



Assignment 1

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SUBJECT: Islamic Studies

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Q1: Write in detail the concept of wahy, its kind, its chronology order and its impact on society?

Definition:

Wahy is the Arabic word for revelation. In Islamic context, it refers to the revelations of Allah to his prophets, for all humankind. It is the word of Allah revealed to one of his prophets and messengers. The process of revelation of Allah's commands to His Prophet as well as the revelation itself, is also referred to in the Quran as *wahy*. A good example of this use is in the following verse:

“And he the Prophet does not speak from his own desires; verily, it (his speech) is revelation (wahy) which was revealed.”

Allah uses the term *wahy* to refer to the process by which He gives commands to his angels, as is illustrated in the following example:

“When your Lord inspired the angels by wahy (yoohee): ‘Verily, I am with you all, so strengthen those who believe.’”

Quran sometimes uses *wahy* to mean instinctual animal habits. An example of this use can be seen in the case of bees mentioned in the following verse:

“And your Lord inspired the bee by wahy (awhaa) to make its home in the mountains, trees, and what build.”

Kinds of wahy

Just as the *wahy* was conveyed by different methods (direct and indirect) and forms (visions and speech), there were variations in the types of Wahy. There are 2 basic types of wahy.

➤ Wahee-e-Matlu (وحی متلو)

It means the revelation which God has transmitted in His own words and speech, for example the Quran. It is essential that such revealed words should be recited in the same accent, diction and pronunciation as they were revealed. Thus, even after 1450 years Quran has remained unchanged.

➤ : Wahee-e-Ghair Matlu (وحی غیر متلو)

It is the revelation which Allah projected in the heart of the Holy Prophet. These are not the words of the Almighty, but the Holy Prophet (PBUH) transmitted these revealed edicts to the people in his own words and actions and sometimes in both actions and words.

The chronology of the Revelation of The Holy Quran:

Descension took place twice. The whole of it had been sent to “**Bait Ul Izzah**” also known as “**Baitul-Mamoor**” a place of worship for angels that exists in the firmament facing ‘**Kaaba**’. This descending took place at the night of **Qadr**. Second time, it was revealed to the Holy Prophet gradually as needed. Second descending began when the age of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) was 40 years. The Quran is composed of verbal revelations made to Prophet Muhammad(PBUH), the Prophet of Islam during a period of twenty-three years. It is preserved in two more places than the blessed heart of the Prophet Muhammad ﷺ. the descending of the Holy Quran in the month of Ramadhan. However, the exact date is not definite. 17th of Ramadhan, the day of the Battle of Badr. 27th of Ramadhan etc.

The verses that come first.

➤ **Dreams & Seclusion**

According to a hadith the true dreams are the part of prophethood. Aisha, the Prophet’s wife has narrated that the commencement of the divine revelation to the Messenger of God was in the form of true dream which came true as the dawn of the day.

➤ **Angel came in Cave of Hira.**

Angel used to suggest directly to the heart of the Prophet, remaining invisible to him. As the Prophet said:

“The angel Gabriel has suggested to my heart that none of the living beings would pass away unless he finishes his providence (destined for him in the world).”

Sometimes the *wahy* came in the form of the ringing sound of a big bell According to a hadith ‘sometimes the revelation, comes like the ringing of a bell.’ This type of revelation is the

hardest of all and when I have grasped what is revealed this condition passes away.
Commenting upon this type of revelation Aisha says:

“I saw the Prophet receiving revelation on a very cold day and noticed that the sweat was dropping from his forehead. This condition lasted till the revelation was over”.

Discontinuation of wahy:

After the first wahy the wahy discontinued for the 3 years. This era of discontinuation is known as “**Time of Fatrah**”. After 3 years Angel Gabriel came again and recited the first 3 verses of **Surah Muddathir** in front of Prophet(PBUH).

Types of Verses:

There are basically two types of Verses.

❖ Makki Verses

The verses that were sent down before the Hijra are Makki. Those that were revealed in and around Makkah (like Arafat, Mina, Taif) are Makki. Those that address the people of Makkah are Makki.

In the early stages of revelation, Islam was new to the people and their knowledge was basic and practice was simple and limited. In addition, the Muslims were oppressed and had very little power, and so they needed constant moral encouragement. Hence some of the characteristics of the Makki verses:

➤ Characteristics of Makki Verses

- The chapters that contain the word, "kalla"(كَلَّا). The word “kalla” is used 33 times in 15 chapters.
- These chapters contain prostration (sajdah at-tilawah)
- These chapters contain the stories of the prophets, previous nations, the stories of Hazrat Adam and Iblis (the devil) are narrated except the chapter al-Baqara.

❖ Madani Verses

The verses that were sent down after the Hijra are Madani. The Verses sent down in and around Madinah are Madani (like Badr, Uhud).

In comparison, after the migration, the Muslims had their own state and were fairly well established. The basic beliefs of Islam had now been revealed and so the Muslims were now in need of Divine guidance in their daily and social lives. They also needed to know the rules and conduct of Jihad and the manner of inter-religious dialogue. Hence some of the characteristics of the Madani verses:

➤ Characteristics of Madani Verses

- Madani Verses contain the issues like Sharia punishments, civil code.
- Jihad and decrees about jihad are explained in Madani Verses.
- The chapters that give information about munafiqs (hypocrites) except the chapter al-Ankabut were sent down in Madinah because munafiqs emerged in Madinah.

Impact of wahy on society:

The revelation (wahy) is the communication of Allah to His prophets. In particular, the Qur'an is the unaltered word of Allah descended to His Last Prophet Muhammad(PBUH) as a reminder and a guidance for mankind. The word of Allah is very important for us because it is His message to His Mankind Also, through revelation Allah gives His commands and prohibitions. Human intellect may understand general instructions (like the importance of prayer, the duty of respecting the elders, etc...) but it is not able to grasp all the particulars of the path leading human being to salvation. Therefore, he needs a revelation. The words of Allah are a continuous guidance for human beings: the recitation and memorization of the holy Qur'an guide the heart of believers towards awareness, piety, goodness, success in this world and Hereafter. Indeed, there are too many benefits derived from the revelation of Allah,

"and if you should count the favors of Allah, you could not enumerate them" (16:18).

Man, in this world is a matter of test. He is assigned with certain duties. Man should make the best use of this world. While struggling and working in this world man should keep the injunctions of Allah in sight and do nothing that goes against the will of Allah. For these things, one must have knowledge. The wahy is the main Source of Knowledge for Human beings.

➤ **Following are some impact of Wahy on the society:**

- **Tawhid (Oneness of God) in society.**
- **Balance and Truth in society.**
- **Unity and Brotherhood in society.**
- **The explanation of internal Aspects of society**
- **The explant ion of External Aspect of society.**
- **A Civilized Society is formed.**