

CultureTalk Ahiska Turks Video Transcripts: <http://langmedia.fivecolleges.edu>
History of the Qur'an

English translation:

Jesus, *alayhi wa sallam* (May Allah bless him), ... I mean the calendar we use today in the world, umm... if it is indicating the 2008th¹ year, I mean this year is calculated from the birth of Jesus, *alayhi wa sallam*. I mean this is how it is assumed. Umm... Muhammad, *alayhi wa sallam*, too, our final prophet Muhammad, *alayhi wa sallam*, umm, in this way of calculating years, in 571st year², umm... was born exactly 571 years later than Jesus, *alayhi wa sallam*, on April 20th. Umm... To Muhammad, *alayhi wa sallam*, ... after he came to this world, and he was from the Arabs, himself. Arab... Muhammad, *alayhi wa sallam*, was from the Quraysh Arab's tribe. After he came to his world, then [a break in the video 0:44] ... his grandfather was working in the Kaaba, I mean in *beytullah*.³ *Beytullah* is the direction we face, I mean, that is in *Makkah al-Mukarramah*,⁴ in Saudi lands. *Makkah al-Mukarrama* is the direction we face when we pray; it is our Kiblah. Umm ... People who live there, I mean Arabs, Muhammad, *alayhi wa sallam*, comes from the Arabs. The holy Qur'an that we have today has been delivered to our prophet, *alayhi wa sallam*; he received prophethood when he was 40 years old, and that corresponds to the year 610th. In the 610th year, Allah the Almighty gave prophethood to our prophet. And it was also given in the Hira ... umm ... Cave, there, by Cebrail, *alayhi wa sallam*, umm... the first *sura*, *Al-Iqrā'*⁵ *sura* of the Holy Qur'an, was delivered to the prophet, *alayhi wa sallam*. And in that, the Holy Qur'an started with "read in the name of God." I mean, read in the name of God. Umm ... However... therefore, reading in Islam, the prophet Muhammad, *alayhi wa sallam*, says to all Muslim's, from the cradle to the end of their lives, says until the grave indeed, reading until the end of ones life is obligatory for all people, I mean for all Muslims, both men and to women. I mean, whatever kind of science it is, either earth sciences or religious science, or Islamic sciences, I mean Sharia sciences or earth sciences, it is required for them to read. You see our Holy Qur'an is written in the language that our prophet, *alayhi wa sallam*, was speaking at the time. The Holy Qur'an is written in the Arab language.⁶ Today, I mean from then to now, from the day the Holy Qur'an was first sent, neither a dot nor a comma has changed in it, not even a word as well. From then until now, this Qur'an was preserved safely. Hopefully it is going to be preserved that way until the judgment day.

¹ The year 2008 - colloquially, they refer to actual years with enumeration suffix.

² Muhammad was born in 570. The information that the speaker provides is not always accurate.

³ *Beytullah* is a synonym for mosque. It means "house of God" in Arabic.

⁴ *Makkah al-Mukarramah* is the full name of Mecca.

⁵ *Sūrat al-‘Alaq* [The Clot], is the 96th *sura* or chapter of the Qur'an.

⁶ They do not say Arabic; instead they say "Arab language."

About CultureTalk: CultureTalk is produced by the Five College Center for the Study of World Languages and housed on the LangMedia Website. The project provides students of language and culture with samples of people talking about their lives in the languages they use everyday. The participants in CultureTalk interviews and discussions are of many different ages and walks of life. They are free to express themselves as they wish. The ideas and opinions presented here are those of the participants. Inclusion in CultureTalk does not represent endorsement of these ideas or opinions by the Five College Center for the Study of World Languages, Five Colleges, Incorporated, or any of its member institutions: Amherst College, Hampshire College, Mount Holyoke College, Smith College and the University of Massachusetts at Amherst.

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