



# ALI 373: MIRACLES OF THE QUR'AN.

Academy for Learning Islam  
October 2016

# Class Outline

- Introduction to Qur'anic terminology
- Introduction to Kalami terminology
  - What is a miracle?
  - How are miracles different from other supernatural phenomena?
- The purpose of miracles
  - The ways of proving prophethood
  - What a miracle demonstrates
  - Are miracles necessary?
- The Prophet's (S) miracles
- The miracles of the Qur'an

# Qur'anic Terminology

- Ayah
  - The word ayah means sign
  - The word ayah is employed in the Qur'an for verses, nature and miracles
  - The word ayah is used for miracles because it is a sign of prophethood

وَقَالُوا لَوْلَا نُزِّلَ عَلَيْهِ آيَةٌ مِنْ رَبِّهِ قُلْ إِنَّ اللَّهَ قَادِرٌ عَلَى أَنْ يُنَزِّلَ آيَةً وَلَكِنَّ أَكْثَرَهُمْ لَا يَعْلَمُونَ

They say, "Why has not a sign been sent down to him from his Lord?" Say, "Allah is indeed able to send down a sign," but most of them do not know.

(6:37)

# Qur'anic Terminology

- Bayyinah: A clear argument
- Something that is clear is said to be bayyin.
- The word bayyinah in the Qur'an is employed with the meanings of clear arguments or clear miracles.

لَقَدْ أَرْسَلْنَا رُسُلَنَا بِالْبَيِّنَاتِ وَأَنْزَلْنَا مَعَهُمُ الْكِتَابَ وَالْمِيزَانَ لِيَقُومَ النَّاسُ بِالْقِسْطِ

Certainly We sent Our apostles with manifest proofs, and We sent down with them the Book and the Balance, so that mankind may maintain justice; (57:25)

# Qur'anic Terminology

- Burhan: Proof
- The Qur'an employs the word *burhan* for rational arguments and also for miracles.

اسْلُكْ يَدَكَ فِي جَيْبِكَ تَخْرُجَ بَيْضَاءَ مِنْ غَيْرِ سُوءٍ وَ اضْمُمْ إِلَيْكَ جَنَاحَكَ مِنَ الرَّهْبِ  
فَذَانِكَ بُرْهَانَانِ مِنْ رَبِّكَ إِلَى فِرْعَوْنَ وَ مَلَائِهِ إِنَّهُمْ كَانُوا قَوْمًا فَاسِقِينَ

“Insert your hand into your bosom. It will emerge white, without any fault, and keep your arms drawn in awe to your sides. These shall be two proofs from your Lord to Pharaoh and his elite. They are indeed a transgressing lot.” (28:32)

# Kalami Terminology

- In the study of Kalam, the word *mu'jizah* is used for miracles that are presented by prophets.
- The word *mu'jizah* is derived from the word *l'jaaz*
- *l'jaaz* means to incapacitate or render incapable
- A *Mu'jizah* must have the following characteristics:
  - A supernatural act
  - Carried out by someone who claims to be a prophet
  - Accompanied with a challenge to reproduce the same
  - Cannot be taught or learnt

# Purpose of Miracles

- There are three ways of proving the prophethood of a prophet:
  - Declared or announced by another prophet
    - The prophethood of the latter should be established independently
    - The indication should uniquely apply to the person claiming prophethood
  - Amalgamation of contextual indicators
  - Miracles

# Purpose of Miracles

- A miracle demonstrates that the individual has a special relationship with Allah (S).
- The argument is based on the following premises:
  - a. God is al-Hakim and never acts in a manner that nullifies His objectives
  - b. The purpose of sending prophets is to guide human beings
  - c. When an individual performs a miracle, people have a good reason to follow him and accept his pronouncements.
  - d. If God allows impostors to perform miracles, they may misguide a segment of the society.



# Purpose of Miracles

- Are miracles necessary?
- The prophets of God focused on preaching the right beliefs and reviving intrinsic values.
- They furnished rational arguments to demonstrate the right beliefs
- They also called on people to revert to their conscience to revive good values.
- If miracles were required to demonstrate their points, wouldn't it imply:
  - Their belief system was not rational?
  - Their arguments were not rational or logical?

# Purpose of Miracles

In addition to this, the demonstration of the correct beliefs through firm proofs absolves the insightful scholar from needing to consider miracles, and therefore it is said that miracles are meant to satisfy the common person, for his intellect may not comprehend the intellectual realities. As for the select, they do not need such demonstrations.

*Allamah Tabatabai in al-Mizan*

# Purpose of Miracles

- Brief review of Qur'anic verses
  - Not all prophets presented miracles
  - Prophets presented rational arguments before miracles

“I certainly bring you a manifest proof from your Lord. So let the Children of Israel go with me.” He said, “If you have brought a sign, produce it, should you be truthful.” (7:105-6)

# Purpose of Miracles

- Prophets did not accede to people's demands for certain miracles (17:90-93)
- The sound hearts were convinced by rational arguments more than miracles.

Follow them who do not ask you any reward and they are rightly guided.

Why should I not worship Him who has originated me, and to whom you shall be brought back? (36:21-22)

# Miracles of the Holy Prophet (s)

1. Splitting of the Moon (Shaqqa al-Qamar)
2. Me'raj: the nightly ascension
3. Prophecies not mentioned in the Qur'an
4. Conversation with animals and inanimate beings
5. Answering of his supplications
6. Qur'an

# Miracles of the Qur'an

1. Complete internal harmony in the Qur'an
2. Profound ideas presented by an unlettered person
3. Literary style of the Qur'an
4. Accurate scientific facts
5. Historical accuracies
6. Prophecies in the Qur'an
7. Transformative miracle