



THE FAMOUS HADEETH OF JIBRİL

The following Ḥadīth explains the basics of Aqīdah and the various levels of the religion. It is known as the famous Hadeeth of Jibrīl.

'Umar Ibn al-Khaṭṭāb (radhiAllāhu anhu) said,

“One day, while we were sitting with the Messenger of Allāh ﷺ a man appeared before us, he was dressed in very white clothes and with dark black hair.

No traces of the journey were visible on him, and none of us knew him.

He sat close to the Prophet ﷺ and rested his knees against the knees of the Prophet ﷺ and placed his palms over his thighs.

He then said, **'O Muḥammad, inform me about Islām.'**

The Messenger of Allah ﷺ replied, **'Islām is to testify that there is no deity worthy of worship except Allāh and that Muḥammad is His Messenger; to perform Ṣalāh; pay Zakāh; fast Ramadhān; and to perform Ḥajj to the House (i.e. the Ka`bah) if you are able to do so.'**

He replied, **'you have spoken the truth.'**

We were astonished at him questioning the Prophet ﷺ and then telling him that he was right.

He then asked the Prophet, **'inform me about Imān.'**

He answered, **'it is that you believe in Allāh, His angels, His Books, His Messengers, the Last Day; and that you believe in Al-Qadar (Decree of Allāh) for everything good and bad.'**

He said (to the Prophet), **'you have spoken the truth.'**

Then the man said, **'inform me about Ihsān.'**

The Prophet ﷺ answered, **'it is to worship Allāh as though you see Him. If you cannot do this, then know He sees you.'**

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He said, **'inform me about the Hour.'**

He replied, **'the person you have asked knows no more than the one asking the question.'**

So he asked, **'inform me about its signs.'**

He said, **'the slave-girl will give birth to her mistress and you will see the barefooted naked poor Bedouin shepherds competing with each other to build lofty buildings.'**

After this, the man left.

I ('Umar) waited a while, and then the Prophet ﷺ said, **'O `Umar, do you know who that questioner was?'**

I replied, **'Allāh and His Messenger know better.'**

He said, **'That was Jibrīl, he came to teach you your religion.'**¹

¹ Narrated by Imām Muslim in Ṣaḥīḥ Muslim.