

SOURCES OF AUTHORITY IN ISLAM



U UNDERSTANDING ISLAM



THINK



PAIR



SHARE

What is a Source of Authority?

AIMS

- ❖ To develop an understanding of important sources of authority in Islam
- ❖ Understand the importance of the Holy Qur'an and the relevance of Sunnah and Hadith and know the difference between these sources of authority
- ❖ Explain the impact of these sources of authority on the lives of Muslims



Bronze:

Know what the Holy Qur'an is and how it was revealed



Silver:

Explain the differences between Sunnah, Hadith and the Holy Qur'an



Gold:

Evaluate the process of recording the sources of authority

KEY VOCABULARY

- Allah The name of God for Muslims
- Holy Qur'an Scripture of Muslims outlining Islamic faith. Believed to be the exact words of Allah
- Sunnah Actions of Prophet Muhammad^{pbuh} - a code of conduct for Muslims
- Hadith Sayings of Prophet Muhammad^{pbuh} narrated by his companions

SOURCES OF AUTHORITY



The Holy Qur'an



The Sunnah



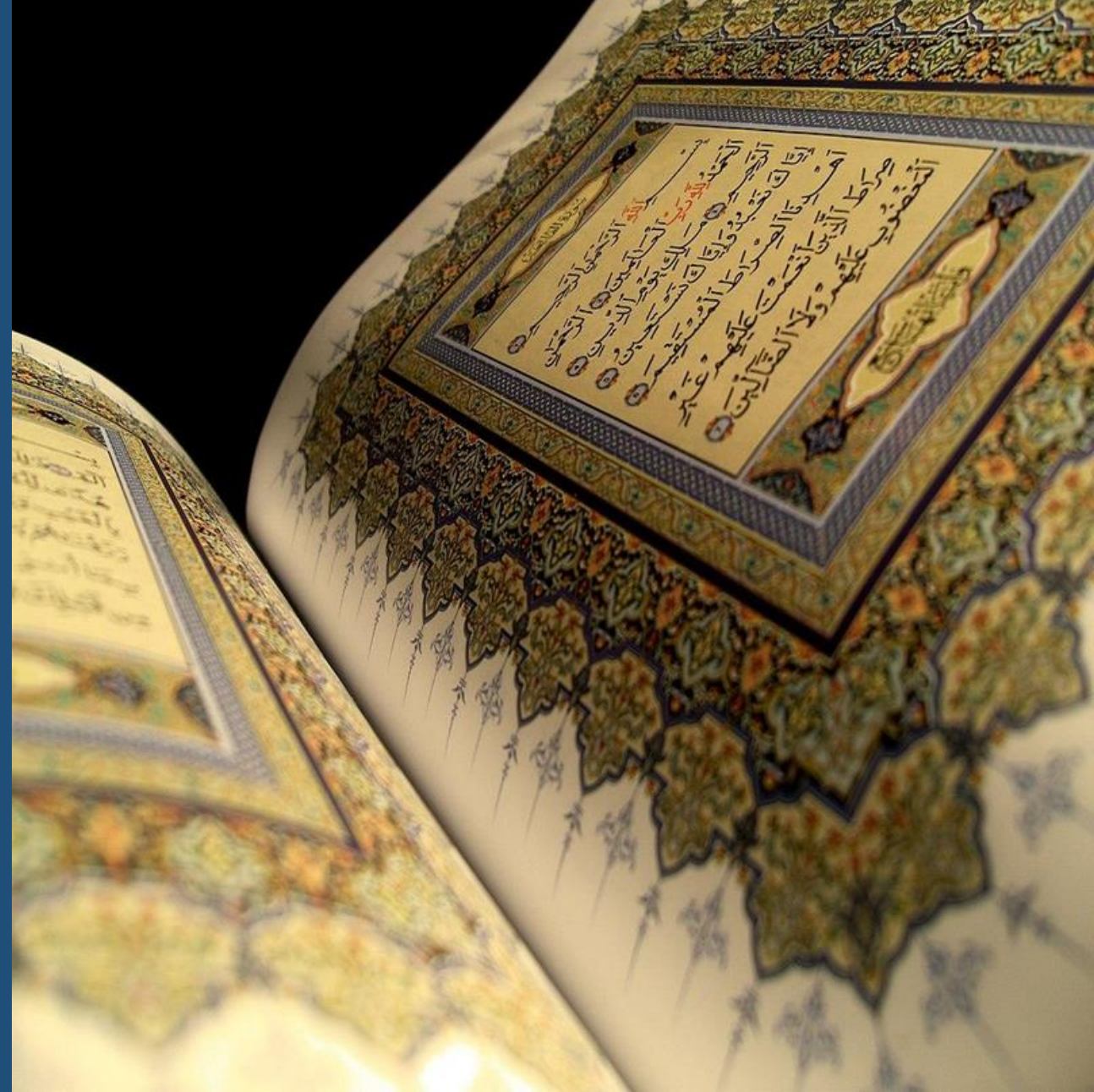
The Hadith

SOURCES OF AUTHORITY: THE HOLY QUR'AN

The Holy Qur'an is believed to be the word of Allah, relayed to the Prophet Muhammad^{pbuh}, over a period of 23 years. It is the Holy Book or the Scripture of the Muslims. It lays down for them the law and commandments, codes for their social and moral behaviour and contains a comprehensive religious philosophy.

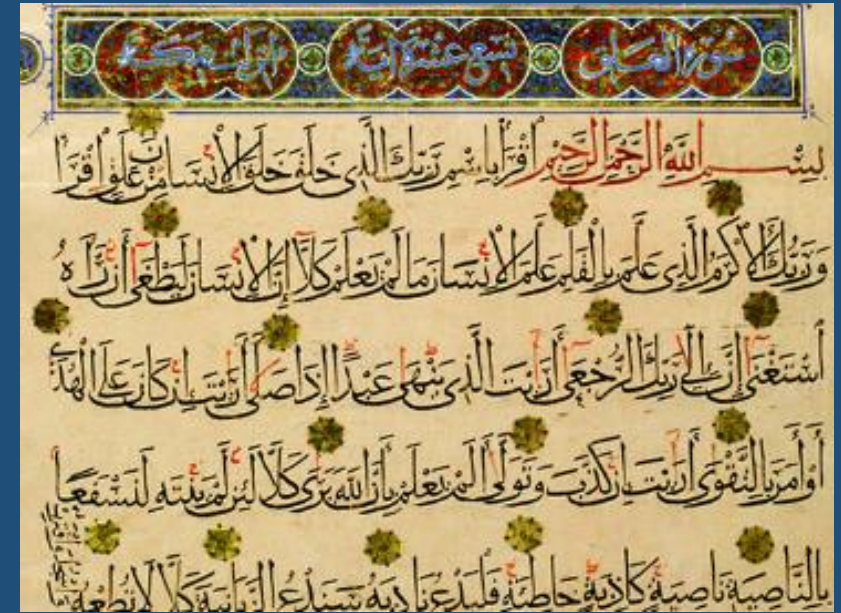
The language of the Holy Qur'an is Arabic, although it has been translated into many languages to ensure that Muslims around the world can benefit from its teachings.

The Holy Qur'an contains complete spiritual, moral and social guidance for all people, in all places, for all times.



HOW WAS THE HOLY QUR'AN REVEALED TO PROPHET MUHAMMAD^{PBUH}

- ❖ The revelation of the Holy Qur'an began in 610 AD
- ❖ The Holy Qur'an was revealed by Allah to the Holy Prophet Muhammad^{pbuh} over a period of 23 years
- ❖ The revelations were conveyed to the Holy Prophet Muhammad^{pbuh} in small segments by the angel Gabriel
- ❖ The Holy Prophet Muhammad^{pbuh} received the first revelation whilst he was in the Cave of Hira
- ❖ The night of the first revelation occurred towards the end of the month of Ramadhan (month of Fasting) and was later named *lailatul Qadr* or the Night of Destiny.
- ❖ The main mode of preservation and transmission of the Quranic revelations was through memorisation.



“Proclaim thou in the name of thy Lord Who created, Created man from a clot of blood.”

-Holy Qur'an Chapter 96 verses 2-3

This was the first revealed verse of the Holy Qur'an revealed to Prophet Muhammad^{pbuh}.

FACTS ABOUT THE HOLY QUR'AN

Did you know?

The contents of the Holy Qur'an fall into five main categories:

- Nature of the Spiritual World
- The Law and Commandments
- Historical Accounts
- The Wisdom
- The Prophecies

Some of the teachings in the Holy Qur'an include:

- Responsibilities to Allah
- Responsibilities to Mankind
- Not harming others
- Being truthful
- Giving charity

Did you know?

The Holy Qur'an was revealed from Allah to Prophet Muhammad through Angel Gabriel.

It has been compiled into 30 parts with 114 Chapters (Surahs)

The Surahs are of varying lengths, some consisting of a few lines whilst others run for many pages

There are in total 6348 verses in the Holy Qur'an

The Arabic words have remained completely unchanged for over 1400 years!

RECITATION OF THE HOLY QUR'AN

Muslim children learn to read and recite the Holy Qur'an from a young age. Studying the meaning of the Holy Qur'an and its memorisation is also encouraged and there are many children who have memorised the complete Holy Qur'an!

Click below to hear a portion of the Holy Qur'an being recited:
<https://www.alislam.org/quran/app/16:90>



16:90 ▶ ⬇️ 🔗 ☰ أرووققاير ...

وَيَوْمَ نَبْعَثُ فِي كُلِّ أُمَّةٍ شَهِيدًا عَلَيْهِمْ مِّنْ أَنفُسِهِمْ وَجِئْنَا بِكَ شَهِيدًا عَلَىٰ هَؤُلَاءِ ۗ وَنَزَّلْنَا عَلَيْكَ الْكِتَابَ
تَبْيَانًا لِّكُلِّ شَيْءٍ وَهُدًى وَرَحْمَةً وَبُشْرَىٰ لِلْمُسْلِمِينَ ﴿٩٠﴾

Five Volume Commentary

^[c]And *remember* the day when We will raise up in every people a witness against them from amongst themselves, and We will bring thee as a witness against these. And ^[d]We have sent down to thee the Book to explain everything, and a guidance, and a mercy, and glad tidings to those who submit to God.^[1890]

HOW IS THE HOLY QUR'AN USED BY MUSLIMS TODAY?

Portions of the Holy Qur'an are recited in the 5 daily prayers (from memory).

It is considered an honour to learn the entire Holy Qur'an by heart (this is called *Hifz*) and many Muslims begin this process from a young age.

Daily recitation of the Holy Qur'an is encouraged.

Study of the translation and commentary is a regular practice.

Special sessions are held by religious leaders and scholars to study the entire Holy Qur'an during holy month of Ramadhan.



Muslim children are encouraged from a young age to learn how to read the Holy Qur'an in Arabic (they can be taught by a Qur'an teacher, or anyone knowledgeable on the Qur'an). Many parents also sit with their children and teach them and listen to them recite daily.

When a Muslim completes their first ever reading of the entire Holy Qur'an in Arabic, this is a cause of great happiness and celebration.



TASK

Create a mind map
about the importance of
the Holy Qur'an

INTRODUCTION TO SUNNAH AND HADITH

As the Holy Qur'an was being revealed portion by portion over 23 years, so too were Prophet Muhammad's^{pbuh} companions taking care to record his practice (Sunnah) and what he said (Hadith).

Poetry, storytelling and other oral traditions were common practice in Arabia at this time. This is how the Sunnah and Hadith were preserved by memory.



Sayings and actions were compiled in written form around 150 years after Prophet Muhammad's^{pbuh} demise.



SUNNAH OF PROPHET MUHAMMAD^{PBUH}

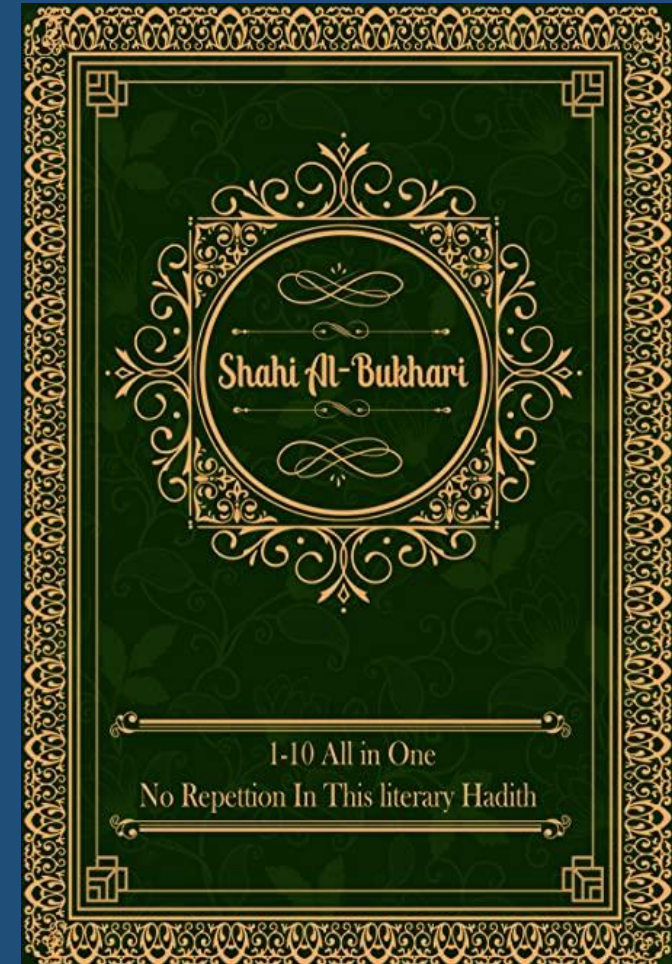
- ❖ The word Sunnah refers to actions, deeds or customs practised by the Prophet Muhammad^{pbuh}.
- ❖ These actions were followed by his companions, after directly observing the Prophet Muhammad^{pbuh} and were transmitted not through verbal narrations, but rather, by the unified deeds of the Muslims from generation to generation.



“...For example, the Holy Qur’an contains an order for the observance of Salat. Irrespective of whether a verbal explanation or instruction was presented by the Holy Prophet^{pbuh} in this regard or not, he demonstrated, before his companions the details pertinent to this order through his actions. Throughout the course of his life, the Holy Prophet^{pbuh} repeatedly performed this action, and thus instilled it in his companions. Furthermore, under his own supervision, the Holy Prophet^{pbuh} made his companions firmly adherent to the correct particulars and practice of Salat. Consequently, through the companions of the Holy Prophet^{pbuh}, this deed reached the Tabi‘in, who learned its correct practice not through a verbal explanation, rather by way of its practical observance. This successive system continued forward from generation to generation and so is the case in other affairs as well. From this it becomes apparent that the true foundation of Islam is laid on the Holy Qur’an and Sunnah, which have always run in parallel since its inception...”

HADITH – THE SAYINGS OF PROPHET MUHAMMAD^{PBUH}

- ❖ Hadith are recorded sayings of the Prophet Muhammad^{pbuh} and therefore an important source of authority.
- ❖ The most famous collections of narrations are compiled in the books of the scholars Bukhari and Muslim.
- ❖ Imam Bukhari alone collected over 600,000 sayings, travelling to many sources to account and verify them before recording them. Of these, he selected 4,000 to be authentic.
- ❖ There are many other weaker sources and categories of Hadith.



TASK - Make a link with students.

Whisper a message to each other - is it easy to get the complete message?



WHAT IS A CHAIN OF NARRATION IN A HADITH?

“It has been related to me by A on the authority of B on the authority of C on the authority of D (usually a Companion of the Prophet) that Muhammad^{pbuh} said....”



Each person who has passed the Hadith on to another is a link in the chain.



If one person had a weakness in their character in any way, or their ability to commit things to memory; the chain is broken and the Hadith is discounted.

Some sayings were discontinued and even discounted as the ‘chains of narration’ were considered to be weaker or broken.

HADITH - CONDITIONS OF RELIABLE NARRATION

Some conditions needed for a reliable narration include:

1. Well-known, truthful and honest narrator
2. Sound memory of narrator
3. No missing 'links' (narrators) in the narration
4. Any Hadith directly contradicting the Holy Qur'an must be abandoned

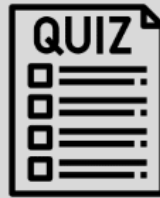


The Holy Qur'an is the primary source of guidance for Muslims, can you explain why?



Can you recall the conditions needed for a reliable narration?

TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE



https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSe6xJ3L6SIVOYb_suM75qBg86b5bQORquBKuklkgmNwkyOdv_Q/viewform