

Lecture No. 4: Holy Qur'an and its sciences – II

(Module 1(18): The miraculous status of the Holy Qur'an)

The Holy Quran is the word of Allah. This is such a unique book that it is beyond the scope of human beings to conceive it. Allah has challenged humans if they think that this Qur'an is not revealed by Allah, but it is a human expression and that this was made by Prophet Muhammad (P.B.U.H) on his own behalf, then they too are human beings and consider themselves the masters of their language and others as a dumb, then they should bring a word similar to it if they are truthful. Allah says:

(البقرة 23:2) وَلَئِنْ كُنْتُمْ فِي رَيْبٍ مِّمَّا نَزَّلْنَا عَلَىٰ عَبْدِنَا فَأْتُوا بِسُورَةٍ مِّثْلِهِ وَادْعُوا شُهَدَاءَكُمْ مِمَّنْ دُونِ اللَّهِ إِنَّ كُنْتُمْ صَادِقِينَ

“And if you are in doubt about this (Book) which we have revealed to our (exalted) servant, then produce only one chapter like this. And (for this task) you may call upon (all) your helpers apart from Allah if you are true (in your doubt and denial).”

But history is a witness to the fact no one could answer this challenge of Quran and will never be able to fulfil it until the Dooms Day. Not only this, but Allah gave the challenge to bring ten verses similar to it and then challenged to bring one sura of its merit. But despite having so much knowledge, the world has been unable to respond to it until now.

Unparalleled Eloquence of the Qur'an:

One of the leaders of Makkah (مكة), Waleed bin Mughira (وليد بن مغيرة), while describing the eloquence and miraculous glory of the Holy Qur'an admitted his weakness and inability, despite being a master of language that the Quran could not be a human speech, otherwise they would have made a speech like it.

(Module 2(19): Explanation of the secrets of the universe in Holy Qur'an)

Scientific Facts and Revelations:

The Big Bang Theory, The expansion of the universe by the order of Allah from a shrinking substance is clearly mentioned in the Holy Quran, (Surah Al-Anbiya, 21: 30)

The motion of Earth, Sun, and Moon:

All the planets, earth and sun are moving within their fixed orbits and do not go out of their orbit. Allah says:

وَبُوءَ الَّذِينَ خَلَقُوا اللَّيْلَ وَالنَّهَارَ وَالشَّمْسَ وَالْقَمَرَ كُلٌّ فِي فَلَكٍ يَسْبَحُونَ (الانبيا 33:21)

“And (Allah) is He who created the night and the day, and (also) the sun and the moon. All (heavenly bodies) are continually floating fast in their respective orbits.”

Chemical and Biological Development of Human Embryo:

The various stages and periods of development of the human embryo in the mother's womb and in this way the signs of the power of Allah Almighty are also mentioned in the Holy Quran.

Predictions of Future Events:

- Mention of the victory of the Muslims in the Battle of Badr (بدر) and the defeat of the infidels despite the numerical superiority of the enemy and weakness of the Muslims, has been mentioned by Allah Almighty beforehand in clear terms in the Qur'an.
- Giving news of victory to Muslims even before the peace treaty of Hudaibiyyah (حديبيه). Despite the fact that in the terms and conditions of the treaty of Hudaibiyya (حديبيه), the Muslims were visibly at a loss but Allah Almighty even before the treaty gave the good news of victory to the Muslims and it came true in the form of the conquest of Makkah (مكه), The Prophet (P.B.U.H) and the Companions returned to their homeland as conquerors.
- Rome and Persia were the two major powers of the time. The people of Persia (Fire worshipers) repeatedly defeated Rome (who were Christians, the people of the book). Muslim sympathies were with Rome. At the same time, the people of Persia conquered Rome and at that time Allah predicted in the Qur'an the domination of the people of Rome in a few years. That proved to be true word for word.
- During the miserable days of the Muslims, the Qur'an announced the tidings of the caliphate and the rule of the believers on the lands. In the time of rightly guided Caliphs and after them the rule of the Muslim empire proved the truth of the prophecy.
- Pharaoh (فرعون), who claimed to be a god, Allah mentioned in the Qur'an about preserving his body after his drowning in the Nile River (دریائے نیل), that Allah will preserve his body to make it an example for the people. So that the people may know that this is the same man who claimed to be god but now it is before us in the form of a helpless mummy who does not have the power to repel a fly from his body.

(Modules 3(20): Introduction to the exegesis (Tafasir) of the Holy Qur'an)

The Literal Meaning of Tafsir: The meaning of the Tafsir is to open something and explain it clearly.

Technical Meaning: This is the science that deals with the meaning, nuances, wisdom rulings, and problems of the Quran.

Types of Exegesis: There are two types of Exegesis: (1) Tafsir bil Mathur (2) Tafsir bil Rai.

1. Tafseer Bil Mathur: The explanation of the verses of the Quran in the light of the narrations transmitted from the Holy Prophet (PBUH), the companions, and their successors (Tabi'een) to us. For example, Tafseer by Allama Muhammad bin Tafseer Tabari by Jarir Tabari, etc.
2. Tafseer bil-Rai: It is the Tafseer by a trustworthy and qualified person who interprets the Quran according to his understanding of the other verses of the Qur'an, hadiths, and sayings of the companions and lexicology, e.g., Tafseer al-Kashaf by Allama Zamakhshari (MAY Allah be pleased with him).

Basic Sources of Exegesis of the Qur'an: The following are the five main sources of the Exegesis of the Qur'an.

- (1) The Holy Qur'an itself. (2). Ahadith of the Prophet (PBUH) (3) The Sayings of the Companions and their Followers (4) Arabic Language (5) Rules and Principles of Shari'ah.

(Module 4(21): The evolution of exegesis (Tafasir) of the Holy Qur'an)

While the Qur'an was being revealed, the Blessed Person of the Prophet (PBUH) was present among the Companions.

Whenever there was a need for an explanation or confusion in the meaning of a verse, the Companions would come to the Holy Prophet's service and return after getting a satisfactory answer.

- The Companions tried to understand the Qur'an and acquire the knowledge of the Qur'an so that God's commandments can be well understood. The cousins of the Prophet Hazrat Abdullah bin Abbas and Hazrat Ali are among them. Apart from them, other Companions like Hazrat Ubai bin Ka'ab and Hazrat Zaid bin Thabit are particularly notable.

- After the demise of the Holy Prophet (PBUH) and the spread of Islam to far-flung areas, many companions migrated to Kufa, Basra and other areas and taught the Book of Allah.

In order to spread and teach the Qur'an, they established circles of the Qur'an and thousands of people further passed on this knowledge to other people.

- Compilation of Exegesis: In the beginning, the Companions used to hear the explanation of the Quran from the Holy Prophet (PBUH) and memorized it and spread it to others. Later, during the reign of the Umayyads, they started writing books on the exegesis of Quran.

The first regular exegesis of the Qur'an is by Abu Ja'far Muhammad bin Jarir Al-Tabari's "Jami al-Bayan known as, Tafseer al-Tabari.

The following is the qualification required in an exegete:

- 1- Proficient in Arabic language rules and grammar.
2. Proficient in Rhetoric.
3. Well-versed in the Principles and Rules of Fiqh
4. Proficient in Hadith and Its sciences.
5. Well acquainted with the biography of the prophet.