

# Introduction to Qur'an and Revelation

Islamic Studies I

# Meaning of Revelation/*wahi*

- Meaning of Revelation or “*wahi*”
  - The literal meaning of “*WAHI*” is a secret and swift notification.
- In the Arabic language, *Wahi* is interpreted as “a quick or divine indication,” “to give or convey a message” or “gentle speech” and Divine inspiration
- **In Islamic terminology**, *wahi* can be precisely defined as God’s divine message conveyed to Allah’s chosen persons (Prophets/Messengers).
- “*Wahi* as that knowledge regarding the Shariah that Allah conveys to His Prophets in the form of a book, through Angels or through dreams.”
- This message can be conveyed openly or in a hidden manner, imparting wisdom and knowledge that is beyond the material and physical realities of man.

# Categories of Revelation

## Kinds of Wahi

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### 1) **Scriptural Wahi**

It comprises the verses of the divine scripture, since the Scriptures are to be recited ,therefore this Wahi is also called recitable Wahi.

### 1) **Non-Scriptural Wahi**

It's the revelation of injunctions and other information which are not mention in the scriptures .Its also called non-recitable Wahi.



# MODES OF REVAELATION

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## (1 ) INSPIRATION

The soul of Prophet is subjugated and drown out from his material body towards the sacred sphere, and the words of Allah are impressed on it at all once.

The words get permanently impressed on his soul, this mode requires no intermediary of an angel or any perception.

# MODES OF REVAELATION

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## (2 ) From behind a veil

This mode too is without the intermediary of an angel. The divine eternal speech is associated with the prophet form of words selected by Allah and conveyed through the medium of air. Moses a.s heard with his ears.



# MODES OF REVAELATION

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## (3) Via a messenger

### ● Revelation Brought by an Angel in the Form of a Man

One of the most common ways of receiving revelation was through Angel Gibraeel (AS). Angel Gibraeel (AS) would sometimes come to the Holy Prophet (SAW) in the form of a companion Hazrat Dahiya Qalbi

### ● Revelation Through an Angel in his True Form

Angel Gibraeel also came to the Holy Prophet (saw) in his actual angelic form.

# Difference between Wahi

WAHI	KASHF, ILHAM
specific for the Prophets.	Relates to other pious followers.
Source is known	Source is uncertain
wahi' is obligatory and part of religion.	Kashf and ilhaam can be obeyed if and only if it is verified by Quran and Sunnah



# Forms of Revelation to Prophet SAW

- In the form of dreams

Receive divine revelations of the Holy Qur'an in the form of true dreams.

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- Revelation revealed directly into the Heart

The Holy Prophet (SAW) also used to receive revelation directly into the heart. Imaam Hakim narrates that the Holy Prophet (SAW) stated: "Angel Gibraeel conveyed a message into my heart."

- Revelation disclosed upon the sound of a bell:

Another method of revelation was at the sound of a bell. The Holy Prophet (saw) would hear the ringing of a bell or a musical sweet sound, which would be immediately followed by divine revelation.



# Earlier Scriptures/ Divine

## Books

- Early Scriptures as we are informed about from Qur'an
  - **The Sheets of Ibrahim and Musa (*Suhuf*)**
  - **The Torah (*taurat*) of Musa** (Sheets/ Alwaah/ 10 Commandments) - **6<sup>th</sup> Ramazan**
  - **The Psalms (*zabur*) of Dawud** (Prayers / Munajaat) – **18<sup>th</sup> Ramazan**
  - **The Gospel( Injil) of Jesus** (Revision of previous teachings/ Good news of forth coming prophet) **13<sup>th</sup> ramazan**
  - Message of all these books was limited for that particular period in which these were revealed.

# Importance of *Wahi*

- *Wahi* is the authentic Source of Knowledge From Highest Authority
- Allah's Communication with Humans
- Guidance from Allah Almighty for His Creation
- Compulsory to follow the divine orders
- Honorable and doubtless character personalities received revelation/ *wahi*
- Difference between nabi/messenger and Rasool/Prophet
- Message of All Prophets and Messengers remained same. (*Tawhid, Aakhrat*)



# Means and Methods of Revelation on Prophet SAW

1. Gabraeel (AS) جبرائيل himself in his own appearance.
2. In the appearance of Dahia Kalbi
3. Ringing sounds. صلصلة الجرس (difficult form)
4. Direct conversation in dreams, Awakening
5. Inspiration.



# Cont.

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# Revelation of Qur'an

- Age of Prophet SAW was almost 40 years
- 28 July 610 CE Monday / 27<sup>th</sup> Ramazan (*Laila tul Qadar*)
- Surah 96, *Alaq* (1<sup>st</sup> five verses)
- Narration of whole incident to Hazrat Khadija RA and then confirmation of prophethood by Warqa bin Nofil cousin of Hazrat Khadija
- *Fatra tul Wahi* (Temporary cession of Wahi/ Gap between first and second revelation – almost 2.5 years)
- **Second Revelation** - First verses of *Sura Mudassir* – Allah commanded Holy Prophet SAW to preach people.
- Revelations continued 23 years till 632 CE

# The first Revealed verses of the

اقْرَأْ بِاسْمِ رَبِّكَ الَّذِي خَلَقَ

- 1 READ in the name of thy Sustainer, who has-

خَلَقَ الْإِنْسَانَ مِنْ عَلَقٍ

- 2 created man out of a germ-cell

اقْرَأْ وَرَبُّكَ الْأَكْرَمُ

3 Read - for thy Sustainer is the Most Bountiful One

الَّذِي عَلَّمَ بِالْقَلَمِ

- 4 who has taught [man] the use of the pen –

عَلَّمَ الْإِنْسَانَ مَا لَمْ يَعْلَمْ

- 5 taught man what he did not know!



# Main Themes of the Suras

- Makkan period ( 86 Suras) 12 years 5 months, 13 days – Suras revealed before *Hijrah*
  - Social justice, conversion, final judgment, monotheism (*Tawhid*)
- Madinan Period (28 Suras) 9 years, 9 months, 9 days – Suras revealed after *Hijrah*
  - Relationships within Muslim Community
  - Relationships with Jews and Christians
- **Material used to scribe the Qur'an**
- Parchment , bones of camel etc, leaves, tablets, flat end of date palm fronds
- **Order of recitation**
- Chronological order (order in which *suras* were revealed)
- Present Arrangement ( *Tauqeefi*)

# The Qur'anic order

- Tauqeefi

- Nuzooli

- The Holy Qura'n was recorded only according to *Tarteef-e- Tauqeefi* not *Nuzooli*. Because the compilation is according to *lawh-e-Mahfooz* while the revelation is according to the circumstances



## Gradual Revelation the Holy Quran

- Two words used in the Holy Qur'an in this regard; *Inzaal* and *Tanzeel*.
- *Inzaal* means: transmission in one occasion إنا أنزلناه في ليلة القدر while *Tanzeel* means gradual revelation “ونزلناه تنزيلاً”.
- The Holy Qura'n was transmitted twice;
- Full transmission.
  - From *lawh-e-mahfooz* to *bait-ul-mamoor*. (*inzaal*)
- Gradual revelation.
  - From *bait-ul-mamoor* to the Holy Prophet (SAW.) (*tanzeel*)



# Philosophy behind the gradual

## Revelation

- Difficult experiences for revelation.
- To console the prophet SAW again and again.
- To be according to the natural process.
- Answers, predictions and incidents.
- To simplify memorization and understanding and prove the truthfulness of the Prophet
- To prove the miraculous nature of the Quran and to reveal the laws according to the need of time

# Content of the Quran

- 114 chapters/ *Suras*
- 6666/6236 verses
- 30 Parts/ juz
- 14 sujud
- 7 manazil
- 558 Ruku
- Main themes:
  - Matters of Belief (Aqeedah)
  - Stories and History (Qasas/ Asateer ul Awwaleen)
  - Laws



## Famous Names of the Qur'an

- Qur'an: Reading, recitation, collection 2:185, 17:9, it contains the best and most relevant of all previous messages
- Furqan: Criterion between the right and wrong 25:1, 2:185, 36:2
- Tanzil: Revelation, 26:192
- Dhikr: Reminder, 15:9
- Nur: Light, 4:174
- Al-Kitab: Book/scripture, 2:2
- Al Huda – Hidayat for Muttaqeen or *Hidaya* for People
- Mohaimin – protector of the earlier scriptures



## The Challenge of The Qur'an

“Say if all humankind and all Jinns were to gather together to produce the like of this Qur'an, they could not produce the like thereof, even if they backed up each other with help and support” 17/88

“Do people imagine that this Qur'an is not from Us, and that you, O Prophet are falsely attributing to us? Tell them that if they are speaking truly they should produce ten surahs resembling the Qur'an, and that they are free to call on the aid of anyone but God in so doing.” (11:13)

# Manners of Reciting Qur'an

- Do not to touch the Qur'an except in the state of purity in wudu
- Try your best to be in the state of Wudu, when reciting from the Quran, and sit in a clean place.
- Try to face the direction of prayer (qiblah) to recite;
- Before you begin reciting from the Quran, seek refuge with Allah from the Satan, by saying – ‘Aoodhu Billahi Minashaitanir Rajim.’
- Take Allah (swt)’s name, before you begin to read, by saying – ‘Bismillah.’
- not to select certain verses from each surah to recite, but rather the recite the whole surah;



## Cont.

- Read the verses with short pauses in between.
- Read the Quran attentively, calmly, and sincerely.
- Listen quietly and attentively, when the Quran is being read.
- Begin reading with a clear intention of seeking only Allah (swt)'s pleasure, not any other worldly gain.
- not to recite it out aloud over another's reciting of it, so as to spoil it for him or make him resent what he hears, making it as if it were some kind of competition;
- to recite it calmly and without haste, pronouncing each letter clearly; for each letter counts as ten good deeds