

## SOURCES OF ISLAMIC LAW: VIEWS OF ENCYCLOPEDIA BRITANNICA

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### ABSTRACT

*Sources of Islamic Law remain a subject of discussion not only in the classical Muslim scholarship but also in the current era of religious discourse. Scholars of Islamic jurisprudence declared Qur'an, the Sunnah, Ijma' and Qiyas as the sources of Islamic Law. This view has been widely accepted by theologians and Islamic Scholars. In this era of science and technology, the western world is criticizing the same on the high level of knowledge and awareness and is spreading doubts about Islam. Now it is the foremost duties of intellectuals of the Islamic world to respond on the basis of knowledge and wisdom. The World organizations and the united ally of the media have settled a whole world of doubtful suspicions among society's educated youth. There is no obstacle ahead of this storm, but Islam only. Therefore, the goal of these forces of the world is to offer a fiercely Islamic and Islamic system of life. A publication part of this continuation is the Encyclopedia Britannica, which is considered as treasure information, has been practicing paddy for almost a long time of 250 years. In this context, the Qur'an and Hadith of the Holy Prophet (PBUH) have been presented with respect to religion and underlying artillery has been reviewed by them. The writers of the same encyclopedia have been tried to reduce the decline in the Islamic conscience. In this article, efforts have been made to study and analyze thoroughly few of the same postulation and prove the Validity and authentication of the primary sources of the Islamic law with special reference to the first two one i.e. Qura'n and Hsadhith*

**Key Words:** Encyclopedia Britannica, Basic Sources of Islamic law, Validation, Orientalism, Islam.

### Introduction

Muhammad (PBUH) had been performed the duty of an Elaborator of the Quran as per the kind directive of the Almighty Allah. If the overall affairs of Islamic law are extensively and thoroughly analyzed then these two sources i.e. Quran and Hadith are found to be vividly present. Therefore, the presentation of facts based upon the subjective opinions without clear and determined proofs, come within the area of sinister concerns. Non-Muslims seem trying hard in making suspicious the other sources of Islamic law and jurisprudence, status of Sunnah and its place and position, through their research deliberately or undeliberate.

The authenticity of the holy Quran and that of Sunnah are established beyond a shadow of doubt. The holy Qur'an, besides other things, describes the various dimensions and aspects of the life of Muhammad (PBUH), therefore, the Qur'an had been proved the highest pedestal of authenticity in this regard.

Besides the facts mentioned above, the orientalist believe on the following:

- Islam is not religion <sup>1</sup>
- Islam is the code of conduct of warfare.
- Islam is different from religious beliefs; therefore, it is exhausted from the sociology of the religions. <sup>2</sup>
- Islam should be grateful to Judaism and Christianity. <sup>3</sup>
- There is a severe stagnation in Islam. There is no ability in Islam to progress. Like prohibition of interest, observing hijab and cutting of hand on theft are outdated and inhuman traditions.
- Islam is responsible for the decline of Muslims. <sup>4</sup>
- Islam has been practiced and preached by sword. <sup>5</sup>
- The Quran is not the word of Allah, but it is the view of the Prophet of Islam.
- The traditions of the Qur'an consist of non-authentic material of Jewish subjects and the Bible. <sup>6</sup>
- The first edition of the Quran was not accepted by the community of the Muslims. The current version has been modified after revision. <sup>7</sup>
- The Prophet (PBUH) increased the greatness or interpretation of Qur'anic discussions in the second century. <sup>8</sup>
- Qur'anic laws are not applicable. <sup>9</sup>
- The Qur'an corresponds to Arab poetry books. <sup>10</sup>
- The concept and idea of Oneness of Allah is borrowed from the Jews and Christians. <sup>11</sup>

### Analysis and Responses to the objections and allegations

- Christians believe in the Trinity doctrine. They called Jesus the son of God. The Jews have also made many contributors to God. This belief is present in their sacred books. Musa (A.S) invites them towards Tawheed i.e. Oneness of God, but they still called Uzair (A.S) to be the son of God. So how can the orientalist say that Muhammad (PBUH) borrowed the concept of Tawheed i.e. Oneness of God from Jews and Christians. So we come to the conclusion that Islam did not get faith of Tawheed from any famous religion. It does not belong to the evolution of human thought, but with direct revelation.

- Though, the history of Europeans is full of wars and bloodshed events; yet, Islam is charged with prejudice and bloodshed which is totally a baseless assumption rather Islam is the only religion of world peace and tranquility.<sup>12</sup>
- Two hundred years ago institutions existed in the church surrounded by people who suffered persecution and violence, which did not belong to the Catholic faith.
- Islam was not imposed on anyone by Muhammad (SWA) till now. Hearts cannot be conquered by the sword; it was the manners of Muhammad (PBUH) that took soft corners in people's hearts. There is a principle described in Qur'an لا إكراه في الدين (there is no enforcement in religion Islam).<sup>13</sup>
- The character cannot be built by force. When Muhammad (PBUH) started preaching Islam, he was alone. Could a single person alone convert people one by one to Islam with the force of sword? Never, the only source was his Good manner as the Holy Quran States 'You (Muhammad) are on the peak of Good manners.'<sup>14</sup>
- Muhammad (PBUH) and his companions faced every kind of violence and trouble, but despite all these oppression, nobody left Islam because of the fact that it knocked the one's door of heart.<sup>15</sup>
- Fatah Makkah's event is a wonderful and clear answer to these inspectors. At that time, there was no power left against Islam in Arab. Although the winners were those who were expelled from Makkah; yet, there was general forgiveness. This was a unique event of human history, when the winners of the war entered the city of enemy and forgave about all of them.<sup>16</sup>
- If Islam had been preached by force, there would have been left no Persian in Iran, no Hindu and Buddhist in India, and no Christian in Spain; all would have been converted to Islam by the Muslim invaders.<sup>17</sup>
- Contrary to these orientalists, the tolerance of the Muslim rulers has been acknowledged by many historians of the world.<sup>18</sup>
- Science proved what the Qur'an said about the death of Pharaoh of Egypt. It is written in the Torah and the Gospel that Pharaoh had a physical death. His dead body was not drowned in the river. It is in the Quran that his dead body was drowned in the river. The Quran's claim proved to be true after approximately 1400 years from the microscopic search of Pharaoh's mummy and this event came 2,000 years ago from the revelation of Qur'an. Hence, the Jews and Christians' claim that Muhammad has learned from them, is absolutely wrong.<sup>19</sup>
- The Arab environment was by illiteracy, not more than 17 people were able just to read and write in the days of Muhammad (PBUH). The holy Qur'an is a revealed book which is unique and matchless; the human being has never been able to develop such a capacity to produce a book like this. In this regard, was it possible for such people to produce such a master piece work in that illiterate environment? In line with the same the holy Quran describes "You was not able even to read a Book or write before and if your case was on the contrary then your opponents will be doubtful on you"<sup>20</sup>
- The orientalists made fun of the Quranic statement that Haman was the minister of Pharaoh;<sup>21</sup> however, in 1922, the discovery of a memorandum in western Thessalonie valley royalty filled the newspapers with headlines: This graveyard is of Tank Haman. So this claim of Qur'an is also proved.
- There has never been a book in the world other than Quran that has been protected so much because of the fact which Allah has announced as, "As I have revealed the Holy Quran and I am only responsible for its protection"<sup>22</sup> The claims of the Qur'an has proved to be correct, and no one has yet proved it wrong whether these are historical, scientific, moral, political etc; they have been proved to be correct.<sup>23</sup>
- **Hadith and its Authentication**

It should be pertinent that when the term "Sunnah" is used in Islamic law and doctrine, it refers to the normative practice set by the prophet as a model, which, so long as he was alive, was his unique privilege. In the succeeding generations it stood for the usage of the early Muslims as representing the Sunnah of the prophet."<sup>24</sup>

Worth mentioning here that Hadith i.e. sayings of the Holy prophet are in real sense the explanation of the Holy Quran as Allah Almighty says, "The Objective of the revealing of the Holy Quran on you is nothing else but to elaborate the same which are revealing on you to the people."<sup>25</sup>

Keeping in view the deep linkage of the Quran and Hadith, Dr.Zafar Ishaq Ansari states, "It is a fact that the traditions from the prophet and the provisions in the Quran on the same subject are organically related, are vitally interlinked, and exhibit, broadly speaking, similar attitude and orientation."<sup>26</sup>

Lives of more than 500,000 people (Narrators of the Ahadith) had been saved by the Professionals for the sake of authenticity in the matter of traditions of the Holy Prophet<sup>27</sup>

### Conclusion:

Qur'an is immutable and valid for all the times and all the places. However, the charges and negative attitudes against the religion Islam, Qur'an, Hadith and Prophet of Islam (Muhammad. PBUH) are on the basis of the West's prejudice, jealousy, hatred and injustice towards Islam. These allegations are so baseless that many Western intellectuals like Basurth Smith have also rejected them. Moreover, they do not have enough knowledge about Islam, the Prophet of Islam, Qur'an and Hadith. Although some of them are moderate and they accept the greatness of the same with letter and spirit.

In the texts of Torah and Gospel, the extent of mismatch between historical information about incidents of the same nature is so high that Christians and Jews themselves are now suspicious of them, whereas the Quran is in exactly the same form and shape in which it had been revealed one and half century ago. There is no perfect authenticity in the religious book of any religion except Qur'an. Even a large number of non-Muslim writers have accepted its authenticity. This proved that Qur'an is not the word of a man but it is the revelation from the Almighty Allah.

The field of Hadith is so vast, tedious and authentic that no kind of knowledge can compete with it in the entire human history and this actually nothing else but the approved commentary of the text of the holy Quran.

#### Endnotes and References

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- <sup>4</sup>(Bryan S. Tuner; 'Weber and Islam' p.1
- <sup>5</sup>bid
- <sup>6</sup>Hardy; Muslims of British India p.175
- <sup>7</sup>Klein,F.A; The Religion of Islam p.21
- <sup>8</sup>ENCYCLOPAEDIA Britannica 15<sup>th</sup> Edition 2012 ultimate volume I pp 14
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