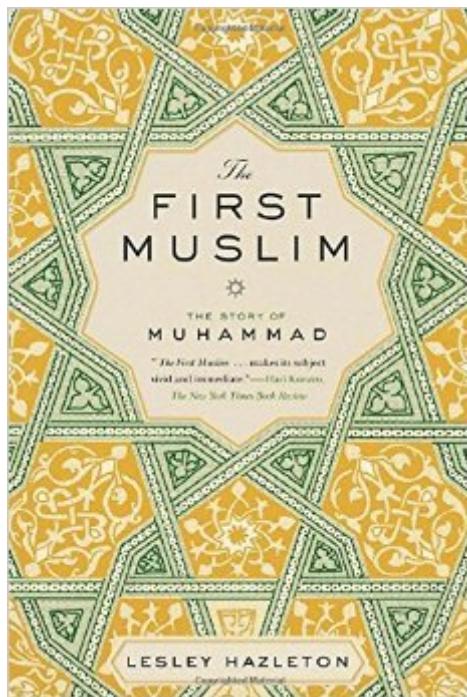


The book was found

# The First Muslim: The Story Of Muhammad



## Synopsis

The extraordinary life of the man who founded Islam, and the world he inhabitedâ "and remade. Lesley Hazleton's new book,Â Agnostic: A Spirited Manifesto, is out now from Riverhead Books. Muhammadâ ™s was a life of almost unparalleled historical importance; yet for all the iconic power of his name, the intensely dramatic story of the prophet of Islam is not well known. In The First Muslim, Lesley Hazleton brings him vibrantly to life. Drawing on early eyewitness sources and on history, politics, religion, and psychology, she renders him as a man in full, in all his complexity and vitality. Hazletonâ ™s account follows the arc of Muhammadâ ™s rise from powerlessness to power, from anonymity to renown, from insignificance to lasting significance. How did a child shunted to the margins end up revolutionizing his world? How did a merchant come to challenge the established order with a new vision of social justice? How did the pariah hounded out of Mecca turn exile into a new and victorious beginning? How did the outsider become the ultimate insider? Impeccably researched and thrillingly readable, Hazletonâ ™s narrative creates vivid insight into a man navigating between idealism and pragmatism, faith and politics, nonviolence and violence, rejection and acclaim. The First Muslim illuminates not only an immensely significant figure but his lastingly relevant legacy.

## Book Information

Paperback: 384 pages

Publisher: Riverhead Books; 1St Edition edition (February 4, 2014)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1594632308

ISBN-13: 978-1594632303

Product Dimensions: 5.4 x 0.9 x 8.2 inches

Shipping Weight: 11.4 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.1 out of 5 starsÂ See all reviewsÂ (168 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #66,703 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #5 inÂ Books > History > Middle East > Saudi Arabia #7 inÂ Books > Religion & Spirituality > Islam > Muhammed #49 inÂ Books > Religion & Spirituality > Islam > History

## Customer Reviews

Lesley Hazleton, a self-professed agnostic Jew with an interest in the Abrahamic faiths (think a less spiritually-inclined Karen Armstrong with more focus on politics than piety), presents the most refreshing and possibly important take on Muhammad I have read to date. Quoting a British

historian that to write well about an historical figure requires both empathy and imagination, Hazleton acknowledges reconstructing the life of a religious figure says as much about Muhammad as it does the author. Writers, historians, and theologians constantly create narratives (consciously or subconsciously) that strive to be informative and relevant to particular audiences and this book was no different. By stripping Muhammad of the "purity of perfection" his followers have caged him in, Hazleton shows how we can better appreciate his value as arguably the most human and realistic of all the major religious figures. And what a story! Hazleton fully appreciates this is a riveting story of the meek overcoming the mighty, social justice overcoming tyranny, with drama and action to boot. Some details, particularly in Medina, I had never read before in such detail such as political relationships with Ibn Ubayy, the particular origin of the term "hypocrites" (munaafiq) and, during the siege of Medina, the triple cross Muhammad put into motion, a truly brilliant war tactic. Muhammad as a politician and warrior may cut a different figure than Muhammad the preacher, but he is no less a fascinating figure. Hazleton avoids the dichotomy some historians (and even devoted Muslims) fall for, how a more docile preacher Muhammad at Mecca can be reconciled with political and military leader Muhammad at Medina.

[Download to continue reading...](#)

The First Muslim: The Story of Muhammad Khadija: The First Muslim and the Wife of the Prophet Muhammad Muslim Rap, Halal Soaps, and Revolutionary Theater: Artistic Developments in the Muslim World Modern Muslim Societies (Muslim World) My Very First Library: My Very First Book of Colors, My Very First Book of Shapes, My Very First Book of Numbers, My Very First Books of Words Ali Rap: Muhammad Ali the First Heavyweight Champion of Rap DK Readers: The Story of Muhammad Ali (Level 4: Proficient Readers) Muhammad: A Story of God's Messenger and the Revelation That Changed the World (Enlightenment Series) I Dared to Call Him Father: The Miraculous Story of a Muslim Woman's Encounter with God Salaam: A Muslim American Boy's Story First Things First: Understand Why So Often Our First Things Aren't First Greatest Of All Time: A Tribute to Muhammad Ali The Messenger of God: Muhammad Memories of Muhammad: Why the Prophet Matters Muhammad: A Prophet for Our Time Who Was Muhammad Ali? Muhammad The Greatest: Muhammad Ali Blood Brothers: The Fatal Friendship Between Muhammad Ali and Malcolm X Daily Wisdom: Sayings of the Prophet Muhammad

[Dmca](#)