

MLU-5.1: The Introduction to Quran

And We have indeed made the Quran easy to understand and remember, then is there any that will remember (or receive admonition)? (Chapter No 54, Verse No 22 – Holy Quran)

The Quran is the literal, spoken Word of Allah revealed to the last Prophet Muhammad (PBUH), through Jibril (AS), the Angel of Revelation, transmitted to us by numerous channels, both verbally and in written form. Inimitable and unique, it is divinely protected from corruption. Allah (SWT) says:

Indeed, it is We who sent down the message [i.e., the Quran] and indeed, We will be its guardian., (Quran 15:9)

Holy Quran is the most widely read book in the world. The Quran was repeatedly revealed to Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) through Angel Jibril (AS) who is the king of all Angels.

What is Wahi (Divine revelation)

According to the dictionary, Wahi means to give news secretly, give a signal, convey a message, etc., whereas in Shar,i terminology Wahi is called the Kalam (the Divine Word) that was revealed to blessed Ambiya (AS) from Allah Almighty.

Forms of Wahi on Prophet Muhammad (PBUH).

When Wahi descends in the form of a bell sound; this type of Wahi was the hardest one on the Beloved Rasool (PBUH). When the progression of Wahy ceased, his blessed forehead would have already become dripping-wet inspite of the chilly weather. On occasions, so much intensity would be generated in this state of Wahy that the animal he would be riding at that time would sit down, wilting under his weight.

When an angel presents the Kalam of Allah Almighty by taking the shape of a man such as Hazrat Jibril (AS) came in the shape of Sayyiduna Dihyah Kalbi (RA).

When Sayyiduna Jibril Ameen (AS) comes in his own shape; he has 600 arms from which rubies and pearls fall off. The Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) saw Hazrat Jibril (AS) three times in his original form.

The fourth mode is distinguished by a direct, not intermediary two-way conversation with Allah Almighty. This honour was bestowed upon the Holy Prophet only once, that is, in Mi,raj, while awake. In addition to that, once it was in a dream as well that he was in a conversing situation with Allah Almighty.

Under the fifth mode of Wahy, it so happened that Hazrat Jibril (AS) would, without appearing physically in any form whatsoever, let some words of the message fall into his heart.

Stages of revelation of Holy Quran

- i. Writing in Al-Lauh al-Mahfoodh.
- ii. Revelation to Lower heaven.
- iii. Revelation to our Prophet (SWS, Peace be upon him) by Jibril over a period of 23 years.

In the first stage of revelation, the complete Holy Quran was written in Al-Lauh al-Mahfoodh (The Preserved Tablet). In the second stage, the Holy Quran was revealed at once to Bait ul Aizzah in the month of Ramazan. After then it was revealed on earth towards Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) in different time periods according to the situation and this revelation process lasted for approximately twenty-three years.

Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) received his first revelation in the cave of Hira where he spent lot of time worshipping Allah. Holy Quran is the miracle of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH). The revelation of Quran started when Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) was 40 years old and it ends when his age was approximately 63 years. The Holy Quran was collected by Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) companions and is written and memorized to pass it to the next generations. It was revealed part by part, verse by verse and occasionally as whole chapters. It is the most memorable book and is fully memorized by millions of people all over the world.

Patterns of the Quran (Tarteef)

- **Tarteef-e-Nuzooli (Revelational Order):** This refers to the chronological order in which the verses and chapters were actually revealed. For instance, the first five verses of Surah Al-Alaq were the very first revelation. Chronologically, it is the first chapter, even though it occupies the 96th position in the modern compiled Quran.
- **Tarteef-e-Tauqifi (Compiled Order):** This is the current order in which the Quran is arranged today (starting with Surah Al-Fatihah, followed by Surah Al-Baqarah, etc.), which matches the order preserved in Lauh-e-Mahfooz. This order was directly instructed by the Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) based on divine revelation, rather than being decided by the companions.

Difference Between "Inzal" and "Tanzil"

While both words share the Arabic root Nazala (meaning "to send down"), the Quran uses them to denote two distinct styles of revelation:

- **Inzal:** Implies sending down the Quran all at once in its entirety, which corresponds to its descent on the night of Lailat-ul-Qadr to the lowest heaven.
- **Tanzil:** Implies sending it down gradually and in stages over a period of time, according to specific circumstances, occurrences, and requirements.

Compilation of Quran

The companions of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) served in transferring the Islamic holy book to future generations. The Quran was compiled into a book in the time of the first caliph, Abu Bakr(RA). During the 23 years of Muhammad,s (PBUH) time as a prophet, the verses of the Quran were memorized as they were revealed, and about 42 scribes wrote the verses on different materials such as paper, cloth, bone fragments and leather.

The delegation of 12 people, including famous figures such as Uthman ibn Affan (RA), Ali ibn Abi Talib (RA), Talha ibn Ubaydullah (RA), Abdullah ibn Masood(RA), Ubayy ibn Kab (RA), Khalid ibn al-Walid (RA), and Hudhaifah (RA), came together in Umar,s(RA) house and collected all the materials on which verses from the Quran were written.

The compilation of Quran was done under the rightly guided Caliphs Hazrat Abu Bakr (RA) and Hazrat Usman (RA).

- **During Life of Holy Prophet Mohammad (PUBH)**

As the Quran was being revealed, the Prophet Mohammad (PBUH) made special arrangements to ensure that it was written down. Although the Prophet Mohammad (PUBH) himself could neither read nor write, he dictated the verses orally and instructed scribes to mark down the revelation on whatever materials were available: tree branches, stones, leather, and bones. The scribes would then read their writing back to the Prophet Mohammad (PUBH), who would check it for mistakes. With each new verse that was revealed, the Prophet Mohammad (PUBH) also dictated its placement within the growing body of text.

When the Prophet Mohammad (PUBH) passed away, the Quran has been fully written down. It was not in book form, however. It was recorded on different parchments and materials, held in the possession of the Companions of the Prophet Mohammad (PUBH).

- **During Life of Caliph Hazrat Abu Bakr (RA)**

After the death of the Prophet Mohammad (PUBH), the entire Quran continued to be remembered in the hearts of the early Muslims. Hundreds of the early Companions of the Prophet Mohammad (PBUH) had memorized the entire revelation, and Muslims daily recited large portions of the text from memory. Many of the early Muslims also had personal written copies of the Quran recorded on various materials.

Ten years after the Hijrah (632 C.E.), many of these scribes and early Muslim devotees were killed in the Battle of Yamama. While the community mourned the loss of their comrades, they also began to worry about the long-term preservation of the Holy Quran. Recognizing that the words of Allah (SWT) needed to be collected in one place and preserved, the Caliph Hazrat Abu Bakr (RA) ordered all people who had written pages of the Quran to compile them in one place. The project was organized and supervised by one of the Prophet Mohammad's (PBUH) key scribes, Hazrat Zayd bin Thabit (RA).

The process of compiling the Quran from these various written pages was done in four steps:

- Hazrat Zayd bin Thabit (RA) verified each verse with his own memory.
- Hazrat Umar ibn Al-Khattab (RA) verified each verse. Both men had memorized the entire Quran.
- Two reliable witnesses had to testify that the verses were written in the presence of the Prophet Mohammad (PUBH).
- The verified written verses were collated with those from the collections of other Companions.

This method of cross-checking and verifying from more than one source was undertaken with the utmost care. The purpose was to prepare an organized document which the entire community could verify, endorse, and use as a resource when needed.

This complete text of the Quran was kept in the possession of Hazrat Abu Bakr (RA), and then passed on to the next Caliph, Hazrat Umar ibn Al-Khattab (RA). After his death, they were given to his daughter Hazrat Hafsa (RA) (who was also a widow of the Prophet Mohammad (PBUH)).

- **During Life of Caliph Hazrat Usman (RA)**

During the third caliphate of Hazrat Usman (RA). The Muslim empire expanded greatly. Hazrat Usman (RA) learnt that some people were reading the Quran in a different way. Hazrat Usman (RA) thought that the original meaning of the true Quran might change as it has happened to

other books of Allah (SWT). He ordered Hazrat Zaid Bin Thabit (RA) to make a true collection. Hazrat Zaid Bin Thabit (RA) did this work with the help of other senior Muslims. They collected all the true copies of Quran and they ensured these contain only the words of the Prophet Mohammad (PUBH). They checked that they were written in the dialect of Quraish, because it was the Holy Prophets Mohammad (PUBH) speech. After much hard work, the collection was made. Hazrat Usman (RA) ordered a number of copies of this authoritative collection to be made and had them sent to the major cities of the empire. He also ordered that all other versions of Quran should be destroyed to prevent this problem to arise again in the future. All Qurans available in the world today are exactly identical to the Usmani version, which was completed less than twenty years after the death of Prophet Mohammad (PUBH).

Later, some minor improvements were made in the Arabic script (adding dots and diacritical marks), to make it easier for non-Arabs to read. However, the text of the Quran has remained the same. Holy Quran is the finest piece of literature available in the world in Arabic language. It is the only book in the world that is in its original form after its revelation 1400 years ago.

Holy Quran consists of 114 chapters. Out of 114 chapters, 86 chapters were revealed when Prophet (PBUH) was in Mecca and 28 chapters were revealed when Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) was in Madina. Each Chapter covers various aspects like rules and restrictions, rewards and the punishment. All the chapters except one begin with the sentence *Bismillahir rahmanir raheem*, 'In the name of Allah the Most Beneficent and the Most Merciful'. This is the thought with which Muslims should start every action.

The longest chapter of the Quran is Surah *Baqarah* (The Cow) with 286 verses and the shortest is Surah *Al-Kawther* (abundance) which has 3 verses.

The arrangement of surahs does not correspond to the chronological order in which they were revealed. The Quran is sometimes divided into 30 roughly equal parts, known as juz. These divisions make it easier for Muslims to read the Quran during the course of a month and many will read one juz, each day, particularly during the month of Ramadan. The first chapter of the Quran is repeated in daily prayers and in other occasions. This chapter, which consists of seven verses, is the most often recited chapter of the Holy Quran. The Quran is not simply an inspired scripture. It is a divine book brought down from heaven by the angel Jibril to the Prophet Muhammad (PBUH), and its message is the key to heaven. Join us for an exploration of the scripture that is the word of God to over a billion people.

Holy Quran Names

Quran Majeed has lot of names, among all 6 are most popular.

1. Al-Kitab (Surah- AlBaqrah- 2)
2. Al-Quran (Surah- AlBaqrah- 185)
3. Al-Zikar (Surah- Alhijr- 9)
4. Al-Wahyi (Surah- AlAnbiya-45)
5. Al-Furqan (Surah- AlFurqan- 1)
6. Al-Rooh (Surah- AlShurah- 52)

Holy Quran Features

Holy Quran attests all the Prophets as true Prophets because all of them were sent from Allah. Quran Majeed contains the biographies of some past Prophets. Not even a single word of Quran is changed or replaced since its revelation 1400 years ago. Quran Majeed is a miracle, pure and true words from Allah. Holy Quran is the most memorized book in the world. Quran is the only book in the

world that covers all the aspects of life for the guidance of human beings. Quran Majeed offers lots of benefits and favors for the human beings that were not there in previous Holy books. No other Holy book is in its original form but Quran is the only Holy Book. Quran is the base of modern sciences and technologies. Quran Majeed is a blessing and health source for human beings.

The Quran is the supreme authority in Islam. It is the fundamental and paramount source of the creed, rituals, ethics, and laws of the Islamic religion. It is the book that 'differentiates, between right and wrong, so that nowadays, when the Muslim world is dealing with such universal issues as globalization, the environment, combating terrorism and drugs, issues of medical ethics, and feminism, evidence to support the various arguments is sought in the Quran. This supreme status stems from the belief that the Quran is the word of God, revealed to the Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) via the Hazrat Jibril (AS) and intended for all times and all places.

Holy Quran is the most widely read book in the world. The Quran was repeatedly revealed to Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) through Angel Jibril (AS) who is the king of all Angels. What are some major themes in the Quran?

There are many themes and ideas explored in the Quran, but the major ones include:

- The Oneness of God
- The importance of worship and obedience to God
- The existence of an Afterlife and the Day of Judgment
- Guidance and wisdom for leading a righteous and moral life
- The creation of the universe and all living things
- The role of prophets and revelation in guiding humanity
- The consequences of good and evil actions
- The significance of social justice and fairness

These themes are interwoven throughout the Quran and serve as a guide for believers on how to live their lives in accordance with the will of God.