

THE GLORIOUS QUR'AN

From Revelation To Recitation & Beyond

COMMENCEMENT OF WAHI

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COMMENCEMENT OF WAHI

The Prophet ﷺ had a mission of which like no one before him ever had. The Prophet ﷺ was sent as a guide and mercy to the whole of mankind.

The commencement of Wahi occurred in the form of good, righteous dreams which came true. Thereafter, the love of going into seclusion was bestowed upon Him ﷺ. Isolating himself from idolatry that prevailed in Arabia in those days, He would go into seclusion in the cave of Hira' for many days, before returning to his family. He would make provisions for his stay and then, when required, would return to Khadija and fetch more provisions.

Rasulullah ﷺ received the first revelation when he was forty years old, whilst in seclusion in the cave of Hira, a part of a mountain in Makkah, known today as Jabalun Noor (the mountain of light). It was a night in the month of Ramadan, in the state of such seclusion that Angel Jibreel ؑ came to him in the cave, and revealed the first five verses of Surah Alaq (Surah 96). This was the beginning of the gradual revelation of the Qur'an Shareef that continued for twenty-three years.

(The Meanings of the Noble Quran- Mufti Muhammad Taqi Usmani)

COVER ME – COVER ME

One day, the Prophet ﷺ came home trembling. He said to his wife, “cover me”. Khadija (Radiyallahu anha) consoled him. When calmness overcame Him ﷺ, He narrated the incident of how the first revelation came to him to Khadija (Radhiyallahu Anha). Khadija (Radhiyallahu Anha) comforted him saying, “Do not fear, Allah Ta'ala will not put you into any difficulty, because you keep ties with your family and relatives, you take care of the orphans and the poor, and you entertain your guests.” Thereafter, she took Nabi ﷺ to her paternal uncle's son, Warqah bin Nawfil who was very proficient and well versed in the Taurah.

Waraqah enquired regarding the whole episode upon which Nabi ﷺ narrated the entire incident. Waraqah then said, “This is the same angel whom Allah had sent to Hazrat Moosa ؑ. I wish I were young and could live up to the time when your people will turn you out.” Rasulullah ﷺ asked: “Will they drive me out.” Waraqah replied in the affirmative and said, “Anyone who came with something similar to what you have brought was treated with hostility; and if I should remain alive till the day when you will be turned out, then I will support you strongly.

IDOLATERS RESPOND WITH REJECTION

On hearing the message of the Qur'an, the first reaction of the pagan Arabs was that the Prophet ﷺ was possessed by spirits or he was insane. The Qur'an itself answers on His ﷺ behalf: "There is no madness in your fellow (the holy Prophet ﷺ). He is none but a warner to you in the face of a stern torment."

The second argument the Qur'an presents is that the Prophet ﷺ had nothing to gain from them. The Quran's message was for their own benefit. The Prophet ﷺ was commanded to declare: "Say, If I had ever claimed any reward from you, then it is yours. My reward is with none but Allah. And He is witness over everything."

Thirdly, it is through Allah's mercy that a Messenger is selected.

Another objection that the pagan Arabs made after hearing the message of the Qur'an was:

"They say, why was the Qur'an not revealed on a great man from (either of) the two towns?"

They made judgement on their own lowly standards. From a worldly point of view, the Prophet ﷺ was an orphan and a poor man. According to them, such a gift of Allah should have come to a rich and powerful leader among them.

The Qur'an answers this propaganda:

"Is it they who allocate the mercy of your Lord? We have allotted for them their livelihood in the worldly life, and have raised some of them over others in rank, so that some of them may put some others to work. And the mercy of your Lord is much better than what they accumulate."

SEVERITY OF WAHI

Once Hazrat Harith bin Hisham ؓ, a noble Sahabi of Rasulullah ﷺ, asked how revelation came to him ﷺ. He ﷺ answered, "At times it comes to me like the chiming of a bell, and this mode of revelation is the hardest on me. Then it comes to an end once I fully comprehend the words of the angel, committing them to my memory. And at other times, the angel comes to me in the form of a man who talks to me, and I comprehend and memorise what he says."

Hazrat Ayesha (Radiyahallahu Anha) reported this saying of Rasulullah ﷺ, that even in the coldest of days of winter, when he received Wahi, his Mubarak forehead used to be full of perspiration due to the stress he felt during the experience. *(Bukhari)*

Hazrat Zayd bin Thabit ؓ narrates that once Rasulullah ﷺ had his head resting on Zayd's thigh when Wahi started descending on him ﷺ. He felt such pressure on his thigh that it seemed as though his thigh will be crushed by the pressure. *(Bukhari)*

When the angel came to Rasulullah ﷺ in human form he usually took a form resembling Hazrat Dihyah Al Kalbi ؓ who was famous for his masculine beauty and handsomeness. *(Musnad Ahmad)*

(The Meanings of the Noble Quran – Mufti Muhammad Taqi Usmani)





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