



SS1 Islamic Religious Studies – Week 2

QUR'AN II: Compilation and Standardization of the Glorious Qur'an



INTRODUCTION

The Glorious Qur'an is the holy book of Islam, revealed by Allah to Prophet Muhammad (SAW) over a period of 23 years. During the Prophet's lifetime, the Qur'an was memorized, recited, and written down, but not in one compiled book. After the Prophet's death, the need arose to compile and standardize the Qur'an to preserve its accuracy and unity for future generations.

This lesson focuses on:

How the Qur'an was compiled into a book (Mushaf),

Why and how it was standardized under Caliph Uthman (RA),

The companions who played a vital role in this historical process.

◆ 1. 📖 COMPILATION OF THE GLORIOUS QUR'AN

✅ a. What is Compilation?

Compilation refers to the gathering of all Qur'anic verses and chapters into a single,

organized, written volume, known as the Mushaf.

✅ b. During the Prophet's Lifetime:

The Qur'an was revealed in parts (Surahs and Ayahs) through the Angel Jibril (Gabriel).

The Prophet (SAW) would recite the verses to his companions.

Scribes, especially Zayd ibn Thabit, were assigned to write down the verses on materials like:

Palm leaves

Animal skins

Flat stones

Bones

Many companions memorized the Qur'an completely (these people were called Huffaz).

However, the Qur'an was not yet collected into one book—the verses were memorized and written on separate materials.

✅ c. After the Prophet's Death – Caliph Abu Bakr's Era

📌 What Prompted the Compilation?

After the Battle of Yamama, many Huffaz (memorizers of the Qur'an) were killed.

Umar ibn Al-Khattab (RA) feared that the

Qur'an could be lost if no action was taken.

He persuaded Caliph Abu Bakr As-Siddiq (RA) to compile the Qur'an into one complete manuscript.

📌 Who Did the Compilation?

Zayd ibn Thabit (RA) was selected due to his:

Excellent memory

Role as a former scribe of the Prophet

Trustworthiness and knowledge of the Qur'an

He gathered all written fragments and verified them with oral sources and multiple witnesses.

The Result:

The final compilation was given to Caliph Abu Bakr, then passed to Caliph Umar, and later kept by Hafsa bint Umar (wife of the Prophet and daughter of Umar).

2. STANDARDIZATION OF THE GLORIOUS QUR'AN

a. What is Standardization?

Standardization refers to creating one official version of the Qur'an that could be used across the expanding Muslim world—ensuring uniformity in writing, reading, and pronunciation.



b. Why Was It Needed?

As Islam spread to regions like Iraq, Syria, Egypt, and beyond, Muslims began reciting the Qur'an in different dialects.

Conflicts and disagreements arose over proper pronunciation and wordings.

To preserve the unity of Muslims and the Qur'an's integrity, Caliph Uthman ibn Affan (RA) took steps to standardize the Qur'an.



c. What Did Caliph Uthman Do?

He ordered the creation of a standard copy of the Qur'an using Hafsa's manuscript.

He appointed a committee led again by Zayd ibn Thabit, along with:

Abdullah ibn Zubair

Sa'id ibn Al-As

Abdur-Rahman ibn Al-Harith ibn Hisham

✅ d. Process of Standardization:

1. They copied the Qur'an from Hafsa's manuscript.

2. Ensured the text used the Qurayshi dialect—the Prophet's tribe.

3. Produced several standard Mushafs (copies).

4. Sent these Mushafs to major Islamic cities:

Makkah

Basrah

Kufah

Damascus

Yemen

Medina

Bahrain

5. Ordered that all other unofficial copies or dialectical versions be destroyed to prevent confusion.



e. Benefits of Uthman's Standardization:

Unified the Muslim Ummah with one version of the Qur'an.

Preserved the exact words and structure of the Qur'an.

Prevented errors or distortions in recitation.

Maintained the original language of the

Qur'an: Arabic.

The Uthmanic Mushaf is still used as the official version today, over 1400 years later.

◆ 3. 👤 Names of the Compilers of the
Glorious Qur'an

Companion Role in Compilation

Zayd ibn Thabit Chief compiler in both
Abu Bakr's and Uthman's era

Abu Bakr As-Siddiq Ordered the first
compilation

Umar ibn Al-Khattab Suggested and
supported the compilation

Hafsa bint Umar Custodian of the
original manuscript

Uthman ibn Affan Initiated the

standardization process

Abdullah ibn Zubair Member of Uthman’s
standardization committee

Sa’id ibn Al-As Member of the committee

Abdur-Rahman ibn Al-Harith Member of
the committee



Summary of Key Terms

Term	Meaning
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Mushaf	A compiled, physical book form of the Qur’an
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Hafiz (plural: Huffaz)	A person who has memorized the entire Qur’an
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Quraysh	The Prophet Muhammad’s tribe and the dialect of the standardized Qur’an
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Standardization	The process of making the Qur’an uniform in script, dialect, and
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Compilation The process of gathering all verses of the Qur'an into one volume

