

Life Of Prophet Muhammad – Wahy – Revelation

Year 610 CE

1. The holy prophet Muhammad (s) was the last of prophets sent to guide Mankind. There was a period of his life when he was disgusted of the society and he wanted to evade that environment. He thus started to retire himself in the cave of Hira on mount Nour (2 miles from Makkah) and in the ravines and desert of the neighbourhood of Makkah. He used to take with him the journey food for the stay and then come back to Bibi Khadija (r) to take his food likewise.¹ He used to provide himself with *Sawiq* (barley porridge) and water.²
2. He would always go there and invite wayfarers to share him his modest provision. He used to devote most of his time, and Ramadan in particular³, to worship and meditation on the universe around him. His heart was restless about the moral evils and idolatry that were rampant among his people; he was as yet helpless because no definite course, or specific approach had been available for him to follow and rectify the ill practices around him.
3. So one day as he used to spend time meditating especially during month of Ramadan on topics like Allah and the hereafter the first Wahy was sent upon him.⁴ At that moment he was in cave of Hira, in the hill called Jabal (mount) Nur. The event was recorded as Hazrat Jibril [Gabriel] appeared to him in his real form with wings to bestow revelation upon him. The prophet (s) heard a voice and when he looked up he saw Hazrat Jibril (as) sitting on a chair between the sky and the earth.⁵ He would hear his name everywhere till he saw Hazrat Jibril. The latter told the prophet to utter 'Recite/or Read'. The response from the Prophet was 'I am not a reciter' (مَا أَنَا بِقَارِي)⁶. Hazrat Jibril did the same again but with the same answer from the prophet (s). However, on the third time the angel squeezed him and said 'Recite in the name of your Lord who created. Created man from a clot of blood. Recite and your Lord is Most Bountiful, He who has taught by the pen, taught man what he knew not'.⁷
4. These were the first 5 verses of surah 96 Al Alaq which were revealed upon him. The Prophet was so surprised as it was the first time that he had such experience that he fled the cave. However, he was destined to be a prophet. So, wherever he looked he saw the angel and would hear a voice saying: 'O Muhammad, you are the Messenger of God and I am Jibril'. He got home shaking with fear but excitedly happy and asked his wife Hazrat Bibi Khadijah to cover him.⁸ He told her what did happen and the latter reassured him that he was a good person and no harm would touch him saying 'Allah will never disgrace you as you keep good relations with your kith and kin, speak the truth, help the poor and the destitute, serve your guest generously and assist the deserving, calamity afflicted ones'.⁹
5. Hazrat Bibi Khadijah (r.a) went to tell her cousin Waraqah bin Nawfal¹⁰ who was learned in the scriptures, used to write books including Injeel in Arabic and the son of Bibi Khadija's uncle, the brother of her father.¹¹ He reassured the prophet and told him that 'This is the same angel who was sent to Musah (as). I wish I were young', 'yes, for nobody brought the like of what you have brought but was treated with hostility' and 'if I were to remain alive till that day, then I would support you strongly' but he died shortly after.¹² He would hear times and often 'you are indeed Allah's messenger in truth'.¹³ That was the beginning of 23 years of Wahy.

¹ Swahih Al Bukhariy 3

² Ar Raheeq ul Makhtum Pg 31

³ Swahih Al Bukhariy 1147

⁴ Swahih Al Bukhariy 3

⁵ Swahih Al Bukhariy 4

⁶ Swahih Muslim 160, Swahih Al Bukhariy 3)

⁷ Swahih Al Bukhariy Vol 6 Book 60 Hadith 478

⁸ Swahih Al Bukhariy Vol 6 Book 60 Hadith 478

⁹ Swahih Al Bukhariy 6982

¹⁰ Swahih Al Bukhariy Vol 6 Book 60 Hadith 478

¹¹ Swahih Muslim 160

¹² Swahih Al Bukhariy Vol 6 Book 60 Hadith 478

¹³ Swahih Al Bukhariy 6982