

The Truth about Muhammad - 1

(Was Muhammad a prophet of God?)

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This booklet is dedicated to all Muslims worldwide

"May the Truth set you free....." (John 8:32)

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Introduction

Islamic scholars lie to Muslims and non-Muslims alike by describing Muhammad as the most noble man to set foot on earth. They claim that Muhammad was the perfect role model for all time; a model of Truthfulness and Trustworthiness. And all Muslims and non-Muslims believe these lies. Many nominal Christians are converting to Islam thinking that Muhammad was a great and holy man. All these lies should be exposed and brought to light. Christians and Muslims should get to know the real Muhammad of Islam as described in the Islamic Sunnah.

Muslims are commanded in the Quran to take Muhammad as their model, and therefore Muhammad is considered the perfect and divinely endorsed role model. Since the words and deeds of Muhammad are only found in the Sunnah, it is important that the Muslims read the Sunnah. But most Muslims hardly read the Sunnah. They believe whatever has been told to them by their Imam.

The reason Muslims blindly believe what has been told to them is because they have never read the Sunnah, the writings on the deeds of Muhammad, the self proclaimed Islamic prophet. The Truth about Muhammad is told in the Sunnah. The Problem with Muslims is that they are totally incapable of thinking for themselves. No Muslims will ever challenge the Quran or question the integrity of Muhammad. And there lies the cause of all problems in Islam.

Take the vital question of Muhammad and his best selling book, the Quran. Ask Muslims what is the proof of Muhammad's prophet hood? Without battling an eye lid they will say, the Quran. Then ask them, what is the proof of the divinity of the Quran? The Muslims will reply God's final and most important prophet, Muhammad. Did you get the catch in the replies? The proof of the Quran is Muhammad and the proof of Muhammad is the Quran. And it was Muhammad who gave the Quran. This is circular reasoning and leads to nowhere. You can I can come with a book which says the same thing. It only goes to prove that Muhammad and his Quran are fake and not of any divine origin. But Muslims who are habitually brainwashed with Islam will not find any problem with such reasoning.

The fact is for hundreds of years Islam remained hidden from the civilized world. Though many Non-Muslims came in contact with the Quran and other Islamic scriptures, none took the trouble of exploring Islam to find its true nature. Jews, Christians and other non-Muslims accepted whatever fables were spread by the Muslims about Islam and Muhammad. But this has started changing in the last 25 years. More and more non-Muslims have started digging into the Islamic scriptures to find the truth about Muhammad, Islam and Allah.

And the truth has been devastating to Muslims and of much concern to the non-Muslims. Muhammad has not been a blessing to Mankind as Islamic preachers preach but the biggest curse that can ever befall mankind. A brief reading of the Islamic scriptures will make this amply clear.

Muhammad was driven by only three things - A deep greed for wealth, a desire to be known as a prophet by hook or by crook and lust for woman. Each and every deed of his was ultimately to satisfy these three Muhammedan desires. We will explore each one of his deeds as given in the Islamic Sunnah to find out the true nature of this man, whom Muslims claim to be blessing for the entire human race.

However there are many Muslims who have read the Sunnah and are aware of Muhammad's misdeeds. These Muslims deny the Sunnah entirely. They call themselves the **Quran only Muslims**. The Sunnah depicts Muhammad as a bandit, a pirate and a rapist. No wonder these knowledgeable Muslims deny the Sunnah. But unfortunately for them as you will see in the next section *The Islamic Scriptures*, the Sunnah is the heart of Islam; the Sunnah gives meaning to the otherwise useless Quran. Without the Sunnah, Islam has no meaning.

Ask any Muslims what was Muhammad's profession? They will tell you that he was a trader. Well that is partly true. Muhammad was a trader before he married Khadija his first wife. What about after marriage?

In his childhood, Muhammed briefly worked as a shepherd and made a few business trips on behalf of his 'soon to be wife' Khadija. After his marriage he stopped working and roamed aimlessly around the city of Mecca. The Sunnah narrates that he even visited some caves. In one of these caves he encountered the spirit that revealed the Quran to him. After the death of his wife, when Muhammad ran out of Khadija's wealth, he took to looting, kidnapping and slave trading and when he moved to Medina, he became a professional mobster.

Muhammad's eternal profession was looting innocent caravans and settlements, killing the man, raping the captured woman for 2-3 days, and then selling the captured woman and children in the slave markets for money. Yes, Muhammad was a professional bandit and a slave trader. And his business was blessed by none other than Allah who legalized the captured wealth and woman (called booty in the Quran) for the enjoyment of Muslims. It is all very well detailed in the Sahih (Authentic) Sunnah collections of Al-Bukhari, Al-Tabari, Ibn Ishaq and Imam Muslim. Read it. If you are a Muslim reading this material, then you should have a double reason for reading the Sunnah. Because where you and your decedents will spend eternity will depend on this.

Muslims would also tell you that Muhammad had an undying love for Khadija and this helped him to refuse to marry any other woman until her death. The truth is Muhammad married Khadija not for love but because of her money. Khadija who was very wealthy married Muhammad because

Muhammad was a handsome man in his youth. So on both sides the reason for marriage was the gratification of the flesh. Muhammad lived on his wife's money and during her lifetime would not dare to marry any other woman fearing the wrath of his wife.

Some Muslims even argue that Muhammad was an advocate of women's rights. This is laughable. We will come to his feminist qualities later on, but it is enough for you to know that Muhammad was the killer of woman rights. During his lifetime he ravished several women captured during the raids and degraded woman to the worst extent possible. The very Quran which Muhammad revealed to the world describes woman as "*fields ready to be ploughed by man whom man should plough whenever they can*" (Quran 2:223). We will discuss in detail later on what Muhammad thought of woman.

Many Muslim Scholars who are aware of Muhammad's raids defend all of Muhammad's actions by claiming that they were necessary to promote Islam. They try to believe (and attempt to make others believe) that it was necessary for Muhammad to fight with disbelievers, precisely those unclean polytheists in order to establish Islam. These battles are projected as wars of self defence. And most Muslims and some non-muslims too fall for this trick. That is why I am saying examine the evidence for yourself. Read the Sunnah. The Sunnah collections of Bukhari and the *History of Islam* by Tabari are available in most government libraries as bound volumes. Read them there if you do not own a copy of them personally.

Consider the Muslim excuse that Muhammad's raids were necessary to promote Islam. Can this be considered as a valid excuse for raiding a settlement? Consider you are going on a vacation with your family. In a dark alley, a bunch of hoodlums stop your car. They kill you and your son; steal your car and belongings and rape your wife and sell her to a brothel. The chief of the hoodlums who is 60 years old has developed a liking for your teenage daughter. He rapes her and then marries her in true hoodlum's ceremony. Years later this group has developed into a huge mafia sort of gang. And followers of this mafia group defend all the atrocities they did earlier by saying that they were required for the formation of the mafia group. Will you buy this argument? And yet this is the very thing that Muhammad and his henchman did. Every time they raided a caravan/settlement they killed the able bodied man, raped the woman (Sometimes Muhammad liked a teenage woman and kept her as his wife after raping her) and then sold the woman into slavery. It is all very nicely given in the Islamic Sunnah.

Coming to the main topic, the Muhammadan raids/fights were not aimed to abolish polytheism and establish Islam as Muslims scholars teach. The raids committed by Muhammad had one simple purpose - robbing? Let's read one of the hadiths to find the truth.

Narraeted Yahya: "Aisha said: A man from the polytheists accompanied the Prophet to fight with him. He said Go back. We do not want any help from a polytheist." (2276, Sunan Abu Dawud)

Strange! Do you see the problem? Muhammed supposedly fought with polytheists, yet one of those polytheists wanted to accompany the prophet. Though Muhammed refused to take the guy with him, why should a polytheist dare to ask? Obviously, Muhammed's adventures had nothing to do with preaching Islam or subduing polytheists, but making money from the raid. That's why the polytheist wanted to join Muhammed and make some easy money.

Most Muslims claim and believe a myth - 'Muhammed only fought defensive wars; he never harmed anyone unless he was attacked.' Surprisingly, the hadiths, Quran and Sirat Rasul Allah repeatedly prove otherwise. Here are a few examples from Ibn Ishaq's Sirat Rasullah, out of many incidents.

"THE RAID ON WADDAN WHICH WAS HIS FIRST RAID:until he reached Waddan, which is the raid of al-Abwa..." (page 281).

"THE RAID ON BUWAT: ...Then the apostle went raiding in the month of Rabiul-Awwal making for Quraish..." (285).

"THE RAID ON SAFAWAN, WHICH IS THE FIRST RAID OF BADR: The apostle stayed only a few nights, less than ten, in Medina when he came back from raiding Al-'Ushayra....(286)

"THE RAID ON B.SULAYMAN IN AL-KUDR: The apostle stayed only seven nights in Medina before he himself made a raid against B.Sulayman..." (360).

"THE RAID OF DHU AMARR: When the apostle returned from the raid of al-Sawiq he stayed in Medina for the rest of Dhu'l-Hijja, or nearly all of it. The he raided Najd....." (362).

For those of you Muslims what is a raid, it is an armed robbery. Its sole intention is to loot people. Muhammad was a master at that craft.

It is also important to know that Muhammed did not go out and fight with the unbelievers; rather, his companions did most of the ugly work. However, Muhammed had a responsibility to make sure that looted wealth was equally distributed. He merely charged one-fifth of the looted goods, known as Khumas, for his service, which of course was a sizable amount for his living.

Obviously, handy-dandy Allah was very helpful in legalizing the robbing business. Muhammed, in fact, made his Allah involved in it, and had him declare in the Quran,

"And know that whatever ye take as spoils of war, lo! a fifth thereof is for Allah, and for the messenger..." (Quran 8:41).

"That which Allah giveth as spoil unto His messenger from the people of the townships, it is for Allah and His messenger..." (Quran 59:7).

Is it not amazing how Allah asked for his share of booty? How the heck a god, supposedly an all merciful god, would do with the booty is the question. It's not only the Quran, but several Ahadith also confirm how Muhammed took it upon himself to distribute the looted wealth.

"Abd Allah b. Amr said: When the Apostle of Allahs (May peace be upon him) gained a booty he ordered Billal to make a public announcement. He made a public announcement, and when the people brought their booty, he would take a fifth and divide it...."(2706, Sunan Abu Dawud).

Muhammed, as Muslims argue, fought defensive wars, meaning he only combated to save his precious life. Yet he earned booty without a fight. Apparently, enemies of Muhammed attacked him maliciously, but brought their wealth with them, and delivered it to Muhammed upon defeat. They even rewarded Muhammed with their own wives and children to become slaves, while Muhammed was busy saving his life. Such belief, though, seem absurd to any sane person. Muslims and the non-Muslims who are itching to sacrifice themselves as dhimmies desperately cling to this kind of fallacy.

Let's look at one of his defensive wars. At the end of Muhammed's life, he invaded Khyber where the Jewish tribe B. al-Nadr lived, and Kinana b. al-Rabi was the custodian of all the treasures that the tribe had. When inquired by the prophet of Islam, being a responsible person, he refused to disclose the whereabouts of the treasure. Ibn Ishaq reports in Sirat Rasul Allah,

"When he asked him about the rest he refused to produce it, so the apostle gave orders to al-Zubayr b. al-Awwam, 'Torture him until you extract what he has,' so he kindled a fire with flint and steel on his chest until he was nearly dead..." (Ishaq 515) .

Tabari, another famous historian, describes the same event with more details:

"...the Messenger of God gave orders concerning him to al-Zubayr b. al-Awwam, saying, 'Torture him until you root out what he has.' Al-Zubayr kept twirling his fire stick in his breast until Kinanah almost expired..." (Tabari 123).

Oddly, the prophet of Islam knew when the world would fall apart, and he had the ability to split the moon, yet he did not know where the treasure was hidden. Besides his inability, he did not hesitate to order torturing an innocent person. So much for defensive war!

In this series on Muhammad, we will discuss each and every unique deed that Muhammad did. We will see how Muhammad was not a prophet but the most evil man who ever lived. But before that we need to know about the Islamic scriptures considered authentic and holy by Muslims. In evaluating Muhammad, we will consider only these authentic scriptures held sacred by

Muslims. Without a firm knowledge of the Islamic scriptures you would not be able to understand much about Islam and their beliefs.

So let's start.....

The Islamic Scriptures

Muhammad and the formation of Islam are completely unknown to secular history. There is no mention of Muhammad anywhere in world history written by Historians. Whatever we know about Muhammad today solely comes from the Islamic sources.

Islamic Scriptures come in three flavors. Firstly there is the Quran. Then there is the Sunnah (Islamic Traditions). And lastly we have the Hadiths. Hadiths are reports and anecdotes of Muhammad from the mouth of his wives, disciples and companions. Each Hadith features chains of reporters (called isnad's). The Sunnah comprises of authenticated Hadiths. That is the Sunnah Hadiths have been traced via the isnad's directly to Muhammad. In this section we will concentrate only on the Quran and the Sunnah since they are reliable source of information on Muhammad.

Muslims believe that the Quran is quite literally the Word of Allah, whereas the Sunnah was inspired by Allah but the wording and actions are Muhammad's. This is the primary difference between the two flavors. Let us check them out.

The Quran

Muhammad and his Quran are the center point of Islam. Muslims practically worship Muhammad and his book. What Jesus Christ is to Christianity is the Quran to Islam. Muslims claim that the Quran is the uncorrupted word of Allah devoid of all errors. They argue that the Quran has not been expressed using any human words. Its wording is letter for letter fixed by Allah.

The Quran is made up of 114 surahs (chapters) arranged in descending order of length. Muslims claim that these surahs were allegedly revealed to Muhammad by the angel Gabriel over a period of 20 years. The surahs are differently named. For instance the 2nd Surah is named "The Cow" (al-Baqarah), the 8th, "The Spoils of War" (al-Anfal) and the 54th, The Moon (al-Qamar). Each surah is divided into verses called as ayat (singular ayah). There are in total around 6600 verses in the Quran. Overall it is a very small book. Formatted like the Bible, it is slightly smaller than the New Testament.

There are a number of English translations of the Quran. The Quran is named according to the name of the person who has translated the Quran to English. Hence we have Yusuf Ali Quran, Noble Quran, Pickthall Quran, the Ahmed Ali Quran, Shakir Quran and so on. The texts of these Quran's differ slightly due to the different translations by the different translators (just like in the case of the Bible).

Problems with Muhammad's Quran

While Muslims claim that the Quranic texts is word to word fixed by Allah and proclaim it as a miracle from Muhammad, even a cursory reading of the Quran exposes this myth. Let me explain what I mean.

The Quran claims for itself that it is "mubeen" or "clear" and written in pure Arabic and Muslims will tell you so (actually lie to you). But the fact is that roughly one fifth of Quran does not make sense in any language. In other words, a fifth of the Quranic text is just incomprehensible. This means that out of the 6600 Quranic verses, approximately 1200-1300 verses are completely beyond the understanding of man. In Quran 3:7, Allah claims that only he can understand them. That is not the end of it all. In the entire Quran in total only 700 verses can be understood in their entirety. The rest are partly understandable or are open ended leaving a lot to guesswork and resulting in chaos and confusion for most Muslims who have the capability to understand the Quran.

And this is what has caused the traditional anxiety regarding translation. If the Quran is not comprehensible - if it can't even be understood in Arabic - then it's not translatable. Mullahs and Islamic Scholars fear that. And since the Quran claims repeatedly to be clear but obviously is not - as even speakers of Arabic will tell you - Muslims do not want it translated out of the religious Arabic it is written in. At most it can only be by hearted like a parrot and that is what most Muslims are doing without actually understanding it.

The Quran reminds readers that it is "*A Quran in Arabic, for people who understand.*" Despite its repeated assertions to the contrary, however, the Quran is often extremely difficult for contemporary readers - even highly educated speakers of Arabic - to understand. One of the reasons is that the Quran is written in a highly oldish form of Arabic which seems nice to hear but it is very difficult to understand just like old Shakespearian English. Many Muslims claim that this lack of understandibility as a divine miracle of Allah. The actual fact is that Muslims are so blinded by faith that they can see Miracles everywhere in the Quran.

Some more educated Muslims claim that Arabic is a very complex, artistic and poetical language by nature! A single word can have a host of meanings. So the Quran cannot be understood by even educated Arabs. I refute their reasoning. The Torah is written in Hebrew, a language much more complex and refined than Arabic. And yet the Torah has been completely translated to English without loss of meaning by Jewish Rabbi's. What is stopping the Arabic Scholars from translating it from Arabic?

The reason for the Quranic lack of understandability is simple. It is not of divine origin but was written by Arab Bedouins. One fifth of the Quran does not make sense in any language. Many times there are dramatic shifts in style, voice, and subject matter from verse to verse. Sometimes there is no co-relation at all between two verses of a Surah. Their subject matter and

style of presentation differ widely. Adjoining Surahs have no relationship at all. The Quran lacks intelligent transitions between verses and also between surahs. The best way to imagine the Quran is that some individuals wrote the verses without numbering the pages and then they got blown away due to the desert wind. These verses were collected together by some other individual and joined to give rise to the Quran.

The inconsistencies in the Quran are extremely easy to find. God may be referred to in the first and third person in the same sentence; divergent versions of the same story are repeated at different points in the text; divine rulings occasionally contradict one another. It defends these contradictions by asserting the right to abrogate its own message ("God doth blot out or confirm what He pleaseth") thereby proving that the God of Islam is a whimsical fool who cannot make up his mind (or an Arabic Bedouin depending on which you choose to believe).

Anyone who has read the Bible as well as the Quran will see the superiority of the Bible over the Quran (unless you are intellectually blind). **The Bible claims to be inspired by God but written by Man while the Quran claims that its every letter is fixed by Allah.** So we would expect the Quran to be far more superior to the Bible. But this is not so. Infact the opposite is the case.

And that was just the appetizer. Let's proceed to the main course about the Quranic problems.

Another important things to note is the tone of the Quran. The Quran was revealed in two phases – at Mecca thereby called the Meccan surahs and then at Yathrib (present day Medina) called the Median surahs. The Meccan surahs were revealed earlier to the hijra to Medina. The Meccan surahs by and large preach peace and tolerance while the Median surahs are extremely intolerant of other religions. When Muslims show you tolerant verses like,

"There is no compulsion in religion" (Quran 2:256)

Or

"Bring forth your argument, if ye are telling the truth" (Quran 2:64)

or Quranic verses affectionately calling Christians and Jews the people of the book, be assured that they are purposely deceiving you. According to the Quranic concept of **abrogation** or cancellation of the verses, most of the peaceful verses in the Quran were considered 'Mansuch' or cancelled by the violent ones. Muslims know that but are purposely lying to you to save their face.

All the peaceful verses in the Quran were revealed at Mecca when Muhammad did not have an army at his disposal. A few years after the hijra to Medina when Muhammad raised a army and accumulated a lot of wealth by robbing innocent citizens through raids, he spewed up the violent Quranic

verses which command Muslims to wage war and murder non-Muslims or convert them to Islam either through marriage (for woman) or by force (for men).

Since Muhammad could not remember many of the Quranic verses which he had cooked up earlier (See Tabari I:299) he came up with a noble doctrine. If a later Quranic verse contradicted a Quranic verse earlier revealed, then that old verse was cancelled out by the new verse. This principle of Islam is called as **Abrogation** and is one of the most important principles of Islam. Though Abrogation is a fundamental principle of Islam, most Muslim scholars have trouble pinpointing which are the exact verses abrogated in the Quran. Each Muslim scholar will have a different list of verses abrogated.

Abrogation means to annul or cancel something with appropriate or legal authority. The concept of "abrogation" in the Quran is that Allah chose to reveal ayat (singular ayah – means a sign or miracle, commonly a verse in the Quran) that supercede earlier ayat in the same Quran. The central ayah that deals with abrogation is Surah 2:106,

None of Our revelations do We abrogate or cause to be forgotten, but We substitute something better or similar: Knowest thou not that Allah Hath power over all things? (Quran 2:106)

Of course people who think with their brains will struggle with the question of how an eternal revelation of God could have such time-bound revelation in it. It seemed at odds with the nature of God – the all-knowing, all-wise, creator and sustainer of the universe; the eternal, self-existent one. But for muslims such things do not count. They are totally brain dead when it comes to the Islamic scriptures and will never question its integrity and numerous contradictions.

Even among Muslims scholars there is total confusion as to what abrogation covers. Most Muslim scholars hold to the concept that some ayahs in the Quran abrogate other ayahs in the Quran. (But all of them do not hold to the same set of abrogated and abrogating ayahs). Other Muslim scholars are of the opinion that the Quran abrogates the Quran as well as the Sunnah (deed or example of Muhammad). Some Muslim scholars hold that the Quran abrogates all the previous scriptures, specifically the Torah and the Bible. And some Muslim scholars, especially of recent times do not believe in the concept of abrogation at all even though it is clearly indicated in the Quran and the Sunnah.

The issue of abrogation is a very serious problem for the Quran and its claim of divine origin. Which God could be so flimsy in mind that he had to change his commandments? Note that the Quran was revealed to one person Muhammad over a period of twenty years only. Yet according to some Muslim scholars, more than 260 verses of the Quran have been abrogated while many others claim only 5 verses have been abrogated. Compare that to the Bible which was written down by around 40 authors over a period of

1300 years and yet have none of its verses abrogated. The Question that now arises is, Was Muhammad Lying? Or had God gone Nuts?

The problems with abrogation in the Quran is twofold. Firstly if the Quran is the actual Word of God, then it is eternal and, is thus incapable of change. The abrogation problem suggests that the Quran was created, and cannot be the uncreated Word of God. Secondly if the Quran is the Word of God, it should be perfect and no verse can be superior to another. Yet we find the Quranic abrogation principle explained in Quran 16:101, 13:39, 2;106, 87:6-7 and in 17:86. I have dealt with the problem of abrogation in the Quran in my book titled "Is the Quran the word of God?". You can read it in detail over there.

To counter the problem of Abrogation in the Quran, some Muslims have chosen to deny it altogether. Unfortunately for these Muslims Quranic verses Quran 16:101, 13:39, 2;106, 87:6-7 and in 17:86 render their arguments mute. Abrogation is one of the most important principles of Islam and is found in the Quran.

Another important thing about the Quran is that the Surahs are not in chronological order (like in the Bible for instance). They are randomly placed in the Quran. Going through the Quran is not as easy as going through the Bible. The Bible is ordered chronologically. In the Bible Abraham precedes Moses and succeeds Noah. Similarly Jesus comes in a later part of the Bible compared to Jacob and Isaiah. It is not so in the Quran. Verses are arranged randomly without any relation to the preceding or succeeding verses. What this means is that the 2nd Surah may not be revealed earlier than the 8th Surah or the 54th one. Similarly it is extremely difficult to make out the context of most statements in the Quran. It requires the utmost sense of duty and attention on the part of Muslims to plough through the Quran to search for relevant verses.

The Quran contains numerous fables. It mentions trees, stones and clouds that can speak (Quran 41:11). It narrates stories of mountains that have fear (Quran 33:72). Another curiosity is the mythical beings known in Islam as Jinn. Jinns are found only in Arabian mythology. The Islamic Sunnah says that Jinn stand on top of each other's shoulders all the way up to heaven, and listen to what is being discussed. (So how far up is heaven exactly?) They then pass on this information to soothsayers and oracles (Sahih Bukhari Volume 9, Number 650). The Quran says that the stars were created to defend heaven from such eavesdroppers (Quran 37:6-8), as well as saying that the stars are used as missiles (projectiles) to drive them away (Quran 67:5). Further it incorporates mythical characters into its stories. It mentions some Hud, Salih, Shu'ayb, Luqman, and others as prophets of God whose origins are found only in Arabian lore. Most Muslims pass right by these fables without even thinking twice about these myths.

There are hundreds of inconsistencies and scientific and historical errors in the Quran. According to the Quran, Solomon the son of David could

understand the speech of Ants (Quran 27:18-19). If the Quran was really the work of God then author would have been knowing that ants cannot talk nor make sounds. They communicate through chemical trails and smell not sound.

The Quran further says that Alexander the Great was a Muslim prophet who went in search of the setting place of the sun, and saw it setting in a muddy spring. (Quran 18:85-86)

The Quran explaining about embryonic development states that a blood clot is turned to bone and then God "clothes the bones with flesh" (Quran 23:13-14). This is outright wrong. It is scientific fact that living tissue forms first, and then bones grow at a later time, and continue to gain strength (by building calcium) for many years after birth. So much for the divine origin of the Quran.

The Quran states that Allah created the sky in layers. He created seven heavens, and decked the lowest heaven with lamps (Quran 67:3-5) and adorned it with the beauty of the stars (Quran 37:6). The Quran also states that the moon is within these seven heavens (Quran 71:15-16). If the stars (lamps) are in the lowest heaven, they are either closer to the earth than the moon, or are at an equal distance from the earth as the moon. This is a glaring error in the Quran as the stars are much farther away than the moon.

The Quran also lacks context. At many places it is very difficult to make out who is talking to whom or what Allah is saying in the Quran. To help Allah with what he is saying Muslims translators have introduced a lot of missing words in the Quran. When you pick up a copy of Quran and start reading it, notice the words inserted in circular brackets. These are not there in the original Arabic Quran. They have been introduced by the translators to help Allah with his language.

All in all, I will say that the Quran is the most pathetic piece of scripture ever written. It is for those who have never warmed a bench in a school.

The Sunnah

Truly it can be said that the Quran is practically useless. But luckily for the Muslims the Sunnah comes to the aid of the Quran. The Sunnah is mostly made up of Hadiths. Hadiths are reports and anecdotes of Muhammad from the mouth of his wives, disciples and companions. Each Hadith references a verse in the Quran and hence they are extremely important in deciphering the Quran. Muslims believe that the Hadith is divinely inspired scripture directly from Allah. Each Hadith features chains of reporters.

The Quran contains hundreds of commands ordering Muslims to obey Muhammad, to believe in him, to follow his example and so on. And these lifestyle examples and deeds of Muhammad are found in the Sunnah.

To realize how important is the Sunnah and the Hadiths to Islam, realize that the five pillars of Islam are nowhere found in the Quran. They are found in the Sunnah. In addition each Hadith is tied to a verse in the Quran. Since the Quran lacks context and chronology, the hadiths are extremely important in deciphering the Quran. They give meaning to the practically useless Quran. Without the hadith collections, it is virtually impossible to make sense out of the Quran. It can correctly be said that without the hadiths, the Quran is not fit to be even toilet paper.

Theoretically speaking there are a number of books which detail incidents about the life of Muhammad and hence form the Sunnah. But practically all Muslim scholars agree on a few sources as the authentic and most trusted sources on the life of Muhammad. The rest of the Sunnah sources either are expoundations of these sources or are ones having no historical basis i.e. The chains of reporters mentioned in the hadiths cannot be traced to any of Muhammad's companions or disciples.

The most trusted and reliable Sunnah sources are the history of Islam by Al-Tabari called the **Tarikh al-rulul wal-muluk** (or the **Tarikh**), the biography of Muhammad by Ibn Ishaq called the **Sirat Rasul Allah** (or the **Sira**) and the hadith collections of Sahih Bukhari, Imam Muslim and Ibn Saad. Almost 99% of the history of Islam and the life of Muhammad can be derived from these five Sunnah sources.

The most sacred of the Sunnah sources for Muslims is the "**Sahih Al-Bukhari**". It comes in nine volumes, and contains thousands of Hadiths. It is accepted by all Muslims as the authentic words of Muhammad and ranks as the most accepted book of Islam after the Quran.

However Sahih Bukhari consists of arbitrary hadiths without chronological aspects. Fortunately for Muslims, there are two Sunnah sources that provides the chronology and the context that Islam so badly needs. They are the Sira and the Tarikh. These two books provide the chronology and the context that the Quran and the hadith sources lack. They alone give the Islamic timeline from pre-Islamic times to the conquest of the world by Muslims. Even though Muslims theoretically consider the Quran and the Sahih Al-Bukhari as the two most important books of Islam, it is the Sira and the Tarikh which are the lifeblood of Islam. Without these two books, Islam has no history and no chronology.

Ibn Ishaq's **Sira** is the earliest written book on Islam, written some 120 years after the death of Muhammad. It provides the lone account of Muhammad's life and the formation of Islam. The Sira's chronological presentation is similar in style to the Christian Gospels and this makes it extremely important. Sadly we do not have a original version of this book today. The only edition of Ibn Ishaq which has survived till today is that which was edited and abridged by Ibn Hisham some 50 years later. And in his abridged copy, Hisham wrote that he was omitting text that was detrimental to the spiritual health of the prophet (Muhammad) and would

hurt certain people. In other words he sanitized the behavior of the prophet and removed all references which would hurt the projection of Muhammad as a prophet of God. Thus Ibn Hisham removed most of Muhammad's immoral behavior; behavior that would immediately show the world what a immoral person Muhammad was. Similarly were removed many of the controversial actions of Muhammad; deeds that would crucify Muhammad's claims as a prophet of God.

And that is why the history of **Al-Tarbari** is extremely important. Al-Tabari had a copy of the Sira when he compiled his monumental works and used it for reference. The history of Islam by Al-Tabari (also called the Tarikh) is the most comprehensive and detailed history of Islam and life of Muhammad written some 250-300 years after the death of Muhammad. His works are compiled in a number of volumes and are available in most government libraries. The History of al-Tabari is formatted like the Bible. It begins with Islamic creation and ends with the acts of Muhammad's companions. The history is a compilation of Hadith quotes and Quran passages. Just like the Sira, the history of Al-Tabari is also comprised mostly of Hadiths and is set chronologically. These narrative and chronological Hadith are extremely important and are required to provide the Quran with the context of circumstance, time, and place that it otherwise lacks. Since the Sira has been edited and sanitized by Ibn Hisham we are heavily reliant on Tabari's Tarikh for the oldest uncensored narrative of Muhammad's words and deeds, his god and religion.

The works of Imam Muslim "**Sahih Muslim**" contain hadith collections like that of Bukhari. Bukhari compiled his massive work *The True Traditions* which is consisted of ninety-five books or sections, about 220 years after the death of Muhammad. Muslim published his Hadith collection some five or six years later."

Apart from these there are a few other sources which are also referenced by Muslims. One of them is Waqidi's **Kitab al-Maghazi**, a compilation of Muhammad's raids. It is one of the earliest books written on Muhammad being written some 160 years after the death of Muhammad. While interesting, Waqidi doesn't help explain Islam as he focused on battles and invasions. He doesn't even venerate Muhammad as a prophet. A "mughazi" is an Islamic raid or invasion inspired by Muhammad, so Waqidi's work is only valuable if one is looking to judge Muhammad's skill as a raider or bandit, not a prophet.

Another Sunnah book held sacred by Muslims is the **Kitab at-Tabaqat al-Kabir** by Ibn S'ad. Even though this book is held as authentic by Islamic Scholars, One of the things to notice in this book is that the portrait of Islam's prophet as depicted in this book is especially vulgar and immoral.

Other than these there were a number of hadith collections and biographies of Muhammad written by Muslims. But Islamic scholars consider them as of secondary value as compared with the ones mentioned above. The reason is

that these works are not primary sources, as they are themselves based on the sources mentioned above.

In conclusion I will say that Quran is regarded as deficient due to its lack of context and chronological order. Ishaq's Sira is the oldest and most reliable source, but sadly it's composed only of oral reports a century removed from their authors. Islam's most comprehensive history, the Tarikh was written some two and half centuries after the death of Muhammad. Moreover, Bukhari and Muslim are additive but their lack of historical grounding, their late date, and their constant contradictions render them considerably less valuable. But as bad as these are, they are the best Islam has to offer to know the formation of Islam and the life of Muhammad. But the worst news is that these most trusted of Islamic Scriptures do not depict Muhammad as a prophet of God, but a ruthless murderer, pervert and money grabber. They do not show him up as a holy man, but as a bandit leading over 70 robbery raids, a rapist, a sexual offender, a pedophile and a man who spewed up "Scripture" to serve his own interests.

How the Quran was revealed to Muhammad

Many people know that the Quran was revealed to Muhammad. But what people don't know is how it was revealed to Muhammad. Here are some hadiths reports on the same.

Narrated 'Aisha:

*(the mother of the faithful believers) Al-Harith bin Hisham asked Allah's Apostle "O Allah's Apostle! How is the Divine Inspiration revealed to you?" Allah's Apostle replied, "**Sometimes it is (revealed) like the ringing of a bell, this form of Inspiration is the hardest of all and then this state passes off after I have grasped what is inspired. Sometimes the Angel comes in the form of a man and talks to me and I grasp whatever he says.**" 'Aisha added: **Verily I saw the Prophet being inspired Divinely on a very cold day and noticed the sweat dropping from his forehead (as the Inspiration was over).** (Sahih Al-Bukhari, Volume 1 Number 2)*

Narrated 'Aisha: (the mother of the faithful believers):

The commencement of the Divine Inspiration to Allah's Apostle was in the form of good dreams which came true like bright day light, and then the love of seclusion was bestowed upon him. He used to go in seclusion in the cave of Hira where he used to worship (Allah alone) continuously for many days before his desire to see his family. He used to take with him the journey food for the stay and then come back to (his wife) Khadija to take his food likewise again till suddenly the Truth descended upon him while he was in the cave of Hira. The angel came to him and asked him to read. The Prophet replied, "I do not know how to read.

The Prophet added, "**The angel caught me (forcefully) and pressed me so hard that I could not bear it any more.** He then released me and again asked me to read and I replied, 'I do not know how to read.'
Thereupon he caught me again and pressed me a second time till I could not bear it any more. He then released me and again asked me to read but again I replied, 'I do not know how to read (or what shall I read)?'
Thereupon he caught me for the third time and pressed me, and then released me and said, 'Read in the name of your Lord, who has created (all that exists) has created man from a clot. Read! And your Lord is the Most Generous.'" (Quran 96.1-3) Then Allah's Apostle returned with the Inspiration and **with his heart beating severely. Then he went to Khadija bint Khuwailid and said, "Cover me! Cover me!" They covered him till his fear was over and after that he told her everything that had happened and said, "I fear that something may happen to me."** Khadija replied, "Never! By Allah, Allah will never disgrace you. You keep good relations with your Kith and kin, help the poor and the destitute, serve your guests generously and assist the deserving calamity-afflicted ones."

Note the salient points of this transaction,

1. An angel visits Muhammad who tortures him by squeezing him half to death.
2. The angel strikes dread and fear in Muhammad, instead of comforting him.
3. Muhammad thinks something terrible has happened to him.

Here are some more hadiths which describe how the Quran was revealed to Muhammad,

*"Ubida b. Samit reported that when wahi (inspiration) descended upon Allah's Messenger (may peace be upon him), **he felt a burden on that account and the colour of his face underwent a change.**" (Sahih Muslim, Book 030, Number 5766)*

*... Zaid said, "Ibn-Maktum came to the Prophet while he was dictating to me that very Verse. On that Ibn Um Maktum said, "O Allah's Apostle! If I had power, I would surely take part in Jihad." He was a blind man. So Allah sent down revelation to His Apostle **while his thigh was on mine and it became so heavy for me that I feared that my thigh would be broken.** Then that state of the Prophet was over after Allah revealed "... except those who are disabled (by injury or are blind or lame etc.) (Quran 4.95) (Sahih Al-Bukhari, Volume 4, Number 85)*

*"... on the authority of Abu Arwa al-Dawsi; he said: I witnessed the revelation coming to the Prophet, may Allah bless him, while he was riding his beast, **it screamed and contracted its fore-legs, and I thought they would break.** Sometimes it sat and sometimes it stood up straightening its fore-legs till the burden of the revelation was gone and the (Prophet) got down from it like a string of pearl." (Ibn Sa'd, Kitab Al-Tabaqat, page 228)*

Narrated Safwan bin Ya'la bin Umaiya:

*Ya'la used to say, "I wish I could see Allah's Apostle at the time he is being inspired Divinely." When the Prophet was at Al-Ja'rana and was shaded by a garment hanging over him and some of his companions were with him, a man perfumed with scent came and said, "O Allah's Apostle! What is your opinion regarding a man who assumes Ihram and puts on a cloak after perfuming his body with scent?" The Prophet waited for a while, and then the Divine Inspiration descended upon him. 'Umar pointed out to Ya'la, telling him to come. Ya'la came and pushed his head (underneath the screen which was covering the Prophet) and behold! **The Prophet's face was red and he kept on breathing heavily for a while and then he was relieved.** Thereupon he said, "Where is the questioner who asked me about 'Umra a while ago?" The man was sought and then was brought before the Prophet who said (to him), "As regards the scent which you perfumed your body with, you must wash it off thrice, and as for your cloak, you must take it off; and then perform in your 'Umra all those things which you perform in Hajj." (Sahih Al-Bukhari, Volume 6, Number 508)*

According to some Muslim sources, **Muhammad would sometimes foam at the mouth when revelation dawned on him:**

*"The authoritative Hadith (Tradition) relate that **Muhammad used to faint whenever revelation came to him.** It is claimed he used to act like a drunkard (See *Al-Sirah al-Nabawiya*, by Ibn Hisham; chapter on how revelation came). In his book, *Al-Qur'an al-Majid*, Darwaza claims that Muhammad was taken out of this world. Abu Huraira says that **"whenever Muhammad received revelation, he was overwhelmed by trembling."** Another account says: "He **became distressed, FOAMING AT THE MOUTH** and closing his eyes. **At times he snorted like a young camel!**" (Ahmad b. Hanbal I, 34, 464, VI, 163). (*The True Guidance (Part Four): An Introduction to Quranic Studies*)*

Ibn Ishaq says that, before the revelation first began to descend upon him, **Muhammad's friends feared that he was suffering from the evil eye:** and that, when it came upon him, almost the same illness attacked him again. What this particular malady was we can perhaps infer from the statements of the Traditionists. Ali Halabi, in his Turkish work entitled *Insanul Uyun*, informs us that many people declared that Aminah, Muhammad's mother, **used a spell in order to recover him from the influence of the evil eye.** On the authority of Amr ibn Sharhabil it is stated that Muhammad said to Khadijah, "*When I was alone I heard a cry: O Muhammad, O Muhammad.*" In tradition it is stated that he said, "I fear lest I should become a magician, lest one should proclaim me a follower of the Jinn"; and again: "**I fear lest there should be madness (or demoniac possession) in me.**" After an accession of shivering and shutting his eyes, there used to come over him **what resembled a swoon, HIS FACE WOULD FOAM,** and he would roar like a young camel:

Abu Hurairah says, "*As for the Apostle of God, when inspiration descended on him, no one could raise his glance to him until the inspiration came to an end.*" In Tradition it is stated that "*He was troubled thereat, **AND HIS FACE FOAMED,** and he closed his eyes, and perchance roared like the roaring of the young camel.*" Umar ibnu'l Khattab said, "*When inspiration descended on the Apostle of God, there used to be heard near his face as it were the buzzing of bees.*" (C.G. Pfander, *The Mizan-Ul-Haqq (Balance of Truth)*, pp. 345-346)

Hmm! Foaming at the mouth. Does it sound familiar?

Christians would immediately remember the Apostle Mark's telling of Jesus casting a demon out of a boy who was possessed. This demon-possessed boy also showed this symptom of "foaming at the mouth":

"When they came to the other disciples, they saw a large crowd around them and the teachers of the law arguing with them. As soon as all the people saw Jesus, they were overwhelmed with wonder and ran to greet him. 'What are you arguing with them about?' he asked. A man in the crowd answered,

*'Teacher, I brought you my son, **who is possessed BY A SPIRIT that has robbed him of speech. Whenever it seizes him, IT THROWS HIM TO THE GROUND. HE FOAMS AT THE MOUTH, gnashes his teeth AND BECOMES RIGID.** I asked your disciples to drive out the spirit, but they could not.'* 'O unbelieving generation,' Jesus replied, 'how long shall I stay with you? How long shall I put up with you? Bring the boy to me.' So they brought him. **When the spirit saw Jesus, it immediately threw the boy into a convulsion. HE FELL TO THE GROUND and rolled around, FOAMING AT THE MOUTH.** Jesus asked the boy's father, 'How long has he been like this?' 'From childhood,' he answered. 'It has often thrown him into fire or water to kill him. But if you can do anything, take pity on us and help us.' 'If you can?'" said Jesus. 'Everything is possible for him who believes.' Immediately the boy's father exclaimed, 'I do believe; help me overcome my unbelief!' When Jesus saw that a crowd was running to the scene, he rebuked the evil spirit. 'You deaf and mute spirit,' he said, 'I command you, come out of him and never enter him again.' **The spirit shrieked, convulsed him violently and came out. The boy looked so much like a corpse** that many said, 'He's dead.' But Jesus took him by the hand and lifted him to his feet, and he stood up. (Mark 9:14-27)

According to Islamic scriptures, Muhammad continued to receive 'revelations' which he claimed were directly from God. Sometimes he would foam at the mouth, writhe in agony and lose consciousness during a revelation.

We know from Islamic historians that Muhammad's many wives did believe he was a prophet of Allah, in part, because Muhammad would frequently go into epileptic frenzies and foam at the mouth, while receiving his "revelations". Also, unlike any of the true prophets of Israel, Muhammad would go through prolonged periods of time when he himself thought he was going mad, or that he was possessed by demons. The Hebrew prophets never acted like this. The Hebrew prophets were certain that God (Yahweh) was speaking to them. Muhammad himself was convinced that the "revelations" he received in the Cave of Hira were evil, and from a demon (Jinn). Muhammad's constant fits, foaming at the mouth and other manifestations certainly fit in with that idea. This is how demon possessed people are known to behave today, as they did in both the times of Jesus and Muhammad. The Hebrew prophets never behaved like this. But all over the world where demons are listened to (especially in India), you will find this kind of behavior.

No prophet of God was ever subject to epileptic fits & uncertainty- like Muhammad was. The Bible clearly preaches that Satan cannot possess true believers in Christ nor can he torment them. Only a person who does not have the spirit of God inside him will be subjected to demons:

"Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, for many false prophets have gone out into the world. By this you know the Spirit of God: every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has

*come in the flesh is from God, and every spirit that does not confess Jesus is not from God. This is the spirit of the antichrist, which you heard was coming and now is in the world already. **Little children, you are from God and have overcome them, for he who is in you IS GREATER than he who is in the world.***" (1 John 4:1-4)

*"We know that everyone who has been born of God does not keep on sinning, **but he who was born of God protects him, AND THE EVIL ONE DOES NOT TOUCH HIM.** We know that we are from God, and the whole world lies in the power of the evil one."* (1 John 5:18-19)

In the old Testament we read,

"Now the Spirit of the LORD DEPARTED from Saul, and an evil spirit from the LORD TORMENTED HIM." (1 Samuel 16:14)

It wasn't until God's Spirit left Saul that an evil spirit came to possess him, which shows that Satan cannot possess those who truly have the Spirit. David himself, after committing the sins he did with Bathsheba, feared that God's Holy Spirit would leave him because of his wickedness:

"Cast me not away from your presence, and take not your Holy Spirit from me." (Psalm 51:11)

It should be noted that being under the power of the Spirit doesn't mean a person will not sin, since the person still has a sinful inclination and is the reason why he/she sins in the first place. Therefore, to be under the power of the Spirit means that a person is no longer under the control and power of Satan, and that the Spirit will convict and discipline a person in case he/she sins in order to lead the person back to repentance (See for Reference Proverbs 3:11-12; 1 Corinthians 11:31-32; Hebrews 12:5-11; Revelation 3:19).

Let's recap,

Whenever Muhammad got his revelation from the source, he got one or more of the following symptoms:

1. He experienced ringing in his ears, like bells
2. Sweat would form on his forehead
3. His heart would beat rapidly
4. His face would go red
5. He would breathe heavily
6. He would suddenly fall down or lie down
7. He wanted to be covered by a blanket
8. He would fall down unconscious
- 9 . His lips would move rapidly
10. He would foam at the mouth

In addition, Al-Waqidi recorded a very interesting Islamic tradition on the behavior of Muhammad. According to Al Waqidi, Muhammad would break everything brought into the house with a shape of the cross on it.

"It is there added that he (Muhammad) had such a repugnance to the form of the cross that he broke everything brought into his house with that figure upon it. This may, however, have been symbolical of his extreme aversion to the doctrine of the crucifixion." (K. Waqidi 741 – Translated by Muir, *The Life Of Mahomet*, Volume III, Chapter Ten, p. 61, fn. 47)

Even though the Waqidi suggests that the probable reason for Muhammad's extreme aversion to the cross was because of his dislike of crucifixion, I choose to differ on this point. Today, the most powerful symbol in the world to drive out demons from persons (called exorcism) is the **name of Jesus**. The second most powerful symbol is **The Cross**. Demons have a special abhorrence for the cross. Demons tremble at the sight of the Cross. And I feel that the behavior of Muhammad was because of the demon/s that had possessed Muhammad. The similarities in the experiences of the demon possessed boy healed by Jesus and Muhammad, especially their reaction in the presence of Christ and his Cross, are quite remarkable to say the least. It shows that Muhammad was under the control of Satan and was not a true prophet of God. There really is no way around this and the implications are rather clear. Muhammad was no prophet at all. He was an imposter possessed by demon/s.

There are some Muslims who have tried to show that there are similar symptoms of "epileptic or psychotic fits which they interpreted as "prophetic" visions" (as Muhammad experienced/showed) shown by some Biblical prophets. They have tried to show that the prophets namely Isaiah, Jeremiah and Ezekiel showed the same symptoms as Muhammad. According to them it seems that, Ezekiel heard "*loud thundering noises*" (Ezekiel 3:12f); Jeremiah heard "*sound of the trumpet*" (Jeremiah 4:19); Isaiah heard loud and shrill voices like "*someone crying in the wilderness*" (Isaiah 40:3); and Jeremiah during his "prophetic experience appeared like a drunken man with all his bones shaking (Jeremiah 23:9).

The answer is that Muslims will go to any extent to lie to prove that Muhammad was a prophet when in reality he was one of the worst of creatures who ever lived. Reading the Bible will give the clear cut image as to what happened. The loud sound that Ezekiel heard was the wings of the living creatures that he saw in his vision. (Ezekiel 3:12-15). Jeremiah's trumpet sound was God's announcement of war and destruction upon Jerusalem. (Jeremiah 4:11-31). Isaiah's cry in the wilderness refers to a herald of God, his messenger, who is sent ahead to prepare the way for the coming of the Lord. (Isaiah 40:1-11). Jeremiah's acting LIKE a drunken man, and his bones shaking was due to the pain and anguish he experienced over the lies and wickedness of the false prophets and priests. (Jeremiah 23:9-14). It was nothing like Muhammad's experience. Muhammad was in a trance-like state. The experiences of the Jewish prophets were nowhere near what

Muhammad experienced. Like the examples given above, Muslims will give several experiences of Biblical prophets who experienced revelations and try to tailor cut them to explain what Muhammad experienced. The idea is to show that these prophets too experienced the same "phenomenon" as Muhammad. But reading the relevant Biblical verses in light of the context and comparing these to the experience of Muhammad will make it amply clear that the experiences were not the same nor from the same source.

The fact is that Muhammad was a false prophet who was demon-possessed. It is little wonder that he contradicted the true teachings of Christianity which perfectly agree with and complete the Hebrew prophetic tradition. It must be stated that God's true prophets never confused the being that spoke to them with either Satan or a demon, nor did they contemplate suicide after these divine encounters. This is quite different from Muhammad's experiences. There is not even one passage in the Bible which shows us that the true prophets and apostles of God were ever bewitched or came under the power of sorcery like Muhammad did.

Muhammad's Suicide Attempts

An extraordinary event occurs on the dusty road to Damascus. One strong, grim, determined traveler encounters his enemy - the God he fights against. Saul - a zealous, knowledgeable Jew, a Pharisee, is faced by Jesus Christ. He hated those that followed Christ; he was a sword welded against the flesh of the church. Upon his authority those that followed Christ were imprisoned. He joined in their killing. Saul was a persecutor par excellence, and with all his heart, soul, strength, and mind, he was going to destroy the Christians. Now he was experiencing an event that would change his life forever; he came face to face with his opponent...

"Meanwhile Saul, still breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest and asked for letters to the synagogues at Damascus, so that if he found any who belonged to the Way, men or women, he might bring them bound to Jerusalem. Now as he was going along and approaching Damascus, suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him. He fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to him, "Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?" He asked, "Who are you, Lord?" the reply came, "I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. But get up and enter the city, and you will be told what you are to do." The men who were traveling with him stood speechless because they heard the voice but saw no one. Saul got up from the ground, and though his eyes were open, he could see nothing; so they led him by the hand and brought him into Damascus. For three days he was without sight, and neither ate nor drank. Now there was a disciple in Damascus named Ananias. The Lord said to him in a vision, "Ananias." He answered, "Here I am, Lord." The Lord said to him, "Get up and go to the street called Straight, and at the house of Judas look for a man of Tarsus named Saul. At this moment he is praying and he has seen in a vision a man named Ananias come in and lay his hands on him so that he might regain his sight." But Ananias answered, "Lord, I have heard from many about this man, how much evil he has done to your saints in Jerusalem; and here he has authority from the chief priests to bind all who invoke your name." But the Lord said to him, "Go, for he is an instrument whom I have chosen to bring my name before Gentiles and kings and before the people of Israel; I myself will show him how much he must suffer for the sake of my name." So Ananias went and entered the house. He laid his hands on Saul and said, "Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus, who appeared to you on your way here, has sent me so that you may regain your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit." And immediately something like scales fell from his eyes, and his sight was restored. Then he got up and was baptized, and after taking some food, he regained his strength.

For several days he was with the disciples in Damascus, and immediately he began to proclaim Jesus in the synagogues, saying, "He is the Son of God." All who heard him were amazed and said, "Is not this the man who made havoc in Jerusalem among those who invoked this name? And has he not come here for the purpose of bring them bound before the chief priests?" Saul became increasingly more powerful and confounded the

Jews who lived in Damascus by proving that Jesus was the Messiah." (Acts 9:1-22)

Another man had a similar experience. This experience also dramatically changed his life,

Narrated 'Aisha:

The commencement of the Divine Inspiration to Allah's Apostle was in the form of good righteous (true) dreams in his sleep. He never had a dream but that it came true like bright day light. He used to go in seclusion (the cave of) Hira where he used to worship (Allah Alone) continuously for many (days) nights. He used to take with him the journey food for that (stay) and then come back to (his wife) Khadija to take his food like-wise again for another period to stay, till suddenly the Truth descended upon him while he was in the cave of Hira. The angel came to him in it and asked him to read. The Prophet replied, "I do not know how to read." (The Prophet added), "The angel caught me (forcefully) and pressed me so hard that I could not bear it anymore. He then released me and again asked me to read, and I replied, "I do not know how to read," whereupon he caught me again and pressed me a second time till I could not bear it anymore. He then released me and asked me again to read, but again I replied, "I do not know how to read (or, what shall I read?)." Thereupon he caught me for the third time and pressed me and then released me and said, "Read: In the Name of your Lord, Who has created (all that exists). Has created man from a clot. Read and Your Lord is Most Generous...up to..... ..that which he knew not." (This became Quran 96:15)

Then Allah's Apostle returned with the Inspiration, his neck muscles twitching with terror till he entered upon Khadija and said, "Cover me! Cover me!" They covered him till his fear was over and then he said, "O Khadija, what is wrong with me?" Then he told her everything that had happened and said, 'I fear that something may happen to me.' Khadija said, 'Never! But have the glad tidings, for by Allah, Allah will never disgrace you as you keep good relations with your Kith and kin, speak the truth, help the poor and the destitute, serve your guest generously and assist the deserving, calamity-afflicted ones.' Khadija then accompanied him to (her cousin) Waraqa bin Naufal bin Asad bin 'Abdul 'Uzza bin Qusai. Waraqa was the son of her paternal uncle, i.e., her father's brother, who during the Pre-Islamic Period became a Christian and used to write the Arabic writing and used to write of the Gospels in Arabic as much as Allah wished him to write. He was an old man and had lost his eyesight. Khadija said to him, "O my cousin! Listen to the story of your nephew." Waraqa asked, "O my nephew! What have you seen?" The Prophet described whatever he had seen.

Waraqqa said, "This is the same Namus (i.e., Gabriel, the Angel who keeps the secrets) whom Allah had sent to Moses. I wish I were young and could live up to the time when your people would turn you out." Allah's Apostle asked, "Will they turn me out?" Waraqa replied in the affirmative and said: "Never did a man come with something similar to what you have brought but was

treated with hostility. If I should remain alive till the day when you will be turned out then I would support you strongly." **But after a few days Waraqa died and the Divine Inspiration was also paused for a while and the Prophet became so sad as we have heard that he intended several times to throw himself from the tops of high mountains and every time he went up the top of a mountain in order to throw himself down, Gabriel would appear before him and say, "O Muhammad! You are indeed Allah's Apostle in truth" whereupon his heart would become quiet and he would calm down and would return home. And whenever the period of the coming of the inspiration used to become long, he would do as before, but when he used to reach the top of a mountain, Gabriel would appear before him and say to him what he had said before.** (Sahih Bukhari, number 111).

Here are additional details from Ibn Ishaq's "Sirat Rasul Allah" from Guillaume's translation, "The Life of Muhammad", page 106:

*"So I [Muhammad] read it, and he [Gabriel] departed from me. And I awoke from my sleep, and it was though these words were written on my heart. I thought, Woe is me poet or possessed - Never shall Quraysh say this of me! **I will go to the top of the mountain and throw myself down that I may kill myself and gain rest. So I went forth to do so and then when I was midway on the mountain, I heard a voice from heaven saying "O Muhammad! thou are the apostle of God and I am Gabriel."***

The "Kitab al-Tabaqat al-Kabir", by Ibn Sa'd, translated by S. Moinal Haq, page 225 has Muhammad saying:

"O Khadija, I see light and hear sounds and I fear I am mad".

The visitations from the spirit continued. Then they stopped for a time believed to have been from 6 months to 3 years. Tabari records:

"The inspiration ceased to come to the messenger of God for a while, and he was deeply grieved. He began to go to the tops of mountain crags, in order to fling himself from them; but every time he reached the summit of a mountain, Gabriel appeared to him and said to him, "You are the Prophet of God." Thereupon his anxiety would subside and he would come back to himself." (Tabari volume 6 page 76)

Is there a logical Explanation?

Muhammad's suicide attempts are well documented in several prominent Islamic sources like the Hadith collection of Sahih Bukhari, Ibn Ishaq's "Sirat Rasul Allah", Ibn Sa'd's "Kitab al-Tabaqat al-Kabir", and Al-Tabari's "Tarikh al-rulul wal-muluk".

But very few people are aware of Muhammad's suicide attempts. Following his initial visitation by a spirit, that claimed to be Gabriel, Muhammad was

frantic with fear and attempted suicide. He walked up to the top of a mountain and intended to throw himself off a cliff. This same being that caused his fear then intervened. Later, over the course of up to the next three years, the visitations by this spirit became rare, and Muhammad would then again attempt suicide in a like manner. Again, it was only due to the intervention of this being that Muhammad did not kill himself.

Few Islamic leaders will teach this to their fellow Muslims because it casts a stain upon Muhammad; it brings doubt to his credibility and the credibility of his assumed "prophetic" experience. Some Muslims deny the sources of the story. Other, more intelligent Muslims, knowledgeable about the sources, respond by saying that the shock of the experience caused him to attempt suicide.

However, the shock of the initial experience would have worn off over the next few days, if not weeks, hardly cause for Muhammad's continued suicide attempts over the next three years.

Examine both the above events. Both men had an unexpected encounter. Paul was confronted by a Being that identified Himself as the Lord Jesus Christ; Muhammad was visited by a spiritual force that claimed to be Gabriel.

Paul was face to face with the God of the people he was persecuting. He saw a light, heard a voice, and suddenly knew whom he was really persecuting. We read that Paul then understood that he experienced a confrontation from God. We see that he was not terrorized, he did not panic with fear, and he attempted no rash, desperate actions. And following the event, God directed his people to minister to Paul; Paul was comforted, encouraged, and strengthened.

If anyone had a reason and justification to commit a rash action it was Paul. He was forced to realize that he was persecuting and killing God's people. What type of punishment would be meted out to him? How could he be forgiven for the crimes against God he had committed? Would there be any peace or comfort to be found any place for the rest of his life?

Instead of acting crazed, Paul somehow began to know the God he was confronted by. Paul knew that this God was not going to exact revenge for the evil he had committed. Paul experienced God's forgiveness and having been forgiven much now loved much. Because of his intimate, spiritual experience, because he had tasted and seen that the Lord is good, he now submitted to God, and was determined to serve Him as ardently as he had persecuted Him.

Muhammad reacted quite differently. It is undeniable that something distressing occurred. He returns back to his wife bewildered, terrorized, "What's wrong with me?", he asks his wife. Just as children hide under the covers when they are afraid of monsters in the dark, so Muhammad had his wife wrap him in a blanket; he did not want to see the cause of terror again.

Not satisfied with her comfort, he goes to the mountain instinctively knowing that something evil had happened to him. The only way he knows how to deal with it is the final solution: commit suicide. But on top of the mountain this spirit intervenes, consoles him, strokes his ego, "O Muhammad, you are God's apostle". Muhammad returns.

But it's not over. The terror, depression, and doubt Muhammad experienced were too real, too persistent to shake. Soothing words are eroded by the inward torments, doubts, and fears, *"Woe is me poet or possessed...I will go to the top of the mountain and throw myself down that I may kill myself and gain rest."*

Unlike Paul's experience, Muhammad is not comforted by anyone but this "spirit". Muhammad is left in the lurch. As time goes on, this spirit visits Muhammad less often, the torments and depression return, and gain strength. He again goes to kill himself. And, just in time, the spirit intervenes, telling him, stroking his ego again and again, he is an apostle of god. **The bouts of depression continue over the next few years, the suicide attempts follow, and the spirit persists to sooth him. Muhammad begins to believe he is a messenger of god. A messenger of a god who's influence caused him to attempt suicide.**

Was Muhammad a prophet of God? Muslims will say yes. I will say a strong No. Let us compare Muhammad's experience with Biblical men who had experiences with God or angels. I am comparing Muhammad with Biblical men because Muhammad claimed to speak on behalf of the same God as these Biblical men.

Noah - Genesis 6: God speaks to Noah and tells him that He is going to destroy the earth. Noah does not panic, become depressed, or driven by fear. He knows that this God speaking to him, and there is no need for rash action. Noah knows this is God, and Noah does not become irrational. Noah knows that this God is not going to harm him.

Abraham - Genesis 12-18: God speaks to Abraham. Abraham does not panic, Abraham is not bewildered, Abraham does not doubt or become depressed, Abraham believes and obeys. God visits Abraham, yet neither he nor Sarah attempts any rash actions.

Moses - Exodus 3-34: God appeared to Moses in the burning bush. Moses was afraid to look at God but Moses does not act paranoid. He knew that this God was not a God of terror. Moses did not run back to his family frightened out of his mind. Moses did not become depressed over the event, thinking he was possessed or bewitched. Instead, because Moses personally experienced this God and knew he could trust this God, Moses knew and obeyed.

Isaiah - Isaiah 6: Isaiah had a powerful vision and experience of God. Yet he did not lose his mind, he was not driven by dread of God. He feared God

because of the sin in his heart, and the sinfulness of the people he dwelt among, but he did not panic. During this experience he realized God had forgiven him and accepted him. Because he experienced the real God, Isaiah did not attempt suicide or any other rash action. His mind was sound, he did not need to have a "spirit" continue to sooth him.

Mary - Luke 1: The real Gabriel also visited Mary. She too was perplexed and afraid. But during her experience with Gabriel, she gained confidence and strength. She knew God loved her. She did not become irrational or depressed, and she did not run around frightened out of her mind. She did not attempt suicide. Instead, because she experienced the living God, she knew she was loved and accepted. She knew this God was real, and she had nothing to fear.

Jesus - Mark 1: When Jesus Christ began His ministry, He was baptized in water. The Holy Spirit descended upon Him. God spoke from heaven, and the people there heard God speak, "This is my beloved Son, in Whom I am well pleased." There were no panic attacks, depression, or doubt.

And, after Jesus was challenged by Satan in the desert. He was ministered to by the angels. But Muhammad was ministered to by none. You get the feeling that instead of ministering, those spirits haunted him. Satan told Jesus "If you are the Son of God, throw Yourself down", the spirit told Muhammad to not throw himself down - he was the apostle of Allah.

As I read the incidents about people in the Bible who encountered God I do not find anything that resembles Muhammad's experience. These people actually met God, while Muhammad's entire prophet hood rests only upon what a spirit interface told him. These people were filled with a reverent fear, but never became depressed as a result of their experience. These people fellowshiped with God. Some walked with Him; to other's, He revealed Himself. None of them contemplated suicide. But many times over a course of up to three years, Muhammad tried to commit suicide, and each time this "spirit" stopped him. What plans did this spirit have in store for him?

When we read the Bible the word of God, we come across other people who tried to commit suicide.

Judas was one of them. Satan put it into his heart to betray Christ; Satan entered Judas. And when Judas came to his senses he committed suicide. When Muhammad had period of clear thought, without the influence of a spirit, he attempted suicide. (Refer John 13 and also Acts 1).

Also when Jesus cast out demons from a man, the demons entered a herd of pigs. What did the pigs do? They went mad and killed themselves - running into the sea where they drowned. These demon possessed pigs committed suicide!

This leads us to the obvious question – **Was Muhammad demon possessed?**

Even in the Quran, there are references that people believed that Muhammad was possessed or influenced by demons:

"No, your compatriot [Muhammad] is not mad. He saw him [Gabriel] on the clear horizon. He does not grudge the secrets of the unseen, nor is this the utterance of an accursed devil." (Quran 81:22-25)

"It [the Quran] is no poet's speech: scant is your faith! It is no soothsayer's divination: how little you reflect! It is revelation from the Lord of the Universe." (Quran 69:41, 42)

Here Muhammad is saying to his critics that he really saw an angel, and his words are not from a devil, or from his own imagination. No doubt the people living at that time thought he was inspired by a devil, so Muhammad spoke these words, as the Quran, in self-defense.

Ibn Ishaq's in his biography of Muhammad narrates an experience Muhammad had as a child. When Muhammad was a child a Bedouin woman nursed him. During this time he had an experience with "two men in white raiment". Here is the incident from W. M. Watt's translation of Ibn Ishaq's biography of Muhammad, page 36:

"...two men in white clothes came to me with a golden basin full of snow. They took me and split open my body, then they took my heart and split it open and took out from it a black clot which they flung away. Then they washed my heart and my body with that snow until they made them pure."

This event deeply disturbed the Bedouins and they returned Muhammad to his mother. Here is the story told by Muhammad's wet-nurse, related in Guillaume's translation of Ibn Ishaq, page 72:

*"His [Muhammad's friend's] father said to me, "I am afraid that this child has had a stroke, so take him back to his family before the result appears. She [Muhammad's mother] asked me what happened and gave me no peace until I told her. **When she asked if I feared a demon had possessed him, I replied that I did.**"*

Even in his childhood, some people thought Muhammad was demon possessed. Note that even Muhammad's wet-nurse believed he had been demon possessed. One expects a degree of attachment between the two, since she cared for and nursed him. And note it was Muhammad's mother that brought up the possibility of him being demon possessed. So it is peculiar that both the mother would suggest it and the wet nurse would return Muhammad in those circumstances: Something alarming actually occurred.

What are the possibilities of whom and what these experiences can be attributed? The things that come to mind are that:

- 1) Muhammad did indeed have a visit from Gabriel.
- 2) Muhammad was visited by a demon, or Satan himself.
- 3) Muhammad experienced some type of delusion.
- 4) Muhammad suffered from some type of epilepsy or other mental problem.
- 5) Any combination of 2, 3, and 4.

Let's recap.

From his youth, some people close to him thought he was demon possessed. Later in life, Muhammad's encounter with a spirit, the so-called "Gabriel", deeply disturbs him, and he thinks he is demon possessed. He becomes very depressed, filled with fear, and attempts suicide. But he is stopped only when this spirit appears and says he is an apostle. Later, when these visitations become infrequent, he again goes and tries to commit suicide. Each time the spirit intervenes. As time went on people continued to think Muhammad was demon inspired.

The key point to remember is that Muhammad attempted suicide many times. This was not simply a one shot affair because of a traumatic experience he had. This was his state of mind for quite some time. Was this the work of God? It is obvious that anyone who consistently attempts suicide over a period of years is suffering from some type of mental illness. His mental illness stemmed from the terrifying experience he had with that spirit. **Would God cause His chosen prophet to become mentally imbalanced? We see that in the Bible, God always edified and strengthened the people who first encountered Him. But in Muhammad's case the opposite is true. Instead of being strengthened, Muhammad was weakened. Instead of being full of confidence, Muhammad was full of fear, instead of knowing the path, Muhammad was left in doubt.**

Wouldn't God's peace and love comfort Muhammad's heart so that Muhammad did not need to continue to attempt suicide? What a horrible track record for the Islamic God Allah? The Biblical God does not work that way. The Bible says,

"God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power, love, and a sound mind" (2 Tim 1:7)

God's presence certainly did not cause Paul, Abraham, Noah, or Mary to become depressed, lose hope, and commit rash acts. Even Paul, while being physically beaten and imprisoned later in his life, did not lose hope, or give in to depression, but rather, he praised the God he knew. (Acts 16:22-31).

From the pre-Islamic pagan history of Arabia, we are able to deduce something about Muhammad's pre-Islamic faith: he did not know the true God, and whatever faith he had was very weak. Had he a relationship with God, or had a faith in the true God, he would have sought God and prayed to Him for help. Instead Muhammad wallowed in deep suicidal depression for some 3 years. Following his experience with the spirit, Muhammad became suicidal. And as time went on he continued to be suicidal. All the while he wondered, deep down, if he was demon possessed. A rational person would judge that whatever happened to Muhammad had damaged his mental state. **If Muhammad was alive today he would be considered to be mentally ill, given drugs, institutionalized, and considered dangerous to himself.**

Where does this all lead to?

Muhammad had a painful experience. It demented him. He suffered from the experience. What is the real power behind an experience that causes a man to become suicidal for up to three years?

Jesus predicted false prophets would arise and mislead many. If Jesus were telling the truth, then we should expect such false prophets to rise up, and be successful in misleading people.

"And many false prophets will arise and lead many astray." (Matthew 24:11)

Satan would seek out and try to use false prophets. Muhammad, as a false prophet, was certainly successful. For people to choose to follow Muhammad means they are rejecting Christ himself and the Salvation only he can offer. They are rejecting the only way to Salvation. Without Christ, they are doomed for an eternity in hell. Judging from Muhammad's experience, and from what Muhammad later did and taught (you can read about this in the later part of this booklet), it makes perfect sense to assume that it was a Satanic power that affected and motivated Muhammad.

Further the Bible predicts that Satan will deceive a false prophet masquerading as an angel. He will present a new gospel. This new gospel will reject the deity of Jesus Christ and his ultimate sacrifice for the sins of Humanity. The Bible says,

"And no wonder, for Satan himself masquerades an angel of light" (2 Cor. 11:14)

"But even if we or an angel from heaven should preach a gospel other than the one we preached to you, let him be eternally condemned!" (Gal. 1:8)

This is exactly what happened to Muhammad. Go back to the description of his "revelation" experience and check for yourselves. Just like the prophecies of the ancient Jewish prophets fit Christ perfectly, this prophecy from St. Paul

the great expounder of Christianity fits Muhammad, Satan and the book he gave to Muhammad, the Quran perfectly. That is what I call a man of God. St. Paul could make such exact prophecies because he walked in the commandments of the true God.

When you summarize all the data that we have gone through till now, the only rational conclusion we can draw from the above discussion is that Muhammad experienced a demonic visitation and it damaged his mental health. Satan or one of his demons appeared to Muhammad. This horrible experience terrorized him, depressed him, and caused him to attempt suicide. It made him mentally ill. However Satan protected his investment. When Muhammad was left alone the truth about what really happened depressed and frightened him. It would always surface in his mind. It was only through Satan's deceptive influence that kept Muhammad from killing himself. Finally, after a period of time, Muhammad's mind was seared. Satan had won a prize. Jesus said that Satan was a murderer from the beginning. As Muhammad went through the rest of his life, the more power he gained, the more dominion and conquest he sought, the more innocent blood he shed. All the while, he kept telling himself and others what Satan had told him many years before, "I am the apostle of God."

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Rashid Alamir "Brother Rashi" was born to Muslim parents in a small village on the outskirts of Srinagar, Kashmir in 1969. He became a Christian during the May of 1995 while doing his MS degree in the States. In 1998, Alamir became an evangelist to the Muslim world. Alamir is the founder of Muslims for Jesus movement in India and is one of the pillars of the Byzantine Orthodox Church of India (BOCI). He is extremely fluent in Arabic and Urdu and has been instrumental in bringing several thousand lost souls to Jesus Christ both in India and the Arabic speaking Asian and African countries.

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