



A Greeting from Muhammad.

About 1300 years ago Muhammad was living in Mecca where many of the people worshipped idols. Muhammad tried very hard to tell people that there is only one God. Some of the people thought Muhammad was a trouble maker and they hated Him. One such person was a little old woman who saw Muhammad every morning when she was sweeping her doorstep.

Each day Muhammad greeted the old lady with the friendly words "Assalam-o-Alaikum" which means "Peace be with you." Each day the old lady sneered and swept her dust toward Muhammad. This went on week in and week out, and then one morning the old lady was nowhere to be seen. She was not there the next day either. Suspecting that something must be wrong, Muhammad knocked on her door, and getting no reply, curiously opened the door and peeped inside. There was the old lady feeling ill and very miserable. She had been very nasty to Muhammad, but this did not stop Him from wanting to help her. He called in the neighbours and between them they nursed her back to health. The old lady was very grateful and ashamed of her behaviour. Ever after, when they met each morning, the old lady returned Muhammad's friendly greeting with her own friendly reply.

Today, many people know that Muhammad was really a great Prophet - a Messenger from God, and they follow His example. These people are called Muslims and their religion is Islam.

Each day many Muslims greet each other with these same friendly words, "Assalam-o-Alaikum", meaning "Peace be with you".