

THE HOLY TEXTS OF ISLAM

Muslims believe that the QUR’AN is the actual word of God, revealed to MUHAMMAD by God (*Allah* in Arabic) through the Archangel GABRIEL.

The QUR’AN is not altered in any way since it was first compiled during MUHAMMAD’S life (570-632 CE). It has been written down in Arabic and memorized in its original form by Muslims around the world—four of the original copies are still available.

The only authoritative text of the QUR’AN is in the original Arabic. Muslims regard translations of the QUR’AN into other languages as paraphrases or versions of the original.

The QUR’AN consists of 114 chapters (called *surahs*), which have names as well as numbers. They are not in chronological order, but according to instructions given by MUHAMMAD to the scribes based on divine revelation. The whole QUR’AN was transcribed during MUHAMMAD’S life.

