

The two categories of aayaat in the Qur'aan

Translated by Abu Abdirrahmaan Nasser ibn Najam

Taken from the works of Shaykh Muhammad ibn Saalih al 'Uthaymeen (رَحْمَةُ اللهِ)

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

With regards to the two categories of aayaat in the Qur'aan, Shaykh Muhammad ibn Saalih al 'Uthaymeen (رَحْمَةُ اللهِ)¹ comments:

The Qur'aan was sent down upon the Prophet (صلى الله عليه وسلم)² in separate parts over a period of 23 years. Allaah's Messenger (صلى الله عليه وسلم) spent most of it (that period) in Makkah.

Allaah, the Most High, said:

**A Qur'aan which We have divided into parts, in order that you might recite it to men at intervals.
And We have revealed it in stages.**

[Soorah al Israa (the 17th chapter) aayah 106]

And therefore the scholars – may Allaah, the Most High, have mercy upon them – have divided his Qur'aan into two categories: Makki and Madanee.

So Makki is that which came down upon the Prophet (صلى الله عليه وسلم) before the Hijrah (migration) to al Madeenah.

And Madanee is that which came down upon the Prophet (صلى الله عليه وسلم) after his Hijrah (migration) to al Madeenah.

And based upon this, His statement, He the Most High -

**And on this day I have perfected your religion for you and completed My favour upon you and I
have chosen Islaam as the Religion for you.**

[Soorah al Maa-idah (the 5th chapter) aayah 3]

- is from the Madanee category, even though it was sent down upon the Prophet (صلى الله عليه وسلم) in the Farewell Hajj on 'Arafah.

And in "Saheeh al Bukhaaree", (it is reported) from 'Umar (رضي الله عنه)³ that he said:

We indeed knew that day and the place in which it was revealed upon the Prophet (صلى الله عليه وسلم) and it was revealed whilst he was standing on 'Arafah on the day of Friday.

(Tafseer ul Qur'aan il Kareem of Shaykh Muhammad ibn Saalih al 'Uthaymeen (رَحْمَةُ اللهِ) p17-18)

¹ (رَحْمَةُ اللهِ) (rahimahullaah) May Allaah the Most High have mercy on him

² (صلى الله عليه وسلم) (sallallaahu 'alayhi wa sallam) May the peace and blessings of Allaah the Most High be upon him

³ (رضي الله عنه) (rad iyallaahu `anhu) May Allaah the Most High be pleased with him