The Qur'an-Its Authenticity

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The Holy Qur'an is the only authentic book of Allah today in this world. It was revealed to Prophet Muhammad (S) as the final Message for the guidance of mankind. It is most authentic in all the senses, concept and measures available to mankind

Over the last fourteen hundred years this book has been preserved in its original text without any alterations, additions, deletions or adulterations of any sort whatsoever.

It has not only been preserved in the form of a book but in the hearts and minds of hundreds of people of all ages.

This is one of the most acceptable reasons to believe that its authenticity has been preserved from generation to generation all over the world from Morocco in the west to Indonesia in the east.

Science of authenticity dictates that in order to establish authenticity of a report or document or book, one should prove its reliability and validity.

Standard English dictionaries define reliability as trustworthy and constantly good in performance. They also define validity as logical and soundness

Let us understand these two terms with an example. Suppose a company claims that it has developed a unique model of motor that is not only always *reliable*, but it has a patent ownership as well i.e. it is made in such a way that no other company can copy it.

Unfortunately, the company marketed a lot of its motors of the same model, but forgot to put its logo or trade mark on them.

How can then people know whether such unmarked motors are the products of that company?

A surveyor is hired to find out the truth of the claim. This surveyor interviews all buyers of such motors to know about the performance of their motors. All the buyers give same answer of good performance. It means the motor is reliable. Now how to know that these motors were produced by the claimant company?

Experts in manufacturing technology examine those motors, and find that the model is very uncommon, and hence is not manufactured by any other company. This way the validity of the claim of the company is established.

They then say that the claim of the company is authentic.

Reliability of the Qur'an (its Contents):

Allah has taken upon himself to preserve this book:

Now let us see how did he cause Muslims to preserve it?

The Qur'an was preserved orally and in writing:

Orally:

Angel Gabriel went through the entire Qur'an two times in the last Ramadan

Encouragement by the Prophet (S):

خَيرَكُم مَّن تَعَلَّمَ القُرآنَ وَ عَلَّمَهُ

The best among you...."

Recitation is required in salat.

The Prophet (S) would recite those loudly in the same order in his salats and khutbas.

Muslims since then are reciting it loudly, and whenever a reciter makes a mistake he is promptly corrected by its listeners.

Memorization by the companions (R)

There were more than 20 who had memorized it at the time of his death Abu Bakr, Umar, Usman, 'Ali, Talha, Saad, Ibn Mas'ud, Huzaifa, Salem, Abu Hurairah, Four 'Ibadlah, 'Aisha, Hafsah, Umme Salmah (R)

The Prophet (S) himself heard from his companions: Story of Ibn Mas'ud (R)

WRITTEN TEXT

- The Prophet (S) would dictate the verses, and tell them where to write after which verse in which chapter.
- The story of Umar's conversion to Islam clearly mentions written version of the Qur'an.
- By the time of the Prophet's (S) death, the entire Qur'an was available in his house on camel skins, date leaves, shoulder blades, and thin stone slabs.

Why the Prophet (S) himself did not compile the Qur'an in the form of a book?

Because he never knew when revelations would stop coming to him

and then where to put new revelations in the compiled Qur'an.

Abu Bakr's (R) Collection:

After the Battle of Yamamah......

Zaid Bin Thabit (R) collected all the material, put them in order, and tied them as a book

Two witnesses (in person or in writing) were required for a verse to be included

The Book passed on from Abu Bakr, to Umar, to Hafsah (R)

Copies & Distribution by Usman (R):

Committee of Zaid Bin Thabit, Abdullah Bin Zubair, Sa'eed Bin Al-A'as, and Abdul Rahman Harith

to copy the texts from all materials as a Book, and make its copies- five copies made in Quraish dialect

A reciter (qari) was sent along with each copy to different parts of the Caliphate

This Qur'an contained 114 chapters, without dots, vowels, names and commentaries

Dots and vowels by Abu Asad Al-Duwali, Yahya Bin Ya'mar, and Naser Bin 'Asem. These dots and vowels made it very easy for non-Arabs to memorize the Qur'an in its true words Thus, the Qur'an that we have today is exactly the same- that has been preserved and transmitted to us by our forefathers- the one copied and distributed in the time of Uthman –the third caliph of Islam.

All over the world, wherever you go from North America in the west to Indonesia in the South East Asia, you will find the same Qur'anic text in Arabic. There is only one version.

Validity of the claim that the Qur'an is WORD of GOD

Let us first recall the example of motor manufacturing as illustrated earlier.

We will here examine the patent ownership of this Book.

Was it written by Muhammad (S)?

The Qur'an itself tells us that:

And thou were not able to recite a book before it, nor were thou able to write it with thy right hand (29:48).

Moreover, one can very easily see from ahadith that the style of his daily life talks and speeches was quite different from that of the Qur'an.

The Book claims that it is the Word of God:

Allah says:

كتاب انزلناه إليك مبارك ليدّبروا ءاياته وليتذكّراولواالا لباب

(Here is) a book which we have sent down upon you, full of blessings, that they may meditate on its signs, and the men of understanding may receive admonition (38: 29). It invites critiques of literature to critically ponder over the Qur'an:

أفلا يتدبرون القرآن و لو كان من عند غير الله لوجدوا فيه إختلافاً كثيراً

Do they not consider the Qur'an with care? Had it been from other than Allah, they would surely have found therein much discrepancy (4: 82).

In all human writings, a reader easily finds different points or sentences at different level of excellence. Also, sometimes, the writings become below standard or contradictory.

In the Qur'an, a reader notices the consistency of ideas without any contradiction; and excellence in its language. Also, Not a single verse is below standard.

The Qur'an throws a challenge to all those doubters to compose even one chapter like its. It even advises them to take help from others than God (2:21):

This challenge is there for more than the last 1400 years, and so far none has been able to compose a single chapter parallel to its.

Science confirms all Qur'anic claims on nature

The Qur'an tells us that everything in this world is created in pairs, may that be humankind, jinn-kind, animals, plants or electro-magnetic charge:

ومن كل شئ خلقنا زوجين لعلكم تذكرون

And of everything we have created pairs that you may receive instructions (51: 49).

The Qur'an says all living things are created from water:

And we made from water everything living. Will they not then believe? (21:30).

The Qur'an says that mountains are pegs that keep earth in its orbit:

And he has set up on the earth mountains standing firm, lest it should shake with you (16: 15).

CONCLUSION:

We have shown that the Qur'an was available in written form even in the days of the Prophet (S), which was later collected, compiled, copied and distributed by his trusted companions. It is the same Qur'an that has been transmitted to us orally and written form. Also only there is no other version parallel to it-hence is completely reliable. Also, we have shown that it was humanly impossible to write its contents-facts and style both. Even now no other book can be presented in any language which can be treated at par with it. Hence its claim of divine book is validated.

The Qur'an is thus an authentic divine Book.

وَآخِرُ دَعُوانَا أَنِ الْحَمدُ للهِ رَبِّ الْعَالَمِينَ وَالْصَلُوةُ وَالسَّلامُ عَلَى رَسنُولِهِ الْكَربيم

