

TAHMEED INSTITUTE
SEERAH PART 3
Revelation starts on the Prophet PBUH

The revelation begins

From the age of thirty-seven, the Prophet (ﷺ) became accustomed to passing days on end in seclusion, pondering over the creation and its purpose. This was, no doubt, at odds with the ways and thinking of the Quraish who were more focused on this fleeting present life.

He (ﷺ) would take the required food and water and head off for days at a time to a cave called Hira on Al-Noor mountain which was situated outside of Makkah (today, it is inside Makkah). The widespread idolatry and evil morals of his people used to make him (ﷺ) restless, but he was helpless except for meditation in seclusion since guidance had not come regarding a course of action.

When he (ﷺ) was forty, signs of prophethood began to appear, such as the fact that he would not see a dream in the final six months of seclusion except that it became a reality. Soon after, when he (ﷺ) was in Hira, on Monday the 21st of Ramadan, corresponding to August 10, 610 C.E., Angel Jibreel (عليه السلام) descended with the first revelation, the light that would drive out the darkness of disbelief and ignorance. It should be noted that there are other opinions from the scholars regarding the exact date.

On that night, Angel Jibreel (عليه السلام) came and said, "Read". The Prophet (ﷺ) replied, "I cannot read". Jibreel embraced him (ﷺ) tightly and repeated the order to read. The Prophet (ﷺ) again said, "I cannot read". Jibreel squeezed the Prophet (ﷺ) a second time and said, "Read". He (ﷺ) said a third time, "I cannot read". Jibreel then squeezed a third time, let him go and then recited the first five verses of Surah Al-'Alaq.

Trembling, the Prophet (ﷺ) repeated these amazing words. After this momentous incident, he (ﷺ) raced back to his wife Khadeejah (رضي الله عنها) and said, "cover me, cover me". After he was covered, he remained like that until he was at ease and then informed Khadeejah what had occurred at cave Hira.

Khadeejah (رضي الله عنها), an absolutely incredible woman, among the best women of all time, comforted the Prophet (ﷺ) with beautiful words, "Allah will never disgrace you. You unite relations of the womb, bear the burden of the weak, help the poor and needy, you entertain the guests and endure hardships in the path of truthfulness."

Khadeejah (رضي الله عنها) then took the Prophet (ﷺ) to see her cousin Waraqah ibn Naufal, who was a Christian and had knowledge of the Injeel. He was very old and had lost his sight by then.

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After hearing what occurred, Waraqah said, "This is the Namoos (Angel) Allah sent to Musa. I wish I were younger. I wish I could live up to the time when your people would drive you out." Naturally, this surprised the Prophet (ﷺ) who asked, "Will they drive me out?" He replied, "Anyone who came with something similar to what you have brought was treated with hostility, and if I should be alive till that day, I would support you strongly." However, it was Allah's (سبحانه وتعالى) decree that Waraqah died a few days later.

