

QURAN - IRE FORM 3 Notes

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[Preservation of the Holy Quran](#)

- In the first chapter of book two, we discussed revelation, recording and compilation of the Holy Qur'an.
- The process of recording the Quran from the time of the Prophet to the Swahabas time aimed at preserving it.
- In this chapter, we are going to discuss how the recorded and compiled Qur'an was preserved.
- Preservation literally, refers to the act of preventing, protecting, conserving or safe guarding something or a piece of information from interference.
- People preserve information for the sake of referring to it in future so that its authenticity is not lost.
- Technically, preservation of the Qur'an refers to the process of employing measures to maintain or keep the originality and authenticity of the Qur'an as it was revealed.
- It also means to prevent the Qur'an from interference.
- Allah (SWT) Has promised to protect the Qur'an from any corruption.
- Allah (SWT) says,

إِنَّا نَحْنُ نَزَّلْنَا الذِّكْرَ وَإِنَّا لَهُ لَحَافِظُونَ

"We have, without doubt, send down the message; And We will assuredly (guard it from corruption.)"[Q 15:9]

- It was very important for the Qur'an to be preserved through out the stages of its use.
- The process of preserving the Qur'an was done in three different periods.
- The Prophet (PBUH) and his Swahabas (companions) took a major role in ensuring that the Qur'an maintained its originality.
- Likewise, the present Muslims have made use of the advancement in technology to ensure that the Quran is preserved and can be accessed by many people.
- Let us now look at each of the three phases of preservation of the Quran.

[a\) During the time of Prophet \(PBUH\)](#)

- In Form One, we discussed the reasons that led to the revelation of the Qur'an in portions.
- We identified that some of these reasons were to allow room for memorization of the Qur'an and make its understanding and application easier.
- Since the Holy Prophet (PBUH) was the only source of reference and the sole transmitter of the Holy Qur'an (as he used to receive revelation from Angel Jibril (AS)), it was feared that after his demise nothing would be left to offer guidance to humanity.

- Therefore the Prophet (PBUH) had to devise ways to preserve the Holy Qur'an and ensure that it reached future generations including ours.
- The following are the ways in which the Prophet (PBUH) ensured that the Qur'an was preserved:
 - The Prophet used to instruct his scribes such as Zaid BinThabit, to write down the verses as they were revealed to him through Angel Jibril (AS). The scribes wrote them down on skins, wooden boards, bones and scrolls. This indeed was an assurance of the preservation of the Holy Qur'an.
 - The Prophet (PBUH) encouraged his companions to memorise the verses of the Holy Qur'an. In one of his Hadith narrated by Ismah bin Malik: that the Prophet(PBUH) said, *"If the Qur'an is enclosed by skin (i.e if a person memorises the entire Qur'an) then Allah (SWT) will never burn it in the fire of hell."* (Baihaqi)By this the Prophet was able to popularize the memorization of Qur'an.
 - The new converts were taught how to recite the Holy Qur'an correctly by the companions of the Prophet (PBUH) who had memorised and mastered the correct recitation.
 - After the battle of Badr, the Prophet (PBUH) asked the captives of war to teach the believers the art of writing in order to regain their freedom. Those who learnt how to write were then asked by the Prophet (PBUH) to write the verses of the Qur'an.
 - The Holy Qur'an was recited daily in swalat and being one of the compulsory requirements of any Swalat, it encouraged the preservation of the HolyBook. The Muslims had to learn and memorise several verses of the Qura'n which they recited in swalat.
 - The Prophet (PBUH) authorized a few companions who had weak memory to write down the verses of the Holy Qur'an thus encouraging its preservation.
 - vi.vii. The Prophet encouraged the Muhajirun i.e. migrants from Makkah to Madina to teach Qur'an to the Ansar(helper from Madina).
 - Several women used to be taught the HolyQur'an by their husbands as part of their Mahr(dowry).
 - The Prophet (PBUH) cautioned his companions against forgetting parts of the Qur'an and informed them about the punishment awaiting them in the hereafter. This encouraged his companions to repeatedlyrecite the Qur'anhence helping in its preservation.
 - The hropheet taught and explained the verses of the Holy Qur'an.
 - The Prophet (PBUH) listened to the oral recitation of the Qur'an by his companions to ensure its accuraterecitation and pronunciation. He would correct them when they read or recited wrongly by repeating the verses for them until they mastered.
 - The entire Qur'an was recited during the Month of Ramadhan by the Prophet (PBUH) and his companions. This prophet's tradition encouraged the reciters to preserve the Holy Qur'an.

[b\) Preservation during the time of Caliph](#)

- The caliphs had great love for the Qur'an and to ensure they preserved the Holy Scripture.
- They did the following:
 - They applied the teachings of the Qur'an in their administration.
 - They used to recite the Qur'an frequently. For example, Caliph Uthman (RA) used to recite Qur'an daily and loudly outside his house. Even during the time of his assassination, he met his death while reading the Holy Qur'an.
 - The Qur'an continued to be recited in the daily Swalat(prayers) just like it had been practiced during the Prophet's time.
 - They preserved the Qur'an in writing. It was written on date palm leaves, stone tablets, skin parchments, and shoulder blades of sheep or camels. It was also engraved on pieces of wood. Most of the Swahabas had written down their own personal copies which they