

## Arabic: The Revealed Language

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Allah Almighty is the sole Creator, Cherisher and Sustainer of all the worlds. He created the man and bestowed him with the capability of expression. Allah says in the Quran.

﴿ خَلَقَ الْإِنْسَانَ عَلْمَهُ الْبَيَانَ ﴾ (1)

He created man. He taught him distinctness.

In these verses the creation of the man has been narrated contiguous to the conferment of the faculty of speech to him, which discloses vividly that the man had the ability to express his sentiments, experiences and knowledge since the day of his inception. It is also a matter of fact that expression without a language is merely impossible. Therefore علمه البيان encompasses the meanings of علمه اللسان. It is also established that expression of inner feelings or knowledge gained by experiences is possible by two means: Verbal and inscriptive. Therefore علمه البيان includes endowment of both skills of expression; speaking and writing, of human being by Allah. In Surah Al-Alaq, the Quran informs explicitly:

﴿ اقْرَأْ بِاسْمِ رَبِّكَ الَّذِي خَلَقَ الْإِنْسَانَ مِنْ عَلَقٍ اقْرَأْ وَرَبُّكَ الْأَكْرَمُ الَّذِي عَلَّمَ بِالْقَلَمِ ﴾ (2)

Recite thou in the name of thy Lord who has created everything. Has created man from a clot and thy lord is the most bountiful. Who has taught man by the pen.

It is evident from these verses that the first man of the universe was well versed in reading and writing since the beginning, as the words اقرا and علم بالقلم describe. Consequently, we can infer that the first language was revealed divinely to the first man; Adam ﷺ.

Now the question arises that what was the first revealed language. Thorough study of the Quran and the Hadith leads towards the fact that the language revealed to the first man was Arabic. The manifestation of the Quran and Sunnah will be rendered to invigorate the current debate.

### Quranic Verdict About Revelation Of Arabic:

1. The Quran says:

﴿ وَإِذْ أَخَذَ رَبُّكَ مِنْ بَنِي آدَمَ مِنْ ظُهُورِهِمْ ذُرِّيَّتَهُمْ وَأَشْهَدَهُمْ عَلَىٰ أَنفُسِهِمْ أَلَسْتُ بِرَبِّكُمْ قَالُوا بَلَىٰ

شَهِدْنَا أَنْ تَقُولُوا يَوْمَ الْقِيَامَةِ إِنَّا كُنَّا عَنْ هَذَا غَافِلِينَ ﴾ (3)

And when your Lord brought forth from the children of Adam, that is, from their backs, their progeny, and made them testify about themselves, "Am I

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not your Lord" They said " of course You are, we affirm" lest you should say on the day of doom, "We were ignorant of this".

This verse depicts the occasion of the heavenly covenant called Covenant of *السنت* when all human souls congregated, and Almighty Allah asked that Do you believe that I am your Lord. They all gave a reply of affirmation without any intimidation and coercion that You are, no doubt. This conversation occurred even before the existence of human being. It can easily be derived from this verse that every human being knows language to speak since primitive epoch before his existence. Secondly as this conversation transpired in Arabic, therefore Arabic is the revealed language that can be called natural ingredient of the souls of human being.

2. The Quran gives detailed information regarding the creation of the man. In this context, Quran asserts.

﴿وَعَلَّمَ آدَمَ الْأَسْمَاءَ كُلَّهَا﴾ (4)

Then the Adam learnt certain words from his Lord and he relented towards him.

This verse clearly proves that Adam عليه السلام was taught some speech and, it is obvious that the names must be imparted through a language and, it is agreed that the language of the seraphs is Arabic. Allama Jala ud Din Sayuti (R.A) writes:

"قال ابو الحسن احمد بن فارس في فقه اللغة: اعلم أن لغة العرب توقيف ودليل ذلك قوله تعالى: وعلم ادم الاسماء كلها" (5)

Abul Hassan bin Faris says in his book *Fiqhul Lugha* "You must know that Arabic Language is revealed language as the Quran states ﴿وَعَلَّمَ آدَمَ الْأَسْمَاءَ كُلَّهَا﴾

3. The Quran states the story of Hazrat Adam عليه السلام that Satan trapped him and his wife by enticement. Consequently, they committed the error of eating the forbidden tree and both of them were banished from the paradise. This situation of the displeasure of Allah was unbearable for them as they had never experienced the wrath of Allah so, they sought the repentance. Allah educated Adam the following words of apology. The Quran says:

﴿فَتَلَقَىٰ آدَمُ مِنْ رَبِّهِ كَلِمَاتٍ﴾ (6)

Then Adam learnt certain words (to pray with) from his Lord

Adam learnt what words? Quran conveys.

﴿رَبَّنَا ظَلَمْنَا أَنفُسَنَا وَإِن لَّمْ تَغْفِرْ لَنَا وَتَرْحَمْنَا لَنَكُونَنَّ مِنَ الْخَاسِرِينَ﴾ (7)

Our Lord! We have wronged our souls, and if thou do not forgive us, we shall of a surety be of the losers.

The words that were taught to Adam and Eve comprised of the Arabic language as Quranic verse affirms. However, a doubt might be raised that all benedictory statements of prophets narrated by the Quran are



in Arabic. Therefore, it seems that the language of all prophets was Arabic. But if we keep in mind the style of Quranic phraseology, we can easily deduce that Quran is translating their words in Arabic and there is no indication in any verse that these prayers were educated to them by Allah. All verses that are communicating the conversations of Hazrat Maryam, Hazrat Luqman and Ashab-e-Khaf etc, can be understood in the same pattern. (8)

Some traditions present a new view that language of revelation for every prophet was Arabic and the prophet was responsible for communicating it, in the language of the audience. Hazrat Abu Hurairah narrates:

"والذي نفسي بيده ما انزل الله وحيا قط على نبي بينه وبينه الا بالعر بية ثم يكون هو بعد يبلغه قومه بلسانه" (9)

I swear by who is the Lord of my soul, never a revelation was sent to a prophet but in Arabic Language then he deciphers it to the language of his homeland.

4. Allah Almighty says in another verse:

﴿وَإِذْ أَخَذَ اللَّهُ مِيثَاقَ النَّبِيِّينَ لَمَا آتَيْنَاكُمْ مِنْ كِتَابٍ وَحِكْمَةٍ ثُمَّ جَاءَكُمْ رَسُولٌ مُصَدِّقٌ لِمَا مَعَكُمْ لَتُؤْمِنُنَّ بِهِ وَلَتَنْصُرُنَّهُ قَالَ أَأَقْرَرْتُمْ وَأَخَذْتُمْ عَلَىٰ ذَٰلِكُمْ إِصْرِي قَالُوا أَقْرَرْنَا قَالَ فَاشْهَدُوا وَأَنَا مَعَكُمْ مِنَ الشَّاهِدِينَ﴾ (10)

And when Allah made the prophets take pledge: (saying), "If I give you a book and wisdom, then comes to you a messenger verifying what is with you, you shall have to believe in him and you shall have to support him." He said, "Do you affirm and accept my covenant in this respect?" They said, "We affirm" He said "Then bear witness and I am with you among the witness."

This verse states that Allah Almighty took a firm oath from the spirits of all prophets that if the noble prophet Muhammad (pbuh) appears during their times, they will believe in the veracity and prophethood of him and also instruct others to obey. All the prophets promised to believe, to support and to follow him. The language of this covenant is Arabic as vivid from the words of Quranic verse. This verse is another proof to authenticate the claim that Arabic is the revealed language. It is not logical if we say that Allah Almighty asked the question *أَقْرَرْتُمْ* from the prophets in their own languages that result to ask the question in thousands of languages and also to receive the responses in thousands of languages.

5. The Quran says:

﴿وَمِنْ آيَاتِهِ خَلْقُ السَّمَاوَاتِ وَالْأَرْضِ وَأَخْتِلَافُ السِّنِّكُمْ وَالْوَالِدَاتِ﴾ (11)

And of His signs is the creation of the heavens and earth and differences of your languages and colors.



The words "واختلاف السننكم والوانكم" portrays that اختلاف السننكم and الوانكم is the same phenomenon as the human race has been spread out from the one man and similarly diverse languages were emerging from one language i.e. Arabic.

### Arabic In Traditions Of The Holy Prophet:

Some traditions of the Holy Prophet ﷺ are presented here to testify the aforementioned claim that Arabic is a divine language.

1. It is narrated that the Holy Prophet ﷺ said:

"عن ابن عباس رضي الله عنه ان آدم عليه السلام كان لغته في الجنة العربية، فلما عصى سلبه الله العربية فتكلم بالسريانية فلما تاب رد الله عليه العربية" (12)

In the paradise language of Adam ﷺ was Arabic and when he committed an error, Allah took out Arabic from his mind and he started to talk in Soriyani language and when his penitence was granted, he was returned back Arabic language.

2.

"لما اذنب آدم عليه السلام الذنب الذي اذنبه رفع رأسه الى العرش فقال أسالك بحق محمد الا عفرت لي فأوحى الله اليه وما محمد؟ قال تبارك اسمك لما خلقتني رفعت رأسي الى عرشك فرأيت فيه مكتوبا: لا اله الا الله محمد رسول الله" (13)

"When Adam ﷺ committed the sin, He raised up his head towards the throne and sought forgiveness in the name of Muhammad ﷺ. He inquired about that who was Muhammad? He replied: Your name is blessed, when yourself created me at that time I looked at your throne and found written: لا اله الا الله محمد رسول الله"

This hadith informs that Adam ﷺ had been able to read instantly after his creation. The first sentence that he read was لا اله الا الله محمد رسول الله and this is Arabic no doubt.

3.

"خلق الله آدم وطوله ستون ذراعا ثم قال اذهب فسلم على اولئك من الملائكة فاستمع ما يحيونك تحيتك وتحية نبيك قال: السلام عليكم فقالوا: السلام عليك ورحمة الله" (14)

This hadith also describes that the language of the first man Adam ﷺ was Arabic, because after his creation, he was directed to offer salutation (salam) to angels and he fulfilled the commandment. Salam and its reply, consist of Arabic words.

### PATENT ARABIC (عربي مبین):

Pure and patent Arabic was revealed to Adam ﷺ but after the expansion of the human race, its emerging needs and diversified experiences, the human race added new words to enrich the treasure of its language and resultantly new languages were formulated and patent



Arabic had been faded out. An impure Arabic developed due to the intermingling of various languages. The patent Arabic was again revealed to Ismail عليه السلام.

"الهم اسماعيل هذا اللسان العربي الهاما" (15)

With the passage of time, once again, this patent Arabic language became tainted. Third time this patent Arabic was revealed to the Holy Prophet ﷺ.

"عن عمر بن الخطاب رضي الله تعالى عنه قال يارسول الله مالك افصحنا ولم تخرج بين اظهرا؟ قال كان لغة اسماعيل فدرست فجاء بها جبرئيل فحفظتها فحفظتها" (16)

"Hazrat Omar says that I asked the Holy Prophet that, why yourself is more eloquent among us despite you never travelled out? He answered that the language of Ismail was eliminated and Jibril came to educate it and I learnt it by heart."

The Holy Quran too revealed in patent Arabic. The Quran mentions it in several verses.

﴿وَأِنَّهُ لَنَنْزِيلُ رَبِّ الْعَالَمِينَ نَزَلَ بِهِ الرُّوحُ الْأَمِينُ عَلَى قَلْبِكَ لِتَكُونَ مِنَ الْمُنذِرِينَ بِلِسَانٍ عَرَبِيٍّ مُبِينٍ﴾ (17)

And sure it is revelation of the Lord of the worlds, which the true spirit has brought down; upon the heart that yourself may be one of the warners, in plain Arabic speech

﴿وَلَقَدْ نَعْلَمُ أَنَّهُمْ يَقُولُونَ إِنَّمَا يُعَلِّمُهُ بَشَرٌ لِّسَانِ الَّذِي يَلْحَدُونَ إِلَيْهِ اعْجَمِي وَهَذَا لِسَانٌ عَرَبِيٌّ مُبِينٌ﴾ (18)

And we know well that they say: Only a man teach him. The speech of him at whom they falsely hint is outlandish, and this is clear Arabic language.

Arabic being a Quranic Language is sacred, blessed, revealed and protected till doomsday. Maulana Zakariyya writes:

"انا نحن نزلنا الذكر وانا له لحافظون .

This is his promise to protect the Quran from any change or amendment. And it is vivid that protecting the Quran essentially includes protection of Arabic language because Quran is in Arabic language."(19)

Furthermore it is also a matter of fact that the life span of Arabic is not limited till doomsday, but it is an eternal and everlasting language because it is the language of the inhabitants of the paradise. It is reported that the Holy Prophet said that كلام اهل الجنة عربي (20)

### Internal evidences on revelation of arabic:

The comprehensive and all-encompassing vocabulary of the Arabic language with a variety of meanings with one word or vice versa and accuracy and the ideal association of meanings with words are



internal evidences to prove that Arabic is a revealed language. Arabic phonology, etymological fertility, commendable syntax and system of word generation are unchangeable. The detailed and intensive study of Arabic Language results to believe that it is God gifted language rather than a human fabricated language. (21)

#### **REVELATION OF ARABIC: LOGICAL GROUNDS :**

Ibne Hazam says that with Quran and Hadith, reason and human intellect also demonstrates that first language must be revealed. He writes: "The rational necessity for this is as follows: Had speech been established by direct human codification, it would have been necessary for the people who set down its code to have had complete mental faculties, rational discipline, comprehensive knowledge, and direct experience with all thing found in the world along with knowledge of the limits, similarities, differences, and natures of those thing. However, we know by necessity that the interval of time between the first appearance of a person and the time when that person attains such a level is a considerable number of years, requiring education, protection, and the care of others. A person becomes independent only many years after being born. There is no way for a parents, responsible people, and nursemaids to cooperate in life without having a language by which they understand each other's essential needs. These include their tilling, herding, and planting activities, also the means by which they protect themselves from the heat, cold, and wild animals, as well as their ways of treating illness. Every individual has to have gone through the experience of childhood, which we have already mentioned is a state of inability and dependency on others. Moreover, the idea of codification necessitates that there was a time beforehand when language was not in existence, since it came about as the result of the activity of those who codified it. Yet, every activity requires speech in order to carry it out, so how were the codifiers of language supposed to go about the business of codifying it without having a language already at their disposal? This is an impossible situation." (22)

#### **Opinion Of Muslim Scholars About Revelation Of Arabic Language:**

There are two schools of thought about considering Arabic language a revealed language. Mualana Sayyid Suleman Ashraf writes that:

"Primarily there are two opinions about the Arabic language, first is that it is revealed and God gifted. When Allah Almighty created Adam, He also educated him the words for conversation and when he was sent down to earth, he was continually being granted words according to needs and consequently it became a complete language. This is the opinion of Imam Abul Hassan Al-asha'ri and also of Saeed bin Jubair, Jalal ud din Sayuti, Ibn



e Faris, Ibne Zaid and Ibne Hajib. Second opinion is that man is the inventor of the language; gradually the man has been able to produce a handsome collection of words under the influence of his inner self and environment. Finally through this process a language was developed. Another opinion also exists that initially the words were gifted by the Allah and then extending and combining these words the man has formed a language, but this opinion is just a way of expressing Asha'ri school of thought in other words" (23)

### **Significance of Arabic Language:**

1. The Quran mentions at many places that the Quran is in Arabic Language and its revelation in Arabic is the benevolence of Allah. (24)
2. The holy prophet wrote the letters to the rulers of different realms to preach Islam. All letters were written in Arabic language while the language of the most of addressees was not Arabic. Language of Heraclites was Roman and language of the Persian Empire was Persian. Two disciples of the Holy Prophet ﷺ, Hazrat Sohaib and Hazrat Salman Farsi were well versed in Roman and Persian languages respectively. It was easy to get the letters written in the respective languages of two kings of vast kingdoms by the reliable disciples but the Holy Prophet preferred Arabic.
3. Companions of the holy prophet conquered Egypt, Syria, Iraq and many other territories and these lands were brought under the administrative control of the Islamic State. Juma and Eid sermons were delivered by the companions of the Holy Prophet in Arabic while the languages of the audience were not Arabic. No effort was made by the companions to deliver the sermons in non-Arabic while it was not much difficult.
4. It is the religious need of every Muslim to learn Arabic so that he might be able to recite Quran and perform prayers and to get very basic knowledge of Islamic teachings.

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He has presented a comprehensive analysis of western culture and civilization in his several writings, the gist of his approach towards the western civilization is presented in this article.

### **Origin of the Western Civilization:**

The western civilization is not merely the product of the modern age; it has evolved into the present state after a long journey. The roots of the western civilizations can be traced back to Greek and Roman civilization of the primitive epoch. All the ethical, cultural, and social characteristics of Greco-Roman civilizations have embedded into the current western civilization. Therefore, it's essential to study the western civilization in the light of Greco-Roman civilizations. Seyyed Abul Hassan Ali Nadwi states about it that:

“The Western nations kept cultivating the spirit, the philosophy, the sciences, the literatures, and the ideas of the Greek and Roman cultures till the nineteenth century when they put on a new grab. It is possible to be deceived by the splendor of the new attire, but the fact remains that its warp and woof was made up of the Greek and Roman materials.”(5)

The real ingredients of Greek civilization were indifferent towards transcendental values, lack of religious values, adoration of material benefits and abundant nationalism. Similarly, love for sports, festivals, indulgence in licentious activities and lack of fear about God were the prominent attributes of Greek civilization.(6)

The Roman civilization was the successor of Greek civilization. Although, the Romans had proceeded with vigor, military power, organization, expansion of the state, yet, they could not forerun the Greece in the fields of literature, philosophy, poetry, and cultural values. That's why Roman embraced Greece as an ideal in areas of intellect and culture. The role of religion had diminished in Roman nation; it was not more than a tradition, and they had decided emphatically that the deities had no concern with the practical affairs of the world. Roman Empire in its last days met with epicurean, moral degradation, and absolute corruption.<sup>7</sup> Abul Hassan Ali Nadwi quotes of Muhammad Asad, while showing the links of modern western civilization with Roman civilization as such:

“...the idea underlying the Roman Empire was conquest of power and the exploitation of other nations for the benefit of the mother country alone. To promote better living for a privileged group, for the Romans no violence was too harsh, no injustice too base. The famous "Roman justice" was justice for the Romans alone. It is clear that such an attitude was possible only on the basis of an entirely materialistic conception of life and civilization - a materialism certainly refined by intellectual and aesthetic taste, but none the less foreign to all spiritual



values. The Romans never in reality knew religion. Their traditional gods were a pale imitation of Greek mythology, mere colourless ghosts silently accepted for the benefit of social convention. In no way were those gods allowed to interfere with "real" life. When consulted, they had to give oracles through the medium of their priests; but they were never supposed to confer moral laws upon men..." ( 8)

Roman civilization injected its paganish influence into Christianity, when first Roman king 'Constantine' embraced Christianity in 305 A.D. and he ascended to the throne of Caesar with the help of Christians. Abul Hassan Ali Nadwi presents this fact in the words of 'Draper':

"Place, profit, power—these were in view of whoever now joined the conquering sect. Crowds of worldly persons, who cared nothing about its religious ideas, became its warmest supporters. Pagans at heart, their influence was soon manifested in the paganization of Christianity that forthwith ensued. The emperor, no better than they, did nothing to check their proceedings. But he did not personally conform to the ceremonial requirements of the Church until the close of his evil life, A.D. 337." (9)

This is the genealogy of western civilization that reaches back to Greek and Roman Civilizations; it was the result of both of these civilizations that modern western civilization acquired the attributes of materialism, secularism, nationalism, and amorality.

### **Materialistic-Sensualist Civilization:**

Conflict between science and Christianity resulted in the absolute materialism of western society. The West ascended to materialism with such an enthusiasm that it rejected everything that could not be grasped by the senses. Abul Hassan Ali Nadwi expresses it in these words:

"They interpreted the material universe and its manifestation along mechanical lines and called it objective and scientific method, rejecting scornfully as to tradition whatever was based on belief in the existence of God. One by one, they repudiated everything that was not realizable in experience, or could not be weighed and measured." (10)

The West under the sheer influence of 'materialism' fanatically denied the existence of God, Religion, Unseen, Spirit, and Hereafter. The only acceptable things were perception, feelings, experience, pleasure, nationalism, patriotism, democracy, and communism.<sup>11</sup> Abul Hassan Ali describes the enforcement of 'materialism' by the West in such words:

"Incidentally, Europe got the opportunity to present its capabilities in the material form and its materialistic creed was received everywhere willingly and enthusiastically." (12)