

THE GLORIOUS QUR'AN

From Revelation To Recitation & Beyond

WHAT IS WAHI?

DEFINITION & CONCEPT

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DEFINITION OF WAHI

The word Wahi which means revelation, is a noun is derived the Arabic verb 'awha' means indicating the main underlying idea of inspiration: directing or guiding someone.

The Arabic word 'Wahi' literally refers to something that is conveyed by quick indication. It will therefore refer to a lengthy speech that is abbreviated. Wahi is therefore the speech of Allah revealed by indication to the Ambiya ﷺ in a manner that others did not understand.

In terms of Shariah, it refers to the speech of Allah which He sent to the Ambiya ﷺ (Umdatul Qari).

The term Wahi is exclusive to the messengers and is not used for anyone besides the messengers.

THE CONCEPT OF WAHI

Since the creation of mankind, Allah Ta'ala has communicated with mankind by choosing some selected individuals as messengers. The messengers were tasked to propagate the oneness of Allah Ta'ala and to guide mankind from the darkness of shirk to the light of Islam, and from the immorality of their desires to the purity of worship.

The final recipient of Wahi from Allah Ta'ala and the last of the Prophets was Muhammed ﷺ, the son of Abdullah who was an Arab and belonged to the Quraish tribe. When He ﷺ was called by Allah to return to his final resting place, his servant Umm Ayman was found crying. She was told, "Do not grieve, verily He ﷺ is in a better place than where he used to be. She responded, "(I am not crying because of his demise, for) indeed I know what He ﷺ has received from His Lord is better for him. I am crying because now Allah has stopped His revelation to mankind!" When she said that Abu Bakr and Umar ؓ started crying with her. (Muslim)

REVELATION SENT IN STAGES

The Qur'an was revealed in stages over a period of 23 years, and not as a complete book in one single act of revelation. There are a number of reasons for this, of which the most important are the following:

- Strengthening the heart of the Prophet ﷺ by addressing him continuously and whenever the need for guidance arose.
- Considering the Prophet's ﷺ well-being, since revelation was a difficult experience for him.
- Gradually implementing Allah's ordainments.
- Making understanding, application, and memorisation of the revelation easier for Muslims.

TEACHINGS OF WAHI

By means of Wahi people are taught those things which they cannot learn from their senses and intellect alone. These things may be purely of religious nature, or may belong to common needs of the world. For example, Nooh ؑ was commanded to construct the Ark. Similarly Dawood ؑ was taught the art of making armour.

(An approach to the Qur'anic sciences - Mufti Muhammad Taqi Usmani)





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