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### DIALOGUE AS LIBERATION: ASGHAR ALI ENGINEER'S DIALOGICAL PROCESS FOR RELIGIO-CULTURAL HARMONY AND PEACE

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## **THE HOLY QUR'ĀN IS THE WORD OF ALMIGHTY ALLĀH: CRITICAL ANALYSIS OF ORIENTALIST JOHN BURTON'S VIEWS**

Muhammad Khubaib, Sajid U Rahman

### **ABSTRACT:**

The Orientalists, who are basically Jews and Christians, deny the fact that the Holy Qur'ān is the Word of Almighty Allāh which He has revealed to the Prophet Muhammad. They create doubts about the Qur'ān. They claim that the Qur'ān was fabricated by the Prophet himself with the assistance of previous scriptures. The sources of Orientalists' research regarding the Qur'ān are d'aīf and self-generated narrations, studying the Qur'ān with the intention of perversion and crookedness and indirect Study of the Qur'ān and the Islāmic literature. John Burton is also an Orientalist. He has written a book regarding the Holy Qur'ān named "The Collection of the Qur'ān". He has strange theories about the Qur'ān. In this article it has been proved that the Qur'ān is the Word of Almighty Allāh, and the misconceptions of John Burton regarding the Holy Qur'ān have been clarified with internal arguments like evidences in the Qur'ān that it is the Word of Almighty Allāh, the truthfulness of the Qur'ān on the base of prophecies as the prophecy about Roman conquest, prediction of the Qur'ān about the conquest of Makah, Prediction of the Qur'ān that the Jews will never wish for death, prophecy of Almighty Allāh about the protection of the Holy Qur'ān; and external arguments that the Qur'ān is the Word of Almighty Allāh like rational arguments that the Qur'ān is the Word of Allāh and the sayings of the Orientalists who themselves deny their opinion, have also been quoted.

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**KEYWORDS:** World Religions, Collection of the Qur’ān, Words of Almighty Allāh, Orientalist, John Burton.

**Introduction:**

There are many arguments in the Qur’ān that it has been revealed by Almighty Allāh. The external evidences also prove the truthfulness of the Holy Qur’ān. John Burton and other orientalist do not accept this fact and try to make the Holy Qur’ān doubtful and human generated book. In this article, it has been proved in the light of textual and rational arguments that the Holy Qur’ān is the true Word of Almighty Allāh.

**Introduction of John Burton:**

John Burton is an orientalist. He was born in 1929. He served as professor of Arabic at The University of Edinburgh, Scotland.<sup>1</sup>He wrote three books named “ The Collection of the Qur’ān” published by Cambridge University Press in 1977 AD, “ The Sources of Islāmic Law” and “ An Introduction to Hadīth” published by The University of Edinburgh, Scotland in 1990 and 1995 AD accordingly.

**John Burton’s Views about the Topic:**

While reading “The Collection of the Qur’ān”, we come to know that John Burton does not have any fix and figurative opinion about the Qur’ān. He just beats around the bushes. He took the theories of Goldziher and Schacht about the validity and accuracy of Hadīth and applied these narrations to the history of The Collection of the Qur’ān. Goldziher and Schacht proclaimed that all Hadīth literature is bogus and fake. It was

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**References:**

<sup>1</sup>Muhammad Zubair, Hafiz, Islam awr Mustashrequeen (Lahore: Maktaba RahmatulLilālamīn, 2014), p: 60

fabricated by the Muslim scholars of the 2nd and 3rd century of the hijrah after the death of the Holy Prophet. John Burton also writes in the introduction of his book “The Collection of the Qur’ān” that his work “seeks to re-open the question of the collection of the Qur’ān as seen by Muslims. Their accounts will be re-examined in the light of studies by Goldziher and Schacht”.<sup>2</sup>

John Burton believes that it was the Prophet Muhammad (Peace Be upon Him) who himself fabricated the Qur’ān. He explains the concept of the Saba’ Ahruf by saying that Muhammad could not recall the exact words which he had delivered to his companions. That is how various companions received different versions, though all of them were imparted through the Prophet Muhammad. Burton writes:

“Amid his manifold state responsibilities Muhammad could not always himself remember the precise wording in which he had given out certain revelations. This is how different companions received their slightly differing versions, although all were received direct from the Prophet himself. Certain verses Muhammad forgot outright, others he summarily altered. With his own hand he had cancelled yet other verses”.<sup>3</sup>

Then he brings out another strange theory about the concept of naskh. He thinks that naskh was invented by later Muslim scholars after the death of the Holy Prophet. They forged this concept to legalize and advocate their certain Usūls of fiqh. When they wanted to invent some

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<sup>2</sup>John Burton, The Collection of the Qur’ān, (UK, Cambridge University Press, 1977), P: 5

<sup>3</sup> Ibid, P: 234

rule, they forged verses in its support to prove it justified and called those verses “an-nasikh”. When they wanted to remove some rule, they abolished verses about that rule and called it “al-mansookh”.<sup>4</sup>

According to Burton these Muslim Scholars committed three mistakes to justify their fiqh positions; firstly, they invented the concept of naskh. Secondly, they planned to give the credit of compiling the Qur’ān to the companions Abu Bakr, Umer and Uthmān instead of the Prophet because naskh could occur at any time in his life. So Burton says: “This motive induced the Muslims to exclude their Prophet from the history of The Collection of their Qur’ān text. It was a compelling motive. It was their only motive.” Thirdly, they forged narrations to support their concept of naskh. At the end, he writes with his own decision:

“What we have today in our hands is the mus’haf of Muhammad.”<sup>5</sup>

#### **Analysis of John Burton’s Views:**

Would that Burton be wise enough to understand that if the Muslim scholars wanted to increase or decrease anything in Islām, they could simply fabricate narrations in its favor instead of forging Qur’ānic verses, than planning to refer the compilation to the companions and after all that fabricating the narrations. Furthermore, such cases of naskh are very few, even Burton could quote just two cases of such kind the verse of suckling and the verse of stoning. According to Shah Waliullah, there are only five mansookh verses in the Holy Qur’ān.<sup>6</sup>

We have replied to Burton’s objections on the Holy Qur’ān separately in

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<sup>4</sup> Ibid, P: 235

<sup>5</sup> Ibid, P:239,240

<sup>6</sup>Shah Waliullāh, Dehlvi, Al-Muhaddith, Al-Fouz-ul-Kabir ( Lahore: Maktaba Qur’āniyat), P: 73

other articles named: 1. “There is No Conflict between the Qur’ān and the Hadith, Analysis of John Burton’s Objections on the Qur’ān due to Disagreements among the Four Mad’āhib of Islām”, 2. “Critical Study of John Burton’s Objections on the Qur’an Regarding Its Revelation in Seven Letters (Saba’ Ahruf)”, 3. “Justification of Naskh in the Holy Qur’ān. Critical Study of John Burton’s Misconceptions about the Abrogation” and 4. “The Qur’ān is being guarded by the Lord of the Worlds. Critical Analyses of John Burton’s Theories on the Process of the Compilation of the Qur’ān”. In this article, we shall prove truthfulness of the Holy Qur’ān in the light of internal and external arguments.

Before proving that the Holy Qur’ān is the Word of Almighty Allāh, we should explain the opinion of the Polytheists of Makah about the Holy Qur’ān. So that it may become clear that these are not new objections raised by Burton and other orientalist. Rather they are repeating the objections which have already been raised by the Polytheists of Makah and Almighty Allāh has replied to their objections and has challenged them to bring even a single Sūrah like the Holy Qur’ān but they and their offspring orientalist could not bring even a Sūrah like the Holy Qur’ān till today nor can they bring it forever.

**Similarity between Burton’s Views and the Views of the Polytheists of Makah:**

There is sameness between the orientalist’s views and the views of the Polytheists of Makah. Burton is in dilemma throughout his book “The Collection of the Qur’ān” that what should he say about the Qur’ān and what kind of objections can he make about the Qur’ān to create doubts about the Qur’ān. Sometimes he objects on the Holy Qur’ān because of

naskh (abrogation).<sup>7</sup>He is not new to object on the Qur’ān regarding naskh. The Polytheists of Makah have already objected on the Qur’ān because of naskh. The orientalist have just copied them. Allāh mentions about them in the Holy Qur’ān:

“And whenever we change one ayah (verse) in place of another verse-while Allāh knows the best that what he should send down, they (the disbelievers and Polytheists) say: “You (O Prophet Muhammad) are just an inventor (who has himself fabricated the Qur’ān).” The reality is that most of them do not know (the truth). Tell them (O Muhammad) that the Holy Spirit (Gabriel) has brought it (the Holy Qur’ān) down with truth from your Lord to bring firmness to the people who have believed and as a guidance (to the right path) and glad tidings to Muslims.”<sup>8</sup>

John Burton and other orientalist have also claimed that Prophet Muhammad himself fabricated the Qur’ān. The Qur’ān is not the Word of Almighty Allāh rather it has been invented by Prophet Muhammad himself.<sup>9</sup>The disbelievers of that time also claimed so and they tried to make the Qur’ān doubtful in the eyes of the people by declaring the Qur’ān to be the word of Prophet Muhammad (P.B.U.H). Allāh Almighty has mentioned their sayings in the Qur’ān:

“Those who have disbelieved say: “This (Qur’ān) is nothing but a falsehood which he (Prophet Muhammad P.B.U.H) ) has himself fabricated and other people have

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<sup>7</sup>John Burton, The Collection of the Qur’ān, P: 235

<sup>8</sup>Sūrah An-Nahl 16: 101,102

<sup>9</sup>John Burton, The Collection of the Qur’ān, P:239,240

assisted him in (inventing) it.” Infect they (disbelievers) have produced an injustice and (referred to him) a lie. And they claim: “(These are the) tales of the former peoples which he (Prophet Muhammad P.B.U.H) has got written down for himself and these fables are dictated to him in the morning and afternoon.”<sup>10</sup>

Then Allāh said replying to them:

“Tell them (O Muhammad) He has revealed it Who knows the secret within the heavens and within the earth. Verily, He is Ever Forgiving and Most Merciful.”<sup>11</sup>

Almighty Allāh also mentions their situation of dilemma in the following way:

“But they (sometimes) say: “These (Qur’ānic verses) are mixed up confused dreams, (and sometimes they say:) rather he has fabricated it, (and sometimes say:) rather he is just a poet. He should bring us some miracles as the ancient prophets were sent (with them).”<sup>12</sup>

Almighty Allāh has himself replied to their objections and clarified this misconception about the Qur’ān and the Holy Prophet (P.B.U.H) in the following way:

“Indeed, this (Qur’ān) is the word (which is conveyed by) the most noble messenger (Gabriel) who is the possessor of power and has an honorable place with the Owner of the throne (Almighty Allāh). He (Gabriel) is obeyed there (by

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<sup>10</sup>Sūrah Al-Furqān 25: 4,5

<sup>11</sup>Sūrah Al- Furqān 25:6

<sup>12</sup>Sūrah Al-Anbiyā 21: 5

the angels in the heavens) and is held trustworthy. And (O People) your companion (Prophet Muhammad) is not (at all) madman and he certainly saw him (Gabriel) in the horizon manifest. And he (Prophet Muhammad P.B.U.H) does not withhold the knowledge of that which is unseen and this (Qur'ān) is not the word of accursed Shaytan (Satan). Where are you then, going? This (Qur'ān) is not less than a reminder to all the worlds.”<sup>13</sup>

Almighty Allāh has further said defending the Qur'ān and the Holy Prophet (P.B.U.H):

“Verily, this (Qur'ān) is the speech of an honorable apostle and this is not the speech of a poet, but little is that which you believe, nor is it the speech of any sooth sayer, but little is that which you remember. (Rather) it is the revelation which has been sent down by the Lord of all the worlds. And (listen carefully) if he (the Prophet Muhammad P.B.U.H) had fabricated concerning Us some sayings, We certainly would have seized him by al-Yamin (the right hand). Then We would surely have cut off his life vein. And there is none of you who could prevent it from him and verily, this (Qur'ān) is indeed a reminder for people who fear Allāh. And most certainly We know that some people among you are its deniers. And certainly this (denied and rejection) will be (on the Day of Judgment) a source of regret for the disbelievers. And surely this

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<sup>13</sup>Sūrah Al-Takwīr 81: 19-27

(Qur’ān) is a truth with absolute certainty (beyond any doubt).”<sup>14</sup>

Burton claims that the Qur’ān is not the Word of Almighty Allāh, rather it has been written by the Prophet Muhammad (P.B.U.H) himself as he writes in his book “The Collection of the Qur’ān” as the last sentence of his book:

“What we have today in our hands is the mus’haf of Muhammad.”<sup>15</sup>

The Polytheists of Makah also had the same opinion. Almighty Allāh rejected all wrong views about the Holy Prophet (P.B.U.H) and the Qur’ān. He also challenged them that if they say that the Qur’ān is not the Word of Almighty Allāh and it has been manufactured by the Prophet himself then he is also a human being like them and the Holy Qur’ān is also in Arabic language which is not only their mother language but they also claim to have the excellent speaking power, good command and grip on Arabic language. They claim to be so eloquent and fluent in Arabic that they hold great poetry competitions. So if they are true in their sayings that the Prophet Muhammad has himself fabricated this Qur’ān then they should bring a book like the Holy Qur’ān. So Allāh said:

“So (O Prophet Muhammad P.B.U.H) remind (them) because by your Lord’s favor, you are neither a kahin (sooth sayer) nor an insane man or do they (the Polytheists) say: “He (Prophet Muhammad) is a poet, we are waiting for him a turn of misfortune?” Say (to them): “Keep on

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<sup>14</sup>Sūrah AL-Hāqqa 69: 40-51

<sup>15</sup>John Burton, The Collection of the Qur’ān, P 239,

waiting, because indeed I am also among the waiters with you.” Or do their understandings command them to (say) such (nonsense things) or is it due to that they are a transgressing people? Or do they say (about the Holy Qur’ān): “He (Prophet Muhammad) has himself forged it?” Infect, they themselves do not believe (in it). So (if they are true in saying this) then let them (fabricate and) produce a recitation like this (Qur’ān) if they are really truthful.”<sup>16</sup>

When they could not bring a complete book like the Holy Qur’ān, then Almighty Allāh reduced his challenge and offered them to associate with them whomever they could make partner with them in this task. So Allāh said:

“Do they claim: “He (the Prophet) has himself fabricated this book?” Say (to them): “Then you should bring ten fabricated Sūrahs like it and call (for assistance) whomever you can besides Almighty Allāh, if you are speaking the truth.” If they respond not to you then know (and feel assured) that this (Qur’ān) has been revealed with the (best) knowledge of Almighty Allāh and (also feel assured) that there is no god except Allāh. Will you then, (after knowing this fact) be Muslims (surrender to this truth)?”<sup>17</sup>

When they failed to bring even ten Sūrahs then Almighty Allāh further reduced His challenge and made it very easy for them so Allāh said:

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<sup>16</sup>Sūrah At-Tūr 52: 29-34

<sup>17</sup>SūrahHūd 11 : 13,14

“And this Qur’ān is no such thing as could be fabricated by anyone except Allāh, rather it is the confirmation of that (book) which was (revealed) before it and it is clear explanation of the scripture in which there is no doubt. (It has been revealed) from the Lord of all the worlds. Do they claim (about the Prophet Muhammad): “He has himself forged it?” Tell them (O Muhammad ) If you are true in your claim then bring even one Sūrah like it and call upon whomever you can (for assistance) besides Allāh. Infact, they have arbitrarily denied that which is beyond the limits of their comprehensive knowledge and whose complete interpretations have not yet been revealed to them. Like this had denied their predecessors. Then observe how terrible the end of the wrongdoers was.”<sup>18</sup>

Almighty Allāh again said repeating the challenge:

“And if you all (Polytheists of Makah, Jews, Christians and orientalist of all time) have any doubt concerning that which We have revealed (the Holy Qur’ān) unto Our servant (Prophet Muhammad P.B.U.H), then bring a Sūrah comparable to it and call upon all your associates (helpers and supporters) to assist you besides Allāh if you are true (in your doubt).”<sup>19</sup>

Then Allāh clarified to them that this Qur’ān is not the word of any human being, rather it is the Word of Almighty Allāh therefore, and you will

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<sup>18</sup>Sūrah Yūnus 10 :37-39

<sup>19</sup>Sūrah Al- Baqara 2:23

never be able to bring even one Sūrah comparable to the shortest Sūrah of the Qur’ān. The shortest Sūrah of the Qur’ān is Sūrah-Al-Kawther which consists of three shortest verses and almost ten words. They all can never bring even one Sūrah as shortest as the Sūrah Al-Kawther. So Allāh said:

“But if you cannot (bring one Sūrah like it) and (listen carefully that) you will never be able to bring it. So fear the fire (of hell) whose fuel is people and stones, and it is prepared for the disbelieving people.”<sup>20</sup>

And at the end, Almighty Allāh warned in a judgmental way:

“Tell them (O Prophet Muhammad P.B.U.H) Certainly, If all human beings and all the jinn gathered to produce the equivalent of this Holy Qur’ān, they would not be able to bring the like of it, though they all were to assist each other.”<sup>21</sup>

Almost fifteen hundred years have passed no one could reply to this challenge. If Burton and his followers are true in their claim that the Qur’ān is not the Word of Almighty Allāh, rather it has been invented by the Prophet Muhammad (P.B.U.H) himself then the challenge is always open for them. So besides beating around the bushes, they should come to the point and reply to this open challenge or give up their ego and turn to Almighty Allāh and fear the fire of hell which has been prepared for disbelievers.

### **Arguments that the Qur’ān is the Word of Almighty Allāh**

All the Muslims believe that the Holy Qur’ān is the Word of Almighty

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<sup>20</sup>Sūrah Al- Baqara 2: 24

<sup>21</sup>Sūrah Al-Isrā 17: 88

Allāh, revealed through Gabriel to the last and final Messenger of Allāh Hazrat Muhammad (P.B.U.H). There are many evidences that the Qur’ān is the Word of Almighty Allāh. We have divided these evidences into two kinds Internal and External Arguments that the Qur’ān is the Word of Almighty Allāh.

### **1. Internal Arguments that the Qur’ān is the Word of Almighty Allāh.**

#### **1.1: Evidences in the Qur’ān that it is the Word of Almighty Allāh:**

There are many evidences in the Qur’ān that it is the Word of Almighty Allāh, so Allāh says in Sūrah Ash-Shu’arā:

“And verily this Qur’ān is the revelation from the Lord of all the worlds. The trustworthy spirit (Gabriel) has carried this (Qur’ān) down to your heart (O Prophet Muhammad), so that you may become one of those who warn. (This Qur’ān has been revealed) in a clear Arabic speech.”<sup>22</sup>

These verses of the Holy Qur’ān clearly indicate that the Qur’ān has been revealed from Almighty Allāh who is the Lord of the whole universe. The bearer of this precious message was such angel who is al-Amin; as much trustworthy that no one can even imagine about him to do any corruption in the message. The message was transferred to the heart of the Holy Prophet which is the safest place to preserve anything. The message is not in any ambiguous, strange, unknown or unclear language, rather it is in clear, familiar and eloquent Arabic language which was, is and will be spoken with fluency and clarity.

There are many other verses which prove that the Holy Qur’ān is

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<sup>22</sup>Sūrah Ash-Shu’arā 26: 192-195

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the Word of Almighty Allāh. They are mentioned below:

Allāh says in Sūrah Al-An'ām:

“Say (O Muhammad) should I seek a judge other than Almighty Allāh while he it is who has sent down this Book (Holy Qur'ān) toward you with detailed explanation. And those to whom We have given the scripture (before you) are well aware of that this (Qur'ān) is revealed by your Lord really in truth. So you never become among those people who doubt (about it).”<sup>23</sup>

In this verse, Almighty Allāh said that those people who were given the previous divine scriptures also knew that the Holy Qur'ān had been revealed from Almighty Allāh as Warqa bin Noufal, Abdullah bin Salām, Salman Farsi and Ka'b al-Ahbār and many other witnessed that the Holy Prophet Muhammad (P.B.U.H) and the Holy Qur'ān have been mentioned in the Old Testament and New Testament. The Jews and the Christians who did not believe in Prophet Muhammad (P.B.U.H) also knew this fact but they concealed it because of ego and stubbornness. Almighty Allāh says in Sūrah al-Waqia:

“Indeed this is a Qur'ān which is honorable; it is in a book which is well protected which no one touches except the pure ones. (This Qur'ān is) a revelation (sent down) from the Lord of all the worlds, then are you indifferent to this Hadīth (statement) and (rather than thanking to the provider of this Qur'ān) you make your provision that you simply

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<sup>23</sup>Sūrah Al-An'ām 6:114

deny it.”<sup>24</sup>

In Sūrah al-Furqan, Almighty Allāh says:

“And they (disbelievers) say: “(These Qur’ānic verses are the) tales of the former peoples, he (Prophet Muhammad P.B.U.H) has got these stories written down and they are recited to him in the morning and afternoon.” Tell them (O Prophet Muhammad P.B.U.H): “This (Qur’ān) has been revealed by Him, Who knows well (every) secret of the heavens and the earth. He is Most Forgiving and Most Merciful.”<sup>25</sup>

The Polytheists of Makah made the same objection which the orientalist are making today. But it was only and just their objection. If they were true in their objection they could catch those people who used to write for the Prophet Muhammad (P.B.U.H) and dictated him and could bring them in front of the people to eliminate the Prophet-hood of Hazrat Muhammad forever. But they did not do so because they were aware of that they were just blaming and telling a lie. Almighty Allāh clarifies to them that He Himself has revealed the Holy Qur’ān and nothing is hidden to Him within the heavens and the earth and instead of blaming on the Holy Prophet (P.B.U.H) and attributing a lie to him you should turn to Allāh because He is All Forgiving and Most Merciful.

Almighty Allāh says in Sūrah Al-Isrā’:

“And We have revealed this (Qur’ān) with truth and with the truth it has come down. And We have sent you (O

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<sup>24</sup>Sūrah Al-Waqia 56:77-82

<sup>25</sup>Sūrah Al-Furqān 25: 5.6

Prophet Muhammad P.B.U.H) as nothing except a bearer of good news and a warner. And We have revealed the Holy Qur’ān (gradually) in parts in order that you may recite it to the mankind slowly over a prolonged period and We have revealed it progressively in stages.”<sup>26</sup>

Almighty Allāh further says in Sūrah Al-Ankabūt:

“And they ask: “Why have miracles from his Lord not been sent down to him?” Tell them: “The miracles are only in the hand of Allāh, and I am simply a manifest warner.” Is this not sufficient for them (the disbelievers) that We have revealed to you (O Prophet Muhammad P.B.U.H) the Book (the Holy Qur’ān) which is read in front of them? Verily, in it is mercy and reminder for believing people.”<sup>27</sup>

In these verses Almighty Allāh declares the Holy Qur’ān the greatest miracle which has been revealed from Allāh. The complete Holy Qur’ān is a miracle from Almighty Allāh because its language, words, eloquence and rules are perfect, alive and everlasting. Its memorizers are in millions. There is no difference of even a letter in any mus’haf of the Holy Qur’ān. All the languages in which other Divine Books were revealed have become dead and the followers of those books themselves admit that they have been changed but the language of the Holy Qur’ān is alive forever and not been changed.

Almighty Allāh says in Sūrah Al- Hijr:

“Verily We have revealed the Zikr (the Holy Qur’ān and

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<sup>26</sup>Sūrah Al-Isrā 17: 105,106

<sup>27</sup>Sūrah Al-Ankabūt 29: 50,51

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the Hadīth) and verily, We shall protect it (from every corruption).”<sup>28</sup>

Almighty Allāh says in Sūrah Yūsuf:

“Alif, Lam, Ra. These verses are of the Book which is most clear. Indeed, We have revealed it as an Arabic Qur’ān so that you (people) may understand (it fully). We narrate to you (O Prophet Muhammad) the best of the stories by revealing this Holy Qur’ān to you. Although before this revelation, you were unaware (of them).”<sup>29</sup>

The Polytheists of Makah were well aware of this reality that before the revelation of the Holy Qur’ān Prophet Muhammad (P.B.U.H) knew nothing about the stories of the past prophets, because the Holy Prophet (P.B.U.H) had spent among them almost forty years of his age as the Holy Qur’ān says:

“And whenever our clear verses are recited to them, those who do not hope to meet Us, demand: “Bring us another Qur’ān besides this one or make changes in it.” Tell them (O Prophet Muhammad): “I cannot make any change in it on my own behalf. I just follow that revelation which is sent down to me (from Allāh). Indeed, I fear the punishment of the Tremendous Day if I were not to follow my Lord.” Say to them (O Prophet Muhammad P.B.U.H): “If Almighty Allāh had willed I would never have recited it (the Holy Qur’ān) to you, nor would He (Almighty Allāh)

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<sup>28</sup>Sūrah Al-Hijr 15: 9

<sup>29</sup>Sūrah Yūsuf 12: 1-3

have informed you about it. Indeed I have spent among you (a long) lifetime before (reciting to you) this (Qur’ān.) Do you, then, not use your sense?”<sup>30</sup>

The Polytheists of Makah were well aware of the past life of the Holy Prophet (P.B.U.H). They knew that he never had told a lie even in worldly matters. They named him “Sadiq and Amin” (the ever true and ever trustworthy person). If a person never told a lie during his forty years of age and never betrayed the trust, how can anyone even imagine that he could tell a lie on Allāh or could make any changes in the Message of Allāh? Almighty Allāh says in Sūrah Al-Insān:

“Indeed, We Ourselves have sent down the Holy Qur’ān to you (O Prophet Muhammad P.B.U.H) gradually in steps. So be patient (on their blames and lies) for the order of your Lord and follow neither a sinner among them nor a disbeliever.”<sup>31</sup>

Almighty Allāh further says in Sūrah Al-Ahqāf:

“This Book (the Holy Qur’ān) has been revealed from Almighty Allāh, the Most Majestic, the All-wise.”<sup>32</sup>

To clarify that the Holy Qur’ān is the Word of Almighty Allāh and to declare the sayings of those people who claim that the Qur’ān is the word of Prophet Muhammad (P.B.U.H) himself to be a lie, Almighty Allāh says in Sūrah As-Sajdah:

“This Book (the Holy Qur’ān) is a revelation sent down by the Lord of the whole universe, there is no doubt in it. Or

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<sup>30</sup>Sūrah Yūnus 10:15,16

<sup>31</sup>Sūrah Al-Insān 76: 23,24

<sup>32</sup>Sūrah Al-Ahqāf 46:2

do they claim that he (Prophet Muhammad) has himself fabricated it? No, but it is the Truth (revealed) by your Lord, so that you (O Prophet Muhammad) may warn those people to whom no warner has arrived before you, so that they may seek guidance to the right direction.”<sup>33</sup>

Telling that the purpose of revelation of the Holy Qur’ān is to bring out the people from the darkness of polytheism, disbelief, cruelty and injustice etc., And to guide them to the light of recognizing their Lord, the Creator, and identifying the rights of others and leading an ideal life, Almighty Allāh says in Sūrah Ibrahim:

“Alif, Lam, Ra. (This Qur’ān is) a book that We have sent down to you (O Prophet Muhammad) so that you may bring out mankind from darkness (and lead them) into the light by the permission of their Lord (and direct them) to the way of the Exalted in might, the innately Praiseworthy.”<sup>34</sup>

To reply to those people in wonder that how can Almighty Allāh choose a person from among themselves as His prophet and those who blamed the Holy Prophet to be a magician, Almighty Allāh says in Sūrah Yonus:

“Alif, Lam, Ra. These are the verses of the Book (the Holy Qur’ān) which is overflowing with wisdom. Does it seem amazing to the mankind that We have revealed (Our Book) to a person from among themselves. (Saying to him:) “Warn the mankind and give glad news to those people who believe that they will surely enjoy an exalted status

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<sup>33</sup>Sūrah Al-Sajdah 32 :2,3

<sup>34</sup>Sūrah Ibrahim 14:1

(and true honor with their Lord.)” (Is this so amazing that) the disbelievers say: “This person is indeed an obvious magician.”<sup>35</sup>

These and many other verses in the Holy Qur’ān prove that the Qur’ān is not the word of the Prophet Muhammad rather it is the Word of Almighty Allāh. Allāh has revealed this Qur’ān to the Holy Prophet for the guidance of mankind.

### **1.2: The Truthfulness of the Qur’ān on the Base of Prophecies:**

Many incidents were predicated by the Holy Qur’ān to happen in the coming days and they happened exactly as they were predicted by the Qur’ān, and they proved the truthfulness of the Qur’ān, some of them are being mentioned below:

#### **1.2.1: Prophecy about Roman Conquest:**

When the Holy Prophet announced his prophet-hood, at that time, two great powers, Iran and Rome were fighting against each other. The Persian forces were continuously dominating the Romans. The Persians were fire worshippers and the Romans were the people of the Book (Christians). Therefore, the Polytheists of Makah considered the Persians like themselves and the Romans like the Muslims. So they were happy to consider the conquest of Persians as their own and the defeat of the Romans as the defeat of the Muslims. The Muslims were not happy with this situation. Rather, they wished that the Romans should dominate the Persians. So Almighty Allāh revealed the initial verses of Sūrah Rome:

“Alif, Lam, Mim. The Romans have been overcome in the nearest (neighboring) land, but after their defeat, they will

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<sup>35</sup>Sūrah Yūnus 10: 1,2

soon be victorious within *bid'i* (three to nine) years. All the commands belong to Almighty Allāh before and after. And the believers will be happy on that day with the help (and victory granted to them) by Almighty Allāh. He grants victory to whom He wishes, and He is the Most Mighty, the All-Merciful. This is promise of Allāh and Almighty Allāh does not fail His promise but most of the people know not.”<sup>36</sup>

This Prediction was unbelievable for those who were well aware of the war scenarios between the Romans and the Persians. Therefore, a prominent Arab leader, Ubayy bin Khalf bet with Hazrat Abu Bakr: “If the Romans dominate the Persians within three years, I shall give you ten camels but if it is contrary then you will give me ten camels.” At that time, such kind of bet was not prohibited. Therefore, Hazrat Abu Bakr accepted his bet and informed the Holy Prophet (P.B.U.H) about this matter. The Holy Prophet (P.B.U.H) said: The Qur’ān has mentioned “*bid'isineen*”. And the word of “*bid'i*” in Arabic language is spoken for the period of three to nine years. So you should increase the number of camels and also the number of years till nine years in your bet with Ubayy bin Khalf. So Hazrat Abu Bakr revised the bet with Ubayy bin khalf fixing the period within nine years and the number of camels to hundred camels.

Though there was no chance of the fulfillment of this prediction rather the Persian forces continued advancing till they reached the capital of Rome “Qustuntunya”. But exactly, after seven years of this prediction, Caesar-e-Rome advanced from Qustuntunya and his forces attacked the

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<sup>36</sup>SūrahAr-Room 30:1-6

Persians and defeated them and the Romans became the dominators. On the other hand, at the same time, only three hundred and thirteen Muslims defeated the Polytheists of Makah consisting of one thousand armed forces in the battle of Badr. When the Muslims received the news of Roman conquest they enjoyed double happiness as Almighty Allāh said:

“On that day the believers shall enjoy happiness with the help of Allāh.”<sup>37</sup>

So the prediction of Holy Qur’ān and promise of Almighty Allāh proved true.<sup>38</sup>

### **1.2.2: Prediction of the Qur’ān about the Conquest of Makah:**

When the Holy Prophet (P.B.U.H) fed up with the oppression of the Polytheists of Makah on himself and the Muslims, he decided to migrate from Makah to Medina. When he was on his way to Medina, after spending three days in the cave of Thowr, he reached Juhfa and saw the road leading to Makah, his heart overflowed with grief of leaving his motherland. He did not want to leave it but he was forced to do so. On that occasion Almighty Allāh revealed the following verse and promised that He will return him back to Makah, so Allāh said:

“(O Prophet Muhammad P.B.U.H) indeed He Who has imposed on you the Holy Qur’ān, will certainly bring you back (victoriously) to the place of your birth. Tell them: “My Lord is Well Aware of the person who brings true guidance and the person who is in clear error.”<sup>39</sup>

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<sup>37</sup>SūrahAr-Room 30: 4,5

<sup>38</sup>Tirmizi, Muhammad bin Isa, Jami’at-Tirmizi (Ar-Riad: Darussalam, 1999), Chapters on tafsir, Tafsir of SūrahAr-Room, Hadith: 3191-3193

<sup>39</sup>Sūrah AL-Qasas 28: 85

Though when this verse was revealed there was no chance of coming back to Makah yet after few years the Holy Prophet (P.B.U.H) entered Makah as a great victorious and this prophecy also proved true.

### **1.2.3: Prediction of the Qur’ān that the Jews will never wish for Death:**

In the prophet-hood era, the Jews used to claim that the success of the Day of Judgment would only be for the Jews and only the Jews would enter the Paradise. Almighty Allāh replied to them:

“(O Prophet Muhammad P.B.U.H) say (to them): “If you are true in you claim that the home of hereafter with Almighty Allāh is only for you and it is not for the rest of the people then you should wish for death, if you are true in your claim.”<sup>40</sup>

Then Almighty Allāh predicted that they would never do so. So He said:

“But they (the Jews) will never wish for death because (they know well the result) of what their hands have put forward (their deeds). And Almighty Allāh is Well Aware of the wrongdoers.”<sup>41</sup>

This challenge and prophecy was being predicted in that atmosphere of Medina when the Jews were living in Medina in great number. They continuously used to argue with Muslims. If this challenge had not been predicted by Almighty Allāh, they could wish for death by announcing it in the public because they never missed any chance of denying the Holy Prophet (P.B.U.H). They could make it their final decision for their daily

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<sup>40</sup>Sūrah Al-Baqara 2: 94

<sup>41</sup>Sūrah Al-Baqara 2: 95

debates to announce their wish for death and prove this prediction to be wrong. But after the revelation of these verses, the Jews were as the snake had sniffed them, no one could come forward to reply to this challenge because they admitted by their hearts the truthfulness of every word of the Qur'ān but they were denying it rebelliously.

#### **1.2.4: Prophecy of Almighty Allāh about the Protection of the Holy Qur'ān:**

Almighty Allāh has not given any prediction about the protection of the books revealed on the prophets before the Prophet Muhammad (P.B.U.H). Therefore, they could not remain in their original shape. Even the people of those books admit the alteration in those books. No one among the Jews and Christians can claim that their books have not been changed. On the other hand, Almighty Allāh has himself taken the responsibility of protecting the Holy Qur'ān and has predicted that no change will occur in the Holy Qur'ān. So Allāh said:

“Indeed We have revealed the Qur'ān and indeed We Ourselves shall guard it.”<sup>42</sup>

And He said on another place in the Holy Qur'ān:

“Falsehood shall not approach it (the Holy Qur'ān) from front of it nor from behind it. It is a revelation (sent down) from the (Lord Who is) All-Wise and Worthy of all praise.”<sup>43</sup>

This promise also proved true as almost fifteen hundred years have passed but not even a letter of the Holy Qur'ān has been skipped nor it has been

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<sup>42</sup>Sūrah Al-Hijr 15:9

<sup>43</sup>SūrahFussilat 41:42

altered, though many attempts have been made in this regards by the opponents of Islām. Many times, millions of different Qur’ānic mus’hafs have been compared but no difference has been found.

There are many other examples of prophecies which occurred exactly as they were predicted by the Holy Qur’ān, as the Holy Qur’ān predicted that the Holy Prophet (P.B.U.H) and his companions would enter the Masjid al-Harām. Almighty Allāh said in Sūrah al-Fat’h:

“Certainly Allāh has fulfilled in true the dream of his Prophet: “Indeed you shall surely enter al-Masjid al-Harām (the Secured Mosque) if Almighty Allāh wills, in full safety, (some of you) having their heads shaved and (some of you) having their hair cut short, having no fear in your hearts. He was Well Aware of what you were not aware of. So He has arranged a near victory before (the fulfillment of) that (dream.)”<sup>44</sup>

So this prediction proved true on the occasion of the conquest of Makah (Fat’h-e- Makah) in 8<sup>th</sup> A.H.

Almighty Allāh also promised the Muslims that He would empower them and would give them caliphate and authority on the earth. So He said:

“Allāh has promised those who believe among you and do good righteous deeds, that He will most surely make them successors (rulers) in the land as He made successors those (believers) who were before them and that He will certainly grant them authority to practice and establish their religion (Islām) on strong foundations which (religious) He has

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<sup>44</sup>Sūrah al-Fateh 48:27

chosen for them (to practice on it) and will surely change their state of fear and substitute for them security and peace (because) they worship Me and associate nothing with Me. But whosoever becomes disbeliever after this then they are the disobedient people.”<sup>45</sup>

This prediction also proved true when the caliphate and kingship of the Muslims started though when this promise was made, at that time, the Muslims were not in state of domination, rather, they were in state of fear, as it is depicted in the above mentioned verse. But Almighty Allāh proved His promise true when Hazrat Abu Bakr, Hazrat Umer, Hazrat Uthmān, Hazrat Ali and their successors became caliphs and the Muslims conquered most areas of the world.

There are uncountable examples in this regard which prove the truthfulness of the Holy Qur’ān.

## **2: External Arguments that the Qur’ān is the Word of Almighty Allāh**

### **2.1: Rational Arguments that the Qur’ān is the Word of Allāh:**

If a person uses his sense, he can easily understand that the Holy Qur’ān is the Word of Almighty Allāh. We enlist a few rational arguments in this regard below:

Firstly, every person likes to be praised. People endanger their lives to prove their talent. Many people refer those abilities which Almighty Allāh has gifted them to themselves instead of referring them to Allāh, as Almighty Allāh has quoted the sayings of Qarun (Korah) which he proudly said about that wealth and property which Allāh had gifted him:

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<sup>45</sup>Sūrah An-Noor 24:55

“He (Korah) said: “Indeed, I have received this property only on the base of my knowledge.”<sup>46</sup>

If such great masterpiece of wisdom, which silenced all those who claimed to have great speaking power, belonged to the Prophet Muhammad (P.B.U.H) himself, he needed not to refer it to Allāh, rather he would have referred it to himself to collect compliments. But because it was the word of Allāh so he referred it to Him.

Secondly, no one gives strict warnings to oneself rather everyone shows efficiency and proves himself to be perfect. Almighty Allāh has warned his Prophet strictly at many places in the Holy Qur’ān. Few examples are given below:

1. Once the Holy Prophet decided that he would never drink honey on the saying of some of his wives, at that time Almighty Allāh revealed the following verses:

“O Prophet (Muhammad) why do you make unlawful that thing which Allāh has made lawful for you, do you seek the pleasure of your wives, and Allāh is All Forgiving (and) Most Merciful.”<sup>47</sup>

2. In the war of Badr, Hazrat Abu Bakr suggested to get ransom from the captives and release them, while Hazrat Umer suggested killing them. The Holy Prophet (P.B.U.H) acted upon the suggestion of Hazrat Abu Bakr. But Allāh warned his Prophet by revealing the following verse:

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<sup>46</sup>Sūrah Al-Qasas 28:78

<sup>47</sup>Sūrah al-Tahrim 66:1; Bukhari, Muhammad bin Ismail, Sahih al-Bukhari (Ar-Riad: Darussalam, 1999), The book of divorce, chapter: O Prophet why do you Forbid that which Allah has allowed to you, Hadith: 5267

“It does not suit a prophet that he should have captives of war until he has suppressed the enemies sufficiently in the land. You seek the goods of the world, but Allāh desires (for you the gains of) the hereafter, and Allāh is Majestic, All-Wise.”<sup>48</sup>

3. When the loving and caring uncle of the Holy Prophet (P.B.U.H) Abu Talib was near to die, the Holy Prophet (P.B.U.H) tried his best that his uncle should say: “No one other than Allāh has the right to be worshipped.” But Abu Jah’l and Abdullah bin Umayya urged him not to leave the religion of Abd-ul-Muttalib. So he died saying: “I am (leaving this world) on the religion of Abd-ul-Muttalib.” After that, the Holy Prophet said: “I shall continue asking for the forgiveness of Allāh for you until I am forbidden from doing so.”

Then Almighty Allāh revealed the following verses:

“It does not fit for the Prophet and those who have believed, that they should ask for Allāh’s forgiveness for the Polytheists even though they were their relatives, after it has become manifest to them that they (the Polytheists) are the dwellers of flaming fire.”<sup>49</sup>

And Allāh also revealed:

“(O Prophet Muhammad) You cannot guide whom you love, rather it is Allāh who grants guidance to whomever

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<sup>48</sup>Sūrah AL-Anfāl 8: 67; Muslim bin al-Hajjaj, Sahīh al-Muslim (Ar-Riad: Darussalam, 2000), The Book of Jihad and expedition, Chapter: The support of the angels during the battle of Badar, and the Permissibility of the soil, Hadith: 1763

<sup>49</sup>Sūrah al-Tawba 9:13

He will and He is Well-knowing those who are the (rightly) guided.”<sup>50</sup>

Thirdly, the Holy Qur’ān is in Arabic language, and there were many Arab poets who claimed to be the great eloquent and to have the fluent speaking power. On the other hand, the Prophet Muhammad (P.B.U.H) was “*Ummi*.” He never participated in their poetic contests never spoke any prominent verse of poetry and never claimed to have grip on language and never wrote even a single word. If this Qur’ān was his own word, then the Arab’s eloquent people could bring many books better than this Qur’ān, but on the contrary, they failed to produce even a single Sūrah like the shortest Sūrah of the Holy Qur’ān, even after they were challenged to bring it as Almighty Allāh said:

“And if you are in doubt about that (Qur’ān) which We have revealed on Our servant (Muhammad) then produce a single Sūrah like this and call upon your witness (to help you) other than Allāh if you are truthful (in your doubt).”<sup>51</sup>

But they were unable to bring it even their false gods could not help them to produce it and they will never be able to bring it as Allāh says:

“So, if you have failed to produce it and (listen carefully that) you will never be able to produce it, therefore, (believe in truthfulness of the Qur’ān and) save yourselves from the flaming fire whose fuel will be (disbelieving)

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<sup>50</sup>Sūrah al Qasas, 28:56, Bukhari, Muhammad bin Ismail, Sahih al-Bukhari (Ar-Riad: Darussalam, 1999), The Book of merits of Ansar (The helpers in Medina), Chapter: the story of Abu Talib Hadith: 3884

<sup>51</sup>Sūrah Al-Baqara 2:23

people and stones. It has been prepared for the disbelievers.”<sup>52</sup>

The whole world of disbelievers has not replied to this challenge till today and they will never be able to do so.

Fourthly, the Holy Qur’ān is not the first book to be revealed from Almighty Allāh, rather many books and scriptures have been revealed before the Qur’ān. The books in which John Burton and other orientalist believe were also revealed from Allāh. The Prophet Muhammad (P.B.U.H) is not the first prophet nor the Qur’ān the first book as Allāh said:

“Tell Them (O Prophet Muhammad P.B.U.H): “I am not a new thing (the first) among the Messengers.”<sup>53</sup>

So the revelation of the Qur’ān from Almighty Allāh is not something which could not be believed. If the previous books like the Old Testament and the New Testament could be revealed by Allāh then why not the Qur’ān?

## **2.2: The Orientalists Themselves Denying Their Opinion:**

There are many orientalist who themselves deny the opinion of Johan Burton and other orientalist that the Qur’ān was collected from the previous divine books. Rodwell is a famous orientalist though he does not believe that the Qur’ān is the word of Allāh yet he admits that there is no evidence of that (Prophet) Muhammad (P.B.U.H) ever had access to the Christian scriptures. It can only be supposed that some pieces of Old or New Testament may have reached him via Khadijah (Chadija) or Warqah

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<sup>52</sup>Sūrah Al-Baqara 2:24

<sup>53</sup>Sūrah Al-Ahqāf 46:9

or other Christians living in Makah but there is no clear evidence of the presence of the Arabic Translations of Old or New Testament before the era of (Prophet) Muhammad.<sup>54</sup>

He negates the opinion that Prophet Muhammad has derived the Qur'ān from the books of Jews and Christians or other distorted misguided sects.

So, he further says:

“In fact, we have no historical authority for supposing that the doctrines of these heretics were taught or professed in Arabia at all.”<sup>55</sup>

Rather in the view of Rodwell, it is certain that these distorted sects had either died out or been absorbed into the Orthodox Church in the middle of the fifth century and had completely disappeared from Egypt before the sixth century.<sup>56</sup>

Doctor Muhammad Khalifa writes in this regard that there were only two types of Jewish scholars; Most of them adapted an antagonistic and adversarial position which was very far from the benevolent and useful attitude of teachers, so they were never ready to benefit Prophet Muhammad (P.B.U.H). The second type of Jewish scholars consisted of those people who were impartial they welcomed the Holy Prophet (P.B.U.H) enthusiastically in Medina and embraced Islām (like Abdullah bin Salām etc.) Between these two categories of the hostiles or the followers, there was no third category of friendly tutors.<sup>57</sup>

A priest C. G. Fender also writes clearly in the third chapter of his book

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<sup>54</sup>Rodwell, J.M. The Koran (New York: E.P. Dutton & Co, 1909), P: 9, 10

<sup>55</sup> Ibid

<sup>56</sup> Ibid

<sup>57</sup>Mohammad Khalifa, Dr., The Sublime Qur'an and Orientalism (Karachi: International Islamic Publishers (Put) Limited, 1989), P :26

“Mizan-ul-Haqq” that the Prophet Muhammad (P.B.U.H) had read neither Old Testament nor New Testament, i.e. He was unaware of both the languages; Hebrew and Greek in which the Old and the New Testament had been written.<sup>58</sup>

The orientalist also claim that the Prophet Muhammad (P.B.U.H) had learnt the Qur’ān from Buhaira Monk (Rahib) and Nastura Monk during his journey with his uncle Abu Talib to Syria (Sham) at the age of twelve years. The Muslim scholars have replied to this stupid objection, but a famous British Orientalist, George Sale (1697- 1736) has also negated this opinion by saying that this meeting with the monks was too early that it cannot even be imagined that it could prove helpful for writing the Qur’ān which was composed long after, as it is supposed by the Christians.<sup>59</sup>

Many orientalist have declared the Holy Qur’ān as the result of the effect of epilepsy on the Prophet (P.B.U.H). The Muslims as well as the orientalist themselves have rejected such aggressive and foolish opinion as Deniel writes that those who have applied epilepsy to the Prophet (P.B.U.H), they have just sought to amuse people rather than instructing them.<sup>60</sup>

R.V.C Bodley (1892-1970) writes in this regard that epilepsy has never enabled anyone to become a prophet or a law giver and has never raised its victim to a position of esteem and power, especially in those days. Such state of epilepsy makes a person insane. But if there was a man who was

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<sup>58</sup>C. G. Fender, Mizan-UI-Haqq (London: W.M. Watts, Crown Court, Temple Bar, 1862), Chapter:3, Unit: 1, P: 186, 187

<sup>59</sup> Gent, George Sale, The Koran, Commonly called The Al Coran of Mohammed (London: William Tegg & Co, 1894), P:223

<sup>60</sup>Norman Daniel, Islam and the West (the Making of an image) (One World, 1960), P: 28

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clearly sane, it was (Prophet) Muhammad (P.B.U.H).<sup>61</sup>

Rom Landou (1899-1974) writes that the fabricated things of any religion or the sayings of an imposter have never survived for a long period. But Islām has not only survived for more than thirteen hundred years, but keeps on gaining new adherents from year to year. There is not a single example in the whole history, of an imposter whose message became responsible for the creation of the world's greatest empire and the noblest civilization.<sup>62</sup>

Many other orientalists like Thomas Carlyle (1795-1881),<sup>63</sup> and Washington Irving (1783-1859)<sup>64</sup> etc. have also denied this opinion that the Prophet Muhammad (P.B.U.H) was an imposter or fabricator.

**Summary and Conclusion:**

To conclude this article it can be said that the Orientalists are western people who are competent in eastern languages, literature and way of life. They have studied Islāmic literature and have written about Islāmic thoughts and culture. They do not have deep knowledge of Islām rather they have studied Islām through the translations of the Qur'ān written by the western scholars, which are full of mistakes. They study the Qur'ān with the intention of perversion and crookedness. Their opinion about the Qur'ān is that it was fabricated by Prophet Muhammad.

John Burton is a famous orientalist. He has written a book regarding the

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<sup>61</sup>Bodley, R.V.S, *The Messenger; the Life of Muhammad* (Doubleday company 1946), P:13

<sup>62</sup>Landau, Rom, *Islam and the Arabs* (New York: The Macmillan Company, 1959), P:23,

<sup>63</sup>Thomas Carlyle, *On Heroes, Hero-Worship and the Heroic in History* (London: Yale University Press, 2013), P:73,74

<sup>64</sup> Irving, Washington, *Mahomet and his successors* (New York: The Co-operative Publication Society, 1849), P: 235, 236.

Holy Qur’ān named “The Collection of the Qur’ān.” In this book he has tried to create doubts and misconceptions regarding the Qur’ān. He has made almost the same objections which the Polytheists of Makah have already made and the Holy Qur’ān has clarified their misconceptions. If a person reads the Qur’ān with positive mind he will surely come to know that the Qur’ān is the Word of Allāh because Almighty Allāh has said again and again in the Qur’ān that it has been sent down by Him. The truthfulness of the prophecies made by the Qur’ān, the strict warning of Almighty Allāh to the Prophet at many places in the Qur’ān, the undefeatable open challenge of Allāh to bring even a single Sūrah like the shortest Sūrah of the Qur’ān and the negation of the orientalsts of their own opinion prove that the Holy Qur’ān is the Word of Almighty Allāh doubtlessly.



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