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Dr. Annemarie Schimmel as a Biographer of Holy Prophet Muhammad

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Abstract

There has been written much on different aspects of the sirah of the Prophet of Islam (upon whom be peace and greetings) in all major languages. He is the only personality in history upon whom the greatest number of books have been written and there is a long chain of his biographers. But Western and orientalist biographers generally neglect the important role of Holy Prophet (upon whom be peace and greetings) in daily lives of Muslims. Therefore the Western world do not understand his high rank. In these circumstances, Dr. Annemarie Schimmel (1922-2003), who was a German orientalist, Islamist and a prolific writer, makes clear the central place of Holy Prophet (upon whom be peace and greetings) in poetry, prose, mystical thought and everyday lives of Muslims. In this article, Dr. Annemarie Schimmel's role as biographer of Holy Prophet (upon whom be peace and greetings) and her works on Sirah have been described.

Introduction:

Biography of Holy Prophet (upon whom be peace and greetings) is a vast field and it has various aspects and dimensions. Each aspect and dimension requires a separate book. Therefore different biographers focused on different subjects and topics of biography of Holy Prophet (upon whom be peace and greetings) with various aims and objectives. The main aim of Dr.Schimmel's biography of Holy Prophet (upon whom be peace and greetings) was to show how Muslims love him, what his personality means for them and his importance for the religious life of his community and she tried to depict him the way he should be depicted. Actually she had interest in the figure of Holy Prophet (upon whom be peace and greetings) since her student life and she read many important sirah books in these days therefore she spent many years of her life on these works and gathered information from poetry and folk traditions wherever she went. She visited and stayed in many Muslim countries, in this way she learned enough about the deep veneration of Holy Prophet (upon whom be peace and greetings) in Muslim countries. Then she introduced this deep veneration of Prophet of Islam (upon whom be peace and greetings) to the Western world who was mostly unaware of this beautiful aspect of biography.

She remained moderate and positive as contrast to other majority of orientalist biographers who presented terrible images of his noble and exemplary personality and biased and negative judgments passed upon him and their works are usually marred by prejudices. Her familiarity with various Islamic languages, positive approach, interest in Islamic history and culture have made her works unique. As she had interest in calligraphy, therefore she used various relevant items of calligraphy in different chapters of her works. She was very clear and just and clearly criticized and told the wrong behaviour and shortcomings of orientalists and western biographers who wrote negatively about Prophet of Islam (upon whom be peace and greetings). Usually a biographer writes his work in one language but Dr.Schimmel wrote works on the sirah of the Prophet of Islam (upon whom be peace and greetings) in two languages: German and English.

Sirah Literature by Orientalists beforeDr.Schimmel:

There is no other personality in the world on whom the largest number of books have been written in the world other than Prophet of Islam (upon whom be peace and greetings). This number is increasing day by day. These books cover different aspects of noble personality of the Prophet of Islam (upon whom be peace and greetings) and some of these are in many volumes. The hugesirah literature is written in all major languages of the world from the East to the West. Biographies which are written by Muslim writers are full of love and veneration but on the other side in the West, the biographies of Holy Prophet (upon whom be peace and greetings) written by orientalists do not fulfil all the necessary requirements.

For a long period, the West had a very wrong and narrow concept about Holy Prophet (upon whom be peace and greeting). False and wrong things were invented against him due to ignorance and illiteracy. He, who came to stop idol worshiping was presented, God forbids, as idol worshiper or a kind of deity and such other false stories have been going around in the West for centuries. From the eighteen century his biography was studied in the West. Even then he was commonly presented as Antichrist or Christian heretic and to some writers he appeared as representative of a logical religion. Orientalists started reading the original

Arabic sources which were available in those days, but even then prejudices and unjust behaviour could not disappear.¹Dr.Schimmel describes this situation in her book, “And Muhammad is His Messenger” with following words:

“From the nineteenth century onward Western scholars began to study the classical Arabic sources which hence forward slowly became available in Europe. However even during that period biographies of the Prophet were often marred by prejudices and in no way did justice to the role of the Prophet as seen by the pious Muslims.”²

Biographies of the Holy Prophet (upon whom be peace and greeting) which are written in our age by the orientalist are also not free from allegations but try to do justice to some extent to his personality. Because in the modern age access to knowledge and books have become very easy which was not possible before. Therefore after reading the original and primary books about sirah of Holy Prophet (upon whom be peace and greetings), false old visions are changing and wrong ideas are disappearing. At the same time freedom of expression and thought have developed in this age.³

Now the biographers are free to express their views and there is not much pressure from Church or government on them. Religious tolerance is also a factor in the changing approach of modern orientalist. In past there was much prejudice in the West and all religions other than Christianity were looked down upon. AyubMuneer has pointed out this change as below:

“During the centuries of the crusades all sorts of slanders were invented against Prophet Muhammad (upon whom be peace and greeting). But with the birth of the modern age marked with religious tolerance and freedom of thought, there has been a great change in the approach of Western authors in their delineation of his life and character.”⁴

In this modern period numerous books have been written on the biography of Holy Prophet (upon whom be peace and greetings) but the works of Montgomery Watt especially his book “Muhammad Prophet and Statesman” is worth seeing. Commenting about Montgomery Watt, Dr.Schimmel says in one of her interview to a TV Channel:

“Montgomery Watt is a very good scholar but he has no personal attachments to Islamic history. I like him very much and he has done very useful work but he tries to look at the life of the Prophet more or less from a partly theological partly so-theological view point and that is not always very easy.”⁵

Sirah Literature on the Veneration of the Holy Prophet (upon whom be peace and greetings)

The love and the veneration of the Holy Prophet (upon whom be peace and greeting) in Muslim community is unbelievable as AllamaIqbal has rightly said that the love of Holy Prophet (upon whom be peace and greetings) is like blood in the veins of Muslims. It is also an integral part of their faith. One cannot be a Muslim without these elements. All the

Muslims have very high regard for him and he has highest rank after Almighty Allah. Juan E. Campo describes beautifully the Muslim devotionism for the Prophet Muhammad (upon whom be peace and greeting)) as below :

“One does not have to look far to discover the extent and historical depth of Muslim devotionism for the Prophet Muhammad. His mosque-tomb in Medina is a must on the itinerary of the hundreds of thousands of pilgrims who proceed to Mecca each year. In Sufi gatherings and in zar rituals-women’s healing ceremonies-his virtues are sung and his beauty is extolled. In Muslim communities from Africa to India and beyond, the anniversary of Muhammad’s birth (coinciding with that of his death) is commemorated in week-long festivities, parades, and visitations. Even where Muslims are a minority, they have successfully convened international conferences in recent years to consider the significance of the life of the Prophet in the modern era. Moreover, everyday speech in Muslim countries is filled with expressions that contain some reference to “the Prophet.”⁶

There is a vast range of sirah literature on the veneration of the Holy Prophet (upon whom be peace and greeting) in Muslim community but on the other side in the West there are a few books which cover this important area. The first book on this subject was written by German scholar Max Horten with the name of “Die religiosevorstellungswelt des Volkesim Islam”. With the help of classical and modern sources, Horten presented many touching examples of the veneration of the Prophet of Islam (upon whom be peace and greetings). After this, Tor Andrae, who was a Swedish Bishop and orientalist, wrote more beautiful and the best of its kind “Die Person Muhammad in lehre und glaube seiner Gemeinde” (The person of Muhammad in the belief and doctrines of his community) in 1918. ⁷ Commenting on this bookDr.Schimmel says:

“It is a first attempt to show the role of the Prophet not only as a historical figure but how his image develops in theologic and mystic literature. It is extremely useful book. It has never been translated into English because some of the sources are no longer valid but it was a first attempt to show that Prophet is something more than just a normal human being and that his statue grew in the eyes of his community through the centuries”.⁸

Unfortunately it could not get much popularity as it deserves. Later on, Tor Andraealso wrote a very fine biography of Holy Prophet (upon whom be peace and greeting) in 1932. It is not lengthy but it is one of the unbiased and most solid biographies. In 1960, E. Padwik wrote “Muslim Devotions” in English Language which describes the noble position of the Holy Prophet (upon whom be peace and greetings). This is a very beautiful book which has enough material about the veneration of Holy Prophet (upon whom be peace and greeting) which was selected from prayer books and devotionism literature of entire Islamic world. In English language, this book is the best introduction on the topic. Arthur Jeffery in “Reader on Islam” presents good translations of the most important

classical Arabic accounts of the life of Holy Prophet (upon whom be peace and greeting). In 1964, Hermann Stieglecker narrated in his handbook "Die Glaubenslehren des Islam" the role of Holy Prophet (upon whom be peace and greeting) in theology.⁹

In all these books there is one main deficiency that there is no sufficient touch of the poetry in the praise of Holy Prophet (upon whom be peace and greeting) which is written in all major Islamic languages as Arabic, Persian, Turkish, Urdu and in many local languages as Sindhi, Punjabi, and Hindko by Muslim poets. This poetry is a great source of love and veneration and shows how deeply his followers love him throughout the world. Dr.Schimmel points out this deficiency in the following words:

"However none of these authors has devoted himself to the study of the area in which love of the Prophet is expressed most beautifully and most eloquently: the poetry of the Islamic peoples. Not only is poetry in the classical languages of Arabic, Persian, and Ottoman Turkish worthy of attention here, but even more the popular verses in the various vernacular Islamic languages. These are the poems through which children imbibe the love of the Prophet from early childhood, poems that have helped to form and shape the image of the beloved Prophet, the intercessor on Doomsday and luminous Seal of the Prophets, in the hearts of the Muslim masses. To this day Muslim children like to write little poems, using traditional imagery, to express their love of and trust in the Prophet."¹⁰

Dr. Schimmel's Contribution to Sirah:

As the sirah literature on the veneration of the Holy Prophet (upon whom be peace and greeting) has been described earlier, it can be easily concluded from that discussion that there are a few books on this subject in Western languages and at the same time these books do not fully cover all the areas related to the veneration of the Holy Prophet (upon whom be peace and greeting). Therefore, Dr.Schimmel is the first biographer who deeply describes this subject by writing articles and books. Her book "And Muhammad is His Messenger" consists of a unique selection of translation of devotional literature concerning the Holy Prophet (upon whom be peace and greeting) including both prose and poetry written by devoted Muslims over the centuries and reflects the respect and love which his followers have always held. Merlin Swartz elaborates this point beautifully in the review of this book as below:

"And Muhammad Is His Messenger is an impressive work of very considerable importance both to the field of Islamic studies and to comparative studies in general. It is the first work of its kind in English and, while it draws on earlier works such as Tor Andrae's Die Person Muhammeds in Lehre und Glaube seiner Gemeinde (1918), it goes beyond the earlier works both in the range of sources it utilizes and in the diversity of themes explored. Professor Schimmel is to be commended for making available in English a work that will contribute much to our

understanding of the religious life of Muslims and the place of Prophet in that life.¹¹

The Western writers and biographers of the Holy Prophet (upon whom be peace and greeting) usually and commonly discuss the historical and political role of the Holy Prophet (upon whom be peace and greeting). They do not discuss his role in the faith and everyday lives of Muslims. So, Dr.Schimmel fulfils this gap and describes his role in faith and poetry. She is the first orientalist who has presented the poetry of all major Islamic languages on different aspects of Holy Prophet (upon whom be peace and greetings) and mystical thoughts which prevail in the various mystical circles throughout the Eastern world. She utilizes both Western and Islamic sources and classical and modern thoughts as Merlin Swartz mentions below:

“Underlying this important work on the place of Muhammad in Muslim piety is the distinction between the “Muhammad of history” and the “Muhammad of faith,” that is, the distinction between the Muhammad that emerges from the work of critical, historical investigation, on the one hand, and the Muhammad that has been articulated within the literature of devotion over the many centuries of Islamic history, on the other. It is the latter that is the subject of Professor Schimmel’s detailed and fascinating study. Based on a vast range of sources in a number of Islamic languages (especially Arabic, Persian, Turkish and Urdu, though not limited to these) she sets out in this work to delineate the principal features of the Muhammad of faith. Although the bulk of modern scholarship has focused attention on the historical Muhammad, Professor Schimmel argues persuasively that the images of Muhammad that emerge from the literature of devotion form part of the historical reality of Islam and that these too require to be given their due in the historical reconstruction of Islam in its larger sense.¹²

Works on Sirah:

Dr.Schimmel had an interest in the life of Holy Prophet (upon whom be peace and greetings) from her student days. She read many important books about Prophet of Islam (upon whom be peace and greetings) in her teen age. Especially “The Life and Teachings of Muhammad” by Syed Ameer Ali and “Die person Muhammads in lehre und glaube seiner gemeinde” by Tor Andrae were her favourites. During her stay in Turkey in the Islamic faculty of theology as professor of Comparative Religions, she deeply learned about the veneration of Prophet of Islam (upon whom be peace and greetings) among Muslims, then her interest in mystical and poetical literature of subcontinent showed her that how deeply the love of Holy Prophet (upon whom be peace and greetings) had influenced the poetry of AllamaIqbal. She also studied folk literature of Sindh which has abundant amount of material relating to the veneration of Holy Prophet (upon whom be peace and greetings).¹³

Therefore, she wrote many articles on the veneration of the Holy Prophet (upon whom be peace and greetings) and its reflection in literature especially poetry. With the

help of this material she gave a lecture in 1980 to the American Council of Learned Societies, which was published as chapter five of her book "As Through a Veil". Her German publisher, Ulf Diederichs, encouraged her to enlarge that chapter into a book about the veneration of the Prophet (upon whom be peace and greeting) so it appeared as a little German book in 1981. So her first book on the sirah was in German with the name of *Und Muhammad ist Sein Prophet* which reprinted many times.¹⁴ After some time America approached her to write in English so she wrote in English about twice as much as she had written in German and it was given the name of "And Muhammad is His Messenger: The Veneration of the Prophet in Islamic Piety". The name has similarity with the second half of Muslim profession of faith. So it is an expanded form of her German book. In one of her interview to a TV programme "Discover Islam" she describes her objective of writing this book in following words

"I have just tried to show what his personality means for the Muslims and how he has been surrounded by many many strange stories and so on and so for but my main aim was to show how the Muslim community loves him just as Iqbal in his Persian work says: the love of the Prophet (upon whom be peace and greeting) is like blood in the veins of Muslims and I think that is a beautiful statement and I wanted to show that my means of my English book "Muhammad is His Messenger."¹⁵

Books on Sirah:

Dr.Schimmel authored four books on the biography of Holy Prophet (upon whom be peace and greetings) in German and English languages. The main topic of these books is veneration of Prophet of Islam (upon whom be peace and greetings) in Islamic piety.

Books in English Language:

Her major books on sirah of Holy Prophet (upon whom be peace and greetings) are in English language as she wrote three books in English language. Among these works her book "And Muhammad is His Messenger" is most prominent and lengthy. List of these books is given below.

1.And Muhammad is His Messenger:The Veneration of the Prophet in Islamic Piety. Chapel Hill& London : The University of North Carolina Press,1985. 377 pages

There are twelve chapters in this book. In first chapter she gives a summary of the Holy Prophet's life in the light of primary sources. Other chapters deal with his unique position, his status as a beautiful model, physical and spiritual beauty, legends and miracles, his role as intercessor, beautiful names, his night journey and ascension. In the last chapters, Dr. Schimmel traces Muslim efforts to reconceive the Prophet's meaning in the light of modern thoughts. She starts with the tariqaMuhamadia and analyzes the main new interpretations of the prophet by prominent thinkers as Shah Waliullah, Sir Sayyid Ahmad Khan, Muhammad Abduho and Jamaluddin Afghani. In last chapter she discusses AllamaIqbal's efforts to formulate the meaning of Prophet. At the end of the twelve chapters, there are sets of notes and detailed bibliography. There are also four following indexes

i. Quranic quotations ii. Prophetic traditions

iii. Proper names iv. Technical terms and concepts

There is remarkable selection of translations of devotional literature about Holy Prophet (upon whom be peace and greetings) including prose and poetry written by reverent Muslims. This work shows the regard and love which believers of Islam have for the last Prophet of Allah (upon whom be peace and greetings) ¹⁶

2. Celebrating Muhammad: Images of the Prophet in popular Muslim poetry. Columbia University of South Carolina Press, 1995. 125 pages

This book was written in collaboration with Annemarie Schimmel by Ali S. Asani and Abdel-Malek. It is about one of the most influential persons in history, the Prophet of Islam Hazrat Muhammad (upon whom be peace and greetings). His personality was so radiant and powerful that after fourteen centuries he is still an important focus of devotion and love for millions of believers throughout the world. Dr. Schimmel narrates this love as a deep human emotion that the simplest farmer can exchange with the most experienced mystic or intellectual. This work is a commemoration of this love.

There are few books which explore the depth and intensity that believers feel for their beloved Prophet (upon whom be peace and greetings). Not a large number of books on Islam make an effort to study the importance of millions of believers daily reciting the blessing formula, Salawat on the Holy Prophet (upon whom be peace and greetings) whom they call Habib Allah (Allah's beloved) affectionately. In fact the subject of Islamic devotion and piety in common, particularly at a popular level, is not better understood and its right nature not better valued. Possibly the fact that religion of Islam is connected in the media with political militancy, terrorism, violence and other critical images have made a great contribution to the unhappy neglect of devotional life of Muslims. ¹⁷

So this book analyses the devotion and deep love of present day Muslims for the Holy Prophet (upon whom be peace and greetings) and the significance which this devotion performs in their everyday lives that is an essential but frequently misunderstood feature of Islamic piety. The writers study different portrayals of Prophet of Islam (upon whom be peace and greetings) present in the poetry of Muslim poets to show the important impact of literary idioms and local culture on Muslim expressions of praise for Holy Prophet (upon whom be peace and greetings)

3. Muhammad. Munchen: Hugendubel, 2002. 96 pages.¹⁸

Dr. Schimmel tried to present, through this book, the true picture of Holy Prophet (upon whom be peace and greetings) and gave an outline of his life style. She suggested some questions for example: what was the historical background of Prophet of Islam (upon whom be peace and greetings)? How God's revelation was received by him? How Holy Quran was revealed on him? What is his status among contemporary Muslims? And how effectively he spread Islam?

Books in German Language:

She published her first work on sirah in German language. This was also the base of her later English book "And Muhammad is His Messenger". This was her only book in German on sirah.

1. Und Muhammad istsein Prophet. Die verehrung des Propheten in der islamischenFrommigkeite. dusseldorf-koln:diederichs, gelbereihe 32,1981, pp. 280

Articles on Sirah:

Dr.Schimmel wrote many articles on sirah before writing books on sirah as she mentions in the beginning of her book, “And Muhammad is Messenger” in the following words.

“ My fascination with the development of the veneration of the Prophet and its reflection in literature, especially poetry, resulted in a number of articles pertaining to prophetology as perceived by Iqbal, reflected in Sindhi poetry, and theoreticized by a reformist Muslim mystic like Mir Dard in eighteen-century Delhi, and other topics.”¹⁹

Later these articles got the shape of books. These articles can be divided into following two main categories.

A. Articles in English Language:

Like her books, majority of her articles are in English language as she wrote nine articles in English language in various sources. List of these articles is given below.

1. The Popular Muhammad. Columbia: University of South Carolina Press, 1992. In collaboration with Ali Asani and Kamal Abdel- Malik.
2. “The Prophet Muhammad as a Centre of Muslim Life and Thought. ” (in: We Believe in One God. The Experience of God in Christianity and Islam. Edited by A. Schimmel and AbdoldjavadFalaturi. New York: Seafurg Press, 1979, pp. 35-61)
3. “The Role of the Prophet in Maulana Rumi’s Work. ”(IC, vol. LXXII/2 (April, 1999), pp. 1-25).
4. The Prophet Muhammad in Muhammad Iqbal’s work. (in And Muhammad Is His Messenger. The Veneration of the Prophet in Islamic Piety. Chapel hill & London. The University of North Carolina press, 1985. ch. Twelve pp 239-256
5. The veneration of the prophet Muhammad as Reflected in Sindi Poetry. (in the saviour God Comparative Studies in concept of salvation presented to Edwin Oliver tames. edited by S G F Brandon Manchester Manchester University Press,1963 pp 129-143
6. Ghalib’sQasida in Honour of the Prophet (in Islam past influence and present challenge in honour of William Montgomery Watt edited by Pierre Cachia and
7. The Place of the Prophet of Islam in Iqbal’s thought.” (Islamic Studies 1, no. 4 (Dec. 1962), pp. 111-130.²⁰

A.i Articles in Encyclopaedias:

The word encyclopaedia is basically derived from a Greek word “enkyklopaideia” which means a circle or a complete system of learning. It gives coverage over the full range of knowledge and presents a comprehensive summary of each topic. Encyclopaedia uses many

aids that help in its task for example: pictures, charts, maps, diagrams and statistical tables. It also includes other kinds of references works ²¹The detail of her articles which came in encyclopaedias is given below.

1. “Nur Muhammad” in The Encyclopaedia of Religion.

This article was published in the Encyclopaedia of Religion in 1987. Dr.Schimmel was one of its editors while Mircea Eliade was its editor in chief. In this article, Dr.Schimmel discusses the Nur Muhammad (upon whom be peace and greetings) in the light of Holy Quran and interpretation of light verse by Muqatil. After this she tells that Sahl al-Tustri, the great Sufi of Iraq who died in 896 A.D., narrated and explained this idea. After Sahl al-Tustri, al-Hallaj, who was his disciple and died in 922 A.D., explained it more poetically. She also gives the references of prominent scholars who described this idea as al-Thalabi the author of Arias al-Bayan who died in 1038, NajmDayaRazi in thirteenth century and Abd al-Karim al-Jili who died in 1408. She tells how numerous poets were inspired by this image in Muslim world and they wrote verses about it. Ibn al-Arabi who died in 1240 explained and systematized theories on Muhammadan light. She explains that the literature about his birth also points to the light which illuminated the world. In eulogies used for Holy Prophet (upon whom be peace and greetings) his luminous quality is often noted as the light of all lights, he had no shadow and he could be seen in darkness.

Dr.Schimmel tells that it is difficult to find out the origin of the theory of NurMuhammadi (upon whom be peace and greetings). Great mystic Ibn al-Arabi related this theory with the following Hadith Qudsi:

كنت كنزاً مخفياً فأحببت أن أعرف فخلقت الخلق لكي أعرف²²

“I was a hidden treasure and wanted to be known; therefore I created the world.”

In the last paragraph, she concludes that the Nur Muhammad (upon whom be peace and greetings) thus has become a central concept that appears in varied expressions in the Islamic world.²³

2. “Muhammad-The Prophet in Popular Muslim Piety” in Encyclopedia of Islam.

This article consists of two pages. As it is clear from its topic, Dr.Schimmel describes the high rank of Holy Prophet (upon whom be peace and greetings) in Muslim piety. She gives references of various miracles of Prophet of Islam (upon whom be peace and greetings) which are very popular and described by poets as splitting of the moon, heavenly journey, the sighing of palm trunk and miracles connected with water, food, pebbles, trees and animal etc. She also narrates the concepts of primordial light, shadowless presence, intercession and the blessing formula which are very popular in poetry and in popular piety. She describes how the boys are named after the Holy Prophet (upon whom be peace and greetings). She also tells the devotion of mystics, poets and ordinary Muslims to their beloved Prophet (upon whom be peace and greetings)²⁴

3. “Muhammad and the Religion of Islam” in Encyclopaedia Britannica. 15th Edition

B. Articles in German Language:

Dr.Schimmel wrote just one article on the biography of Holy Prophet (upon whom be peace and greetings) in German language which is given below.

1. Der Prophet Muhammad ALS Zentrum des religiösen Lebens in Islam". (in Glaube und den einen Gott, menschliche Gotteserfahrung im Christentum und im Islam. hrsg. von Abdoljavad Falaturi u. Walter Strolz, Freiburg. Verlag Herder, 1975, pp. 57-84)

Sources of Dr.Schimmel's Work:

Dr.Schimmel mostly relied on secondary sources which were mostly written or translated in European languages. The direct references from primary Arabic sources are very rare. Actually she wrote on mostly such new topics which are not discussed directly in primary Arabic sources for instance poetry in honour of Holy Prophet (upon whom be peace and greetings), The Muhammadan path, the Prophet in Muhammad Iqbal's work, the Prophet in popular Muslim piety etc She uses authentic, weak and fabricated traditions.

Another special quality of sources is that these are in various languages. As she was aware of dozen of languages therefore she decorated her book with references from multiple languages as Arabic, Persian, Urdu, Sindhi, Turkish, English, French and German etc. This unique peculiarity makes this book more attractive and interesting and reader visits the whole world while studying the book. There are very rare books which have this quality because generally writers give the references only from one language. Majority of orientalists rely on Western sources but Dr.Schimmel uses both eastern and western sources.

Conclusion:

Dr.Schimmel's sirah works are unique among orientalists as these do not repeat their mistakes or follow their footsteps. She was born in the West and spent most of her life in west among orientalists but she did not take their effects or adopted their attitude. Her works do not create misconceptions or pass negative judgments, these are rather much more objective. Her works on sirah are filled with knowledge, research, love and deep interest. She wrote all this mostly positively and beautifully without injecting wrong and biased concepts in contrast to the traditional habits of orientalists who mix up right and wrong together. Her book "And Muhammad is His Messenger" is the most popular and a masterpiece among all her sirah works. This is a classic in the sirah literature, written in the veneration of Prophet of Islam (upon whom be peace and greetings).

In sum, her biographic works are really commendable and she tried her best to show a true and beautiful picture of Holy Prophet (upon whom be peace and greetings) but as she was not a Muslim therefore she could not fulfil all necessary requirements of a biographer.

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² ibid, p. 5

³ibid, p.6

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⁵Schimmel "History of Prophet Muhammad (upon whom be peace and greetings)" Interview. Retrieved on 12 Nov. 2012 from <http://www.youtube.com>

⁶ Campo, Juan E. Review on *And Muhammad is His Messenger*, *Journal of the American Academy of Religion*, vol. 56, No. 1 (Spring. 1988), p. 180

⁷ *And Muhammad is His Messenger: The Veneration of the Prophet in Islamic Piety*, p. 105

⁸Schimmel "History of Prophet Muhammad (upon whom be peace and greetings)" Interview. Retrieved on 12 Nov. 2012 from <http://www.youtube.com>

⁹ *And Muhammad is His Messenger*, p. 7

¹⁰ *ibid*

¹¹ Swartz, Merlin. Review on "And Muhammad is His Messenger", *Journal of the American Oriental Society*, vol. 108, no. 3 (Jul-Sep. 1988) p. 493

¹²*ibid.*, p. 492

¹³Schimmel, *And Muhammad is His Messenger*, p. xi

¹⁴ *ibid*

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¹⁸ *Bibliography of the works of the scholar-hermit Prof. Dr. Annemarie Schimmel*, Lahore: Iqbal Academy, 2004., pp. 38,39

¹⁹ *And Muhammad is His Messenge*, p. xi

²⁰*Bibliography of the works of the scholar-hermit Prof. Dr. Annemarie Schimmel*, p. 39

²¹ *The New Encyclopedia Britannica*, Chicago, 15 edition, vol. 18, p. 365,368

²² Abu Saud, Muhammad bin Muhammad. Tafseerabe-Asaud, Berut: DarulAhuaAlturah Al-Arabi, vol.2, p.130

²³The Encyclopedia of Religion, New York, London 1987. vol. 11, p. 26

²⁴Encyclopedia of Islam. New Edition, Leiden: Brill, vol. VII, 1993 pp. 376-377