

6 The Qur-an

QUESTION: What do Muslims believe about the first of these two sources, the Qur-an? Is it different from what the Christians and Jews believe about their books?

ANSWER: Muslims believe that the Qur-an is the Speech of Allah.

It is the miracle that was given to Muhammad (may Allah's peace and blessings be upon him).

He was illiterate, unable to read and write. Yet the Qur-an which he brought contains Arabic which has never been surpassed in its structure and beauty.

This inimitability – which means that it can never be imitated or bettered by anyone – is its miracle. This is something repeatedly stated by Allah in the Qur-an:

So let them bring a recital like it (ie like the Qur-an) if they are truthful!

Surah Tur (the 52nd surah) ayah 34

Or they say "He (i.e. Muhammad) forged it!"

Say: So bring ten forged chapters like it then, and call whoever you want to, other than Allah, to help you, if you are telling the Truth!

Surah Hud (the 11th Surah) ayah 13

Sadly, this is something that many of us, who cannot speak Arabic, cannot appreciate. But it something that all Arab speakers know – even the Arab Jews and Christians!

Muslims also believe that the Qur-an can never be changed or altered. Indeed, it has never been altered in its 1400 years.

Muslims believe that the previous Prophets (may Allah's peace and blessings be upon them) were also given scriptures.

But over the course of time, these have been changed, with portions added or taken away or changed.

The Jews and Christians do not deny this. In fact they have different editions of their scriptures available nowadays, with some editions even having had whole paragraphs or sections removed.

For the Muslims, this fact of changing and alteration would imply that these former scriptures contain some error and some truth – with it being impossible to determine what is correct and what is not.

Muslims also believe that the Qur-an contains information that no one other than Allah would know, related to affairs of the past and future, but also of aspects of the universe that were not known to Muhammad (may Allah's peace and blessings be upon him) or to any human at that time.

This is also held as a proof, in the eyes of Muslims, of the miraculous nature of Muhammad (may Allah's peace and blessings be upon him) and of the divine origin of the Qur-an.

We will return to the topic of the Qur-an in future emails insha Allah.

=====

NEXT TIME:

What do Muslims believe about the second of the two sources, the Sunnah of Muhammad (may peace and blessings be upon him)?