

mended their deed, and praised Allah. But on the following morning, when the assassination had become generally known, the Jews, as Ibn Ishak informs us, were struck with terror, and none of them regarded his life safe any longer.”<sup>1</sup>

Lying  
Dignified

And to take another example, what did Mohammed teach regarding truthfulness? There are two authenticated sayings of his given in the traditions on the subject of lying: “When a servant of God tells a lie, his guardian angels move away to the distance of a mile because of the badness of its smell.” That seems a characteristic denunciation; but the other saying contradicts it: “Verily a lie is allowable in three cases—to women, to reconcile friends, and in war.” The assassinations also of his political and religious opponents, frequently directed as they were in all their cruel and *perfidious* details by Mohammed himself, leaves a dark and indelible blot upon his character. With such a prophet it is no wonder that among his followers and imitators “truth-telling is one of the lost arts,” and that perjury is too common to be noticed. Since Mohammed gathered ideas and stories from the Jews of Medina and palmed them off as a new revelation from God, it is no wonder that Arabian literature teems with all sorts of plagiarisms, or that one of the early authorities

---

<sup>1</sup> Ibid., p. 179.