

DURING THE PROPHET'S LIFETIME

Even during the time of the Prophet (peace be upon him), his enemies were extremely affected by the beauty of the Quran. For instance, Al-Waleed Ibn Al Mughirah was one of the wealthy influential leaders of the Quraysh and one its most famous poets. The father of Khalid ibn Waleed. Ibn 'Abbas narrated: *"Al Waleed ibn Al Mughirah (a polytheist) came to the Messenger of Allah. The Messenger of Allah recited the Quran to him, and Al Waleed seemed to become affected and softened by it. Abu Jahl came to know of this, so, he came to Al Waleed and said: "Don't you see that your people are collecting charity for you?" He said: "And why is that?" Abu Jahl replied: "So that they can give it to you, as they see that you went to Muhammad to get some of his food." Al Waleed said: "Quraysh knows that I am of the wealthiest of its sons." Abu Jahl said: "So, say to Muhammad something that would convince your people that you oppose him." Al Waleed replied: "And what can I possibly say? There is not a single man who is more knowledgeable of poetry or prose than I, or even that of the Jinn, and by Allah, what he says bears no resemblance to these things. By Allah, what he says has a sweetness to it, and a charm upon it; the highest part of it is fruitful and the lowest part of it is gushing forth with bounty; it dominates and cannot be dominated, and it crushes all that is under it." (Reported by al-Hakim in 'al-Mustadrak' (2/506-507) and at-Tabari in 'Jami' al-Bayan' (29/156), and it is authentic)*

Another example is Jubayr Ibn Mut'im, who was the owner of Wahshy ibn Harb (the slave who killed Hamza ibn 'Abdul Muttalib in the battle of Uhud). When he was a prisoner of the battle of Badr (before he was ransomed), Jubayr said: *"I heard the Messenger of Allah recite 'Surah Al Tur' in the Maghrib prayer, and when he got to the verses: **Or were they created by nothing, or are they 'their own' creators? Or did they create the heavens and the earth? In fact, they have no firm belief 'in Allah'. Or do they possess the treasuries of your Lord, or are they in control 'of everything'?** (52:35-37)...my heart wanted to fly from my body out of awe."* (Tafsir Ibn Kathir; 4/309). Jubayr ibn Mut'im accepted Islam in the period between the Hudaibiah Treaty and the Conquest of Mecca.

Some of the senior-most leaders of Quraysh, Abu Jahl, Abu Sufyan and Al-Akhnas bin Shurayq would come to listen to the Prophet reciting the Qur'an at night. They were unaware of the presence of each other, so they listened to the Prophet's recitation until the morning, and then left. They met each other on their way back and each one of them asked the others, *"What brought you?" So they mentioned to each other the reason why they came. They vowed not to repeat this incident so that the young men of Quraysh would not hear of what they did and imitate them. On the second night, each one of the three came back thinking that the other two would not come because of the vows they made to each other. In the morning, they again met each other on their way back and criticized each other, vowing not to repeat what they did. On the third night, they again went to listen to the Prophet and in the morning, they again vowed not to repeat this incident.* (Ibn Kathir)

