

INTRODUCTION TO QURANIC SCIENCES

LESSON 2



THE REVELATION OF THE QURAN

- Quran revealed over a span of 23 years.
- Other scriptures were revealed instantaneously
- Moses received the Towarat after 40 nights at Mount Sinai

قَالَ يَا مُوسَىٰ إِنِّي اصْطَفَيْتَكَ عَلَى النَّاسِ بِرِسَالَاتِي
وَبِكَلَامِي فَخُذْ مَا آتَيْتَكَ وَكُن مِّنَ الشَّاكِرِينَ وَكَتَبْنَا لَهُ
فِي الْأَلْوَاحِ مِنْ كُلِّ شَيْءٍ مَّوْعِظَةً وَتَفْصِيلًا لِّكُلِّ شَيْءٍ

[Allah] said, "O Moses, I have chosen you over the people with My messages and My words [to you]. So take what I have given you and be among the grateful." Quran 44: 7

THE REVELATION OF THE QURAN IN RAMADAN

شَهْرُ رَمَضَانَ الَّذِي أُنزِلَ فِيهِ الْقُرْآنُ هُدًى لِّلنَّاسِ وَبَيِّنَاتٍ مِّنَ الْهُدَىٰ وَالْفُرْقَانِ ۚ

(The month of Ramadhan [is that] in which was revealed the Qur'an, a guidance for the people and clear proofs of guidance and criterion. Quran 2:185)

إِنَّا أَنْزَلْنَاهُ فِي لَيْلَةٍ مُّبَارَكَةٍ إِنَّا كُنَّا مُنذِرِينَ ۚ فِيهَا يُفْرَقُ كُلُّ أَمْرٍ حَكِيمٍ

(Indeed, We sent it down during a blessed night. Indeed, We were to warn [mankind]. Quran 44:3)

إِنَّا أَنْزَلْنَاهُ فِي لَيْلَةِ الْقَدْرِ

(Indeed, We sent the Qur'an down during the Night of Decree. Quran 97:1)

THE BEGINNING OF THE DIVINE COMMISSION (B'ITHA)

- According to reliable sources, God sent Jibrail to the Prophet on the 27th of Rajab.
- Prophet was 40 years old
- 13 years prior to migration to Madina (609 CE)
- Location of first revelation was Jabal al-Nur, cave of Hira
- Jibrail came down while Prophet was meditating and recited (Quran 96:1-5)

اقْرَأْ بِاسْمِ رَبِّكَ الَّذِي خَلَقَ خَلَقَ الْإِنْسَانَ مِنْ عَلَقٍ اقْرَأْ وَرَبُّكَ الْأَكْرَمُ الَّذِي عَلَّمَ بِالْقَلَمِ عَلَّمَ الْإِنْسَانَ مَا لَمْ يَعْلَم

- Prophet was commissioned to deliver message at age 40
- According to our beliefs, he was always a prophet

RECONCILIATION BETWEEN DATES OF DIVINE COMMISSION (B'ITHA AND LAYLAT AL QADR)

- 4 opinions
- 1- The beginning of the revelation of Quran was on Laylat al-Qadr
- 2- Every year on the night of Decree a portion of the Quran was revealed
- 3- Most of the verses of the Quran were revealed in Ramadan
- 4- **The Quran had two types of revelation, instantaneous and gradual**
- **(Most popular opinion amongst Sunni and Shia scholars)**

NARRATIONS INDICATE TWO TYPES OF REVELATION, GRADUAL AND SUDDEN

- Suyuti: Ibn Abbas is reported to have said, “The Quran was revealed instantaneously, on the night of decree, to the earthy heaven, where it was kept in the “abode of honor” (bayt al izza): thereafter, Jibrail would bring down to the Prophet portions of it in response to the questions and actions of the people. The process of gradual revelation lasted for 20 to 23 years.
- Kulayni: Imam Sadiq: The Quran was revealed in one instant to the “abode of immortality (bayt al Ma’mour), after which its revelation took 20 years.
- Saduq: On the night of decree Prophet was made aware of the general content of the Quran, although the Quran was not revealed to him in letters and statements.

- Kashani, Tabatabaie, Zanjani : Bayt al-Mamour is the heart of the Prophet.

نَزَلَ بِهِ الرُّوحُ الْأَمِينُ عَلَى قَلْبِكَ لِتَكُونَ مِنَ الْمُنذِرِينَ

Quran has two kinds of existence, physical which consists of words and statements and the non-physical.

- The non-physical general knowledge of the Quran would be revealed onto the heart of the Prophet on the Night of Decree every year. The physical would be revealed gradually over time at different intervals

وَقُرْآنًا فَرَقْنَاهُ لِتَقْرَأَهُ عَلَى النَّاسِ عَلَىٰ مُكْثٍ وَنَزَّلْنَاهُ تَنْزِيلًا

(•) And [it is] a Qur'an which We have separated [by intervals] that you might recite it to the people over a prolonged period. And We have sent it down progressively. Quran 17:106

BENEFITS OF GRADUAL REVELATION

- To give Muslims constant guidance

وَقَالَ الَّذِينَ كَفَرُوا لَوْلَا نُزِّلَ عَلَيْهِ الْقُرْآنُ جُمْلَةً وَّاحِدَةً
كَذَلِكَ لَنُثَبِتَ بِهِ فُؤَادَكَ وَرَتَّلْنَاهُ تَرْتِيلًا

- And those who disbelieve say, "Why was the Qur'an not revealed to him all at once?" Thus [it is] that We may strengthen thereby your heart. And We have spaced it distinctly. Quran: 25:32
- To facilitate ease in recording and memorization and understanding
- To prove the apostleship of the prophet
 - People of the book would ask Prophet questions, he would answer.
 - How did the children of Yaqub who lived in Kan'an end up in Egypt? – Surat Yusuf was revealed. Sleepers of the cave (Surat Kahf)

BENEFITS OF GRADUAL REVELATION

- A testament of the miracle of the Quran
 - No contradictions in book revealed over 23 years, very coherent, fits together

أَفَلَا يَتَدَبَّرُونَ الْقُرْآنَ وَلَوْ كَانَ مِنْ عِنْدِ غَيْرِ اللَّهِ لَوَجَدُوا فِيهِ اخْتِلَافًا كَثِيرًا

(•) If it were from any one other than God, they would have found many discrepancies' within it. Quran 4:82

- To present teachings of Islam in a gradual manner
 - Laws were revealed gradual to help Muslims assimilate.
 - Intoxicants made forbidden gradually
 - Do not approach prayer while intoxicated
 - Harm is greater than benefit
 - It is forbidden and from the acts of Satan

OCCASIONS OF REVELATION

أسباب النور

- Important for understanding context of revelation.
- Must make sure it is a reliable tradition, many fabricated Tafsirs of verses.
- Types of occasions of revelation
 - Actions of individuals
 - Verse of Wilya after Imam Ali gave ring to beggar
 - Verses condemning Abu Lahab
 - A particular well known incident
 - After treaty of Hdaybiya 6 AH, Quran 48:1 Al-Fat'h was revealed.
 - Fat'h was year 8Ah
- Questions asked of the Prophet
 - Yas'alunaka

OCCASIONS OF REVELATION HELPFUL IN UNDERSTANDING QURAN

إِنَّ الصَّفَا وَالْمَرْوَةَ مِنْ شَعَائِرِ اللَّهِ ^{صلى} فَمَنْ حَجَّ الْبَيْتَ أَوْ اعْتَمَرَ فَلَا جُنَاحَ عَلَيْهِ أَنْ يَطَّوَّفَ بِهِمَا ^ج وَمَنْ
تَطَوَّعَ خَيْرًا فَإِنَّ اللَّهَ شَاكِرٌ عَلِيمٌ

Indeed, as-Safa and al-Marwah are among the symbols of Allah . So whoever makes Hajj to the House or performs 'umrah - there is no blame upon him for walking between them. And whoever volunteers good - then indeed, Allah is appreciative and Knowing. Quran 2:158

- It is obligatory to walk between Safa and Marwa. No blame because idols were placed on mountains and Muslims felt guilt for walking between them.