

Book Review

**Syed Munir Wasti*

Muhammad at Medina by W. Montgomery Watt, Oxford, 1956, pp. 417.

This book forms the sequel to the earlier 'Muhammad at Mecca' (1953) and takes the account of the life of the Holy Prophet and the early Islamic community till the departure of the Holy Prophet from this life in 11 A.H. Unlike its predecessor, the present volume is more than twice in size and contains 10 chapters in contrast with the six chapters of the earlier volume.

It is interesting to note that the historical content of this extended volume ceases after the first three chapters taking the account unto 630 C.E. – i.e. two years before the Holy Prophet's death. The last two years and their content are integrated into the subsequent seven chapters – which also attempt an assessment and evaluation of the Prophet and his religious message. Inevitably, an element of imbalance enters the account on the basis of the author's attaching importance or not to various factors taken into consideration by him.

As an example, in Chapter 4, Watt attributes the submission of the various tribes to the Prophet and their acceptance of Islam to the desire to avoid the punishment that is usually inflicted upon a defeated enemy – rather than to reasons of personal conviction or the clearly – discerned superiority of the Islamic belief – system to anything that existed before it.

This clearly is unacceptable and contrary to recorded fact. In 8 A.H., the city of Mecca fell to the Muslims without

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References

1. Al-Qur'an 2:36.
2. Article 20, Constitution of Pakistan, 1973 with Amendments.
3. Article 22, Constitution of Pakistan, 1973 with Amendments.
4. Article 25, Constitution of Pakistan, 1973 with Amendments.
5. Article 38, Constitution of Pakistan, 1973 with Amendments.
6. Dowry & Bridal Gifts (Restriction) Act 1976 and Marriage Functions (Prohibition of Ostentatious Displays and Wasteful Expenses) Ordinance, 2000.
7. The Marriage Expenses, Dowry and Bridal Gifts (Restriction) Act 2003 (Proposed).
8. Ibid
9. Ibid
10. Ibid
11. Law and Justice Commission of Pakistan.

the human population has inclination to abide by the laws of their respective states. At the same time, this great majority is facing a very hard time just to survive. The economic setup needs serious revision because a very small minority of men controls exorbitant wealth on earth. When people get enough food, proper shelter and clothes to wear, they can be quite contented and will to respect laws. Harmonization of laws not only in Pakistan and the region, but in the whole world need obedience to principles of justice. We have the Qur'an bearing all the principles needed to lead a successful life. I hope and wish that gradually harmonization of laws will be implemented in Pakistan and peace and security will prosper.

The present government is making its efforts to alleviate poverty, promote literacy and raise the general standard of life in the country. The population of the country is also very large and a lot of work has to be done to uplift the nation. Hence, it might take some time before we can achieve the targets in various spheres of life including one of the most important aspects i.e. harmonization of laws.

certainly get rid of unnecessary expenses and unwanted ceremonies. Shari'ah promotes simplicity in every aspect of life and denounces extravagance.

“The Commission is mandated, inter alia, to study and keep under review the legal and judicial system of the country, with the view to making to the Government appropriate recommendations for reform and improvement thereof, the commission welcome interactions with the general public, especially jurists, researchers, scholars and activists to get feedback on its drafts and receive proposals from reform of law, legal education and judicial system.”¹¹

The above proposed Act is under consideration by the Law and Justice Commission, Government of Pakistan. Good governance forms the foundation for the development societies. This aspect helps economic development, growth and prosperity. An important factor in good governance is the preservation of rule of law through a modernized legal system coupled with fair and expeditious dispensation of justice. The Law and Justice Commission of the Federal Government of Pakistan is established to achieve the said objectives. Headed by the Chief Justice of Pakistan, the Commission comprises 12 other members including the Chief Justices of the superior courts.

CONCLUSION:

Today's world is technically developing with amazing speed but as far human values are concerned, several potential threats including hunger, poverty, insecurity and crime are disturbing life on this globe. Laws are present in every society. The majority of