

Why is Christianity ethically noble and powerful? Christianity has an ethical God. It knows a God with a character, and that the best possible character—a perfectly good God. It declares that the character of God has been shown to us men, and lived out in our presence in the character of his son Jesus Christ. It declares that the character of God is the standard for men, and that the good God has drawn near in self-revelation, on purpose to help men reach this standard.

—*William Newton Clarke*

We can but state a strong conviction when we affirm that a series of minute facts leave no doubt on our mind that Mohammed was from first to last absolutely sincere. He really believed that any strong conviction, even any strong wish, that he entertained was borne in upon him by a power external to himself; and as the first and most memorable of these convictions was faith in God, he believed that power to be God, and himself its Messenger. The mode of expressing his convictions was undoubtedly an invention; but that the basis of his faith in himself was sincere, admits, to our mind, of little question. Believing himself the Messenger of the Almighty, no position save that of despot was possible to him.

—*Meredith Townsend*

By a fortune absolutely unique in history Mohammed is a threefold founder—of a nation, of an empire, and of a religion. . . . Scarcely able to read or write, he was yet the author of a book revered to this day by the seventh of the whole human race as a miracle of purity of style, of wisdom, and of truth.

—*R. Bosworth Smith*