

❖ ***Third Lesson: The Beginning of th Prophecy (First Revelation)***

Muhammad (pbuh) believed that there was only one Allah, Creator of all living things, and that all people should worship only Him. Muhammad (pbuh) would often leave the crowded city and go to the cave in Mount Hira'. He liked to be alone there, away from all thoughts of the world and daily life. In his fortieth year, *Muhammad (pbuh)* left Mecca to spend Ramadan, the traditional month of retreat, in the cave. In the second half of Ramadan, Allah began to reveal His message for mankind through *Muhammad (pbuh)*.

This first Revelation occurred as follows: The Archangel *Jibreel* came to Muhammad (pbuh) in the cave and commanded him to « Read ». *Muhammad (pbuh)* replied : « I cannot read ».

The voice again said : « Read » He said : « I cannot read ». A third time the voice, more terrible, commanded « read », He said : « What can I read ? ». The Archangel *Jibreel* said:

***“Read! In the Name of your Lord Who has created. Has Created man from a clot. Read!
And your Lord is the Most Generous . Who has taught by the pen. Has taught man that
which he knew not”.*** (Qur'an 96.1-5)

Muhammad (pbuh) repeated these verses, just as the Archangel had said them. When the Archangel was sure Muhammad (pbuh) knew them by heart, he went away. Now that he was alone Muhammad (pbuh) could not understand what had happened to him. He was terribly afraid and rushed out of the cave. But he was stopped by a voice from heaven which said; '*O Muhammad (pbuh) you are the Messenger of Allah, and I am Jibreel*'. He looked up at the sky and wherever he turned he saw the Archangel Gabriel.

In a state of confusion he returned home to Khadijah. When his wife saw him she became very worried as he began to shiver, as though in a fever. He asked her to wrap him in blankets, which she did. After a while he recovered sufficiently to tell her what had happened at Hira'. Khadijah believed all that he told her and with great respect said: 'Be happy, O son of my uncle and be confident. Truly I swear by Allah who has my soul in His hands, that you will be our people's Prophet.' *Muhammad (pbuh)*, the Messenger of Allah, was eased by her faith in him,

Sometime later, Khadijah took Him to her cousin named Waraqah, who knows the bible well. She informed Him about what happened ; He said if you are telling me the truth, O Khadijah, there has come to him the *Nàmùs* who came *Mussa* before and He is the Prophet of this nation.