

## Studying Pre-Islāmic Poetry



## Question

السلام عليكم ورحمة الله وبركاته

Our dear Shaykh,

1. Where are pre-Islamic poems preserved? Is there a book which compiled all of these poems?
2. Has every word that appears in the Qur'ān (except for Arabized foreign names) appeared before in Jāhiliyyah poetry and prose?

I ask this because I want to know if studying Jāhiliyyah poetry intensively will help me understand every single word in the Qur'ān in depth.

Faḍīlat al-Shaykh Dr. V. Abdur Rahim (حفظه الله) replies:



Dear Br Aman Syed

وعليكم السلام

1. The pre-Islāmic poetry has been preserved in many collections such as the anthologies (دَوَائِنُ *dawāwīn*) of individual poets. Other collections are:

المعلقات

المفضليات

الأصمعيات

جمهرة أشعار العرب

ديوان الحماسة

and others.

2. There is no Jāhiliyy prose.

I do not think that all Qur'ānic words are found in the Jāhiliyy poetry.

You may study the Jāhiliyy poetry for its own merit, but not to understand the Qur'ān. It is true that the Jāhiliyy poetry has words and syntactical structures which are peculiar to the Glorious Qur'ān, and ibn 'Abbās (رضي الله عنهما) used to quote the pre-Islāmic poetry to prove lexical and grammatical points to the critics of the Qur'ān.

One may learn these points. But it is not correct to study the corpus of Jāhiliyy poetry to understand the Glorious Qur'ān.

Hope this has helped you.

Regards,

abdur Rahim