

SS1 Islamic Religious Studies – Week 1

QUR'AN I: The Ways the Qur'an Was Revealed, Recorded, and Memorized During the Lifetime of the Prophet Muhammad (SAW)

Introduction

The Qur'an is the sacred book of Islam. It is a complete and final revelation from Allah (SWT) to humanity, delivered to Prophet Muhammad (SAW), the last messenger. Muslims believe the Qur'an is the unaltered word of God, revealed in the Arabic language over a period of 23 years.

Unlike earlier scriptures, the Qur'an was meticulously preserved, both orally and in writing, from the time of its revelation.

◆ 1. Revelation of the Qur'an

📌 What is Revelation (Wahy)?

Revelation (Wahy) is the divine communication through which Allah conveys His message to His prophets. In Islam, this refers specifically to the process by which Allah sent down the Qur'an through Angel Jibril (Gabriel) to Prophet Muhammad (SAW).

📌 How Was the Qur'an Revealed?

First Revelation:

Occurred in the Cave of Hira when the Prophet was 40 years old. The first five verses of Surah Al-'Alaq were revealed:

> "Read in the name of your Lord who created..." (Qur'an 96:1-5)

Gradual Revelation:

The Qur'an was revealed over 23 years:

13 years in Makkah: Focus on monotheism, morality, and spiritual purification.

10 years in Madinah: Addressed laws, community life, warfare, and social justice.

Reasons for Gradual Revelation:

1. To make understanding and

memorization easier.

2. To guide the Prophet in solving issues as they arose.

3. To strengthen the Prophet's resolve during persecution.

 Modes of Revelation:

1. Inspiration into the heart of the Prophet.

2. Hearing a voice, like the ringing of a bell.

3. Direct communication with Angel Jibril, who delivered Allah's words.

4. Sometimes the Prophet would sweat or tremble due to the heaviness of the revelation.

◆ 2. Recording of the Qur'an

Though the Prophet (SAW) was unlettered (illiterate), he ensured that every revealed verse was written down immediately under his instruction.

📌 Scribes of the Revelation

There were around 40 scribes, including:

Zayd ibn Thabit (chief scribe)

Ali ibn Abi Talib

Ubayy ibn Ka'b

Abdullah ibn Mas'ud

Mu'awiyah ibn Abi Sufyan

These scribes:

Wrote down verses as soon as they were revealed.

Used available materials like:

Palm fronds

Animal skins (leather)

Stones

Wood

Shoulder blades of animals

Ensured the verses were placed in their correct order based on the Prophet's guidance.

Although the complete Qur'an was not compiled as a single book during the Prophet's lifetime, all verses were preserved accurately.

◆ 3. Memorization of the Qur'an (Hifz)

The oral preservation of the Qur'an is one of the most significant aspects of its

transmission.

Why Memorization?

Arabs had a strong oral tradition.

Literacy was not widespread, so memorization ensured preservation.

The Prophet (SAW) himself memorized every revelation and encouraged his companions to do the same.

How Was It Memorized?

1. Prophet (SAW) recited the newly revealed verses.

2. Companions would repeat them and memorize.

3. They would use the verses in daily prayers.

4. The Prophet regularly reviewed the memorized Qur'an with Angel Jibril, especially during Ramadan.

5. Students would study under scholars to perfect their recitation.



Who Were the Huffaz?

Huffaz are individuals who have memorized the entire Qur'an. During the Prophet's lifetime, many companions were Huffaz, including:

Abu Bakr As-Siddiq

Umar ibn Al-Khattab

Uthman ibn Affan

Ali ibn Abi Talib

Abdullah ibn Mas'ud

Zayd ibn Thabit

Ubayy ibn Ka'b

◆ Combined Preservation: Oral and Written

The dual method of preservation – writing

and memorization – ensured the Qur'an was kept intact. Even if one method failed, the other ensured continuity.

Oral Preservation (Hifz) Written Preservation

Recitation by Prophet Scribes recorded on materials

Memorized by companions Maintained text order

Used in prayer Rechecked for accuracy

◆ Significance of the Preservation During Prophet's Lifetime

Prevented distortion or loss.

Strengthened faith and discipline among

Muslims.

Ensured universal access to the message.

Created a generation of Muslims who could teach others after the Prophet's death.

