

#### EXAMPLE 4

The words of the Holy Quran turned a number of desert tribes from superstitious idol-worshippers into a nation of warrior-heroes ready to give their lives gladly for the one God whom their Prophet preached. The powerful kingdom of Persia fell before them in the seventh century, North Africa and Spain in the eighth, Punjab and Northern India in the ninth. Wonderful cities--Baghdad, Cordova, Delhi, Cairo, Fostat--sprang up in their path. A great culture amalgamating the knowledge of the East and the West followed, immensely advancing human knowledge in its grasp of mathematics, astronomy, medicine, geometry and other forms of scientific learning. Along the mosque stood the college, wherein these people, so *avid* in their love of learning, discussed all questions with far greater freedom than the Christians of their times. *The Arab method of numerals supplanted the cumbersome Roman system*, and opened up new possibilities in Mathematics. The whole Muslim civilization after the death of the Prophet was tied together by the Quran and its teaching, the undeniable echo of his inspired voice. Little wonder that when the people of Mecca, in the early days of his mission, asked him to perform miracles, he replied that his revelation, the Quran, was itself a miracle straight from God. It revolutionized a huge chunk of human population. Its rhythmical flow and sublime teaching went straight to the heart of man.

Study the passage given above carefully and answer the following questions briefly:

- (1) What change was brought about by the teaching of the Quran in the life of the Arabs?
- (2) Sketch the progress of the Muslims in Politics, Science and Culture.
- (3) In what sense did the Quran prove to be a miracle?
- (4) Give the meaning of the italicised words.
- (5) Suggest an appropriate title for the passage.

Ans 1) The change that was brought about by the teaching of the Quran in the life of the desert tribes of Arabs a miraculous. Once a superstitious idol-worshipper nation had been converted into the staunch believers in God whom their prophet preached. From desert nomads they rose up to be warrior-heroes in the cause of Truth and knowledge.

Ans 2) The Arabs conquered Persia, North Africa, Spain, Punjab and Northern India. They found cities like Baghdad, Cordova, Delhi, Cairo and Fostat. They blended the knowledge of East and West and built up a rich culture and progressive civilization. They advanced different sciences. Their numerals replaced the Roman number system and created remarkable possibilities in the development of Mathematics. They showed greater love for learning, and intellectual freedom than the Christians of their time.

Ans 3) The Quran can be truly called a miracle, for it revolutionized the life and thought of Arabs. It converted the nomads of deserts into the greatest nation, which defeated empires, and advanced the learning of multiple sciences, and established a splendid culture and progressive civilization. Quran is also a miracle of account of its unique style and rhythmical flow.

- Ans 4) (i) 'The Arab method of numerals' means the numbers 1, 2, 3, -- we use today.
- (ii) 'supplanted' means replaced or superseded.
- (iii) 'Cubersome' means unmanageable
- (iv) 'Roman system' means Roman number system i.e. I, II, III, IV, --

Ans 5) The title I suggest is: The Quran: a miracle straight from God.