

## The Prophetic Call

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### The Prophetic Biography of Ibn Hisham

Gabriel came to him by God's command. The Messenger of God said: Gabriel came to me while I was asleep, with a coverlet of brocade on which was some writing, and said: "Recite!" (*iqra'*). I said, "What shall I recite?" (*ma aqra'*). He pressed me with it so tightly that I thought it was death; then he let me go and said, "Recite!" I said, "What shall I recite?" ... He pressed me with it a third time...and said, "Recite!" I said, "What then shall I recite?" ...He then said: *Recite in the name of your Lord who created, who created humanity of blood coagulated. Recite, for your Lord is most generous, who taught use of the pen, taught humanity what it did not know.* (Q.96:1-2).

### السيرة النبوية لابن هشام

جَاءَهُ جِبْرِيلُ عَلَيْهِ السَّلَامُ بِأَمْرِ اللَّهِ تَعَالَى . قَالَ  
رَسُولُ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ فَجَاءَنِي جِبْرِيلُ وَأَنَا  
نَائِمٌ بِنَمَطٍ مِنْ دِيبَاجٍ فِيهِ كِتَابٌ فَقَالَ اقْرَأْ قَالَ قُلْتُ  
: مَا أَقْرَأُ ؟ قَالَ فَعَتَّنِي بِهِ حَتَّى ظَنَنْتُ أَنَّهُ الْمَوْتُ ثُمَّ  
أَرْسَلَنِي فَقَالَ اقْرَأْ قَالَ قُلْتُ : مَا أَقْرَأُ ؟ قَالَ فَعَتَّنِي بِهِ  
حَتَّى ظَنَنْتُ أَنَّهُ الْمَوْتُ ثُمَّ أَرْسَلَنِي ، فَقَالَ اقْرَأْ قَالَ  
قُلْتُ : مَاذَا أَقْرَأُ ؟ ... ، فَقَالَ { اقْرَأْ بِاسْمِ رَبِّكَ  
الَّذِي خَلَقَ خَلَقَ الْإِنْسَانَ مِنْ عَلَقٍ اقْرَأْ وَرَبُّكَ الْأَكْرَمُ  
الَّذِي عَلَّمَ بِالْقَلَمِ عَلَّمَ الْإِنْسَانَ مَا لَمْ يَعْلَمْ }

### Isaiah 40

<sup>6</sup>A voice says, "Recite!" (*qra'*) and I said, "what shall I recite?" (*māh eqra'?*). All flesh is grass, all its goodness like flowers of the field. <sup>7</sup>Grass withers, flowers fade when the breath of the Lord blows on them. Indeed, the people are but grass. <sup>8</sup>Grass withers, flowers fade – but the word of our God is always fulfilled.

### ישעיה מ

ו קול אמר קרא, ואמר מה אקרא;  
כל-הבשר חציר, וכל-חסדו כצין  
השדה. ז יבש חציר נבל צין, כי רוח  
יהוה נשבה בו; אכן חציר, העם.  
ח יבש חציר, נבל צין; ודבר-אלהינו,  
יקום לעולם.

[Revisit both texts. See Arabic & Hebrew. Look at other uses of "book" in Bible and Qur'an, and *qara'*].