

The sending down of the Qur'aan

Translated by Abu Abdirrahmaan Nasser ibn Najam

Taken from the works of Shaykh Muhammad ibn Saalih al 'Uthaymeen (رَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ)

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

With regards to the sending down of the Qur'aan, Shaykh Muhammad ibn Saalih al 'Uthaymeen (رَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ)¹ comments:

The sending down of the Qur'aan can be divided into two categories:

The first category: ibtidaa-ee (primary) and it is that whose revelation was not preceded by a cause which necessitated it. And this is the majority of the aayaat of the Qur'aan.

And from it is His statement, He, the Most High:

And from them are those who made a covenant with Allaah, (saying), "If He bestowed upon us from His Bounty, then we will certainly give in charity and we will certainly be from the righteous people.

[Soorah at Tawbah (the 9th chapter) aayah 75]

To the end of the aayah.

So this was sent down ibtidaa-an clarifying the state of some of the hypocrites.

And as for what has become well known - that it was sent down regarding Thal'abah ibn Haatib in a long narration which many of the people of tafseer have mentioned, and which many of the speakers have propagated, then it is da'eef (weak) and not correct.

The second category: sababee (one which is linked directly to a cause) – and it is that whose revelation was preceded by the cause which necessitated it.

And the cause:

i) Either it was a question which Allaah gave the response to; for example:

They ask you (O Muhammad) about the crescent moons – say they are signs to mark fixed periods of time for mankind and for the pilgrimage.

[Soorah al Baqarah (the 2nd chapter) aayah 189]

¹ (رَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ) (rahimahullaah) May Allaah the Most High have mercy on him

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ii) Or a newly occurring event which needed explaining and warning; for example:

And if you were to ask them, they would surely say, "We were just talking idly and joking."

[Soorah at Tawbah (the 9th chapter) aayah 65]

The two aayaat were send down with regards to a man from the hypocrites who said during the Battle of Tabook in a sitting: We have not seen the like of these reciters with more greedy bellies nor more untruthful tongues nor more cowardly when meeting (the enemy) – meaning Allaah's Messenger (صلى الله عليه وسلم) and his Companions.

So (news of) that reached Allaah's Messenger (صلى الله عليه وسلم) and Qur'aan was sent down (regarding this). So the man came to offer an excuse (for his behaviour) to the Prophet (صلى الله عليه وسلم) so he responded to him:

Was it Allaah and His aayaat and His Messenger you were mocking?

[Soorah at Tawbah (the 9th chapter) aayah 65]

iii) Or an action occurring for which knowledge of its ruling was needed; for example (the Soorah which begins):

Indeed Allaah has heard the statement of the woman (Khawlah bint Tha'labah) who disputes with you concerning her husband, complaining to Allaah. And Allaah hears the dialogue between you both. Allaah is indeed the All Hearing, the All Seeing.

[Soorah al Mujaadilah (the 58th chapter) aayah 1]

To the end of the aayah.

(Tafseer ul Qur'aan il Kareem 1/13 to 14 of Shaykh Muhammad ibn Saalih al 'Uthaymeen (رَحْمَةُ اللهِ))