

THE GLORIOUS QUR'AN

From Revelation To Recitation & Beyond

FORMS OF WAHY & FIRST & LAST REVELATION

Published By:



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DEFINITION OF WAHI

Wahi literally means to give news secretly, give a signal or convey a message. In Shar'i terminology, Wahi is divine guidance, revealed by Allah Ta'ala to His messengers.

FORMS OF WAHI – 3 FORMS OF WAHI

1. Inspiration into the heart of the Nabi ﷺ or dreams.
2. Direct conversation with Allah Ta'ala from behind the veils of light without intermediaries. The speech of Allah is not like human speech. We are unable to understand its real nature. This is considered the highest form of Wahi.
3. Through Jibreel ﷺ - Either the Prophet listens to the voice of the angel or the angel arrives in human form. Rarely would the angel come in his own form. (*Uloomul Qur'an – Mufti Muhammad Taqi Usmani*)

MODE & MANNER OF REVELATION

Wahi was sent to the Holy Prophet ﷺ through different means.

The Ulama have described six modes by which revelation came to Rasulullah ﷺ. The six were:

1. Appearance in human form - Hazrat Jibreel ﷺ would come in the form of Hazrat Dihya Al-Kalbi or in any other appearance. This was relatively easy.
2. The ringing of a bell - It is difficult to understand the nature of Wahi, however in order for us to understand the Prophet ﷺ explained it with the most appropriate words from the sensual world. Allamah Anwar Shah Kashmiri (RA) quoting Ibne Arabi states that the resemblance was due to its resemblance of the bell in continuity and also it is difficult to localize the direction of wahi. (Faizul Bari) This type of Wahi was the toughest.
3. True dreams - The true dreams have been regarded as the forty-sixth part of prophethood. They are truthful pointers to realities. Ibraheem ﷺ dreamt that he was sacrificing his son in fulfilment of the

decree of Allah. He related this dream to his son who willingly handed himself over to his father to fulfil the command of Allah. So, Ibraheem ؑ laid his son down. Allah accepted his sacrifice and spared the life of his son. Similarly, the dream of Yusuf ؑ. In the prison there was no possibility of him becoming the king, however, whatever he saw in his dream all turned true. Allah made the impossible possible for him.

At the treaty of Hudaibiyyah, the Prophet ﷺ had been shown a vision in which the Muslims were performing the rites of Umrah, and the companions set out with the Prophet ﷺ from Madinah to Makkah hoping to perform the Umrah. The pagans of Makkah, however, did not allow the Muslims to enter Makkah, and a treaty was drawn up between the Muslims and the pagans, latter known as the treaty of Hudaibiyyah. One of the conditions of the treaty was that, in the following year, the Muslims would return and perform the rites of Umrah. As the Muslims returned sad-hearted Allah revealed:

“Indeed, Allah has made true the dream (shown) with truth: You will definitely enter the Sacred Mosque Insha Allah (If Allah wills), peacefully with your heads shaved, and your hairs cut short, having no fear.” (Surah Al-Fatah)

The following year the Muslims performed Umrah as per the terms of the agreement. The dream of the Prophet ﷺ came true.

4. Direct Inspiration into the Heart - In this there is no medium of an angel. This may happen in a dream or wakefulness.

5. Direct conversation with Allah from behind the veils of light - This is the most superior form of Wahi. This occurred during Mi'raj (Ascension). The commandment regarding the obligatory five daily prayers was given through this mode.

6. Angel appears in his original form. *(Uloomul Quran – Mufti Muhammad Taqi Usmani Sahib)*

THE FIRST REVELATION

The first revelation that Rasulullah ﷺ received was the first five verses of Surah Alaq (Surah 96). The remainder nineteen verses of this Surah were revealed at a later occasion.

However, some narrations indicate that the first revelation that Rasulullah ﷺ received was Surah

Muddassir. Reconciliation of these two narrations explain that although the very first revelation was the opening verses of Surah Alaq, there was a cessation period during which no revelation came. Three years later, the first revelation to start again was Surah Muddassir. (*Nikatud Durari – Sayyid Mufti Abdul Jalil*)

THE LAST REVELATION

Eighty days before the demise of Rasulullah ﷺ, verse three 3 of Surah Maidah was revealed

“Today, I have perfected your religion for you, and have completed My blessings upon you, and chosen Islam as a religion and way of life (Deen) for you.”

Then fifty days before Rasulullah ﷺ left this world, the verse about inheritance of a person who has no parents or children (Kalalah), Surah Nisa V.176, was revealed:

“They seek a ruling from you. Say, Allah you the ruling concerning the Kalalah. If a person dies having no son ...”

Then, thirty-five days before Rasulullah ﷺ left this world, Allah revealed Ayah 128 of Surah Taubah:

“Surely, there has come to you, from your midst, a Messenger who feels it very hard on himself if you face hardship, who is very anxious for your welfare, and for the believers he is very kind, very merciful.”

Many scholars agree that the last verse to be revealed wa Ayat no. 281 of Surah Baqarah.

“And fear the day when you shall be returned to Allah. Then every soul shall be paid what it earned and none shall be oppressed.”

This verse was revealed twenty-one days (or seven days according to some) before Rasulullah ﷺ left this world. (*The Sun that Never Set – Mufti Sulaiman Moola*)

THE LAST COMPLETE SURAH TO BE REVEALED

The last complete Surah to be revealed was Surah Nasr (Surah 110). For this reason, it is also called Surah at Tawdiyah (Farewell Surah) (*The Sun that Never Set – Mufti Sulaiman Moola*)



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