

## Despite this, some Muslims still claim that Muhammad performed many miracles.

For example, Badr Azimabadi lists *300 Authenticated miracles of Muhammad* (New Delhi: Adam Publishers, 2005) A famous claim is :

**The Splitting of the Moon :** Q.54: 1,2 – Many Muslims claim that Muhammad commanded the moon to split in half before unbelievers, and it did, and re-joined afterwards

However

(i) Muhammad is not mentioned in this verse. It does NOT say “Muhammad split the moon”

(ii) this event, if it occurred, should have been universally observed, but it was not.

Jordanian professor Zahgloul el-Naggar, has claimed that NASA scientists have shown that the moon was split in two and reassembled at the command of the prophet Muhammad.

However NASA scientists deny this: “No current scientific evidence reports that the Moon was split into two (or more) parts and then reassembled at any point in the past.” <http://lunarscience.nasa.gov/?question=evidence-moon-having-been-split-two>

(iv) other Muslim scholars (e.g. Baidawi) claim this refers to the coming ‘hour of judgement’ not a miracle event in Muhammad’s time. A future prophetic event is usually expressed in the past tense. v.1

Yusuf Ali gives three possible explanations of this verse, and says “perhaps all three apply here”.

(1) it was miracle performed by Muhammad in which the moon was split in two, in the sight of believers and unbelievers. AlBukhari 6:387-391 follows this view.

(2) “the prophetic past tense indicates the future, the cleaving asunder of the moon being a Sign of the Judgement approaching”

(3) “the phrase is metaphorical, meaning that the matter has become as clear as the moon.”

(v) Harun Yahya claims: “The word ‘split’ in this verse is the Arabic *shaqqa*, which in Arabic it [sic] has several meanings. In some commentaries on the Qur’an, the meaning ‘split’ is preferred. But *shaqqa* in Arabic can also mean ‘ploughing’ or ‘digging’ the earth... If we went back to the year 1969, we would see one of the great wonders of the Qur’an. The experiments carried out on the surface of the moon on July 20, 1969, may be hinting at the fulfillment of news given 1,400 years ago in Surat al-Qamar [sura 54]. On that date, American astronauts set foot on the moon. Digging at the lunar soil they carried out scientific experiments and collected samples of stones and soil. ...these developments are in complete agreement with the statements in the verse.” This explanation seems a bit forced since the Americans did not split or plough the moon.

So four Muslim explanations are suggested :

(a) Muhammad split the moon (but no-one else saw it & no evidence remains)

(b) It will happen in the future on the Last Day (so not a miracle of Muhammad)

(c) Americans astronauts did it in 1969 (so not a miracle of Muhammad)

(d) the metaphorical truth of this verse is “as clear as the moon” (so not a miracle of Muhammad)

If you want to learn about real miracles,, read the Bible

[www.mylanguage.net.au](http://www.mylanguage.net.au)

# Muhammad & Miracles

-----  
**According to  
the Qur’an, did  
Muhammad  
perform any  
miracles?**

**What do  
Muslim scholars  
say about this?**

-----

**“And they say: ‘Why  
are not signs sent  
down to him from his  
Lord?’**

**Say: ‘The signs are  
only with Allah, and I  
am only a plain  
warner’.” Q.29:50**

وَقَالُوا لَوْلَا أُنزِلَ  
عَلَيْهِ آيَاتٌ مِّن رَّبِّهِ  
قُلْ إِنَّمَا آيَاتُ عِنْدِ  
اللَّهِ وَإِنَّمَا أَنَا نَذِيرٌ مُّبِينٌ

## MIRACLES ARE IMPORTANT

When Muhammad (pbuh) began to recite the Qur'an, he told the people of Mecca about the many miracles of previous prophets:

- ◆ Noah survived the flood (Q.10:73; 23:29; 36:41)
- ◆ Jonah was swallowed by a great fish and came out alive (37:139-148; 68:48-50)
- ◆ Abraham brought the slaughtered and separated birds together miraculously (Q.2:260)
- ◆ Salih brought the giant camel out of the rock (Q.7:73; 17:59; 26:155-158)
- ◆ Moses performed many miracles (Q.23:45), including turning his stick into a snake (Q.7:107, 116,117), also leprosy (Q.7:108)
- ◆ Jesus spoke when he was a baby, (Q.19:29-36) created birds from clay, healed the blind, cured lepers and raised the dead (Q.3:49; 5:113; 2:87)
- ◆ The previous messengers had all received signs (Q.21:5; 5:32; 35:25; 3:184)

In performing such miracles, “the truth was confirmed” (Q.7:118).

The Bible also teaches that miracles are a sign of the authenticity of a prophet (Exodus 4; 1.Kings.18; John.3:2; 2.Corinthians.12:12; Hebrews.2:3,4)

**So the people of Mecca expected Muhammad to perform miracles** (Q.2:118 ; 6:37; 13:7; 29:50).

They asked for specific signs: to rain stones or bring a painful torment (Q.8:32) or make a spring or river gush from the earth, or the sky fall on us, or bring Allah and his angels to them face to face (Q.17:90-92 )

The Jews of Medina also asked Muhammad for signs (Q.3:183), so did the disbelievers (Q.13:7,27).

How did Muhammad respond to this challenge?

**Muhammad said that he could NOT perform any miracles:**

When the people asked: “Why are signs not sent down to him from his Lord?” He replied: “The signs are only with Allah, and I am only a plain warner.” (Q.29:50)

The people swore that they would believe if they saw a sign, but Muhammad replied: “Indeed the signs are with Allah.” (Q.6:109)

**Muhammad gave many reasons for why he could not or would not perform a miracle:**

- (1) He said: “I am only a man, a messenger.” (Q.17:93; 18:110)
- (2) Muhammad was not a miracle-worker, only a warner (Q.13:7; 7:188; 11:12; 25:7; 29:50) or a bringer of good news and a warner (Q.2:119)
- (3) Allah would not rain stones or punish them while Muhammad was still with them for they might yet seek forgiveness (Q.8:33)
- (4) Moses had been given signs, but still the people did not believe (Q.43:46-50; 2:92) also Thamud 17:59. [However Pharaoh’s sorcerers DID believe Moses signs (Q.7:118-126)]
- (5) Previous messengers brought signs and they were killed (Q.3:183)
- (6) The Jews and Christians still would not follow you (Q.2:145)
- (7) If the people saw an angel (as they requested) who looked like a man they would have become even more confused (Q.6:9)
- (8) No-one could bring a sign (miracle) without God’s permission (Q.13:38).
- (9) Signs (miracles) are only in the power of God. (Q.29:49-51) or ‘with Allah’ (Q.6:109)
- (10) Allah sends astray whom He wills and guides whom He wills (Q.13:27)

**However Muhammad was given one miracle:**

His only sign was the Qur’an (Q.21.3,5,10), which others could not imitate Q.2:23; 10:38; 11:13; 17:88).

The Prophet said, "There was no prophet among the prophets but was given miracles because of which people had security or had belief, **but what I was given was the Divine Inspiration** which Allah revealed to me.” (al-Bukhari 9:379)

---

**Muslim scholars deny miracles by Muhammad**

(a) Isma'il Faruqi: “Muslims do not claim any miracles for Muhammad. In their view, what proves Muhammad’s prophethood is the sublime beauty and greatness of the revelation itself, the Holy Qur’an, not any inexplicable breaches of natural law which confound human reason.”

(b) Abdullah Yusuf-Ali: Muhammad did not perform any feats “in the sense of a reversing of Nature”.

(c) Fatima Mernissi: “Muhammad resisted the pressure of his contemporaries to perform miracles and magical acts.”

(d) Muhammad Haykal: “Muhammad ... had only one irresistible miracle – the Qur’an.”

(e) Tariq Ramadhan: “To those who, in his [Muhammad’s] lifetime, wanted miracles and concrete evidence of his prophethood, Revelation ordered him to reply: ‘I am but a man like yourselves; the inspiration has come to me that your God is One God.’ [Q.18:110]”

(f) Sayyid Ahmad Khan: “I do not deny the possibility of miracles because they are against reason, but because the Quran does not support the happening of events or occurrences that are against the laws of nature or violate the usual course of things.”