

The Quran and its Message

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سَلَامٌ عَلَيْكُمْ

Salamun Alaikum (Peace be upon you)

WHY WAS THE QURAN REVEALED IN ARABIC?

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There is usually an unwarranted connection made between the final revelation to mankind being revealed in Arabic and the belief amongst some Muslims with regards the superiority of the Arabic language. The notion that God could not have revealed a message to mankind in any other language other than Arabic, or that Arabic had to 'evolve' to a point of such perfection to allow God to communicate through it has no support whatsoever either in the Quran or otherwise.

God cannot be restricted or contained. He is Absolute, All Powerful. He is able to communicate to any of His creation through any medium perfectly. It is not the medium that requires perfection, rather perfection can use any medium for its cause and God is perfect. All languages deliver immense power of expression in their own particular ways. They all have an innate ability to capture the very depths of human thought, feelings and emotions. Arabic is no different. This is also true of all the languages of previous messengers through which God communicated to His creation.

As to why the Quran was revealed in Arabic, the scripture itself responds to the question succinctly. The Quran was simply revealed in Arabic as this happened to be the language of the community that God intended to guide and to charge with the duty to pass on the message to mankind. From amongst them, He chose a messenger for His purpose and this was Prophet Muhammad. ^(pbuh)

062:002

"It is He Who has raised (Arabic: *ba'atha*) amongst the [gentiles](#) (Arabic: *umiyina*) a messenger from among themselves, to rehearse to them His verses (Arabic: *ayatih*), and purifying them, and teaching them the scripture (book) and wisdom although before this they were surely in clear error"

019.097

"And We make (this Scripture) easy in your tongue, (O Muhammad) only so that you may bear good tidings with it to the righteous and warn with it a people hostile / contentious"

THE INTENTION OF AN ARABIC REVELATION - THOSE TO WHOM THE SCRIPTURE IS REVEALED UNDERSTAND IT CLEARLY

012.001-2

"Alif. Lam. Ra. These are verse of the Scripture that make plain. Indeed! We have revealed it, a Lecture in Arabic, that ye may understand"

043.003

"Surely We have made it an Arabic Quran that you may understand"

The remit of the Arabic Quran is clear from the following verse. Its primary audience are the immediate locale of the community that understand the dialect and language clearly. Outside this locale and to foreign lands and tongues, the Quran must be made clear / translated so that they can understand the message clearly.

042.007

"And thus have We revealed to you an Arabic Quran, that you may warn the **mother city (Arabic: ummal-qura) and those around it (Arabic: waman hawlaha)**, and that you may give warning of the day of gathering together wherein is no doubt; a party shall be in the garden and (another) party in the burning fire"

Note the Arabic term 'hawlaha' in the above verse which refers to an immediate vicinity. In this case it is the immediate vicinity around the mother town which is what is being referred to and **not** the whole planet. If the message needed to be passed to a Chinaman, it would need to be translated. Please see the usage of the same word in another verse of the Quran.

002:017

"Their example is that of a man who kindled a fire; then when it lighted **all around him (Arabic: hawlahu)**, God took away their light and left them in utter darkness. So they could not see"

THERE IS NO POINT OF REVEALING A MESSAGE OF GUIDANCE IN A LANGUAGE THAT ONE DOES NOT COMPREHEND

041.044

"**Had We sent this as a Quran (in a language) other than Arabic**, they would have said: "Why are not its verses explained in detail? **What! (a Book) not in Arabic and (a Messenger) an Arab?**" Say: "It is a Guide and a Healing to those who believe; and for those who believe not, there is a deafness in their ears, and it is blindness in their (eyes): They are (as it were) being called from a place far distant!""

The above verse also clearly infers that God, if He so willed, could have chosen any language other than Arabic to reveal His message. This seriously challenges the claim of any superiority or exclusivity of the Arabic language.

026:198-199

"Had We revealed it to any of the non-Arabs, And had he recited it to them, they would not have believed in it"

It is clear therefore that the revelation was only revealed in Arabic because it was the language of the people and the messenger who was tasked to impart the message clearly to them. This was also the case for all messengers of God.

ALL MESSENGERS REVEALED GOD'S MESSAGES IN THEIR OWN LANGUAGES FOR PURPOSES OF ABSOLUTE CLARITY

014.004

"And We did not send any messenger **but with the language of his people**, so that he might explain to them clearly; then God lets go astray whom He wills and guides whom He wills and He is the Mighty, the Wise"

FINAL THOUGHTS

The Scriptures are intended to act as a warning and guidance to mankind. It remains the choice of the individual to take every step necessary to study and understand this guidance in any way or language possible with the view to grasp the message in truth and to the best of their capabilities, God willing.

There is no support for the belief that Arabic is a language that is superior to all others. The Quran was only revealed in Arabic so that the designated primary audience (Arabs) could understand the message clearly.

All languages are a blessing from God and He has dispersed His creation throughout the planet by equipping them with the use of varying tongues.

030.022

"And among His Signs is the creation of the heavens and the earth, and the variations in your languages and your colours: verily in that are Signs for those who know"

See related article: [Is Arabic a Holy or Superior Language?](#)

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