



IMAM SADIQ peace be upon him
ONLINE SEMINARY

بسم الله الرحمن الرحيم

Summary of Quranic Sciences

Lesson 40: Makki and Madani Verses: Orientalists' Objections

Point:

Orientalists assert that the Quran was influenced by its surrounding environment, resulting in distinct differences between the Makki and Madani verses.

Response:

Contrary to this claim, the coherence of the Quran demonstrates its authority over events rather than being influenced by them.

1. **Consistency and Authorship:** The Quran exhibits no technical inconsistencies, suggesting a single authorship. Scholars acknowledge this harmony and argue that an illiterate individual could not have authored such a text.

2. **Absence of Contradictions:** If the Quran were influenced by its environment, contradictions would be present.

3. **Lack of Gradual Development:** The Quran does not show signs of gradual development or improvement, as would be expected if it were influenced by human circumstances.

4. **Emotional Consistency:** The Quran is free from human emotions and moods, indicating a divine source rather than a human one.

The Quran engaged with events and guided them. As stated in Quran 47:24, "Do they not contemplate the Quran, or are there locks on the hearts?"



Question:

Why is there perceived violence in the Madani verses? Were these verses not influenced by the environment?

Answer:

The Quran contains no insults or explicit violence; instead, it offers warnings, which are also present in the Madani verses:

- Quran 2:278-279 warns against usury and mentions a metaphorical war from Allah and His apostle for non-compliance.
- Quran 2:161 speaks of the curse on those who die faithless.

Question:

Do the shorter Makki verses and longer Madani ones indicate environmental influence, with the former addressing an illiterate population and the latter a literate one?

Answer:

1. There are instances of long Makki verses and short Madani verses.
2. Makki verses were short due to the severe persecution of Muslims, limiting their ability to memorize lengthy verses and perform detailed rituals.
3. The Quran's engagement with events and their context demonstrates its coherence, not environmental influence.
4. The brevity of some verses illustrates the Quran's miraculous ability to convey essential beliefs succinctly.



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5. The immediate revelation of Surah al-Baqara upon the Prophet's arrival in Medina suggests that the Quran's content was not influenced by the Medinan environment.