Ramadan Daily Quran Study, by Dr Zahid Aziz, 2023

Adapted and edited from *The Religion of Islam* by Maulana Muhammad Ali
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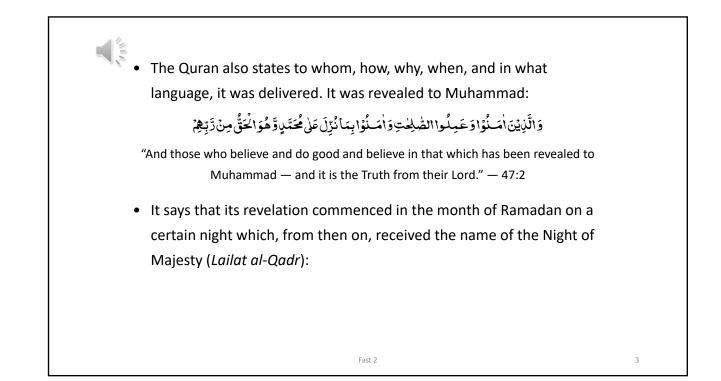
Fast 2: The Quran (القرآن)

- The original source from which all principles and ordinances of Islam are drawn is the Holy Book called *al-Qur'ān.* It is actually the real foundation on which the whole structure of Islam rests. It is the only, absolute and final authority in every discussion relating to the principles and laws of Islam.

- The name *Qur'ān* is frequently mentioned in the Quran itself. See, for example, 2:185, 10:37, 10:61, 17:106, etc. The Quran is the only scripture which mentions its own name, saying: This is the Quran.

- The Quran also states to whom, how, why, when, and in what language, it was delivered. It was revealed to Muhammad:

وَالَّذِيْنَ اٰمَنُوْا وَعَمِلُوا الصّٰلِحٰتِ وَاٰمَنُوْا بِمَا نُزِّلَ عَلٰى مُحَمَّدٍ وَّهُوَ الْحَقُّ مِنْ رَّبِّهِمْ

"And those who believe and do good and believe in that which has been revealed to Muhammad — and it is the Truth from their Lord." — 47:2

- It says that its revelation commenced in the month of Ramadan on a certain night which, from then on, received the name of the Night of Majesty (*Lailat al-Qadr*):

"The month of Ramadan is that in which the Quran was revealed, a guidance to people and clear proofs of the guidance and the Criterion." — 2:185	شَهْرُ رَمَضَانَ الَّذِيْۤ اُنْزِلَ فِيْهِ الْقُرْاٰنُ هُدًى لِّلنَّاسِ وَبَيِّنٰتٍ مِّنَ الْهُدٰى وَالْفُرْقَانِ
"We revealed it on a blessed night" — 44:3	اِنَّاۤ اَنْزَلْنٰهُ فِيْ لَيْلَةٍ مُّبٰرَكَةٍ
"Surely We revealed it on the Night of Majesty." — 97:1	اِنَّاۤ اَنْزَلْنٰهُ فِيْ لَيْلَةِ الْقَدْرِ ۚ

- It was revealed in the Arabic language:

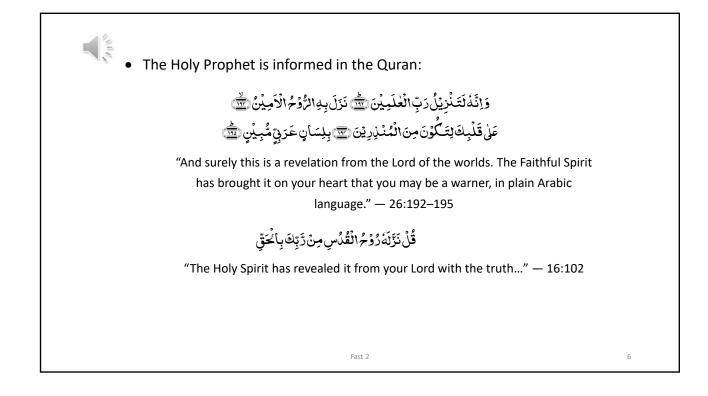| "So We have made it easy in your tongue (O Prophet) that they may be mindful." — 44:58	فَاِنَّمَا يَسَّرْنٰهُ بِلِسَانِكَ لَعَلَّهُمْ يَتَذَكَّرُوْنَ
"Surely We have made it an Arabic Quran that you (O people) may understand." — 43:3	اِنَّا جَعَلْنٰهُ قُرْاٰنًا عَرَبِيًّا لَّعَلَّكُمْ تَعْقِلُوْنَ ۚ

- It was revealed in portions. Every portion was written and committed to memory as soon as it was revealed. The revelation was spread over twenty-three years of the Holy Prophet's life. During this time he was occupied solely with the reformation of a benighted world:
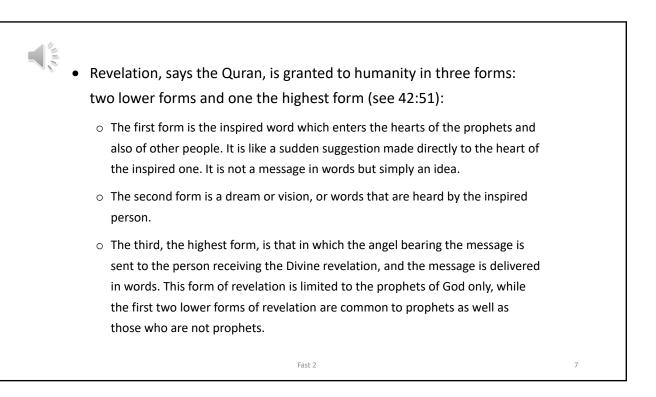
وَقُرْاٰنًا فَرَقْنٰهُ لِتَقْرَاَهٗ عَلَى النَّاسِ عَلٰى مُكْثٍ وَّنَزَّلْنٰهُ تَنْزِيْلًا ۝

"And it is a Quran which We made distinct, so that you may read it to the people by slow degrees, and We have revealed it in portions." — 17:106

It was not the Prophet who spoke under influence of the Holy Spirit; it was a Divine Message brought by the angel Gabriel, and delivered in words to the Prophet who communicated it to mankind.

- The Holy Prophet is informed in the Quran:

وَاِنَّهٗ لَتَنْزِيْلُ رَبِّ الْعٰلَمِيْنَ ۝ نَزَلَ بِهِ الرُّوْحُ الْاَمِيْنُ ۝
عَلٰى قَلْبِكَ لِتَكُوْنَ مِنَ الْمُنْذِرِيْنَ ۝ بِلِسَانٍ عَرَبِيٍّ مُّبِيْنٍ ۝

"And surely this is a revelation from the Lord of the worlds. The Faithful Spirit has brought it on your heart that you may be a warner, in plain Arabic language." — 26:192–195

قُلْ نَزَّلَهٗ رُوْحُ الْقُدُسِ مِنْ رَّبِّكَ بِالْحَقِّ

"The Holy Spirit has revealed it from your Lord with the truth…" — 16:102

- Revelation, says the Quran, is granted to humanity in three forms: two lower forms and one the highest form (see 42:51):

  o The first form is the inspired word which enters the hearts of the prophets and also of other people. It is like a sudden suggestion made directly to the heart of the inspired one. It is not a message in words but simply an idea.

  o The second form is a dream or vision, or words that are heard by the inspired person.

  o The third, the highest form, is that in which the angel bearing the message is sent to the person receiving the Divine revelation, and the message is delivered in words. This form of revelation is limited to the prophets of God only, while the first two lower forms of revelation are common to prophets as well as those who are not prophets.

- The Quran was, from beginning to end, delivered in this third form to the Holy Prophet Muhammad. It does not contain any other form of revelation which came to the Holy Prophet. It is in its entirety revelation which was recited to the Holy Prophet distinctly in words. The Holy Prophet also received other forms of revelation, inspiration, dreams, visions and enlightenment which came to him from Allah. These are reported in Hadith.