



Ramadan Daily Quran Studies, by Dr Zahid Aziz, 2024

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Study 20:

# **Can non-Muslims preach their religions to Muslims? – 2**





- Several times where the Quran declares some belief held by others to be wrong, it asks them to present evidence to support it.
- For example, the Quran says:

وَقَالُوا لَنْ يَدْخُلَ الْجَنَّةَ إِلَّا مَنْ كَانَ هُودًا أَوْ نَصْرِي<sup>ط</sup>  
تِلْكَ أَمَانِيُّهُمْ<sup>ط</sup> قُلْ هَاتُوا بُرْهَانَكُمْ إِنْ كُنْتُمْ صَادِقِينَ ﴿١١١﴾

“And they say: None shall enter the Garden except he who is a Jew,  
or the Christians. These are their vain desires.

Say: **Bring your proof**, if you are truthful.” (2:111)





- Here, Jews and Christians are each asked to provide evidence in support of their claim — made by each for its religion — that only they will receive salvation in the life hereafter. These are, says the Quran, mere unproven claims based on their desires.
- After 2:111 (as quoted above), the Quran goes on to say in 2:112 that to receive salvation you have to submit to God with all your powers and faculties, and be a doer of good to people.



- Salvation cannot be attained by merely holding some belief or belonging to some group. The Quran is requiring the Jews and the Christians **to place before Muslims the reasons and grounds for their claim** of salvation.
- How can then Islam at the same time prohibit them from presenting their religions to Muslims?



- Then we have the following two verses:

أَمْ اتَّخَذُوا مِنْ دُونِهِ إِلَهًا ط قُلْ هَاتُوا بُرْهَانَكُمْ ...



1. “Or, have they taken gods besides Him?  
Say: **Bring your proof.** ...” (21:24)



...عَالِهِ مَعَ اللَّهِ ط قُلْ هَاتُوا بُرْهَانَكُمْ إِنْ كُنْتُمْ صَادِقِينَ ﴿٦٤﴾

2. “... Is there a god with Allah?  
Say: **Bring your proof,** if you are truthful.” (27:64)





- In these verses, those who believe in gods alongside the One God, for example idol-worshippers, are asked to provide evidence of their beliefs.
- To present it, **they would have to say something in support of their beliefs!**



- It is also well known that the Quran challenges those deny that it is a revelation from God **to produce or create a writing to match it.**
- The claim of the Quran is that no human writing can approach or equal it in terms of its power, truth, eloquence, disclosure of knowledge which was unknowable by humans, and its purifying effect on people.
- The challenge occurs four times in direct terms, as follows:



وَإِنْ كُنْتُمْ فِي رَيْبٍ مِّمَّا نَزَّلْنَا عَلَىٰ عَبْدِنَا فَأْتُوا بِسُورَةٍ مِّثْلِهِ  
وَادْعُوا شُهَدَاءَكُمْ مِّنْ دُونِ اللَّهِ إِنْ كُنْتُمْ صَادِقِينَ ﴿٢٣﴾



1. “And if you are in doubt as to that which We have revealed to Our servant, then produce a chapter like it and call on your helpers besides Allah if you are truthful.”  
(2:23)



أَمْ يَقُولُونَ افْتَرَاهُ ۗ قُلْ فَأْتُوا بِسُورَةٍ مِّثْلِهِ وَادْعُوا مَنِ اسْتِطَعْتُمْ مِّنْ دُونِ اللَّهِ إِنْ كُنْتُمْ صَادِقِينَ ﴿٣٨﴾

2. “Or say they: He has forged it? Say: Then bring a chapter like it, and call upon whom you can besides Allah, if you are truthful.” (10:38)







أَمْ يَقُولُونَ افْتَرَاهُ<sup>ط</sup> قُلْ فَأْتُوا بِعَشْرِ سُوْرٍ مِّثْلِهِ مُفْتَرِيَاتٍ وَّادْعُوا مَنِ اسْتَدْعَيْتُمْ مِّنْ دُونِ اللَّهِ

إِنْ كُنْتُمْ صَادِقِينَ ﴿١٣﴾



3. “Or say they: He has forged it. Say: Then bring ten forged chapters like it, and call upon whom you can besides Allah, if you are truthful.” (11:13)



قُلْ لِّئِنِ اجْتَمَعَتِ الْإِنْسُ وَالْحِجْنُ عَلَىٰ أَنْ يَأْتُوا بِمِثْلِ هَذَا الْقُرْآنِ

لَا يَأْتُونَ بِمِثْلِهِ وَلَوْ كَانَ بَعْضُهُمْ لِبَعْضٍ ظَهِيرًا ﴿٨٨﴾



4. “Say: If people and *jinn* should combine together to bring the like of this Quran, they could not bring the like of it, though they helped one another.” (17:88)



- In view of the above challenges, Islam **cannot** then prohibit other people from presenting to Muslims any writing which they consider as equalling or excelling the Quran.
- It would be the height of injustice, as well as deceit, to issue a challenge and then impose a ban on people to answer it.
- It would be like a competitor trying to win a race by prohibiting anyone else from taking part!



- Regarding the above challenges, the earliest in time is 17:88, which says that no one can produce the “like of this Quran”, meaning the entire Quran as revealed up to that point.
- The next in time is verse 11:13. As more of the Quran had been revealed by this time, the challenge asks the deniers to produce ten chapters like it.
- And in the verses revealed last of all, 10:38 and then 2:23, the deniers are asked to produce just one chapter like it, since by this time the Quran itself was much larger than before.



- In all the four times that this challenge is made, people are told that they may seek **the help and support of anyone they can find**. So the Prophet Muhammad's challenge was to the whole of mankind, with its entire resources of knowledge, scholarship and penmanship.
- In 17:88 the words of the challenge are: "If **people and jinn** should combine together to bring the like of this Quran". By comparing this with the other three verses, we see that by "*jinn*" here are meant **the helpers** mentioned in those verses, i.e., their leaders and scholars.



- Since both “people and *jinn*” are challenged, it means that the “*jinn*” must be a group who can read and understand the Quran, know how to compose books, and can collaborate with people in producing a composition.
- Therefore these “*jinn*” cannot be a creation different from human beings.
- There is no point in asking “people and *jinn*” to combine together to answer this challenge unless both of these parties already know each other and can work together to produce a book.



***END OF STUDY 20***