

Was the Qur'an written on bones and stones?

by **Shabbir Ahmed**, Florida, Saturday, December 17, 2011, 13:38 (8 days ago)

edited by Shabbir Ahmed, Saturday, December 17, 2011, 14:28

Dr. Taseer Cheema of NY has brought up a good point on the other forum.

Dear All

Every now and then we come across this debate of whether Quran existed in the form of a written and compiled Book or not in the life time of Rasool S. Last night i was reading the following ayah of Quran which amazed me.

يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا إِذَا تَدَانَيْتُمْ بِذَيْنِ إِلَى أَجَلٍ مُّسَمًّى
فَاكْتُبُوهُ وَلْيَكْتُب بَيْنَكُم كَاتِبٌ بِالْعَدْلِ وَلَا يَأْب كَاتِبٌ
أَنْ يَكْتُبَ كَمَا عَلَّمَهُ اللَّهُ فَلْيَكْتُبْ وَلْيُمْلِلِ الَّذِي عَلَيْهِ
الْحَقُّ وَلْيَتَّقِ اللَّهَ رَبَّهُ وَلَا يَبْخَسْ مِنْهُ شَيْئًا فَإِنْ كَانَ الَّذِي
عَلَيْهِ الْحَقُّ سَفِيهًا أَوْ ضَعِيفًا أَوْ لَا يَسْتَطِيعُ أَنْ يُمِلَّ هُوَ
فَلْيُمْلِلْ وَلِيُّهُ بِالْعَدْلِ وَاسْتَشْهِدُوا شَهِيدَيْنِ مِنْ رَجَالِكُمْ

82

فَإِنْ لَمْ يَكُونَا رَجُلَيْنِ فَرَجُلٌ وَامْرَأَتَانِ مِمَّن تَرْضَوْنَ مِنَ
الشُّهَدَاءِ أَنْ تَضِلَّ إِحْدَاهُمَا فَتُذَكَّرَ إِحْدَاهُمَا الْأُخْرَىٰ وَلَا
يَأْب الشُّهَدَاءُ إِذَا مَا دُعُوا وَلَا تَسْأَمُوا أَنْ تَكْتُبُوهُ صَغِيرًا
أَوْ كَبِيرًا إِلَىٰ أَجَلِهِ ذَلِكُمْ أَقْسَطُ عِنْدَ اللَّهِ وَأَقْوَمُ لِلشَّهَادَةِ
وَأَذْنَىٰ آلَا تَزَلَّيُوا إِلَّا أَنْ تَكُونَ تِجَارَةً حَاضِرَةً تُدِيرُونَهَا
بَيْنَكُم فَلْيَسَّ عَلَيْكُمُ خُبْرُهَا وَلَا تَكْتُبُوها وَأَشْهِدُوا إِذَا
تَبَايَعْتُمْ وَلَا يُضَارَّ كَاتِبٌ وَلَا شَهِيدٌ وَإِنْ تَفَعَّلُوا فَإِنَّهُ فَسُوقٌ
بِكُمْ وَاتَّقُوا اللَّهَ وَيُعَلِّمُكُمُ اللَّهُ وَاللَّهُ بِكُلِّ شَيْءٍ عَلِيمٌ

O You who have chosen to be graced with belief! When you transact a loan for any period, you shall write it down. An impartial scribe shall do the writing. No scribe shall decline to perform this duty, and write as God has taught him. The debtor, or in case he or she is incompetent, his representative shall dictate the document honestly and be mindful of his Lord, and diminish not the amount. There shall be two witnesses to the transaction from among your men. If two men are not available, then let there be one man and two women, all of them you satisfactorily consider competent as witnesses - so that even if the witnessing woman gets distracted (for example, by her baby), the accompanying woman may support and remind her. All witnesses should be such that their testimony is acceptable to all. It is the obligation of the witnesses to testify when called upon to do so. Do not tire of writing the details, no matter how long, including the time of repayment. This is equitable in the Sight of God, assures better witnessing, and eliminates any doubts you may have. When it is actual merchandise that you transfer among yourselves from hand to hand, there is nothing wrong for you if

you write it not, but have it witnessed. The scribe and the witnesses must be held harmless for their services. If you harm them, it would be wickedness on your part. If you follow God's commands He will increase you in knowledge. These are the Injunctions of God Who is the Knower of all things; intentions, events and actions. [The second woman will not be a witness in the court of law. She is there only to support the first woman if she gets distracted, for example, by her baby. Tardhaun from Radha = Those you are satisfied with = Of your just choice = In the context: You shall choose competent men and women as witnesses. Dhall = To get distracted = Losing focus = Attention getting diverted = Mind getting preoccupied with other thoughts = Losing direction = Straying. Zakkar from Zikr = Advise = Support = Remind = Confirm = Strengthen = Remember]

Quran is putting emphasis to commit to writing the usual business transactions and highlights the importance of this. These are the guidelines for regular day to day matters. Now, what would you say if someone tells that Rasool S left this world without a written and compiled Book !!!!!!!!!!!!!!! So writing business transactions was important but the Book which was to provide the guidance to the generations to come was not important?

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From: Shabbir Ahmed, M.D., Florida

Dear Doctor Taseer,

You have brought up a very convincing argument to prove your point. Many people easily miss this ayah and some others which portray the importance of writing during the exalted Prophet's time. "No matter how long" and the ready availability of scribes indicate how dramatically the literacy rate and the writing material had jump-started with the Divine Revelation among the illiterate first addressees of the Qur'an.

Would they still use bones, stones and tree barks to write the Qur'an on, as the "Imams" of Hadith & History maintain?

96:1 Read! With the Name of your Lord Who created.

96:2 Created man from a zygote.

[And passed him through the embryonic stages 23:13-14. Endowed him with perceptual and conceptual faculties 32:7-9. Gave him the free will 76:2-3, 90:8-10. Distinguished him from the rest of the Animal Kingdom 47:12. For a comprehensive overview of man's creation from the very beginning, water and the inorganic matter, and onward please see 22:5]

96:3 Read! For, your Lord is Most Generous. [He has blessed humans with the capacity to learn and teach]

96:4 Who has taught the use of the pen.

96:5 Taught man what he knew not.

[The Pen symbolizes the transmission and exchange of knowledge through written records, unique to man. Since this is a Divine gift to mankind, "It is He Who taught."]

The exalted Prophet himself had most certainly learned to read and write.

29:48 (O Prophet) you were never able to read a book before this (Qur'an), nor could you write anything with your own hand. Or else, those who try to disprove the truth might have some reason to doubt it. [2:23. Biyameenik = With your right hand = With your own hand]

52:2 And a well-scored Book it is.

52:3 Written on fine parchment, unrolled, open for everyone to read, widely published.

[Raqq = Deer skin = Parchment. Right here is the unequivocal negation of many accounts of fabricated Hadith that the Qur'an was written on bones, date-leaves, stones etc. Manshoor = Unfolded, unrolled, available to be seen and read, open to understanding, widely distributed]

2:2 (Here is the guidance you asked for.) This is a Book whereof there is absolutely no doubt concerning its authority and authenticity. And it leaves no doubts lingering in a seeking mind. It is a Guide for those who wish to journey through life in honor and security.

[Rayib includes the meanings given in the first three lines. This Divine Writ, Al-Qur'an, is a Monograph that, when studied with an open mind, humility and sincerity, finds its own way from the mind to the heart. You will soon notice, as you proceed, that this scripture leaves no lingering doubts in a sincere, seeking mind. If you remember that this is a Book of guidance and treat it as such, the glittering reality will dawn upon you that this is a beacon of light! It is a Guide for all those who wish to journey through life in honor and security - Recorded on parchment by honorable scribes appointed by the Messenger. 52:2-3, 80:11-16. The Almighty Himself guarantees the truth of this revelation, its explanation and its preservation. It is absolutely free of contradictions. Al-Qur'an = The Lecture or Monograph that finds its own way to sincere hearts, becoming Az-Zikr = The Reminder. 4:82, 10:37, 15:9, 29:48-49, 32:2, 52:2-3, 75:17-19, 80:11-16]

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Was the Qur'an written on bones and stones?

by **Joseph Islam**  , On God's Earth, Saturday, December 24, 2011, 18:06 (18 hours, 13 minutes ago) @ Shabbir Ahmed

Brother Shabbir,

Salamun Alaikum

2:282 is very pertinent. Transactions were clearly been noted and given the detailed nature of the verse which is arguably one of longest verses of the Quran, much emphasis has been placed on recording transactions of such a nature. The requirement to record Holy Scripture would have demanded greater care.

Furthermore, if the Jews of Arabia could keep their scripture on fine parchment / sheets (6:91 - qaratisa), I find it incredulous that such material was not available to the early Arab Muslims for the transcription of their Holy Scriptures. A qirtas as you will no doubt

know is a scroll or sheet of paper, a papyrus or something similar which is written upon. A scroll or an appropriate writing material is clearly inferred. See also 6:7 and the usage of 'qirtasan' along with 'kitab'.

Furthermore, verses 80:13-16 clearly relate that the Quran was being written down by noble scribes at the time of the Prophet. "(It is) in sheets / pages held (greatly) in honour (fi suhufin mukarrama), Exalted (in dignity), kept pure and holy (marfu'atin mutahhara), (Written) by the hands of scribes. (bi'aydi safara), honourable and pious and just (kiram in barara)".

In other verses, I also find comprehensive support that the Quran was fully compiled and complete at the time of the Prophet. I also find strong support for certain verses of Surah Maeda (Chapter 5) as one of the last revealed. In particular for a religion to be 'akmala' (perfected) and a favour (ni'ma)' to be completed (atamma) , there must have been some sort of supporting scripture present in transcribed form (5:3).

If one accepts the testimony of the Quran, all debates surrounding the Quran being committed to writing later by the Caliphs, or the burning of certain copies, or to its insinuated redaction, missing verses, political motives, or the idea of companions writing it on leaves, animals skins or debris parchments become futile.

THE COMPILATION OF THE QURAN

<http://quransmessage.com/articles/the%20compilation%20of%20the%20quran%20FM3.htm>

Regards,
Joseph.

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'During times of universal deceit, telling the truth becomes a revolutionary act'
George Orwell

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