

Religion: Is the Quran Preserved?

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On August 29, 2020, I wrote a blog called 'Religion: Is the Quran Preserved', along with some other blogs listed below. The blogs are based on debates taking place on the Quran mainly with a man named Jay Smith. This article is based on the blogs where excerpts are used and some are rewritten. In the past, I have listened to a few lectures between Jay Smith and Shabir Ally, and others whose name I cannot recall right now. I am not a scholar in Islam and my knowledge is still very little as compared to many, but over the years, I have learned about religions along with being an avid meditation practitioner, which all led me back to Islam. Based on my learning and training over the years, I use my common sense approach to life. To quickly answer the question, 'Is the Quran Preserved?' My answer is yes, the Quran is fully preserved. The Quran is a recitation and not a manuscript or book, and this recitation is what has passed down since they were revealed to the Prophet Muhammad.

As I have stated many times, I am not an expert or scholar in Islam or any other religion, but I have my views when it comes to living a way of life and practicing it, and what works the best for me.

First a few definitions and then more explanations on the title of this article. My writings do not represent anyone else, but myself and my views, based on my knowledge and understanding of the Quran, Islam, and life experiences, practices and the development of my spiritual and intellectual journey and life over decades.

1) If you are going to translate the Quran, then you must also translate the words 'ISLAM' and 'MUSLIM' to have a better translation of your reading. ISLAM means submission to the One God. MUSLIM is a person that submits to the One God. ISLAM has been around since time immemorial, since man and woman came to earth and guidance was prescribed for their journey to lead a good life amongst each other and to be responsible and take accountability for their actions. Since the beginning they believed in only One God, which means their practice was also ISLAM, and thus they were called MUSLIMS in ARABIC, therefore MUSLIMS have been around since time immemorial, and not just from 1400 years ago with the Prophet Muhammad. The Prophet Muhammad cleaned up the society and taught the people the true practice of ISLAM. Muslims and Jews also believe in the same One God. Also Muslim and Jewish prayers are similar, which proves that ISLAM has been around since the ancient days of man. According to Muslims

because prophets such as Abraham, Moses, Jesus etc...all worshiped the One God, that they were MUSLIMS, meaning they submitted to the One God. The Christians in the Middle East refers to God as Allah, in the way the Muslims do.

2) **The Quran is a recitation and not a physical book.** When it came to writing down the Quran, there can be errors and changes. Books do have errors. If the Quran was only for example English, you will have hundreds of versions. A book with only the English translation of the Quran cannot be considered a Quran, as an English version (or any other languages) must always have the original classical Arabic writings to consider the book as a Quran. Again the Quran is not a book, it is a recitation. I have seen the English translations of the Quranic recitation and they are often different but have similar meanings that a person will still get the message, but also there can also be some false translations, so beware. If that can happen with English, what do you think will happen in Arabic language of today knowing that the Arabic at the time of the Prophet Muhammad is very different for Arabic today? For example the Europeans began spelling 'Muslim' as 'Moslem', which have a completely different and negative meaning, and was deliberately done by the Europeans to defame Muslims and Islam.

3) The Question is, is the Quran preserved from it's original? There are debates taking place with men like Jay Smith who is doing everything to destroy Islam and he presents all kinds of evidence that the Quran that's used today is not the original Quran based on the manuscripts they have found and where most were not completed. In the days of Prophet Muhammad, the companions memorized the Quran and passed on the recitation, but they also tried to write it down, but again a manuscript is not the recitation because a manuscript can have errors.

As I stated before the Quran is a recitation and not a manuscript or a physical book. If the Quran is a recitation, then why do you need a physical book? My views are, a physical book is another way to pass on the recitation to other places. In those days the technology of writing were not available as they are today, and also the Arabic language was not developed enough to write down the recitation and have the correct pronunciation, and thus they continued to develop the Arabic language to write down the Quran. They could have used all kinds of materials, even materials where other writings could have been erased and then reuse the material etc...

Was the Quran preserved through the recitations?

There are millions of people across the world today that have memorized the complete Quran. Many children have memorized the Quran, but may not be able to write it down into a manuscript. It does not mean that all of these people can write down the whole Quran or have the means of doing so, along with the time and writing skills, but the fact is they know the entire Quran and they can recite the entire Quran word for word, and this is what the Quran is; it is a recitation and not a written manuscript and this is what Jay Smith and his followers do not understand. Also my understanding is the Quran was then reordered differently than when it was revealed to Prophet Muhammad. I don't see

anything wrong with reordering the chapters of the Quran and deciding to recite it in a different order. When reciting the Quran, you can choose any verses in your prayers and readings. You can recite the complete Quran in the order you want, or even set up the chapters and section the way you want. Thus, you can say yes, the Quran recitation is not in the same order as when the revelations came to Prophet Muhammad. But that does not mean that it was not preserved. The recitation was still preserved and still is today, passed down from one generation to the next.

You would think that during the days of Prophet Muhammad that people had memorized the entire Quran and continue to do so, from one generation to the next, thus preserving the entire Quran. You do not need to have a manuscript or book to preserve the recitation of the Quran. As Prophet Muhammad received his revelations, which came in parts and not in hundreds of pages, he taught the people to memorize it. And he checked to ensure they recite the revelations correctly. What would have stopped them from memorizing the Quran and reciting it, when today millions have memorized the Quran completely. Can Jay Smith prove that nobody back in the days of Prophet Muhammad memorized the Quran and passed down the same recitation? It makes sense to me that when the companions of the Prophet went to other places to teach Islam (submission to One God and not to submit to man or objects that have no power) that they taught the Quran (recitation), but in those other places the people may have even pronounce the words slightly different or even adapt a different translation based on their own traditions and cultures, and thus they may even write down the Quran slightly different, and thus end up with different versions of a manuscript or they may have only written down parts of the Quran. Why do you need to write down Surah (Chapter) Al Iklas meaning the purity or Al-Hamdu (the opening) when it is so easy to memorize. You do not need a manuscript. That is common sense. There's no need to debate this. Also what if the person teaching the Quran did not know the full Quran, then my guess is that they would written down part of it, and thus you will find incomplete manuscript. This still does not mean that the Quran was not memorized and preserved and passed down from one generation to the next. It's very easy to do this. As I stated already, millions of people across this world have memorized the entire Quran and millions upon millions have many parts of the Quran memorized. Lets say if I agree with my family that I would memorize a few chapters, another member would memorize a few etc... and we teach others, and then I decided to write down what I know, then I will end up with an incomplete manuscript, and if I go to some remote area in the world to teach what I know, the people who do not know Arabic will most likely pronounce some words differently and even interpret the some words differently. Thus I believe there can be different versions, but the original version from the days of Prophet Muhammad exists and is preserved and most of the world knows this.

The Quran does not have to be fully written down to recite it or to preserve it.

Many of the chapters are also very easy to memorize because of the rhymes in words. Also different people can memorize parts of the longer chapters and take turns reciting the parts they know and teaching and writing down the parts they know.

Jay Smith goal is to destroy Islam and he believes that because they have come up with different versions of the Quran manuscripts from the 7th or 8th century and only parts of the Quranic manuscript, and cannot find a manuscript of the Quran from the days of Prophet Muhammad that the Quran did not exist during the days of Prophet Muhammad. As I already stated, the Quran is a recitation that was passed down from generations to generations and this is what Jay Smith and his followers cannot comprehend.

In one part of a video, which I listened to, the critique of the Quran states that the Quran we are using today is the 1924 version (I believe this was the year he mentioned). So what if it is the 1924 version. He states that the 1924 version is not the same as the manuscripts they found in the past. At that time - 1924 - a group of people may have decided to reorder the chapters or even break down the chapters a little differently than what was written down let's say in the year 1200, so of course the written manuscript will vary, but that does not mean that the Quran (recitation) is not preserved. So what if they break down the chapters a bit differently from the originals and even rearranged it again? The recitation is still preserved. When the Prophet received his revelations, how would he know where a chapter ends and begins? After he died, his companions looked for ways to preserve the Quran also in written form so it can be taken by anybody to other parts of the world and be taught? Okay, so let's say there are different versions of the manuscript over the centuries, that does not mean that the Quran is not preserved through recitation. For example, let's say if they took a few lines from one chapter and moved it to another, the lines are still there, and I'm not saying this is what they did. I'm just trying to make sense out of everything to show that the Quran is a recitation that's memorized and passed down through out the generations and today memorized by millions of people to simply show that the Quran as memorized and passed down from one generation to the next in all walks of life around the world.

3) Again the Quran is not a book or a manuscript, but it is a recitation, and for me, yes, the complete Quran was recited back in the days of Prophet Muhammad and memorized, and the recitation of the Quran was passed down and continues to do so every day on this planet, as it did back throughout the centuries.

4) There may have been many attempts to write down the Quran, and only parts were written down - so what? So what if they only found a part of a manuscript. What if the other parts of that manuscript were deliberately removed or destroyed for political reasons or to plot against Islam especially since the companions loved Islam so much and they wanted to teach the world about the One God which Abraham, Moses, Jesus etc...taught? What if the secret societies in those days did all they could to plot and to destroy Islam? We don't know what took place back then and throughout history, but we do know there were lots of hate and wars and destruction. We don't even know what took place 100 years ago. We don't even know if Columbus was real. Today we have something called the Mandela effect. Muslims are happy with their practice of praying 5 or more times a day and with their meditation (dhikr) that rids them of depression, unhappiness etc... Muslims believe in the same God as the Jewish people, and their prayers are similar to Judaism, which only make sense that Islam has been around since

time immemorial, since the coming of man/woman and they needed guidance for their journey.

The Quran is not a manuscript! It is a recitation! And the recitation has been preserved and continues to be memorized and pass down from one generation to the next by millions of people. If there are any errors and discrepancies, once brought to my attention, I will make the revisions, as sometimes the software itself changes words through auto-correction without a person being aware that's happening.

Reference Blogs:

Religion: Jay Smith Vs. Islam...

Fisal Ally...August 28, 2020

Religion-JSmith vs. Islam and F. Ally common sense approach

Fisal Ally...August 28, 2020

Religion: Is the Quran Preserved

Fisal Ally...Aug 29, 2020 --- 12:05 am...

Religion-Jay Smith Vs. Islam & Faisal Ally

Fisal Ally...August 28, 2020