

Story:

The Hadeeth of Jibreel (tradition of Gabriel)

Umar (a companion of Prophet Muhammad) said, "One day whilst we were sitting with Prophet Muhammad, a man with extremely white clothing and extremely black hair arrived. There were no signs of travel on him and none of us knew him. He came and sat next to the Prophet. He supported his knees against the Prophet's knees and put his hand on the Prophet's thighs.

The man asked (Prophet Muhammad), "O Muhammad, tell me about **Islam**." Prophet Muhammad replied, "Islam is to testify that there is none worthy of worship except Allah and that Muhammad is the Messenger of Allah, to establish the (five daily) prayers, to pay the **zakat** (charity), to fast (in the month of) **Ramadan**, and to make pilgrimage to the 'House' (**Ka'bah** – the house of Allah) if you have the means to do so."

The man responded, "You have spoken truthfully." We (the companions) were amazed that the man asks a question and then replies that the Prophet had spoken truthfully. The man then asked (the Prophet), "Tell me about **Imaan** (faith)." The Prophet replied, "It is to believe in Allah, His angels, His books, His messengers, the Last day and to believe in predestination, [both] the good and the bad." The man responded, "You have spoken truthfully."

The man then asked (the Prophet), "Tell me about **Ihsaan** (perfection)." The Prophet replied, "It is that you worship Allah as if you can see Him, and even though you can't see Him, He sees you."

After the man left, the Prophet asked, "O Umar, do you know who that person was?" Umar replied, "Allah and His Prophet know better." The Prophet said, "That was **Jibril** (the Angel Gabriel). He came to teach you your religion." (**Muslim**)

Why is this hadeeth important?

This **hadeeth** is important to Muslims as this incident took place towards the end of Prophet Muhammad's life. All the teachings of Islam are summarised in this **hadeeth**.

The Prophet taught that Islam is based on **five pillars**; **Shahadah** (belief), **Salah** (prayer), **Zakat** (charity), **Sawm** (fasting) and **Hajj** (pilgrimage). The Prophet also taught that **Iman** or faith is to believe in the **six articles of faith**; belief in Allah, angels, holy books, prophets, the last day and destiny.