

HOW DID HE DO IT?

The true story of an orphan boy

He was born an orphan in a society and land where being an orphan was a taboo and a sign of ill luck. He grew up as an honest, truthful and trusted young man in a society where debauchery, immorality, corruption and vices were the rule. The women had no rights. The people of the land were idol worshippers. They gave him the title of "the trusted one." A wealthy merchant woman hired him to sell her goods. He made handsome profit for her. She was pleased and proposed to him. He accepted her proposal and at the age of 25 years he married her.

At the age of forty years while meditating in solitude, he received a message from his creator through an angelic agency. The message was that there is no god but one God and he was a prophet of God.

He took the message to his people. They ridiculed him and disbelieved in him. A few of the family members and near relatives believed in his message. Over a period of several years more people joined in his ranks. This alarmed the establishment. Their ancestral faith in their idols and their trade from it was in danger. They offered money, position and women of his choice to dissuade him, but he did not budge. Subsequently, he was treated as a pariah, called a magician and a madman. He was abused and insulted. He did not retaliate, instead stayed calm, and continued his mission. They tortured some of his followers and killed some of them. He was boycotted and driven out of the city. No one would sell food to him or to his followers. Starvation led them to eat grass and leaves. Some did not survive. After a year or so, seeing that he stood firm, the elders of the town relented and allowed him back in town. They made several failed plots to kill him, but he was not deterred. He went around fearlessly, with no protection, proclaiming his mission openly. Some of his followers took refuge with a Christian emperor in a near Land.

Finally, when his life was imminently threatened, he left his home city stealthily at night and moved to the neighboring city, which actually welcomed him. He established himself there and consolidated his authority. He drafted a constitution and united the warring tribes. His teachings spread in the neighboring lands. His home city people would not rest until they had stamped out the new faith and his monotheistic teachings. They launched successive wars on him with superior forces and weapons. With a small ragtag band of followers and with no mounted soldiers, he successfully defended himself.

Finally, when he had enough number of followers, he marched on to his home city. The pagans of Mecca had lost the will to fight. They surrendered without fight. He forgave them all, including his worst enemies. General amnesty was declared. He established a government based on principles of justice and tolerance. The Christians, the Jews, and the pagans were accorded protection. Soon his message spread far and wide. People from neighboring lands visited him and accepted his message. He continued to receive revelation until the age of 65 years. Shortly after the last revelation, he died at his home peacefully.

In a short period of 23 years, he had rooted out idolatry and established a just government. He stopped tribal bloodshed and brought prosperity and civility to a very primitive people. Revolutionary social changes were implemented. Women were accorded legal status, treated with dignity and given due rights. Infanticide was strictly prohibited. The poor and the destitute were given care with respect and charitable disposition. Acts of Kindness and doing good to others were declared as the prime means to earn God's pleasure. Today more than one billion people worldwide follow the religion of Islam.

Historians and scholars have marveled at his revolutionary achievements without the use of force or coercion almost single handedly and in such a short time. We still do not know how he did it, but we do know what he achieved, which is nothing short of a miracle.

What were the personal qualities he had that allowed him such a phenomenal success? He was truthful, honest, trustworthy, patient to a fault, generous, forgiving and just. He was humble and God-fearing. He was a compassionate Head of the state, an astute administrator, a judge and a jurist. He was a law giver and possessed unsurpassed knowledge and wisdom. He had full and complete trust in Almighty God.

A most astounding fact was that he received no formal or informal education and was unable to read or write.

Who was this man? You guessed right; he was Muhammad son of Abdullah, the messenger of God, born in Arabia 1400 years ago. The religion that he brought is Islam. The revelations brought by Angel Gabriel are preserved in the book called the Qur'an. The text is preserved unadulterated in the language of the revelation, which is Arabic. Hearing its recitation in the Arabic inspires the listener, even if one may not know the language.

For more information on Muhammad (peace be upon him) and on Islam, you may visit www.islamquery.com

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