



IMAM SADIQ peace be upon him
ONLINE SEMINARY

بسم الله الرحمن الرحيم

Summary of Quranic Sciences

Lesson 28: Revelation of the Quran (وحي القرآن و نزوله)

The lexical meaning of وحي:

Secrecy and swiftness are elements that should be considered.

Raghib: Quick allusion; it is conveyed in words in a secret and allusive way.

Abu Ishaq: The essence of revelation in all languages is an indication in secrecy, and for this reason, inspiration is called revelation.

Meanings of وحي (revelation) in the Quran:

1. Finding the motivation within the inspired individual without the person realizing the source of the revelation.

«وَأَوْحَيْنَا إِلَىٰ أُمِّ مُوسَىٰ أَنْ أَرْضِعِيهِ»

We revealed to Moses' mother, [saying], 'Nurse him; (28:7)

«وَإِنَّ الشَّيَاطِينَ لَيُوحُونَ إِلَىٰ أَوْلِيَائِهِمْ لِيُجَادِلُوكُمْ»

Indeed the satans inspire their friends to dispute with you (6:121)

2. The instinctive inspiration, so its effect would be to act upon what the instinct dictates.

«وَأَوْحَىٰ رَبُّكَ إِلَى النَّحْلِ أَنْ اتَّخِذِي مِنَ الْجِبَالِ بُيُوتًا وَمِنَ الشَّجَرِ وَمِمَّا يَعْرِشُونَ»

And your Lord inspired the bee [saying]: 'Make your home in the mountains, and on the trees and the trellises that they erect. (16:68)

3. Creation

«فَقَضَاهُنَّ سَبْعَ سَمَاوَاتٍ فِي يَوْمَيْنِ وَأَوْحَىٰ فِي كُلِّ سَمَاءٍ أَمْرَهَا»



Then He set them up as seven heavens in two days, and revealed [to the angels] in each heaven its ordinance. (41:12)

4. Confiding a matter to someone;

«يُوحِي بَعْضُهُمْ إِلَى بَعْضٍ زُخْرَفَ الْقَوْلِ غُرُورًا»

who inspire each other with flashy words, deceptively. (6:112)

5. Nodding/signaling;

«فَخَرَجَ عَلَى قَوْمِهِ مِنَ الْمِحْرَابِ فَأَوْحَىٰ إِلَيْهِمْ أَنْ سَبِّحُوا بُكْرَةً وَعَشِيًّا»

So he emerged before his people from the Temple, and signaled to them that they should glorify [Allah] morning and evening. (19:11)

6. Inspiration with the awareness of the inspired person about it.

«وَمَا كَانَ لِنَبِيٍّ أَنْ يَكْلِمَهُ اللَّهُ إِلَّا وَحْيًا أَوْ مِنْ وَرَاءِ حِجَابٍ أَوْ يُرْسِلَ رَسُولًا فَيُوحِيَ بِإِذْنِهِ مَا يَشَاءُ» إِنَّهُ عَلِيمٌ حَكِيمٌ

It is not [possible] for any human that Allah should speak to him except through revelation or from behind a veil, or send a messenger who reveals by His permission whatever He wishes. Indeed, He is all-exalted, all-wise. (42:51)

«نَحْنُ نَقُصُّ عَلَيْكَ أَحْسَنَ الْقَصَصِ بِمَا أَوْحَيْنَا إِلَيْكَ هَٰذَا الْقُرْآنَ»

We will recount to you the best of narratives in what We have revealed to you of this Quran. (12:3)

7. The absolute conveyance from Allah Almighty to the prophets and the likes of them, encompassing revelation in all its diverse forms:

«وَمَا أَرْسَلْنَا مِنْ قَبْلِكَ إِلَّا رِجَالًا نُوحِي إِلَيْهِمْ»

We did not send [any apostles] before you except as men to whom We revealed. (16:43)