the embryo. Then We created bones within the embryonic lump, and then clothed the bones with flesh. (Thus, We designed it into a fetus). And then We made it into a new creation (the human infant). So Blessed is God, The Best of creators.
- 71:14 He is the One Who has created you in successive stages.
- 22:5 O Mankind! If you are in doubt that one day you will be resurrected back to life after death, consider the process of your own evolution. We have created you in stages: From dust, then from male and female gametes, then from a zygote, then

from an embryo, shapely and first shapeless. We thus clearly explain things for you. The embryo and then the fetus stay in the womb until an appointed term according to Our laws. Then We bring you forth as infants and carry you to maturity. While some of you die young, others live to the feeblest old age so that they know nothing after knowing much. You see a dry barren land, but when We send down water on it, it vibrates with life and grows all kinds of beautiful plants.

[Recapturing the earlier stages of evolution, We initiated life from inorganic matter, the clay, then hydrated clay. Through it We brought forth the single life cell, the unicellular organism. Then We created the male and the female cells. Thus procreation came into play. Male and female gametes join, a clot, a little lump of flesh, turning into the embryo that 'hangs' in the womb. The embryo is partly formed and partly unformed, until it becomes the fetus and then assumes the final evident proportions. For the origin of life on the planet and creation of the human being, herein are given some important references for the research minded reader: 4:1, 6:2, 6:38, 6:99, 7:11, 11:6, 11:61, 15:26, 21:30, 23:12-14, 24:45, 25:54, 30:20, 31:28, 32:7-9, 35:11, 36:77, 39:6, 40:64-67, 51:49, 53:45, 55:14, 71:14, 76:2-3, 86:5-7, 96:1-2]

Is all this knowledge a matter of chance? OK, let us proceed.

16. Did he know that the roots of mountains extend deep into the earth and prevent shocks on the surface?

16:15 And He has placed mountains firm like stabilizing pegs in the earth, lest it sway with you; and made streams and paths, so that you may find your way.

[21:31, 31:10. Mountains are the most vivid evidence of the geological history of the earth. With the earth's interior still being almost a molten fluid, the earth crust cooled off becoming hard, and mountains came into being like pegs as the crest shrank. Mountains clench different plates of the earth together like a peg. In this way, they create more stability in the earth's crust and take away much energy from earthquakes. 78:6-7]

17. Oh, he also knew the details of the water cycle that remained a mystery to scientists until the twentieth century.

Formation of clouds:

24:43 Have you not seen how God drives the clouds, then gathers them, then makes them layers, and then you see the rain coming forth from them? He sends down, from the heights, hail and loads of snow to cover some ground and leave some uncovered, according to His laws. The flashes of lightning and the brightness of the snow dazzle the sight, all but snatching it away.

[The exact order of cloud formation has been described in this verse. Also, the fact that clouds are layered has been discovered only in the last century through aviation technology and satellites.]

30:48 It is God Who sends forth the winds so that they raise a cloud, and then He spreads it along the high atmosphere according to His laws. And causes it to break up, and you see rain pour down from within it. And when He makes it fall on His servants by His laws, they rejoice.

23:18 We send down from the sky water in due measure, and We cause it to soak in the soil. And certainly, We are Able to drain it off.

43:11 And He is the One Who sends down water from the sky in due measure. And We revive with it many a dead land, thus will you be brought forth.

The Water Cycle is very precise and balanced. The knowledge that rain does not fall in a random pattern, but in due measure through the Water Cycle, is something only recent science has understood. No one knew of a possible Water Cycle in the exalted Prophet's times and centuries after. The great Greek philosophers had postulated the presence of underground conduits that drained the subsoil water to the oceans, and their views had never been challenged until the advent of the Quran. Other stalwarts maintained that the amount of water on earth increased with every rainfall!

18. He must have known about The Seven Heights.

This may apply to the cosmic orbits as well as to the earth's atmosphere.

2:29 He is the One Who has created for you whatever is on earth – all of it. And He has applied His Design to the sky and fashioned it in several ascending heights. He is the Supreme Knower of what all things are destined to be.

[The subject of seven ascending heights is still under scientific investigation, but many astrophysicists already believe in it. 11:7, 53:31, 57:1-2. *Saba'* indicates seven or several. Thinking of the earth's atmosphere, it contains seven layers: The Troposphere, Stratosphere, Ozone Layer, Mesosphere, Thermosphere, Ionosphere and the Exosphere. This has only been discovered in the last century. The Quran repeatedly emphasizes the importance of scientific observation and intellectual inquiry. 3:191, 7:185, 17:36, 88:17-21]

23:17 We have created above you seven celestial orbits, and We are never unaware of the creation.

19. He had intricate knowledge of the brain and its functions.

96:15 Let him beware! If he does not desist, We will seize him by the forelock (to a state of humiliation).

96:16 A forelock that is given to denial and committing fault upon fault.

Forelock, pointing to the frontal lobes of the brain, indicates all cognitive abilities. Who knew 1400 years ago that the cognitive function was located in the frontal lobes of the brain?

20. How about the finger tips?

75:4 We have the power to restore his very finger tips.

Science came to know about the uniqueness of the fingerprints only in the 19th century. Even twins have their own uniquely different fingerprints.

- 21. The supposed "author" of the Quran must have known what modern oceanographers have now learned: There are huge bodies of water that meet but do not mix with each other.
- 25:53 And He is the One Who has given freedom of movement to the two kinds of great bodies of water. One is palatable and fresh, the other salty and bitter. Yet, He has made a barrier between them, a barrier that is not to be crossed.

55:19 He has let free the two seas. They meet. [25:53] 55:20 Yet, there is a barrier between them that they cannot exceed.

The great bodies of salt water and fresh water do not mix. Otherwise, we would not have the only 0.5 percent drinkable of all water present on earth.

- 22. <u>He also knew that oceans have complex subsurface wave pattern.</u>
- 24:40 Or like total darkness in the midst of a deep ocean, with waves upon waves and a thick cloud above darkness upon darkness. When he holds out his hand, he can barely see it

[Light consists of several wavelengths. In deep waters, each wavelength can only penetrate to a certain depth. In this way, light loses its intensity per layer, darkness over darkness. There is recent scientific observation of a phenomenon called 'internal waves' which is created in different densities in the deep water where the layers of water have their own wave structure, waves upon waves. Captain Dr. Bernard Jarman, a renowned oceanographer, upon reading this verse, asked, "Oh, was this man Muhammad a sailor who had been through storms?" On learning that he only lived in a desert, Dr. Jarman embraced Islam in 1923.]

- 23. Could anyone in the middle of a desert know the existence of atoms with certainty in the 7th century?
- 34:3 ---. Not an atom's weight in the heavens and the earth, escapes

His Knowledge

Finished? Not yet.

24. Even things smaller than an atom!

Did anyone know that until the 20th century? Did the Prophet have an electron microscope? Did he know that every atom has electrons and protons? Now see what 10:61 has to say.

10:61 Not an atom's weight in the Low nor in the Height escapes your Lord's knowledge. Nor, a thing smaller or bigger, everything is recorded in a clear Database. [Smaller than atom: Who could think of electrons and protons in the 7th century?]

25. How could the Prophet have known that the sun is the source of light, while the moon only reflects that light?

25:61 Blessed is He Who set up in the sky great constellations, and put therein a radiant Lamp, and a Moon shining with light.

26. Was he aware that in communities of honeybees, only the females are workers?

(The Arabic verbs here can connect only to females).

16:68 And consider how your Lord inspired the bee, "Build for yourself dwellings in hills and in trees, and in what people may build." 16:69 "And then eat of all kind of fruit, and follow the ways that your Sustainer has made easy for you." (We endowed the bee with navigational skills). And then comes forth from their bellies a delicious drink of many hues, in which there is health for people. In all this, behold, there is a message for people who are willing to listen. [Notice the female gender used throughout for bees. They are the worker bees. Interestingly, Shakespeare wrote, "Honeybees are soldiers and they have a king." The German ethologist Karl von Frisch discovered much of what we know today about honeybees and

was honored with a Nobel Prize in 1973. He humbly admitted, "I feel honored that the Muslim Scripture agrees with my research in all perfection." The world will eventually realize that the Glorious Book is the property of all mankind, not only of Muslims.]

27. How did he know, seven years ahead of time, that the defeated Byzantine Army of his day would secure a major victory against the Persians?

30:2 The Romans have been defeated.

30:3 In the lands close-by. Yet, despite this defeat, they shall be victorious.

[Byzantine Romans were defeated at the hands of the Persians in the nearby lands of Syria-Palestine-Egypt in 613-615 CE. The war between the two super powers of the times carried on from 603 to 624 CE. Muhammad (S) had been commissioned as a Prophet in 610 CE.]

30:4 Within ten years! God's is the command in the past and in the future. On that day the believers too will have cause to rejoice.

[The believers were victorious against the much stronger Makkans bent upon annihilating them at the most crucial battle of all history, the Battle of Badr near Madinah, in 624 CE. This was exactly the time in which the Byzantine Romans soundly defeated the Persians]

28. Prophet Muhammad (S) must have known something none on earth knew! - The body of the Pharaoh of Moses' times had been preserved.

10:92 Nay, but this day We will only preserve your body so that you may remain a lesson for generations to come. A great many of mankind remain heedless of Our signs.

[The Pharaoh's body was only discovered during the excavations of 1898. Today it is on display in the Royal Mummies Chamber of the Egyptian Museum]

Another coincidence? Happenstance? But the list is endless.

29. This man in the desert knew how to refer to the Egyptian head of the state of Prophet Joseph's era! - 'Malik' (Ruler or King), and not as 'Pharaoh'.

12:54 The King said, "Bring him to me so that I may appoint him a close adviser to me." And when he had spoken with him, the King decreed, "From today on, you have a high standing with us, invested with all trust."

[Note the Egyptian head of state of Prophet Joseph's era is referred to as 'Malik' (Ruler or King) and not as Pharaoh, the title that appears erroneously in the Book of Genesis. The term 'Pharoah' came in use only for kings after 1500 BC which historians call the New Kingdom. Prophet Joseph lived around 1700 BC during the Old Kingdom, that of Amalekites. In the story of Moses, the term Pharoah is used for the Egyptian ruler. Moses lived around 1400 BC during the New Kingdom, that of Pharaohs.]

30. How did he know about the lost, ancient city of Iram?

89:6 Have you noted how your Lord dealt with 'Aad?

89:7 Those whose capital was *Iram*, the city of towers and lofty mansions. 89:8 The like of which (the towers and castles) were never built in other cities. [26:128-134]

['Iram' were the generation of Iram, son of Sam, son of Noah. The capital of the nation of 'Aad bears the same name, Iram, and now lies buried in Al-Ahqaf, the Sand-dunes of Southern Arabia. 46:21. Its ancient existence was discovered through archaeology only in 1990.]

46:21 And remember the brother of 'Aad when he warned his people in their Land of Sand-dunes. Warners came and went before and after him, saying, "Serve none but God. I fear for you the retribution of a Tremendous Day."

31. He knew that the huge flood that had destroyed the ancient Kingdom of Sheba, came from their dam system.

This fact was similarly discovered by modern archeology.

34:15 The People of Sheba had a homeland that was a marvel, with gardens everywhere on the right and the left (Yemen-Somalia-Abyssinia). "Enjoy what your Sustainer has provided for you, and render thanks to Him for a goodly land and a Sustainer Absolver of imperfections."

34:16 But they turned away from Permanent Values and We sent on them the Flood of the *Aarim* released from water dams. And We turned their Gardens into 'gardens', producing wild bitter fruit, and a thorny Lote-tree here and there.

[The ruins of the greatest of these dams, Ma'aarib, are found in Yemen, indicating that it was at least two miles long and 120 ft. high.]

- 32. He must have known about Haman, a close adviser to the Pharaoh of Prophet Moses' era.
- The name Haman does not appear in the Torah's version of the story of Moses.
- The ability to translate the hieroglyphic language system of the Egyptians had been utterly lost for centuries at the time of the revelation of the Quran. And it would remain lost until the year 1799. After the discovery in that year of the Rosetta Stone, scholars were able to unlock the mystery of the hieroglyphs and confirm that there was indeed a Haman, unmentioned in the Hebrew scriptures. He was close to the Pharaoh in this period, and he planned and supervised the construction of towers and temples, just as the Quran says.

[If we believe that human authorship is the only possible explanation for the origin of the Quran, we must assume either that Muhammad (S) somehow had access to this information, or we must believe that this passage is yet another in a remarkably long series of intriguing coincidences.]

28:38 Pharaoh said, "O Chiefs! I have not known any god for you other than myself. Well, then, O Haman! Kindle me a fire for baking bricks and then build me a lofty tower so that I may have a look at the 'god' of Moses, although I think, he is of the liars."

How many coincidences do we need to get the message?

The lesson is simple: No human mind could have produced this book in the seventh century.

Please know that there are many, many more such "coincidences" in the Quran.

I have listed here only those that do not require advanced knowledge in such topics as Arabic linguistics, mathematics, Middle Eastern history and geography, Islamic history, etc.

Even with the brief list I have provided, there comes, I think, a point at which one is obliged to evaluate the Quran's Message carefully, closely, and respectfully. These supposed coincidences are clear signs to all mankind that the Quran's Message is of a superhuman quality, and therefore, it must not be ignored.

Only a deep reflection on the Quran's verses can settle such a phenomenal question, "Who wrote the Quran?"

If you are a person who believes that there is no such thing as a Divinely inspired revelation, the question is: How many "coincidences" will it take for you to consider that a miraculous revelation to humanity is possible?

If you are a person who believes that there IS such a thing as a Divinely inspired revelation, the question is: How many "coincidences" are you willing to ignore before considering the possibility that a particular book does present such a Revelation?

The truly remarkable thing is that ALL of these features should present themselves in a text supposedly composed by human intelligence. Is not there the profound unlikelihood of these facts being mere intriguing coincidences?

Knowing what you now know about these supposed coincidences, do you honestly believe that the Quran is simply the product of human intelligence, a book like any other book? Or, does it seem more likely to you that it is a Book far beyond human authorship?

Some Additional Considerations:

- 1. The Book claims that if it were from other than God, you would find much contradiction and inconsistency in it. Yet, no one has been able to find a single sustainable inconsistency in the Quran in the last 14 centuries.
- 4:82 Will they not then, try to understand this Quran? If it were from other than God, they would have found in it much contradiction and inconsistencies.
- 2. The world knows that it were Muslims who, for the first time ever and beyond the universally accepted Greek theories and hypotheses, emphasized the importance of direct observation and experimentation. They were the ones who brought mere philosophy into the realm of rationality. This is what we call science today.

Did the Quranic teachings such as the following not inspire them in that direction?

- 17:36 And you shall not follow blindly any information of which you have no direct knowledge. (Using your faculties of perception and conception) you must verify it for yourself. In the Court of your Lord, you will be held accountable for your hearing, sight, and the faculty of reasoning. [32:9, 45:23, 46:26]
- 3. Here are a couple of verses among many others inspiring us to understand and harness the forces of Nature.
- 3:190 Indeed, in the creation of the heavens and earth, and in the alternation of night and day, there are signs for men and women who will to understand.
- 3:191 (Men and women of understanding keep reflecting upon how God's laws operate in the Universe.) Standing, sitting, and reclining, they reflect upon the wonders of creation in the skies and earth, saying, "Our Lord! You have not created all this without purpose ...

When humans harness the forces of Nature and use them for the common good of all, they serve humanity, and thus, fulfill their human potential. The Quran emphasizes on us the importance of scientific observation and testing and thus the correct understanding of Reality. Consequently, the early Muslims started to investigate the Universe and made stunning discoveries during the times that the western historians call the 'Golden Age'. This Golden Age triggered the Enlightenment of Europe.

"Roger Bacon owed his illumination to the Muslim Moors of Spain. The great figures of European Renaissance could see further because they stood on the shoulders of the giants of the Muslim world. -- Those achievements represent what the Muslim world has been in the past. They also point to what it could become in the future." (US President Richard Nixon - Nixon's Ten Commandments)

"The Renaissance of Europe did not take place in the 15th century. Rather it began when Europe learned from the culture of the Arabs. The cradle of European awakening is not Italy. It is the Muslim Spain." (Robert Briffault, *The Making of Humanity*)

4. You did not know this.

The Quran emphatically claims to reveal the true knowledge unknown to people.

3:44 (O Messenger) We are revealing to you these events of the unseen history (so that you may dispel conjecture). You were not present with them when they threw their pens (casting lots) which of them should take charge of Mary (after Zakariya). And you were not present with them when they quarreled about it.

12:102 (O Prophet Muhammad) These are the chapters of the Unseen (history) that We reveal to you. You were not there when the brothers of Joseph decided together and were making their schemes.

5. Any questions or objections?

The word 'Qaaloo' (they say) and 'Qul' (say), each appears in the Quran 336 times. But there are only 35 questions or objections the opponents of the Quran bring forth about the Book. See what the Quran says:

25:33 And no question or objection do they bring to you but We reveal to you the absolute truth and its best explanation.

5:48 (O Messenger) We have sent to you this Divine Writ, setting forth the truth. It confirms the remaining truth in the

earlier scriptures since it is a watcher over them. So, judge between them by what God has revealed, and do not follow their desires diverging from the truth that has come to you. For each (community) among you, We have appointed certain rites and a traced-out way. If God had willed, He could have made you all one single community. But He decided to let you test yourselves by what (potentials) He has granted you. So, outdo one another in doing good to the society. To God you will all return, and He will then make you understand wherein you differed.

22:54 Those who have blessed themselves with knowledge, will recognize that this (Qur'an) is the truth from your Lord, and so they accept it. Then their hearts are made humble to it. God Himself is the Guide of those who choose to believe, to a straight way. [5:48, 15:19]

6. Ask those who know:

29:42 God knows whatever they call upon instead of Him. He is Almighty, Wise.

29:43 Such are the examples We cite for mankind, but only men and women with knowledge of sciences will make best use of their intellect.

16:43 (O Prophet) before you We sent none but men to whom We granted revelation. (Tell the deniers), "If you do not know this, ask the bearers of the reminder (People of the Book)."

7. Prove me wrong:

The Quran is the only Scripture in the world that offers a falsification test. Paraphrase it like this: "Prove me wrong if you can."

2:23 (For the real skeptic, here is a reason-friendly offer.) If you are still in doubt concerning what We have revealed to Our servant (Muhammad), call and set up (a committee, commission, organization, association of the highest order) all your helpers besides God, and then produce just one *Surah* like this, if you are truthful.

17:88 Say, "If all mankind, in towns and villages, get together to produce the like of this Quran, they will not be able to produce the like of it, no matter how much help they give one another." [2:23, 10:38, 11:13]

52:34 Let them produce a speech like this if they are truthful. [2:23, 10:38, 11:13, 17:88]

8. There was a simple way to disprove the Prophet.

Look at Surah 111.

111:1 Perished is the power of Abi Lahab, and perished is he!

111:2 His wealth and gains will avail him not.

Abi Lahab was one of the staunchest enemies of the exalted Prophet. Surah 111 predicts that he would perish because of his stubborn opposition and persecution of the Prophet. He could have easily announced his acceptance of the Message, and that would have falsified this Surah, and thus, the entire Quran. How did Muhammad (S) know that Abi Lahab would not be able to do this simple task? And Abi Lahab lived 10 years since this Surah was revealed! Imagine how many enemies would have coaxed and persuaded him to falsify the Prophet and the Quran. But he stuck to his denial until smallpox took his life, and his body lay unburied since even his family were afraid of contracting the disease from it.

There is much more information remaining, but I think, we can conclude the subject here for this edition.

Thanks for reading and reflecting!

Sincerely,

Shabbir Ahmed, M.D.