



Al-Qur'an

**This is the Book! There is no doubt about it
— a guide for those mindful of Allah
(Qur'an 2:2)**

The first five verses (chapter 96:1-5) were revealed to Prophet Muhammad ﷺ in Cave Hira on Mount Nour at the outskirts of Makkah. This revelation continued for twenty-three years. As the verses were revealed, they were put into chapters and order as instructed by Prophet Muhammad ﷺ.

Revelation

Prophet Muhammad ﷺ was unable to read or write, yet the Qur'an was a literary masterpiece unmatched and inimitable by the Arabs.

These verses were memorised and used in prayer. They were also taught to the steady stream of new Muslims (oral tradition). The verses were also written down in the presence of the Prophet Muhammad ﷺ as he dictated the words to the faithful scribes (written tradition).

Tradition

Paper didn't exist in Arabia, so the scribes wrote the verses down on animal skins, palm leaves, flat rocks, large bones...

Shortly after Prophet Muhammad ﷺ passed away, the written original verses were assembled as one volume (Mus'haf). There were thousands of memorisers of the Qur'an as this oral tradition continued. The verses were taught from teachers to students - an unbroken chain.

Collection

Many Huffaz passed away at the time of the Caliph Abu Bakr ؓ. Abu Bakr ؓ had the foresight to collect all the authenticated written verses.

At the time of the third Caliph Uthman ؓ, some twenty years after Prophet Muhammad ﷺ, the Qur'an was written down and copied. This was checked by the Muslim scholars, scribes and written records. They were sent throughout the vast Muslim empire along with Qur'an reciters.

Distribution

Compiling the Qur'an on paper was done with very strict guidelines and conditions. It was done openly with the approval of the Sahabah.

The world has an estimated 15 million Huffaz (people who have memorised the Qur'an). The Qur'an is recited from memory daily in prayers. The whole Qur'an is recited from memory in the Tarawih prayers in Ramadhan. These traditions have continued for 1400+ years, from our Prophet's time.

Today

The written tradition is equally strong and vibrant. The ancient manuscriptal evidence helps prove and preserve the Qur'an.