

## Earning and spending wealth

Like all aspects of life, trade, if done honestly and fairly can be, a form of devotion to God. If it is done unethically and unjustly it can be a source of distancing oneself from God. The Prophet (p) taught a great deal on ethical trading.

*An honest and trustworthy merchant will be [raised] with the Prophets, the truthful and the martyrs.*

source: At-Tirmidhi Hadith Collection

Although the necessity of trade is recognized in Islam, the hoarding of wealth is discouraged. The best wealth is spent on caring for your family, the needy, and society at large. The example is that of the Prophet (p) who died with only a pillow and a sack of barley in his possession.

*Riches does not mean, having a great amount of property, but riches is self-contentment.*

source: Bukhari Hadith Collection



Before becoming a trader, Muhammad (p), was a shepherd, like Moses and David before him. Familiar training it would seem for those destined to fulfill the role of Prophethood.



For more information please contact:

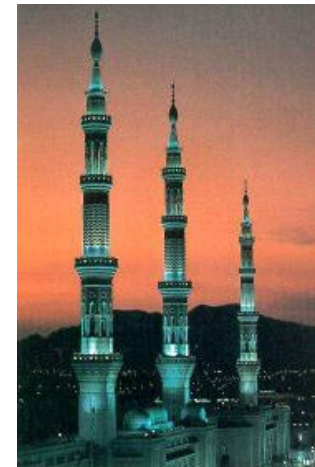
### Muslim Students' Association

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University of Alberta



***What did Muhammad teach about Business?***

*Understanding Muhammad*

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## What did Muhammad teach about Business?

### Trade

In Islam, trade has always been recognized as an important aspect of human life. Before revelation came to him, the Prophet Muhammad, peace be upon him (p), himself earned his living as a trader.

His integrity and veracity were quickly noticed by his employer, Khadija, who later proposed and was married to him. It was also as a result of his honest and noble character that he became known as 'al-Amin' or 'the Trustworthy' amongst his peers.

Honorable behaviour in all aspects of life, including trade, necessarily affect your personal life and society at large, as was the example of the Prophet (p). It is his example of honesty that Muslims should follow in their day-to-day transactions. Among the teachings of the Prophet Muhammad (p) are:

### Buying

*God will show compassion to those who show kindness while buying, selling and recovering debts.*

source: Bukhari Hadith Collection

*Giving in charity does not deplete wealth.*

source: Muslim Hadith Collection

*Neither buy, nor take back charity which you have given.*

source: Bukhari Hadith Collection

*The seller and the buyer have the right to keep or return goods as long as they have not parted; and if both the parties spoke the truth and described the defects and qualities [of the goods], then they would be blessed in their transaction, and if they told lies or hid something, then the blessings of their transaction would be lost.*

source: Bukhari Hadith Collection

### Selling

*A merchant who hoards goods in order to raise their price is a sinner.*

source: Muslim Hadith Collection

*It is required for the vendor to tell the buyer of any defects of which he is aware.*

source: ibn Hanbal Hadith Collection

*The trade of alcohol has become illegal.*

source: Bukhari Hadith Collection

The Prophet (p) forbade a seller from telling a buyer that he had been offered a price for goods that he had not been offered [in order to raise the price or encourage the sale.]

source: Bukhari Hadith Collection

### Employing

The Prophet (p) cursed one who employs a labourer and gets the full work done by him but



Indonesia has the largest Muslim population in the world. Islam spread to Indonesia by way of merchants and traders.

does not pay him his wages.

source: Bukhari Hadith Collection

*Pay the labourer his wages even before his sweat dries.*

source: Ibn Majah Hadith Collection

### Loaning

*There was a merchant who used to lend the people, and whenever his debtor was in straitened circumstances, he would say to his employees, 'Forgive him so that God may forgive us.' So, God forgave him.*

source: Ibn Majah Hadith Collection

The Prophet (p) cursed the one who accepted usury (lending money with interest), the one who paid it, the witness to it, and the one who recorded it.

source: Abu Dawud Hadith Collection

### Working

The Prophet (p) was asked which was the best kind of earning, he replied:

*That for which a man works with his hands. And honest trading.*

source: Ibn Hanbal Hadith Collection

*Those who take bribes and those who give bribes are cursed by God.*

source: Bukhari and Muslim Hadith Collection

*A time will come when people will no longer care about whether their wealth has been lawfully or unlawfully acquired.*

source: Bukhari Hadith Collection

The Prophet Muhammad (p) is reported to have said:

*If the son of Adam were to possess two valleys of riches, he would long for the third one.*

source: Muslim Hadith Collection