- the implication is that not being able to compose the Qur'an himself, it shows that the Qur'an is from God;
- the Arabs had a strong oral tradition which allowed the Qur'an to be preserved through memory alone;
- Since he could not read or write, therefore, he needed scribes for writing down the revelation and later they became witnesses of the divinity of Quran.
- God did not want anyone else to be the Prophet's (pbuh) teacher, as that would have meant someone was superior to him in his knowledge of God. It was a miracle of God.

## Preaching by the Holy Prophet (P.B.U.H)

After the prophet received his first revelation in the cave of Hira, he only told his wife khadija and her cousin Waraqa bin Nawfal, about the event. Khadija was the first to accept the message. Waraqa confirmed the prophethood, and for some days there was a break in revelation which is known as Fatrah tul wahi.

#### Secret Preaching:

The Holy Prophet (P.B.U.H) passed this time in restlessness and anxiety, until one day, he saw angel Jibrael again, in the sky seated on a chair. The Holy Prophet (P.B.U.H) became frightened and rushed home. He asked Khadija to cover him up. She covered him up, after which he received another revelation which said:

# "O you wrapped up (in a mantle)! Arise and deliver your warning! And glorify your Lord . (74: 1-3)

In obedience to the command of Allah, the Holy Prophet (P.B.U.H) invited his friends and relatives to the religion of Islam. He preached to them the oneness of Allah and warned them of the consequences of following their evil ways. But, he did not, at this stage, make any public announcement.

- The first person to believe in him was his wife, Khadija, who accepted his message without any hesitation.
- . This was followed by the acceptance of Islam by ten years old, Ali, son of Abu Talib.
- The first freed slave to accept Islam was Zaid bin Haris.
- The first Person to become a Muslim outside the Prophet's immediate family was his close friend, Hazrat Abu Bakr, who invited many people to Islam and many prominent companions Muslim through him.
- Khalid ibn Sa'id, a friend of Hazrat Abu Bakr, was guided through a dream in which he saw himself being saved from fire by the Prophet. Hazrat Abu bakr R.A interpreted Khalid's dream and he accepted Islam.

Within a period of three years, while the Holy Prophet (P.B.U.H) was preaching his message in secret, about forty righteous and God-fearing people accepted Islam. Among them were, Talha, Zubair, Jaffar, Usman, Abdur Rahman bin Auf, Sa'ad bin Abi Wagas and Abdullah bin Masud.

These early converts were the people who had witnessed the Prophet's (P.B.U.H) private and public life very closely and had arrived at the conclusion that such a gentle and honest person could not mislead the people. The house of Zaid bin Arqam became the first preaching centre of Islam, where the Prophet (pbuh) met these early converts and taught them the revelations he received. Muslims prayed twice in a day and would often go to the mountains outside Makkah to worship secretly.

 None of the Holy Prophet's (P.B.U.H) uncles accepted Islam. Abu Talib gave protection to the Holy Prophet. Abu Lahab believed that his nephew was self-deceived.

#### 2. Preaching to Banu Hashim:

After the revelation of the verse, "And warn your nearest relatives." (26:214)

 the Holy Prophet (P.B.U.H) called Hazrat Ali and asked him to prepare a meal and assemble the Banu Hashim. Hazrat Ali R.A did what he was told and most of the clan of Hashim came to the meal, about

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