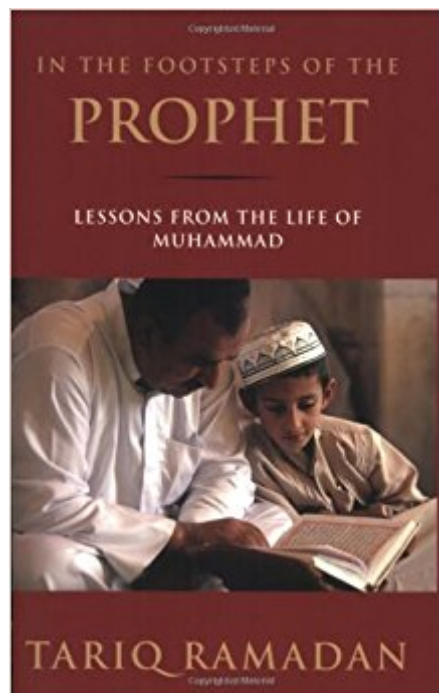




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In The Footsteps Of The Prophet: Lessons From The Life Of Muhammad



Synopsis

Named by Time magazine as one of the 100 most important innovators of the century, Tariq Ramadan is a leading Muslim scholar, with a large following especially among young European and American Muslims. Now, in his first book written for a wide audience, he offers a marvelous biography of the Prophet Muhammad, one that highlights the spiritual and ethical teachings of one of the most influential figures in human history. In the Footsteps of the Prophet is a fresh and perceptive look at Muhammad, capturing a life that was often eventful, gripping, and highly charged. Ramadan provides both an intimate portrait of a man who was shy, kind, but determined, as well as a dramatic chronicle of a leader who launched a great religion and inspired a vast empire. More important, Ramadan presents the main events of the Prophet's life in a way that highlights his spiritual and ethical teachings. The book underscores the significance of the Prophet's example for some of today's most controversial issues, such as the treatment of the poor, the role of women, Islamic criminal punishments, war, racism, and relations with other religions. Selecting those facts and stories from which we can draw a profound and vivid spiritual picture, the author asks how can the Prophet's life remain -- or become again -- an example, a model, and an inspiration? And how can Muslims move from formalism -- a fixation on ritual -- toward a committed spiritual and social presence? In this thoughtful and engaging biography, Ramadan offers Muslims a new understanding of Muhammad's life and he introduces non-Muslims not just to the story of the Prophet, but to the spiritual and ethical riches of Islam.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Starred Review. London-based Ramadan, the Oxford research fellow who authored *Western Muslims and the Future of Islam*, is probably best known for being denied entry into the United States, based on alleged violations of the Patriot Act. This excellent, engaging book ought to turn public attention back toward Ramadan as a writer and a skilled interpreter of Islamic history. In deliberately brief chapters, Ramadan brings Muhammad to life. He highlights Muhammad's resolute faith in spite of setbacks like orphanhood and poverty, and upholds the prophet as a spiritual hero "bravely compassionate and unusually tolerant of others, including non-Muslims. Ramadan notes his extraordinary kindness, even to those he battled. For example, a slave who had been given to Muhammad turned down emancipation, saying he preferred service to Muhammad over freedom with anyone else. (Muhammad immediately freed the slave and adopted him as his own son.) Similar tales of mercy lace through Muhammad's life: in the midst of a battle march, Muhammad advised his troops to be careful not to hurt a litter of puppies on the roadside; on another occasion, Muhammad released prisoners of war because they had taught community children how to read and write. Ramadan ably demonstrates why Muhammad is a spiritual paragon to the followers of Islam. (Feb.) Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. --This text refers to an alternate Paperback edition.

"This excellent, engaging book ought to turn public attention back toward Ramadan as a writer and a skilled interpreter of Islamic history."--Publishers Weekly **STARRED REVIEW**"Ramadan's book provides Muslims with a new understanding of the Prophet's life. For non-Muslims, it is not just a story of the Prophet, but rather an introduction to Islam's spiritual and ethical riches."--Islamic Horizons"For those interested in the life and times of Muhammad, Ramadan's readable *In the Footsteps of the Prophet* is a good beginning."--Vali Nasr, *Washington Post* "This excellent, engaging book ought to turn public attention back toward Ramadan as a writer and a skilled interpreter of Islamic history."--Publishers Weekly **STARRED REVIEW** "Ramadan's book provides Muslims with a new understanding of the Prophet's life. For non-Muslims, it is not just a story of the Prophet, but rather an introduction to Islam's spiritual and ethical riches."--Islamic Horizons "For those interested in the life and times of Muhammad, Ramadan's readable *In the Footsteps of the Prophet* is a good beginning."--Vali Nasr, *Washington Post* "This excellent, engaging book ought to turn public attention back toward Ramadan as a writer and a skilled interpreter of Islamic history."--Publishers Weekly **STARRED REVIEW**"Ramadan's book provides Muslims with a new understanding of the Prophet's life. For non-Muslims, it is not just a story of the Prophet, but rather an introduction to Islam's spiritual and ethical riches."--Islamic Horizons"For those interested in the

life and times of Muhammad, Ramadan's readable *In the Footsteps of the Prophet* is a good beginning."--Vali Nasr, Washington Post

Though Professor Ramadan skips over quite a few important facts, I like his book on Muhammad (s). There is enough in this book to make appealing to a Muslim reader. I suspect that non-Muslim readers will enjoy it very much. I especially like his incisive analysis and good integration with some key elements of Islam that most other people would not think about when reading this type of book on Muhammad (s). There are some areas where he could have pushed his analysis deeper, but abstained from doing so.

In a society and age where there is much confusion about Prophet Muhammad and Islam in the minds of both Muslims and non-Muslims, this book couldn't have been written at a better time. In the *Footsteps of the Prophet* pushes you to become a better person, motivated by the exemplary nature of the Prophet as a youth, father, grandfather, husband, employee, religious and political leader, and moreso simply a human being. Beyond that, it sheds light on so many common misconceptions. It does nothing short of bringing clarity to the true essence and character of the Prophet, teaching life lessons to all. Tariq Ramadan clarifies in his introduction that this book is not intended to depict the events of the life of the prophet, rather to bring to the forefront certain aspects of his life and relate it to our own lives, situations and circumstances today. The book does just that. I bought the book a few years ago, but have read it every year since then to remind me of life lessons such as being patiently perseverant in troublesome times, handling situations with wisdom and foresight of the future rather than jumping to the passions of my ego in the near term, seeing potential for goodness in every single human being no matter how evil they may seem, treating others with respect and kindness regardless of religion or any worldly classifications, living life with integrity and honesty, and simply just being my best in every single aspect of life and in every role.

I bought this book to better acquaint myself with Islam. Tariq Ramadan highlights the beautiful lessons learned in each event instead of dwelling on the war or violence. He brings meaning with such depth and sensitivity to the history of Islam that you are drawn in on a spiritual level. There have been many wars, but there have been beautiful lessons as well. This book speaks to young muslims seeking a spiritual guidance and meaning in their religion. I think people of all religions would resonate with some of the lessons underlined.

Can't wait to finish it, I am only half way through the book and I am enjoying it. Learned much more about the prophet and about the person he truly was, the book is also made of good quality paper and will last for generation to pass on!

Interesting

Amazing book! Well written for Muslim, Christian, Jew or any other religious or spiritual person. Gives just enough details and teaches lesson we can put into action right now in our current day and age. This book makes the Prophet Muhammad accessible and personal. You cannot help but come with more love and at the very least admiration for him and his struggle.

For anyone who wants to know more about the Prophet Muhammad, this is the book you're looking for. It contains alot of verses from the Quran along with prophetic hadith (sayings). A must read especially if you are a muslim.

I have read other books on the Life of The Prophet by other scholars. However, Tariq Ramadan's approach to unfolding the footsteps of the Prophet (SAWS) and the heart warming lessons, is so clear, inspiring, and constantly elevating the intellect and thirst for knowledge. It increases your love for The Prophet and motivates your soul to strive for purity.

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