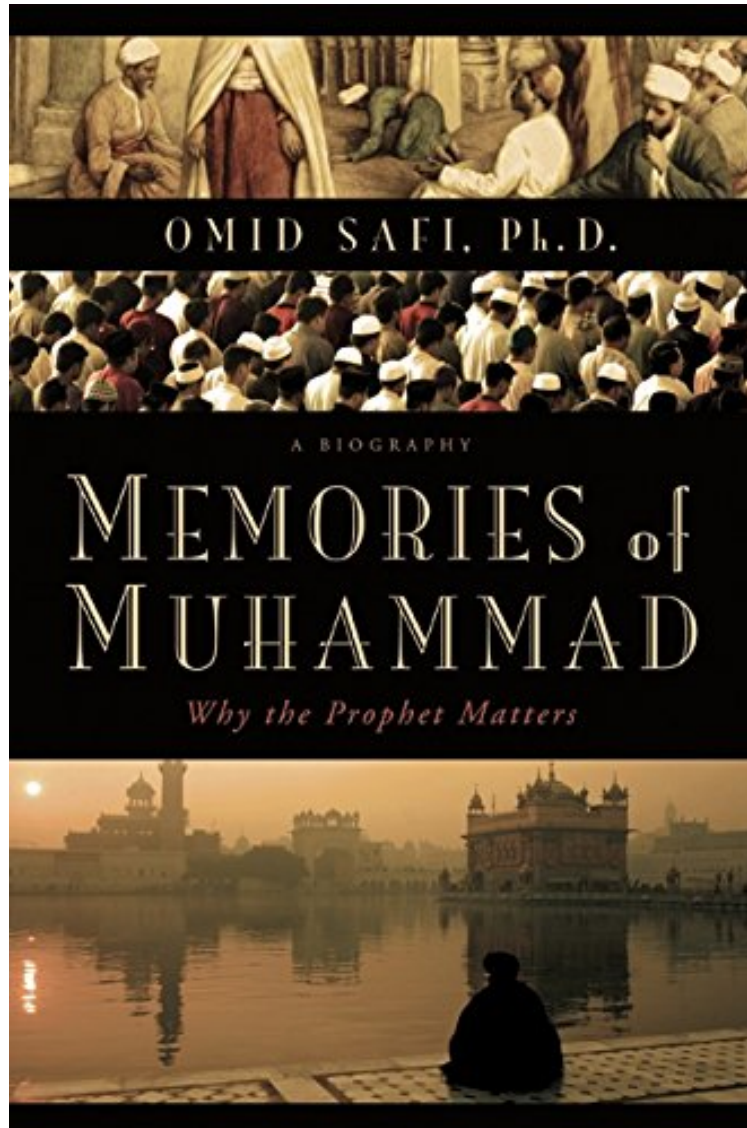


(Free pdf) Memories of Muhammad: Why the Prophet Matters

Memories of Muhammad: Why the Prophet Matters

Omid Safi

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Omid Safi : Memories of Muhammad: Why the Prophet Matters before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Memories of Muhammad: Why the Prophet Matters:

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. I can only speak to this as a justice minded Christian who wants to learn about Islam and recommend it to all who may be in theBy P. HawkinsI'm still reading it and have a lot to learn! Dr. Safi is a gently, loving man and this comes through in his writing. He doesn't sugar coat the negative but also doesn't let the (particularly non-Muslim) reader take a stand of superiority thinking that their faith tradition is without

the same negativity. And he brings the beauty out in such rich and loving ways. I can only speak to this as a justice minded Christian who wants to learn about Islam and recommend it to all who may be in the same position. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Recommended reading in today's complicated world By Bryan P.

Bohn Very helpful in understanding Islam and the many disparate Muslim countries across Arabia, Africa, Europe and, yes, in the US. It also provided me a better understanding of myself and those I live and work with. Thanks to the author for taking the time to put this book forth. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. This is a serious look at Muslims and what Muhammad ... By mark h. johnson This is a serious look at Muslims and what Muhammad really wrote and what he wanted to achieve. Well written, and a must to understand that most muslims are a positive influence in the world. don't judge them by the criminals who are using that faith for their own purposes. They are not muslims by his standards

In *Memories of Muhammad: Why the Prophet Matters*, leading Islamic scholar Omid Safi presents a portrait of Muhammad that reveals his centrality in the devotions of modern Muslims around the world. This religious biography offers new insights into Islam, covering such hot button issues such as the spread of Islam, holy wars, the role of women, the significance of Jerusalem, tensions with Jews and Christians, wahabbi Islam, and the role of cyberspace in the evolution of the religion.

From Booklist *Starred* Safi recognizes that in painting a portrait of the prophet Muhammad, he does not begin with a blank canvas. Indeed, he begins by confronting the negative images of Muhammad within the Western tradition from Dantes horrifying portrayal of the prophets damned soul to the mocking caricatures proffered by twenty-first-century Danish cartoonists. Safi invites his readers to lay aside the prejudices fostered by such images as they join in a fresh investigation of Islams Prophet. That investigation based on the Quran and on Ibn Ishaqs eighth-century biography, supplemented by other ancient and modern sources uncovers a complex personality: a towering spiritual leader who dramatically challenged traditional Arab polytheism and a resourceful political strategist who appealed to the socially marginal while outmaneuvering the powerful elite. As he fills in the historical picture with accounts of important figures close to Muhammad Khadijn, Ali, Hossein Safi must delve into the tensions that developed among Muhammads followers, pitting the Shia against the Sunni, radical against moderate. Because of the persistence of these tensions, Safi despairs of delivering a single definitive understanding of the prophet. However, his depiction of a profoundly humane and compassionate visionary offers a much-needed corrective to the darker perspective promulgated by some Islamic extremists. --Bryce Christensen A fresh investigation of Islams Prophet that uncovers a complex personality. . . . [Safis] depiction of a profoundly humane and compassionate visionary offers a much needed corrective to the darker perspective promulgated by some Islamic extremists. (Booklist (starred review)) Safi traces the three important stages of Muhammads life: his climb up the mountain to receive Gods revelation (through the prophet Gabriel); his flight from Mecca and Jerusalem to heaven where he has a direct encounter with God; and his migration from Mecca to Medina and back. (Raleigh News and Observer) [Memories of Muhammad] attempts to discover the true Muhammad obscured by both hagiography and militant extremism... Safi is on the front edge of a generation of scholars who, with one foot in both worlds, are trying to explain Islam and the West to each other. (Religion News Service) Safi brings the prophet into clearer focus with his book *Memories of Muhammad*. Safi provides a sweeping look at Muhammads life and explores many of the controversial issues that color modern perceptions. (Washington Post Book World Blog)... A rounded and revealing portrait of the life, work, and legacies of Muhammad. (Spirituality and Practice) Safi responds to all these Muhammad problems by giving us a highly readable and interesting retelling of the story of this man... [and] provides important background for anyone who wants to understand our friends and enemies among the more than one billion people who embrace Islam. (The Pilot) This book ranks as a milestone for non-Muslim readers. When most of the other books in this era are forgotten, people will continue to read *Memories of Muhammad*. (Read the Spirit) Safi makes his argument by simply and beautifully narrating the life of Muhammad. Beyond offering a biography of the spiritual leader, Safi explicates his spiritual teachings and describes how he has been remembered by Muslims over 1,400 years. (Boston Globe)... Safi maintains that it is necessary to learn about the Prophet Muhammad in order to understand Islam and to engage in open and constructive dialogue. (Wisconsin Public Radio) From the Back Cover Who was the historical Muhammad, and how do Muslims remember him as a holy prophet, a cultural revolutionary, a military leader, or a spiritual mystic? Unending media coverage of extremist fanatics, the controversy over offensive cartoon depictions of Muhammad, and fatwas against journalists and authors are all hard to ignore and have prejudiced our Western perceptions of Muslims and their founder. This definitive biography of the founder of Islam by a leading Muslim-American scholar will reveal invaluable new insights, finally providing a fully three-dimensional portrait of Muhammad and the one billion people who follow him today. *Memories of Muhammad* presents Muhammad as a lens through which to view both the genesis of Islamic religion and the grand sweep of Islamic history right up to the hot button issues of the day, such as the spread of Islam, holy wars, the status of women, the significance of Jerusalem, and current tensions with Jews, Hindus, and Christians. It also provides a rare glimpse into how Muslims spiritually connect to God through their Prophet, in the mosque, in the home, and even

in cyberspace. This groundbreaking book offers the opportunity to move from telling Muhammad's story to talking about how different Muslims throughout Islamic history have both honored and contested Muhammad's legacy.