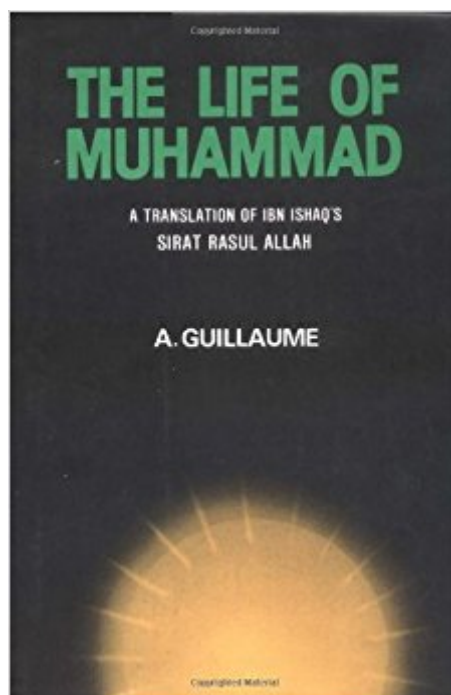


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The Life Of Muhammad



Synopsis

Alfred Guillaume's authoritative translation of the Sira of Ibn Ishaq presents in English the complete history of the life of Prophet Muhammad. No book can compare in comprehensiveness, arrangement, or systematic treatment with Ibn Ishaq's work.

Book Information

Hardcover: 860 pages

Publisher: Oxford University Press; Reprint edition (July 18, 2002)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0196360331

ISBN-13: 978-0196360331

Product Dimensions: 8.4 x 2.2 x 5.8 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.8 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.3 out of 5 stars 64 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #89,510 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #66 in [Books > History > World > Religious > Islam](#) #109 in [Books > Textbooks > Humanities > History > Asia](#) #121 in [Books > Biographies & Memoirs > Historical > Asia](#)

Customer Reviews

Text: English (translation) Original Language: Arabic --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Ibn Ishaq (Arabic meaning "the son of Isaac") was a Muslim historian who died in 768.

Like Caesar's description of Gaul, the primary materials of Islam are divided into three parts. If you wish to be fully informed regarding Islam then you must read all of the foundational documents. 1. The Quran, 2. the Hadiths and 3. The biography of Muhammad. It is in the biography that you will find information regarding the sequence of the announcements of the Quranic verses (as the Quran is not arranged by order of [revelation](#) but by length of passage). Here you will find the sequence of events in Muhammad's life (even the prediction by a Jewish soothsayer of his coming birth and mission, discussed below). You will find who really started what and why (as the followers of Mr. Muhammad were quite proud of his accomplishments). Ibn Ishaq documents as far as possible the [chain of provenance](#) of who said what regarding events and the comments of his editor Ibn Hisham further clarify both the reliability

of the passage and provide further details. In addition, controversies regarding accuracy are acknowledged by both Ishaq and Hisham. Large amounts of poetry written in reaction to events are included in the biography (and potential forgeries acknowledged). The poetry is quite the window into the mindset of the participants and therefore their world (I recommend Raphael Patai's *The Arab Mind* for further insights into why the poetry takes its specific form and language). I am reminded of the game known as "telephone" but from a practical standpoint such a concern is irrelevant as serious practitioners of Islam will regard all materials as established fact. So, let's look into these facts. Page 94: Ibnu'l-Hayyan came from Syria to Mecca in order the hope of seeing the "...emergence of a prophet whose time was at hand" and was a Jewish soothsayer. He predicts the coming of Muhammad by noting the following:

"His time has come, and don't let anyone get to him before you, O Jews; for he will be sent to shed blood and to take captive the women and children of those who oppose him. Let not that keep you back from him". Page 131: In this episode some members of Muhammad's tribe (the Quraysh) had been insulting Mr. Muhammad as he walked around the temple enclosing the black stone. Mr. Muhammad did not care for being insulted and so

"...He stopped and said 'Will you listen to me O Quraysh? By him who holds my life in His hand I bring you slaughter'". Page 165: Regarding Sura 109. One of the "Satanic" verses (meaning put into the mind of Muhammad by Satan. Yes you read that right, by Satan). Interestingly Sura 109 is one of the verses frequently quoted to show the "tolerance" of Islam "...You can have your religion, all of it, and I have mine". Later Mr. Muhammad is chastised by Allah (via Gabriel) for saying this (page 166) and Muhammad is remorseful. Allah then

"sends down" a rewrite of Sura 109 via Sura 22.51 which then abrogates the original and acknowledges that this Sura is an undoing of the influence of Satan. Page 197: Here we see "The Beginning of Islam Among the Helpers". The interesting passage here is found on 198 where 12 "helpers" are at a fair and "they gave the apostle the pledge of women. This was before the duty of making war was laid upon them". Page 208: The second pledge [aka 'Aqaba] (and NOT of women).

"When God gave permission to his apostle to fight, the second 'Aqaba contained conditions involving war which were not in the first act of fealty. Now they bound themselves to WAR AGAINST ALL AND SUNDRY FOR GOD AND HIS APOSTLE, WHILE HE PROMISED THEM

FOR FAITHFUL SERVICE THUS THE REWARD OF PARADISE (my emphasis, not in the original). Page 212: Permission is given to fight defensively in reaction to being abused by the Quraysh via being seduced away from Islam and being exiled (note that by this time Mr. M. had been stirring up quite the fuss and destroying idols. In addition he had converts from other tribes and this was a HUGE problem as now there were converts not constrained by kinship ties in a society where disputes often lead to bloodshed save for fearing to shed the blood of a relative, even if distant). Page 213: Sura 22.40-22 makes the scene: 'Fight them so that there be no more seduction', i.e. until no believer is seduced from his religion. 'And the religion is God's', i.e. until God alone is worshipped' (spelling in the original). Page 239: Jewish adversaries and hypocrites [polytheists in league with the Jews] (note the language used): 'They were the hypocrites, clinging to the polytheism of their fathers and denying the resurrection; yet when Islam appeared and their people flocked to it they were compelled to pretend to accept it to SAVE THEIR LIVES' (my emphasis). Page 280: And so it starts: 'Then the apostle prepared for war in pursuance of God's command to fight his enemies and to fight those polytheists who were near at hand whom God commanded him to fight'. Page 281: 'The raid on Waddan which was his first raid'. Note that the text does NOT say this was a defensive action but a RAID. 'Then he went forth raiding in Safar...'. Page 287: Caravan of Quraysh raided while the Muslims pretend to be pilgrims. Page 363: Muhammad goes to war with the Banu (tribe) Qaynuqa (Jews) over allegedly breaking an agreement with the apostle. Turns out this was an ordinary blood feud over killing and counter killing that was provoked by a joke played on a Muslim woman in which her dress was briefly lifted and people laughed. Normally these things were handled by paying a blood price so the feud would end but Muhammad threatened to kill 700 men over the issue (Jews) and was dissuaded by Abdullah b. Ubayy b. Salul (who was a Muslim) as these potential victims were clients of his who had protected him. Mr. M. then backed down but then he later gets a 'message' from you-know-who: Sura 5.56 in which it states; 'Oh you who believe, take not Jews and Christians as friends. They are friends of one another. Who of you takes them as friends is one of them...'. Page 369: This episode demonstrates the power and influence Muhammad was now wielding. Two brothers, one a Muslim, one not argued after the Muslim had killed a Jew per Muhammad's orders (he had given an order to 'Kill any Jew that falls into your power'. And so they did. The Muslim brother killed Ibn Sunayna. The

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Outstanding book, if you want to really do a deep study of Islam.

This book was enthralling, sometimes things got a bit slow but in reading even just for fun there is a lot in here to serve that purpose. However the book is, of course, more than that: as one of the earliest records of Muhammad's life it is a precious historical resource.

Yes. It has detail descriptions.

good book

amazing fast

Amazing book, extremely descriptive of the life of the Muslim Prophet Muhammad, written by the first Muslim scholar, high authority in the Muslim world. Must have tool for any Muslim Apologist.

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