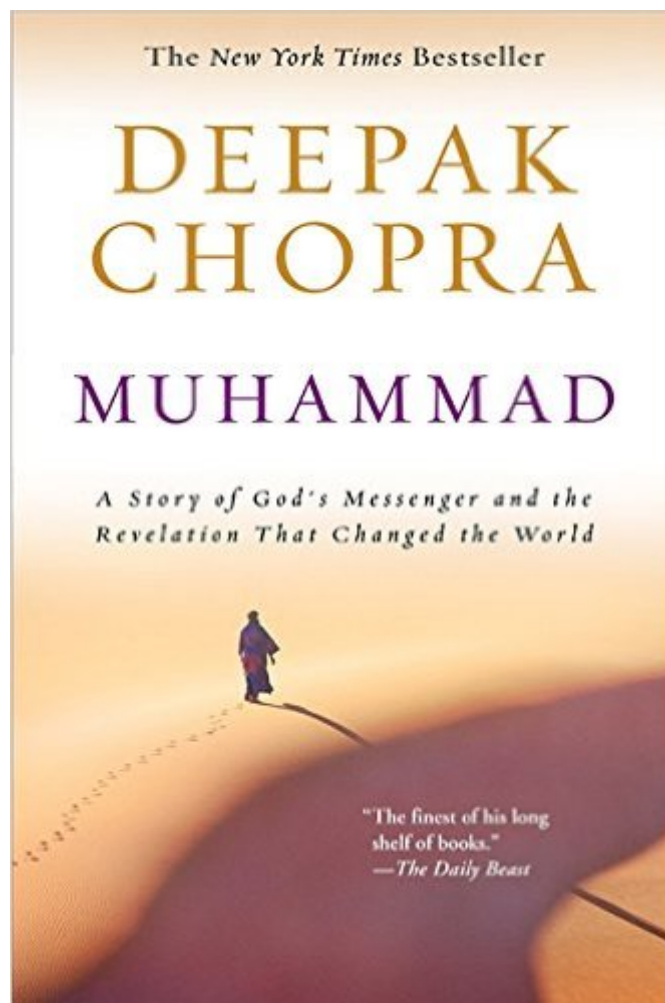


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Muhammad: A Story Of God's Messenger And The Revelation That Changed The World (Enlightenment Series)



Synopsis

“Compassionate and clearâ la courageous undertaking.”â”Greg Mortenson, New York Times bestselling author of Three Cups of Tea and Stones into Schoolsâ œAs a scholar and storyteller extraordinaire, Deepak Chopra portrays a morally courageous yet highly human messenger of God.”â”Irshad Manji, Director, Moral Courage Project, New York UniversityFrom the New York Times bestselling author of Buddha and Jesus comes the page-turning and soul-stirring story of Muhammad. Deepak Chopraâ”easily one of the most influential spiritual leaders in the world todayâ”delivers this stunning, sincere, and highly accessible portrait of the Prophet of Islam. Chopraâ”s Muhammad is an outstanding resource for everyone who thinks they should know more about the man who inspired the world’s fastest-growing religion.

Book Information

Series: Enlightenment Series (Book 3)

Paperback: 288 pages

Publisher: HarperOne; Reprint edition (May 31, 2011)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0061782432

ISBN-13: 978-0061782435

Product Dimensions: 5.3 x 0.6 x 8 inches

Shipping Weight: 8 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 3.6 out of 5 starsÂ” See all reviewsÂ” (57 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #32,679 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #53 inÂ” Books > Religion & Spirituality > Religious Studies > History #84 inÂ” Books > Literature & Fiction > Genre Fiction > Religious & Inspirational > Historical #153 inÂ” Books > Literature & Fiction > Genre Fiction > Biographical

Customer Reviews

I think it’s inevitable that many of the reviews of this book will focus on opinions of Islam, and/or an analysis of how orthodox or unorthodox Chopra’s portrayal of Muhammad is. And as an ongoing discussion, that is certainly valid and interesting. I give Chopra credit for taking on the tale of Muhammad, as he will certainly open himself up to controversy by doing so (and hopefully the controversies will ultimately lead to constructive discussions and new understanding.)However, I’m going to focus my review of this book on how it is as a spiritual novel, because I think it is first and foremost that. I think it is best read along with Chopra’s Buddha and Jesus, which are my two

favorite of his books. In these three fictional (but well-researched) accounts of the world's most well-known religious leaders, Chopra presents three very different spiritual journeys, but highlights common themes. Each feels himself as different from a young age. Each is a profound and devout seeker, and yet at some point is shocked and frightened by where his seeking leads him. Each grapples with his spiritual calling in a personal way, and then feels compelled - although for different reasons - to share what he has come to understand. And Chopra does a good job of placing each of them within the context of their respective historical times, thereby showing us how and why each of their teachings evolved into the religions that they did.

4.5 stars: I had braced myself to slog through Deepak Chopra's biographical novel "Muhammad: A Story of the Last Prophet." Instead, I was delightfully surprised by the compelling story of Muhammad's journey from affluent trader to reluctant prophet, and the engagingly lyrical music of the suras (verses) he channeled from Allah. Story: Although ostensibly a novel, Chopra bookends his story about the Muslim prophet with an author's note and an afterword, offering the reader a history lesson while reflecting on the current relationship between Islam and the rest of the world. The novel emphasizes that of all the founders of the great world religions, Muhammad is the most like us. Muhammad, a merchant who marries a rich widow and routinely travels in caravans as part of his trade, lives a regular life until the day the archangel Gabriel appears and orders the reluctant 40-year-old Muhammad to recite. (To recite, Chopra reminds, is the root word of Koran.) Using multiple first-person narrators--slaves and merchants, hermits, and scribes--he portrays life (including its brutality) on the streets of Mecca. Each chapter is self-contained. Muhammad's wife, Khadijah, laments there have been no warnings that this tumultuous, life-changing event is about to occur; Ali, the first convert, explains how the Prophet approached him. Compellingly told, this is not only good storytelling; it also helps readers, especially non-Muslims, better understand the complexities and contradictions surrounding Islam. (From Booklist) Spiritual/metaphysical content: Medium. The book focused more on the man than his teachings, which I found to be less than satisfying.

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