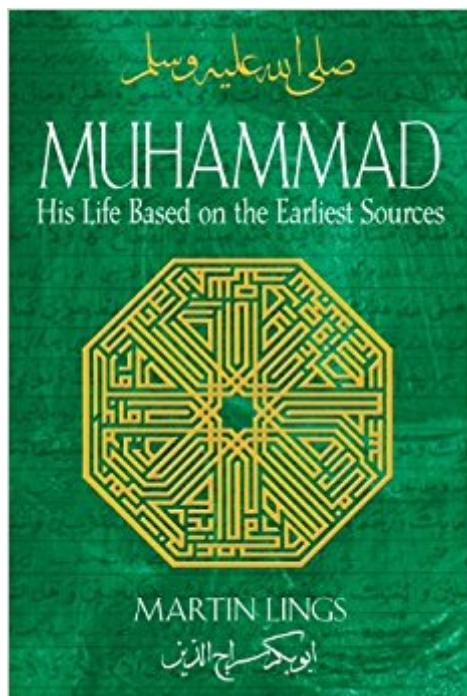


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Muhammad: His Life Based On The Earliest Sources



Synopsis

A revised edition of the internationally acclaimed biography of the prophet. Includes important additions about the prophet's spread of Islam into Syria and its neighboring states. Contains original English translations from 8th and 9th century biographies, presented in authoritative language. Represents the final updates made on the text before the author's death in 2005. Martin Lings' biography of Muhammad is an internationally acclaimed, comprehensive, and authoritative account of the life of the prophet. Based on the sira, the eighth- and ninth-century Arabic biographies that recount numerous events in the prophet's life, it contains original English translations of many important passages that reveal the words of men and women who heard Muhammad speak and witnessed the events of his life. Scrupulous and exhaustive in its fidelity to its sources, Muhammad: His Life Based on the Earliest Sources is presented in a narrative style that is easily comprehensible, yet authentic and inspiring in its use of language, reflecting both the simplicity and grandeur of the story it tells. This revised edition includes new sections detailing the prophet's expanding influence and his spreading of the message of Islam into Syria and its neighboring states. It represents the final updates made to the text before the author's death in 2005. The book has been published in 12 languages and has received numerous awards, including acknowledgment as best biography of the prophet in English at the National Seerate Conference in Islamabad.

Book Information

Paperback: 384 pages

Publisher: Inner Traditions; Revised edition (October 6, 2006)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1594771537

ISBN-13: 978-1594771538

Product Dimensions: 6 x 1.1 x 9 inches

Shipping Weight: 15.2 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.5 out of 5 stars 213 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #36,325 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #2 in Books > History > Middle East > Saudi Arabia #3 in Books > Religion & Spirituality > Islam > Muhammed #11 in Books > Biographies & Memoirs > Reference & Collections

Customer Reviews

"Lings provides a wealth of detail on the life of Muhammad, the time and place of many Koranic

revelations, and the foundation of Islam, all based exclusively on 8th- and 9th-century Arabic biographical sources and collections of the sayings attributed to Muhammad. General readers will find a well-written, straightforward chronological narrative; Muslim readers will appreciate the favorable treatment of Muhammad; while specialists will find a faithful and convenient rendering of source material." (Joseph Gardner, California State Univ. Lib., Northridge Library Journal) "For those interested in Islam . . . it is mesmerizing." (Parabola) "This work is widely recognized as the most readable account of the life of the Prophet to date." (Times of London)

RELIGION / ISLAM "This work is widely recognized as the most readable account of the life of the Prophet to date." --Times of London "For those interested in Islam in one way or another, it is mesmerizing." --Parabola Martin Lings's biography of Muhammad is an internationally acclaimed, comprehensive, and authoritative account of the life of the Prophet. Based on the *sira*, the eighth- and ninth-century Arabic biographies that recount numerous events in the Prophet's life, it contains original English translations of many important passages that reveal the words of men and women who heard Muhammad speak and witnessed the events of his life. Scrupulous and exhaustive in its fidelity to its sources, *Muhammad: His Life Based on the Earliest Sources* is presented in a narrative style that is easily comprehensible, yet authentic and inspiring in its use of language, reflecting both the simplicity and grandeur of the story it tells. The book has been published in twelve languages and has received numerous awards, including acknowledgment as best biography of the Prophet in English at the National Seerat Conference in Islamabad. This revised edition, which represents the final updates made to the text before the author's death in 2005, incorporates important additions about the Prophet's expanding influence and his spreading of the message of Islam into Syria and its neighboring states. Martin Lings (1909-2005) was a renowned British scholar with degrees in English and Arabic from London University and Oxford University. At Oxford, he studied English under C. S. Lewis, who later became a close friend. Lings taught at several European universities and the University of Cairo and served as the keeper of Oriental manuscripts for the British Museum and the British Library. His friendship and similar beliefs with philosophers René Guénon and Frithjof Schuon inspired Lings to convert to Islam. He went on to become an influential member of Western Muslim society, participating in several international Islamic councils and conferences, including acting as consultant to the World of Islam Festival Trust. He is the author of twelve books on religion and spirituality.

Very well written and useful for understanding Muhammad and the Koran. But be aware that Lings was an enthusiastic convert to Islam and accepted the orthodox Islamic views on the prophet and the book. No critical questions, but deep knowledge of Arabic and Islamic traditions.

It's not an easy read because of the detail and intricate family interactions, but it is a must read for westerners who need balance.

Great read!!

By far the clearest, best narrative of the life of the Prophet that I have come across. A little confusing due to the number of names and tribes - would be nice to have had a more detailed "family tree".

Interesting. Gave me some insights I didn't have before.

Quite interesting and comprehensive book. A good source to understand Islam and its roots. I recommend it.

Nice

This book is one of the best and concise. It is based on original accounts such as Ibn Ishak, Wakidi Tabari, etc. What I found best in this one is that the writing is smooth to read. When you read Tabari, Ibn Kathir, Ibn Hisham etc, every statement starts with a chain of transmitters to validate the truth as it was custom then and you lose the track of the subject. Unless you are making a research in the subject itself this book summarizes all the narratives from different sources and gives you all under one cover. What is missing is more information regarding pre-Islamic Arabia, I think Peters book is better for that purpose. Chapters are very short giving you breaks as often as you wish to take without losing the flow. If you want to read one book read this one.

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