

Fast 14

“Surely We have revealed the Reminder, and surely We are its Guardian.” — Ch. 15, v. 9.

“Indeed, it is a glorious Quran, in a guarded tablet.” — Ch. 85, v. 21–22.

Notes: In the previous study we saw that the Quran is described as “a guardian” over the previous revealed books. The 1st verse above declares that that “guardian” itself has a Guardian. Its Guardian is God Himself Who revealed it. This promise was made in this verse while the Holy Prophet was yet at Makkah before migrating to Madinah, when the Quran was far from complete and thus had not even been compiled as a book. It is a prophecy whose fulfilment is a powerful testimony to the truth of the Holy Quran being from God. It states that the Quran will for all time be preserved safe against all attempts to destroy it and from every kind of corruption. In the long history of Islam, and across the breadth of the Islamic world, there does not exist a single copy with any variation from the recognized text, and thus not only was the Quran preserved from destruction against a powerful enemy during the Holy Prophet’s life, but it has also been preserved from corruption forever.

The 2nd passage above (85:21-22) occurs in a very early chapter. The words “guarded tablet” simply indicate that the Quran is guarded against corruption and against the attacks of its opponents.

Regarding the significance of the statement that God is the Guardian of the Quran, Hazrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad wrote:

“This verse makes it plain that the Quran shall endure forever, and there shall constantly be arising those who shall keep its teachings fresh and convey its benefits to the people....

...in the world there are thousands of books which are certainly, without any loss or addition, known to be works of their authors. What is the great merit in this, and what is the special benefit accruing to the Muslims? Although it cannot be denied that the textual preservation of the Quran is of a higher standard than for any other book in the world, and it is also miraculous, still it can never be imagined, in the case of God Who looks to matters spiritual, that by guarding is meant merely the preservation of words and letters. In fact, the word *dhikr* (‘reminder’) clearly testifies that the Quran shall be preserved in its capacity as the *dhikr* till the Day of Judgment, and its true *dhākirs* (those reminding people of its teachings) shall ever continue to appear....

And since the repository of the Quran is the hearts of the believers, the verse ‘We have revealed the Reminder and We shall ever keep on guarding it’ can have no meaning except that the Quran will not be effaced from the hearts as the Torah and the Gospel were effaced from the hearts of the Jews and the Christians. And although the Torah and the Gospel were in their hands and their boxes, yet these were removed from their hearts, i.e. their hearts did not remain established upon these books, and they did not keep and preserve the Torah and the Gospel in their hearts. To conclude, this verse is loudly proclaiming that no portion of the teaching of the Quran will be lost or ruined, and just as it was planted in the hearts on the first day, so shall this state of affairs continue till the Day of Judgment.” (*Shahadat-ul-Quran*)

Therefore, as he writes here, it is not only that the words and letters of the Quran are guarded against loss and corruption forever, but that its true message has been guarded by the continued existence of such knowledgeable persons who will remind people of that message. The highest of such persons are those known as *mujaddids*.

Inspiring sayings

Maulana Muhammad Ali said in a Friday *khutba*:

“Young people who are just at the start of their lives ought firstly to have a purpose before them, and it should be a grand objective. ... The Holy Quran has pointed out that high purpose of life in the following words: ‘And thus have We made you an exalted nation that you may be bearer of witness to humanity’ [2:143], meaning that just as the Holy Prophet is your guide and model, so you must also become guides and models for the nations of the world. This is exactly the lofty purpose towards which the Imam of the Age has called us, that we become guides who show the right path.” — *A Mighty Striving*, page 283.