

# Mohammed

## The Prophet of Islam

With all the fuss about the **cartoons** depicting Muhammed, how much do you actually know about this man who lived in the Arabian Peninsula (present-day Saudi Arabia) some 1400 years ago?

- Muhammad (peace be upon him) was born in Mecca in the year 571 AD. He was of a noble family of the leading Arab tribe.
- He was known for his truthfulness, generosity and sincerity so much so that he was sought after for his ability to arbitrate in disputes. Accounts describe him as a calm and meditative person.
- At the age of 40, he received the revelation from the Angel Gabriel and began calling to the worship of the same one God as did the monotheistic messengers before him - Abraham, Moses, Jesus etc. The revelation was recorded and is known as the **Quran**.
- From the moment he started to preach, he and his followers had to endure bitter persecution and harassment that eventually forced him into exile.
- Throughout his life he retained his simple and frugal lifestyle and in his will he left what few possessions he had to charity.
- When Muhammed died at the age of 63, the greater part of Arabia was Muslim. And within a century of his death Islam had spread to Spain in the West and as far East as China.

'Allah has no mercy on one who has no mercy for others.'

'None of you truly believes until he wishes for his brother what he wishes for himself.'

'He who eats his fill while his neighbour goes without food, is not a believer.'

'The truthful and honest businessman will be in the company of the Prophets, the truthful people, and the martyrs on the Day of Judgement.'

'Powerful is not he who knocks the other down, indeed powerful is he who controls himself in a fit of anger.'

'Allah does not judge according to your bodies and appearances, but He scans your hearts and looks into your deeds.'

Muhammed was asked: 'Messenger of Allah, are we rewarded for kindness towards animals?' He said: 'There is a reward for kindness to every living thing.'