DHUL QARNAIN



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PREFACE

I have the pleasure to present briefly to the readers about Dhul Qarnain; that his identity was not only to exist for a time, but shall also be applicable for all the other servants of God (Allah), especially for such servants who come within the span of two eras.

May Allah increase our knowledge on things which if He (Allah) does not teach us, we will not be able to know the depth of all truths of the past which are confirmed by the Quran.

Praise be to Allah and peace upon His chosen servants. Ameen.

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DHUL QARNAIN

SURAH AL-KAHF Chapter 18 of the Holy Quran

وَآصَبِرْ نَفْسَكَ مَعَ ٱلَّذِينَ يَدْعُونَ رَبَّهُم بِٱلْغَدُوةِ وَٱلْعَشِيِّ يُرِيدُونَ وَجْهَةً. وَلَا تَعَدُ عَيْنَاكَ عَنْهُمْ تُرِيدُ زِينَةَ ٱلْحَيَوةِ ٱلدُّنِيَّ وَلَا نُطِعْ مَنْ أَغْفَلْنَا قَلْبَهُ، عَن ذِكْرِنَا وَٱتَّبَعَ هَوَنهُ وَكَانَ أَمْرُهُ, فُرُطًا

"And keep yourself attached to those who call on their Lord morning and evening, seeking His pleasure and not let your eyes pass beyond them, seeking the adornment of the life of the world; and obey not him whose heart we have made heedless of Our remembrance and who follows his low desires, and his case exceeds all legitimate bounds." (18: 29).

This verse acts as a support to previous verses which contain important prophecies.

In fact, this verse purports that during the ruling of the Christian period, there will be some people who will be the true representatives of Islam in this same era. These people will engage themselves in prayers day and night. And during this same period, i.e., in the era of Chosen Messenger of Allah (who will not bring any divine law but who will come to revive the teachings of his master, Hadhrat Muhammad (pbuh)), the so-called Muslims will be hopeful upon political glory and upon the greatness of Islam. To achieve this, they will excel in material means and resources and they will look down the followers of the Reviver of Faith who have no political importance but whose concentration are only in prayers and the remembrance of Allah.

This verse acts as a warning to the Muslims as the success of Islam lies only in prayers and in worship of Allah - not in other things!

This verse mentions three events which will cause the misfortune and poverty of Muslims in this era. They are:

- 1. Muslims will neglect their prayers and will stop worshipping Allah.
- 2. Muslims will have more love for this world.
- 3. They will be completely lost in their search of luxurious life. And their deliverance with depend only upon a change in their behaviour and in their way of living.

"And say, 'The truth is from your Lord, so whoever wills - let him believe; and whoever wills - let him disbelieve.' Indeed, We have prepared for the wrongdoers a fire whose walls will surround them. And if they call for relief, they will be relieved with water like murky oil, which scalds (their) faces. Wretched is the drink, and evil is the resting place." (18: 30).

The sentence: "The truth is from your Lord" means that the prophecy found in the next verses, i.e., the materialism and glory of Christian nation of the West will be reduced to dust and Islam will be victorious in the near future. Not in the time when Jihad will be done by swords but it will be in the time when Islam will be preached peacefully.

The last part of this verse provides the answer to a question which has been mentioned in the first part, i.e., if Jihad shall not be done with swords, then how would Islam triumph?

To that question, in the last part of the verse itself, Allah says that He will destroy the so-called influence of the Western Christian nations.

Such a war which will not end as long as their power will not be destroyed and reduced to dust. Molten lead would scald their faces. They will seek peace but they will be bombarded and shot in return. Their luxurious houses

will become unliveable and they will lead a miserable life like hell - They shall be unsuccessful in all efforts done to bring about peace in the world as they are not sincere and honest.

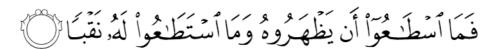
"And they ask you, about Dhul-Qarnain. Say, 'I will recite to you about him a report'." (18: 84).

GOG AND MAGOG

Now, about Gog and Magog. These names were given to certain tribes found in the North-West of Asia and in the Eastern Europe. These tribes moved towards the South and South-West due to fertile lands.

But as explained in the following verses, Dhul Qarnain constructed a wall to prevent them, i.e., Gog and Magog, to establish themselves in Asia thus forcing them to move towards the West. Hence they were blocked between the North-West of Asia and Eastern Europe. And instead of entering into Asia, they were forced to go in different parts of Europe; there they came close to the catholic, thus making the Christian religion as their national religion. But these people had always aimed for the fertile lands of Asia and they had developed the great desire to conquer these lands.

And when they had not been able to conquer these fertile lands, they were deeply frustrated. And this desire had been widened from generation to generation transforming it into political affair against the Asian people during the last three centuries. Hence, Dhul Qarnain's efforts to prevent them to enter Asia had created a great spiritual fuss which was created by Dajjal; the second name of Gog and Magog. The Dhul Qarnain and Gog and Magog are closely related. The Holy Quran mentions Dhul Qarnain and also mentions the return of power of the Christians Catholic which actually represents Gog and Magog.



"So Gog and Magog were unable to pass over it, nor were they able (to effect) in it any penetration." (18: 98).

When the building of the wall was completed, the members of that tribe, i.e. Gog and Magog could not continue their journey to Asia. The wall was too thick to be broken through, and too high to pass over. It was 29 feet high and 10 feet thick and had iron gates and watch-towers. It most effectively defended the Persian frontier.

"Thereupon he (Dhul-Qarnain) said; 'This is a mercy from my Lord, but when the promise of my Lord shall come to pass, He will break it into pieces. And the promise of my Lord is certainly true'." (18: 99).

The sentence "This is a mercy from my Lord" shows clearly how Cyrus was a humble and pious person. As a good servant of Allah, he did not boast or flatter himself about his victory, but instead he considered his success as a mercy and favours of his Master. Hence, Cyrus behaved himself as a true believer as truly he was a real believer.

The sentence: "But when the promise of my Lord shall come to pass" shows that Allah informed Cyrus through revelation that some time in future Gog and Magog would again spread to the South East of Asia and this wall would no longer resist. The wall would no longer be a barrier for them to continue their fight. This is the meaning of the sentence: "Allah will break it..."

In Chapter 21, Verse 97, it has been mentioned that Gog and Magog will spread "their tentacles" all over the world; i.e., Gog and Magog will spread everywhere in the world. Metaphorically speaking, the "the wall will be broken down into pieces" means the decline of the political power of Islam, more particularly that of the Turks in Europe. With the weakening of the Turkish power, the Christian catholic nations of Europe would be able to conquer the East.

"And on that day We shall present hell, face to face, to the disbelievers; Whose eyes were under a veil, not heeding My reminder and they could not even afford to hear". (18: 101-102).

There are many prophecies concerning future events. Some of these prophecies had already been accomplished in the person of Hadhrat Muhammad (pbuh), and others will be accomplished in the future. The sayings of Dhul Qarnain, same as other sayings found in the Holy Quran enclosed another prophecy which had been accomplished in the person of Hadhrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad (as), the founder of the Ahmadiyya Jamaat. Hadhrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad (as) was the Dhul Qarnain of his era. The Quranic saying of Dhul Qarnain historically applies to the grand monarchy of Persia, Cyrus and spiritually applicable also to Hadhrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad (as).

Hence, besides its historical value, this history has achieved high spiritual values. It implicates a great prophecy like in the 6th century when Cyrus saved Persia from Gog and Magog when he constructed the high wall to prevent them from entering their lands - same happened when another Dhul Qarnain came to rescue innocent souls. That other Dhul Qarnain came to protect these souls from the moral influence of western Christian nations. These western Christian nations are descendants of Gog and Magog. That other Dhul Qarnain will accomplish his mission through divine knowledge and guidance and through various signs which Allah will show in his hands.



"Have you not seen how your Lord dealt with Ad, the tribe of Iran, possessors of lofty buildings? The like of whom have not been created in these parts." (89: 7-9).

Gary Miller published a book entitled "The Amazing Quran" 1-8 and what I am going to write are found in this book.

In Chapter 89 of the Holy Quran Allah mentions a city named Iram (a city of lofty buildings). In ancient history no one knew about its existence. However, in a National Geographic Magazine, No.3 December 1978, there was an article which mentioned a very important information about the discovery of the city of Elba in Syria in 1973. That city dated about 43

centuries ago but this is not what is really surprising. Researchers have discovered from a library of the Elba city, a record of all cities which were trading with the city of Iram. Hence, the people of Elba were trading with the people of Iram!

Muslims said that the Quran confirms all the (archaeological) researches in Ebla and not Elba.

Elba was an island where Napoleon was living when he was defeated and Muslims believed that it is a proof of the veracity of the Holy Quran. But what does that article of the National Geographic want to explain?

That article had as title: "Ebla: Splendour of an Unknown Empire" written by Howard La Fay found at page 730-759 of the Magazine National Geographic of December 1978 - In pages 735 to 736, it is mentioned:

The names of those cities which we thought had been founded much later on - those names are found on the list, like Bierut and Byblos. There is mention also of Gaza and Damas and two cities which has been mentioned in the Bible, i.e., Sodom and Gomorrah. There is also the city of Iram mentioned in the Holy Quran in Chapter 89.

No details had been given on these cities except that we know that they did exist. Moreover we are not sure and certain whether it is that city which is mentioned in the Holy Quran.

There are many cities under the name of *Ur*, for example there is one near Ebla in Syria and another one in Chaldea. It is not even mentioned where it is found and there is no information about its famous columns. From that article of the National Geographic, it is not mentioned whether Ebla had been trading with Iram. In another paragraph of that article, it mentioned only a list of cities trading with Ebla had been discovered, but Gary Miller had combined these two information. For example, even if there were no relation between these two information.

I don't want to say that the Holy Quran is faulty (*God Forbid*), but the fact that a name has been found out and which resembled it is not really an important proof. Moreover, because the Muslims have declared on a newspaper that: "There is a great difference of opinions among the Muslims

scholars concerning Dhul Qarnain. And this is because that the Holy Quran has not given any explanation on this pious man except that it is mentioned that the Dhul Qarnain will have a great empire and that he will put an end to Gog and Magog".

There are also much difficulties with certain Muslims scholars where they have for example described someone who can find the explanation about the columnsof Iram city. Concerning this, they had speculated that the inhabitants were tall and big etc., and now we know that it is not true.

We can verify the article found in National Geographic and we can find that the declaration made in the Holy Quran is true. There is another declaration of Hyde Park speaker's Corner: "The Quran has mentioned "the high columns of Iram"; they all say that the City of Iram did not exist, and now by the grace of Allah a researcher discovered the lost City of Iram with its high columns".

I have not seen any sentence about "high columns" in the article of the National Geographic. And it is one of the biggest rumours than what they had proclaimed.

The Holy Quran has illustrated the splendour of these high columns of Iram city. But that (issue of the) National Geographic Magazine had not given any indication about this.

WHERE IS THE WALL OF DHUL QARNAIN? WHAT IS GOG AND MAGOG?

According to academics/ researchers, Alexander the Great was never the Dhul Qarnain. According to their studies, they had discovered that the kings of Yemen used names which began by the suffix "Dhu", for example Dhul Yazan.

Hence Alexander the Great was only a king of Yemen who lived in the times of the prophet Abraham (as) and Alexander received instruction from Khidr. Alexander the Great lived 300 years before Jesus Christ and Aristotle used to teach him.

We can retrace in a regular way the history of the man in the past for about 3000 years. But this is not exact about the time before the prophet Abraham (as) - the commentary of the Quran mentions Dhul Qarnain of Yemen under

the name of Alexander of Ancient Times or because of the following: the particular events mentioned in these verses of the Holy scriptures, in fact are clues for these universal events. Hence, according to his prophecy, Alexander the Great was the Dhul Qarnain who built a wall for the victims of these oppressors.

Alexander constructed the great wall of China to prevent frequent attacks of the enemies. Similarly many powerful kings and conquerors like Alexander followed the example of Dhul Qarnain, but in a mundane and material context. The prophets of Allah and spiritual pillars are like kings of the spiritual life of man and they followed the Dhul Qarnain spiritually, they built barriers between mountains to protect the victims of oppressors and then they built other solid infrastructures on mountains using their material power and resources, through a guide and a plan. They built also walls around the towns and finally they fabricated machines of war and other things like mobile citadels.

The most famous barrier in the world is the great wall of China which was constructed to prevent the savage tribes of the Mongol and Manchurians (known as Gog and Magog in the Sacred Book) to enter India and China. These tribes had caused great harm several times, and these tribes came from the Himalayas and they came to bring destruction from East to West. A great wall was built between two mountains which were near the mountains of Himalaya and this wall prevented numerous attacks of barbaric people. Several other barriers were constructed by the kings of Persia who resembled the Dhul Qarnain; these barriers were erected to bar the way of the Tartars - There are many barriers everywhere like these.

The sacred book is for the whole humanity. Many such events are mentioned in it and all these events resembles one another. Moreover, the Holy Book was revealed according to events, after events happened after a lapse of time. One may think that these events happened one after another; i.e., there is not so much time elapsed between these two events. Similarly when we see that the Sacred Book mentions the destruction of that wall and the Hour, this does not mean that these two events are near. This means that the world will be destroyed in the same way, like that wall. Like the mountains are natural features, divine barriers will be destroyed when the Hour will come.

Hence, if that barrier was as strong as a mountain, then it will be reduced to dust during the destruction of the world. Even if the barriers will be "damaged" by uncountable attacks in the future, the major part of that wall will remain intact. Yes, even the great wall of China is still existing despite thousands of years and it is the same and we can still see it. We can see the great wall of China as a long line without importance which was written by the hand of man on the page of the earth.

HADITH:

An-Nawwas ibn Saman reported that the Messenger of Allah (pbuh) made a mention of the Dajjal one day in the morning. "He sometimes described him to be insignificant and sometimes described (his turmoil) as very significant and we felt as if he were in the cluster of the date-palm trees. When we went to him (to the Holy Prophet) in the evening and he read (the signs of fear) in our faces, he (pbuh) said: What is the matter with you? We said: O Messenger of Allah, you made a mention of the Dajjal in the morning (sometimes describing him) to be insignificant and sometimes very important, until we began to think as if he were present in some (near) part of the cluster of the date-palm trees. Thereupon he (pbuh) said: I harbour fear in regard to you in so many other things besides the Dajjal. If he comes forth while I am among you, I shall contend with him on your behalf, but if he comes forth while I am not amongst you, a man must contend on his own behalf and Allah would take care of every Muslim on my behalf (and safeguard him against his evil). He (Dajjal) would be a young man with twisted, contracted hair, and a blind eye."

Hadhrat Muhammad (pbuh) compared him (i.e., the Anti-Christ) to 'Abd-ul-'Uzza ibn Qatan. "He who amongst you would survive to see him should recite over him the opening verses of Surah Kahf (Chapter 18 of the Holy Quran). He would appear on the way between Syria and Iraq and would spread mischief right and left. Remain loyal and determined, O servants of Allah!

We said: 'O Messenger of Allah (pbuh), how long would he stay on the earth?' The Messenger of Allah (pbuh) said: 'For forty days, one day like a year and one day like a month and one day like a week and the rest of the days would be like your days.'

We said: 'O Messenger of Allah, would one day's prayer suffice for the prayers of day equal to one year?' Thereupon he (pbuh) said: 'No, but you must make

an estimate of time (and then observe prayer).' We said: 'O Messenger of Allah, how quickly would he walk upon the earth?' Thereupon he (pbuh) said: 'Like cloud driven by the wind. He would come to the people and invite them (to a wrong religion) and they would affirm their faith in him and respond to him. He would then give command to the sky and there would be rainfall upon the earth and it would grow crops. Then in the evening, their posturing animals would come to them with their humps very high and their udders full of milk and their flanks stretched. He would then come to another people and invite them. But they would reject him and he would go away from them and there would be drought for them and nothing would be left with them in the form of wealth. He would then walk through the waste, land and say to it: Bring forth your treasures, and the treasures would come out and collect (themselves) before him like the swarm of bees. He would then call a person brimming with youth and strike him with the sword and cut him into two pieces and (make these pieces lie at a distance which is generally) between the archer and his target. He would then call (that young man) and he will come forward laughing with his face gleaming (with happiness).

And it would at this very time that Allah would send the Messiah, son of Mary, and he will descend at the white minaret in the eastern side of Damascus wearing two garments lightly dyed with saffron and placing his hands on the wings of two Angels. When he would lower his head, there would fall beads of perspiration from his head, and when he would raise it up, beads like pearls would scatter from it. Every non-believer who would smell the odour of his self would die and his breath would reach as far as he would be able to see. He would then search for him (Dajjal) until he would catch hold of him at the gate of Ludd and would kill him. Then a people whom Allah had protected would come to the Messiah, son of Mary, and he would wipe their faces and would inform them of their ranks in Paradise.

And it would be under such conditions (when he would be busy with his works) that Allah would reveal to him these words: I have brought forth from amongst My servants such people against whom none would be able to fight; you take these people safely to Tur (Mount Sinai), and then Allah would send Gog and Magog and they would swarm down from every slope. (21: 97).

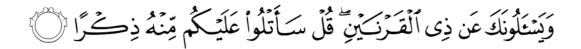
The first of them would pass the lake of Tibering and drink out of it. And when the last of them would pass, he would say: There was once water there. The prophet of Allah, the Messiah and his companions would then be besieged here

(at Tur, and they would be so much hard pressed) that the head of the ox would be dearer to them than one hundred dinars.

Then, the Messenger of Allah, the Messiah, and his companions would supplicate Allah, Who would send to them insects (which would attack their necks) and in the morning they would perish like one single person. The Messenger of Allah, the Messiah, and his companions would then come down to the earth (from the Mount) and they would not find in the earth as much space as a single span which is not filled with their (i.e., Gog and Magog) putrefaction and stench. The Messenger of Allah, the Messiah, and his companions would then again beseech Allah, Who would send birds whose necks would be like those of camels and they would carry them and throw them where God would will. Then Allah would send rain which no house of clay or (the tent of) camels' hairs would keep out and it would wash away the earth until it could appear to be a mirror. Then the earth would be told to bring forth its fruit and restore its blessing and, as a result thereof, there would grow (such a big) pomegranate that a group of persons would be able to eat that, and seek shelter under its skin and milch cow would give so much milk that a whole party would be able to drink it. And the milch camel would give such (a large quantity of) milk that the whole tribe would be able to drink out of that and the milch sheep would give so much milk that the whole family would be able to drink out of that and at that time Allah would send a pleasant wind which would soothe (people) even under their armpits, and would take the life of every Muslim and only the wicked would survive who would commit adultery like asses and the Last Hour would come to them'." (Muslim).

The nature of the work of both Dhul Qarnain shows a great resemblance between them; while for one it concerned worldly affairs, the other one concerned the spiritual realm. There was the advent of Cyrus and Hadhrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad (as). The latter received the title of Messiah, and like Cyrus was the Dhul Qarnain in the sense that he was the chief of the double Medo-Persian Empire, likewise Hadhrat Ahmad (as) (1835-1908) was the Dhul Qarnain in the sense that he made his appearance in such a time when he witnessed the beginning of two centuries of several eras. (*Qarn means a century*).

SURAH AL-KAHF CHAPTER 18 VERSE 84 RUKU 11:



"And they ask you, about Dhul-Qarnain. Say, 'I will recite to you about him a report'."

Once I was reading the Chapter 18 of the Holy Quran, Surah Al-Kahf, which means "The Cave". This Surah mentions the Dhul Qarnain. When I studied this chapter deeply, I noticed that the story mentioned in it coincides with the conditions we are living in this era. This chapter mentions the first trip (travel/ journey) of Dhul Qarnain (in the West), where he reached a place where he found the sun setting as if it were in a pool of murky water.

After that trip, the Dhul Qarnain made another trip and this time, he went to the East. During the course of that travel, upon reaching midway he met a person/ people who were naked, totally exposed to sunlight; there were nothing to protect them from that deep heat, not even a shadow.

Then the Dhul Qarnain made a third journey and at the end of it, he met a people who informed him about the persecution and ill-treatment of Gog and Magog upon them. These people even supplicated him to protect them against Gog and Magog.

Allah the Great, has given us a parabolic description. However, the name of Dhul Qarnain can be given to the one who lives during two centuries and I have come in two centuries in such a way that no objection can be levelled upon me. Definitely, I belong to both Islamic centuries, and if you do the calculation in the proper way, this will prove my veracity.

HADITHS:

"The Mahdi will rule the world like the Prophet Dhul Qarnain and the Prophet Suleiman." (Ibn Hajar al-Haythami, Al-Qawl al-Mukhtasar fi 'Alamat al-Mahdi al-Muntazar, p. 29).

Moreover an another Hadith confirms the coming of the Mahdi (the Guided One - the One who guides in the right path - The illuminated one) in the Hijri era which we are living now, i.e., year 1430 Hijri (which is equivalent to year 2009 Christian Era). The Hadith is as follows:

"Count two or three decades after the year/decade of Hijri 1400. At that time, the Mahdi emerges..." (Asmal Masalik Lieyyam Mahdiyy Maliki Li Kull-id Dunya Biemrillah-il Malik ('The Best ways to know the time of the Mahdi, King of the World, by Allah's command'), Qalda bin Zayd, p. 216).

Hence, things mentioned by Allah the Almighty in the Holy Quran are not ordinary matters. In fact, they contain prophecies which if Muslims take into great consideration then they shall become true Muslims (in the real sense).

Therefore, if we take into consideration these prophecies closely, then I should be considered as the Dhul Qarnain and the Mahdi of this era.

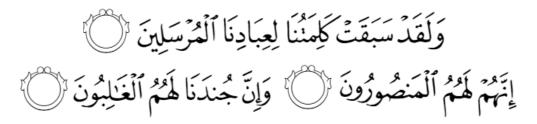
I am of the humble opinion that for our religion (Islam), Dhul Qarnain also refers to the Messiah (Massih), Reviver of Faith (Muhyi-ud-Din) or a Caliph of Allah (Khalifatullah), and the Mahdi was also referred by Hadhrat Muhammad (pbuh) as the Khalifatullah (of his era).

Another Hadith reported by Ibn Shiba and which was reported by Ibn Umar (ra) that Hadhrat Muhammad (pbuh) said that the Mahdi will appear in a way when an angel will announce above his head that "He is the Khalifatullah, the Mahdi (as)".

Allah the Almighty also made reference to the people of the West and East. The reference concerning western people are those who have received the good teachings of the *Injeel* (the Gospels) and of other holy scriptures also. But these people have trampled these good teachings to dust and only filth have remained for them.

Concerning the Eastern people, it refers to the Muslims who had not believed in Hadhrat Massih Maoud (as) of the past era and as the Khalifatullah of his time; hence, they are staying under the scorching heat of the sun and they are getting burnt by the rays of that sun.

But my Jamaat is really fortunate, and we need to thank Allah Who has guided us and shall continue to do so. However the condition we find ourselves presently is still not yet fully evolved. We still have a very long way to go towards the victory of Islam - the victory of Allah. This victory will happen when the Gog and Magog and Anti-Christ of my era will be completely eradicated by the Divine Hand. *Insha-Allah. Ameen.*



"And surely, Our word has gone forth to Our servants, the Messengers, that it is, certainly, they who will be helped; and that it is Our Host (army) that will, certainly, be victorious." (37: 172-174).

