

## **Hadith of Gabriel**

One day when we were sitting with the Messenger of God there came unto us a man whose clothes were of exceeding whiteness and whose hair was of exceeding blackness; nor were there any signs of travel upon him, although none of us knew him. He sat down knee unto knee opposite the Prophet, upon whose thighs he placed the palms of his hands saying: "O Muhammad, tell me what is the surrender (*islam*).” The Messenger answered him saying: "the surrender is to testify that there is no god but God and that Muhammad is God’s Messenger, to perform the prayer, bestow the alms, fast Ramadan and make if though canst, the pilgrimage to the Holy House.” He said: "thou hast spoken truly,” and we were amazed that, having questioned him, he should corroborate him. Then he said: "Tell me what is faith (*iman*).” He answered: "To believe in God and His Angels and His books and His Messengers and the Last Day, and to believe that no good or evil cometh but by his Providence.” "Thou hast spoken truly,” he said, and then: "Tell me what is excellence (*ihsan*).” He answered: "To worship God as if thou sawest him, for if thou seest Him not, yet seest He thee.” "Thou hast spoken truly,” he said, and then: "tell me of the Hour.” He answered: "The questioned thereof knoweth no better than the questioner.” He said: "Then tell me of its signs.” He answered: "That the slave-girl shall give birth to her mistress; and that those who were but barefoot naked needy herdsmen shall build buildings ever higher and higher.” Then the stranger went away, and I stayed a while after he had gone; and the Prophet said to me: "O Umar, knowest thou the questioner, who was he?” I said: "God and His Messenger know best.” He said: "It was Gabriel. He came unto teach you your religion.”

*Sahih Bukhari*

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Narrated Abu Huraira:

One day while the Prophet was sitting in the company of some people, (The angel) Gabriel came and asked, "What is faith?" Allah's Apostle replied, 'Faith is to believe in Allah, His angels, (the) meeting with Him, His Apostles, and to believe in Resurrection." Then he further asked, "What is Islam?" Allah's Apostle replied, "To worship Allah Alone and none else, to offer prayers perfectly to pay the compulsory charity (Zakat) and to observe fasts during the month of Ramadan." Then he further asked, "What is Ihsan (perfection)?" Allah's Apostle replied, "To worship Allah as if you see Him, and if you

cannot achieve this state of devotion then you must consider that He is looking at you." Then he further asked, "When will the Hour be established?" Allah's Apostle replied, "The answerer has no better knowledge than the questioner. But I will inform you about its portents.

1. When a slave (lady) gives birth to her master.
2. When the shepherds of black camels start boasting and competing with others in the construction of higher buildings. And the Hour is one of five things which nobody knows except Allah.

The Prophet then recited: "Verily, with Allah (Alone) is the knowledge of the Hour--." (31. 34) Then that man (Gabriel) left and the Prophet asked his companions to call him back, but they could not see him. Then the Prophet said, "That was Gabriel who came to teach the people their religion." Abu 'Abdullah said: He (the Prophet) considered all that as a part of faith.