

## THE AUTHENTICITY OF THE HOLY QUR'AN

1. This refers to the evidence presented by the Muslims to refute allegations by the critics of Islam that the holy Qur'an is not a word of Allah but a fabrication of Prophet Muhammad PBUH.
2. Firstly, it is true that while meditating in the cave of Mount Hira, Prophet Muhammad PBUH was unexpectedly visited by Angel Jibril who revealed to him the divine message in words contained in **Q (96:1-5)**.
3. However, the opponents of Islam allege that this message was formulated by Muhammad PBUH himself because it happened at the time he was labouring for such a spiritual experience and that he did not see the angel but he was possessed by the evil spirits.
4. This is a false allegation born out of envy and mere mischief on the side of the enemies of Islam intended to taint the person of Prophet Muhammad PBUH and the image of Islam.
5. There is ample evidence from the holy Qur'an itself, the prophet's traditions, history and logic to refute the allegation that the holy Qur'an was Muhammad's formulation.
6. Considering the first verse **Q (96:1-5)**, the critics of Islam claim that the Prophet PBUH was struck with fear because he was possessed by the evil spirits. Logically, one would ask himself why he would be hit with distress for the message he fabricated himself!
7. It is historically clear that the Prophet PBUH secluded himself to the cave of Mount Hira to meditate to Allah to change the situation in Mecca. However, **Q (96:1-5)** never made any emotional reference to the evils of Pre-Islamic Arabia. The question is that why he did not point in the verse to what had taken him in seclusion if he was the author of the book.
8. Between the first and second revelation, there was a time lapse of nearly three years during which the Prophet PBUH was bitterly abused by the Pagan Quraish claiming that his God had forgotten or forsaken him. He would not stand that embarrassment and mistreatment if he was the fabricator of the message.
9. In addition, the Prophet PBUH received the message in the holy Qur'an for a period of over 22 years. During this period, the Quraish Meccans subjected him and his followers to all kinds of torture including fighting the great battles. If he had fabricated the book, he would have revealed all its message at once to avoid such torture.
10. Lady Khadijah who first proved Muhammad's messengership was a respected and trusted business lady in Mecca. He was further proved that he had become a messenger of Allah by *Waraq ibn Naufal*, a renowned Jahiliyya Arab with the knowledge of previous scriptures. Therefore, claiming that he fabricated the book is sheer envy on the side of the pagans.

11. The experience the Prophet PBUH underwent through the course of the revelation also proves that he did not formulate the message himself. For example, perspiration would run down his face during the coldest of the day. No man would subject himself to such hard experience if he was the author of such divine message.
12. The order in which the chapters and verses of the holy Qur'an were arranged forms a basis to refute the accusation that it was formulated by a human being like Prophet Muhammad PBUH. The continuity of the subject matter which characterizes the Qur'anic verses is beyond human capacity to conceive.
13. It is historically upheld that Prophet Muhammad PBUH did not know how to read and write. Therefore, it is surprising to attribute to him such words which even the great professors and philosophers of the day failed to interpret and resorted to him for explanation.
14. Likewise, even the Quraish Meccans who are the masters of the language in which the holy Qur'an was revealed could not understand the message not until it was explained by the Prophet PBUH, hence showing how authentic the message in the holy Qur'an is.
15. The critics of Islam also claim that the holy Qur'an contains words of the prominent companions of the prophet PBUH like **Q (3:144)** which they attribute to Abu Bakar (RA). It says;

*“Muhammad is no more than a messenger: many were the messenger that passed away before him. If he died or were slain, will you then turn back on your heels? If any did turn back on his heels, not the least harm will he do to Allah; but Allah will swiftly reward those who serve Him with gratitude.”*

However, this is not true because there were many companions of the Prophet PBUH who had committed holy Qur'an to memory with the same content. Referring to **Q (3:144)**, when Abu Bakar read it to them, none of them came out to dispute it.

16. Related to the above, the opponents of Islam argue that Prophet Muhammad PBUH deliberately fixed his name in the Qur'an. They claim that the holy Qur'an was put on a Preserved Tablet before his birth and becoming a prophet. However, this is an expression of narrow thinking because such people know that Allah does what He wants and determines man's destiny before his birth.
17. The enemies of Islam also blindly use **Q (17:1)** to criticize the holy Qur'an. They claim that **Isra wal Miraj** was such an important event that Allah could not just summarise it in one verse. However, this is mere lack of critical thinking because Allah does whatever He wants and there so many other important aspects of Islam, moreover Ibadat which Allah does not elaborate e.g Salat (prayer).
18. Considering the concept of abrogation, the foes of Islam argue that Prophet Muhammad PBUH was forgetful and that he used to replace the forgotten verses with new ones.

However, this is clear manifestation that they lack the knowledge of the revelation of the holy Qur'an. Besides, Prophet Muhammad PBUH was a human being liable to forgetting like any other human being.

19. However, sufficient evidence of the divine nature of the holy Qur'an comes from the verses of its message.

**Q (52:33-34)** states;                    *“Do they say ‘he forged it?’ No! But they have no faith. Let them produce a book like it if they speak the truth”.*

20. This outstanding challenge is further repeated in the following verses;

**Q (17:88)** says;                    *“Say: ‘If the whole of mankind and Jinn were to gather together to produce the like of this Qur'an, they could not produce the like thereof, even if they backed each with help and support”.*

Surprisingly, none of the great professors or philosophers or authors of the world have come out to face this divine challenge even when Allah simplified it to ten chapters and then to one surah in the subsequent verses.

**Q (11:13)** says;                    *“Or they may say ‘He forged it,’ Say, bring then ten chapters forged like unto it, and call to your aid whomsoever you can, other than Allah, if you speak the truth.”*

**Q (10:38)** reduces the challenge to only one chapter (surah) where Allah says;

*“Or do they say ‘He forged it?’ say; bring then a surah like unto it and call to your aid anyone you can besides Allah if you speak the truth!”*

21. The holy Qur'an attributes the fine arrangement of its verses and chapters and the continuity of its subject matter to Allah but not Prophet Muhammad PBUH.

**Q (75:17)** says;                    *“It is for Us to collect it and to promulgate it”*

22. The absence of contradictions in the holy Qur'an is clear manifestation that it was revealed by Allah, the Most Wise. This is because there is no human being immune to errors and if the Prophet PBUH had fabricated the book, there would surely be errors.

**Q (4:82)** states;                    *“Do they not consider the Qur'an with care? Had it been revealed from other than Allah, they would surely have found therein much discrepancy”*

23. The holy Qur'an being the only book covering every aspect of human life is an exclusive feature confirming its authenticity from Allah. This is because no man can author a book that deals with the entirety of mankind.

**Q (6:38)** says;                    *“...Nothing have We omitted from the Book...”*

24. The fact that the protection and preservation of the holy Qur'an is offered by Allah is a clear sign that it originates from Him because He cannot protect what He did not write or produce.

Q (15:9) states; *“We have, without doubt, sent down the message and We will surely guard it from corruption”*

25. The presence of messages in the holy Qur'an about stories which happened so many years ago before the birth of Prophet Muhammad PBUH is enough to prove that he did not fabricate the book e.g stories of past prophets like Musa, Nuhu, Ibrahim, Adam e.t.c. This is because as a human being, he could not tell what happened a thousand years before he was born unless inspired in him by Allah.

Q (6:92) states; *“This is a book which We have sent down, bringing blessings and confirming which came before it...”*

26. The holy Qur'an completely confirms its revelation from Allah in this clear manifestation.

Q (29:51) says; *“Verily, this is a revelation from the Lord of the Worlds”*

Q (3:7) states; *“He it is He Who has sent down to you the Book...”*

Q (10:37) says; *“The holy Qur'an is not such as can be produced by other than Allah”*

27. In conclusion, it is on the basis of the above evidence stipulated in the holy Qur'an and reason, that one refutes the allegations posed by the critics of Islam that the message in the holy Qur'an was fabricated by Prophet Muhammad PBUH.

#### **Revision question**

- a) **What evidence is there to show that the holy Qur'an traces its origin from Allah?**
- b) **Show how Muslims have maintained the holiness of the Qur'an.**