

WITH INFOGRAPHICS, FLOWCHARTS AND PRACTICAL FRAMEWORKS



THE WAY OF

AL-SADIQ

AL-AMIN

THE TRUTHFUL, THE TRUSTWORTHY

*Prophetic Principles of Business,
Trust and Leadership for the
Modern Entrepreneur*

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The Way of Al-Sadiq Al-Amin: Prophetic Principles of Business, Trust and Leadership for the Modern Entrepreneur

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Disclaimer: This book is a work of historical study and practical reflection. It is not a book of legal rulings (fatwa) or professional financial advice. Readers making financial, legal or religious decisions should consult qualified scholars and licensed professionals. Hadith numbering follows widely used reference editions; minor variations exist between editions.

*To every honest trader who has refused an easy profit for a clean conscience, and to every young person who has asked,
“Where is the market?”*

“The truthful and trustworthy merchant will be with the prophets, the truthful, and the martyrs.”

Jami' al-Tirmidhi 1209

Contents

Preface..... 1

A Note on Sources and Method..... 3

How to Use This Book 5

Part One: The World and the Early Years..... 6

Chapter 1: Makkah - A City Built on Trade 7

Chapter 2: Orphan, Shepherd, Apprentice 11

Chapter 3: Al-Amin - Building the Most Valuable Asset 15

Part Two: The Merchant Years..... 20

Chapter 4: Hilf al-Fudul - Standing for Fair Trade.....21

Chapter 5: The Khadijah Partnership 24

Chapter 6: The Partner Who Never Disputed..... 28

Part Three: Mission, Resilience and Strategy 32

Chapter 7: Starting Small, Growing Steadily 33

Chapter 8: The Boycott and the Year of Sorrow - Lessons in Resilience 37

Chapter 9: The Hijrah - A Masterclass in Planning 40

Part Four: Building the Economy of Madinah..... 44

Chapter 10: "Show Me the Market" - Brotherhood and Bootstrapping 45

Chapter 11: A Free and Fair Market 50

Chapter 12: Guarding the Market - The Prohibited Practices 54

Chapter 13: Contracts, Credit and Keeping Promises..... 59

Chapter 14: The Axe - From Poverty to Productivity..... 64

Chapter 15: Social Enterprise and the Endowment 68

Chapter 16: Leadership, Consultation and Negotiation 72

Part Five: The Prophetic Model for the Modern Entrepreneur..... 78

Chapter 17: From Madinah to Modern Finance.....79

Chapter 18: The Prophetic Business Model - A Practical Framework 83

Appendix A: Timeline of Key Events..... 89

Appendix B: Index of Hadith and Qur'anic References.....91

Appendix C: Glossary 93

Bibliography and Further Reading..... 95

About the Author 97

Preface

Few lives have been recorded as carefully as the life of Prophet Muhammad (S.A.W.). His companions preserved not only his words of worship but the details of how he bought and sold, how he borrowed and repaid, how he treated partners, workers, customers and competitors, and how he built a community and a market out of almost nothing. Long before he received revelation at the age of forty, he was known in Makkah as a working man: a shepherd in his youth, a caravan trader in his twenties and thirties, and a business partner whose integrity was so widely accepted that his own opponents continued to leave their valuables with him.

This book reads the Seerah (the Prophetic biography) through one particular lens: enterprise. It asks what the Prophet (S.A.W.) actually did in the world of work and trade, what principles governed those actions, and how those principles can guide a founder, a shopkeeper, a manager, a freelancer or an investor today. It is not a book of business clichés with a hadith attached to each one. Every story in these pages is drawn from the classical sources of the Seerah and the hadith collections, and where a report is weak or disputed among scholars, that is stated plainly.

The book is organised in five parts. Part One describes the economic world of sixth-century Arabia and the Prophet's early working life. Part Two follows his years as a merchant, the partnership with Khadijah (R.A.), and the reputation that earned him the title Al-Amin. Part Three studies the Makkan years of prophethood and the Hijrah as lessons in resilience, crisis management and planning. Part Four examines how he built the economy of Madinah: its free market, its regulations, its contracts and its institutions of social welfare. Part Five translates all of this into practical frameworks for the modern entrepreneur.

Each chapter follows the same pattern: the story as the sources report it, an analysis of the principles at work, infographics or flowcharts that summarise the process, a box of key lessons, a modern application, and reflection questions for individual or group study.

May this work be a means of benefit, and may every error in it be counted as the author's own, and every truth as a gift from Allah.

A Note on Sources and Method

The material in this book comes from three families of sources. The first is the Qur'an, quoted by surah and verse. The second is the hadith literature, principally the collections of al-Bukhari, Muslim, Abu Dawud, al-Tirmidhi, al-Nasa'i, Ibn Majah and the Musnad of Imam Ahmad. Hadith numbers follow the widely used numbering systems found on standard reference editions; minor numbering differences exist between editions, so the reader is encouraged to search by the narrator and wording as well as by number. The third family is the classical Seerah literature: the biography of Ibn Ishaq as preserved by Ibn Hisham, the *Tabaqat* of Ibn Sa'd, the histories of al-Tabari and Ibn Kathir, and the later works built on them.

The Seerah literature is generally more relaxed in its standards of transmission than the hadith literature. Classical scholars accepted biographical reports with weaker chains for narrative detail, while applying strict standards to anything that establishes law or belief. This book follows that practice, and makes the status of important reports clear. Where a story is found in *Sahih al-Bukhari* or *Sahih Muslim*, it is described as authentic. Where a story comes only from the Seerah literature, or where hadith critics have graded a report weak, the text says so.

Dates are given in the Common Era (CE) and are approximate for the period before the Hijrah, since Arabia did not use a fixed calendar at the time. The year of the Prophet's birth is conventionally placed around 570 CE, the first revelation around 610 CE, the Hijrah in 622 CE, and his passing in 632 CE (11 AH).

Arabic terms are transliterated in a simplified form without diacritics, and are explained on first use and in the Glossary. The honorific (S.A.W.), short for *Salla Allahu 'alayhi wa sallam* ("may Allah's peace and blessings be upon him"), follows the Prophet's name. (R.A.), short for *Radiya Allahu 'anhu/'anha* ("may Allah be pleased with him/her"), follows the names of companions on first mention in each chapter.

This book is a work of study and application, not a book of legal rulings. Where it touches on matters of Islamic commercial law, readers making real financial decisions should consult a qualified scholar of fiqh al-mu'amalat and, where relevant, a licensed financial or legal professional.

How to Use This Book

The book can be read straight through as a narrative, but it is also designed as a study and training resource. Business owners may wish to begin with Part Four and Part Five and return to the earlier chapters for context. Teachers and study circles can take one chapter per session, using the Reflection Questions at the end of each chapter for discussion. Every chapter contains four recurring elements.

Element	What it contains	How to use it
The Story	The historical account with its sources	Read for context and accuracy
The Principles	Analysis of what the Prophet (S.A.W.) did and why	Identify the timeless rule behind the event
Visual Summary	Infographics, flowcharts and step-by-step processes	Review quickly; use in training sessions
Modern Application	How the principle works for businesses today	Turn into concrete actions for your own work