

HARDSHIPS FACED IN COMPILING THE HOLY QUR'AN

1. The holy Qur'an was compiled after the death of the Prophet PBUH and this became a problem because he was the supreme source of knowledge for the Muslims.
2. The Islamic state had a problem of the enemies of Islam especially from the Byzantine Empire who wanted to destroy Islam completely.
3. There was a problem of hypocrites in Islam. These behaved like real Muslims but wanted to fight Islam from within after failing to fight it from out.
4. Death of the memorizers of the holy Qur'an especially during the battle of Yamamah posed a big problem because they were part of the sources of the divine message in absence of the prophet PBUH.
5. Illiteracy among the Muslims. By this time, most of the Muslims still could not read and write and this meant that the compilation exercise was left in hands of the few literate and trustworthy Muslims.
6. Writing materials such as pens and papers were still inadequate and this proved a problem to the compilers of the holy Qur'an and those present were of poor quality.
7. The exercise faced stiff opposition from the prominent companions of Prophet Muhammad PBUH arguing that it was Bidi-a (innovation) in Islam since the Prophet PBUH never did it nor did he instruct the Muslims to do it.
8. There was too much controversy among the great reciters of Islam on whether to include some of the abrogated verses or not. This delayed the compilation exercise.
9. The Islamic state had grown too big and Muslims had scattered in different parts of the world. So it became hard to collect the verses of the holy Qur'an from the memorisers in scattered areas.
10. The compilers lacked adequate funds to facilitate the exercise. For example money was needed for buying writing materials and transporting the compilers to different parts of the Islamic state to meet the memorisers.
11. Some of the materials on which the holy Qur'an was written during the prophet's time had disappeared while others had rotten. This became a problem in collecting the Qur'anic verses for compilation.
12. Different Muslim groups wanted to write the holy Qur'an in their original languages and this brought about difference in its understanding, reading and meaning until when caliph Uthman bin Affan standardized it.