

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ Perspectives



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Editorial

The events of September 11 have significantly increased the interest of many Americans to know what is, and is not, Islam; and whether the Islamic threat mentioned by some media reporters is a myth or reality. A survey of some 900 university religion and theology departments, made prior to September 11 by the Lilly Endowment, showed that a third of them offered no courses on Islam. In the spring of 02 most scheduled courses on Islam were over subscribed, and universities were diligently seeking Islamic experts for teaching them. On the community level, Muslim leaders have never been in greater demand as guest speakers at church, synagogue and civic group meetings.

Providing facts about Islam to the American public, and removing the misconceptions and stereotypes that have been propagated over the years, require a coordinated effort among national and local Muslim organizations. There is a need to develop effective strategies and methodologies for da'awa. These include a web portal on Islam with links to web sites containing accurate information, as well as elaborate facilities for use by speakers. Such facilities should clearly describe the fundamental Islamic principles and values, including:

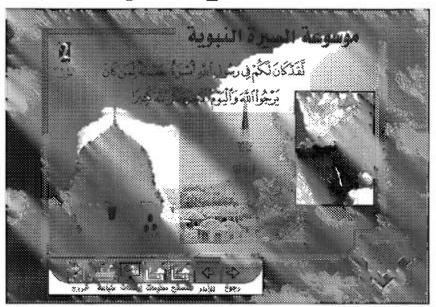
- Religious toleration see, for example, Qur'an (2:256).
- Respect of human rights, dignity and freedom (All are granted by Allah).
- Sanctity of human life see, for example, Qur'an (5:32 and 6:151)
- Justice and fairness to all see, for example, Qur'an (5:8)
- Affirmation of the qualities of mercy, love, forgiveness, moderation, altruism and piety.
- The comprehensive meaning of peace in Islam, achieved by acknowledging the one real God Allah, as the Supreme being, and organizing our entire lives according to His Divine guidance. This results in: the individual having peace of mind and mental comfort; the family enjoying the love, affection and harmony; the community and nation having social justice, security, mercy and caring; and the world becoming a moral world, and enjoying objective justice and truth.

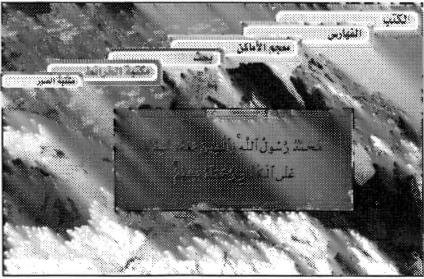
I pray to Almighty Allah to guide us to the straight path, and help us in fulfilling our duties towards His deen.

Ameen 4

Encyclopedia of the Prophet's Biography

The encyclopedia includes a set of the important books composed on the Prophet's biography and his conduct, including Al-Sirah Al-Nabawiyah by Ibn Hisham, Mukhtassar Al-Sirah by Muhammad ibn Abdul-Wahab, Zad Al-Ma'ad by Ibn Al-Qaiyim, Al-Raud Al-Unuf by Al-Suhaili and Al-Maghazi by Al-Waqidi. It comprises more than 9000 pages that are arranged juristically and linguistically. The program provides a timeline on which the events of the Prophet's biography are displayed, according to the Hijri and Georgian calendars. It has textual and thematic search facilities. The program is in Arabic and runs under Windows 95,98 and 2000. It can also run under any web browser. It can be obtained from Harf Information Technology, P.O.Box 5189, Free Zone, Nasr City, Cairo, Egypt, Tel (202) 275-9256, Fax (202) 275-5189, e-mail: harf@harf.com.





Reflections

Dr. Ahmed K. Noor

About the Qur'an

حول القرآن

The Qur'an is the last revealed word of Allah. It has been preserved by Allah in its original form since its revelation on Prophet Mohammad, over 1400 years ago. It is a book of Divine guidance. It provides the framework for every aspect of the life of humans. It is a unique book, a magnificent document because of its ijaz إعجاز (matchlessness or inimitability). Numerous articles and books have been written about the Our'an, Elaborate computer software and hand-held electronic devices (see, for example, the pictures on pages 6, 8 and 9) have been developed to facilitate the study and learning of the Qur'an. In this article a brief description is presented of some aspects of the Qur'an.

Definitions of the word Qur'an

The Arabic word Qur'an comes from continuous reading and recitation (see the figure on page 3). In the Islamic terminology, it refers to the miraculous word of Allah revealed on Prophet Mohammad (PBUH) in the Arabic language, through the angel *Jibreel* (Gabriel), over a period of 23 years (thirteen years in Mecca and ten years in Medina).

General Theme of the Our'an

The theme of the Our'an is generally human beings - sources of happiness success. and sources unhappiness, misery and failure. The Qur'an deals with creeds, gives moral instructions, lays down laws, invites all people to submit to Allah and surrender to Him, admonishes the unbelievers, draws lessons from historical events. gives good tidings, administers warnings, all blended in a beautiful manner. It provides guidelines and detailed teachings for proper human

بسم اللهِ الرَّحْمَسِ الرَّحِيسمِ إنَّ هَـذَا الْقُـزَانَ يَهْدِى لِلَّتِى هِيَ أَقْوَمُ وَيُبَشِّرُ الْمُؤْمِنِينَ الَّذِينَ يَعْمَلُونَ الصَّالِحَاتِ أَنَّ لَهُمْ أَجْرًا كَبِيرًا (سورة الإسراء- آية ٩)

Verily, this Qur'an does guide to that which is most right (or stable), and gives the glad tidings to the believers who work deeds of righteousness, that they shall have a magnificent reward.

(Qur'an 17:9)

conduct, an equitable economic system, and a just society.

Virtues of the Qur'an

فضائل القرآن

Some of the names and descriptions of the Qur'an, which reflect its virtues, and are mentioned in the Qur'an, are given in the figures on pages 4 and 5. In addition, the following three sayings of the Prophet (PBUH) can be noted.



And We reveal of the Qur'an that which is a healing and a mercy to the believers. (Qur'an 17:82)

إن الله يَرفَعُ بهذا الكتاب أقواما ويضعُ به آخرين .

(صحيح مسلم)

Allah, through this book, exalts some people and lowers others.

(Sahih Muslim)

إنَّ الَّذَى لَيْسَ فَى جَوْفَهُ شَيْءٌ مَنَ الْخَرِبِ. الْعَرَانِ كَالْبِيتِ الْخَرِبِ.

(سنن الترمذي)

The one who has nothing of the Qur'an in his heart is like the ruined house.

(Sunan Al-Termizi)



لا حسَدَ إلاَّ في إثنتين رجل آتاهُ الله القرآن فهو يقوم بِهِ آناءَ الليل وآناءَ الله مالاً فهو يُنفقه آناءَ الليل وآناءَ النهار. فهو يُنفقه آناءَ الليل وآناءَ النهار. (صحيح مسلم)

No envy but in two: A man given the knowledge of the Qur'an by Allah, he stands reciting it during the night and during the day, and a man upon whom Allah bestowed wealth and he spends it (in the way of Allah) during the night and during the day. (Sahih Muslim)

Preservation of the Qur'an

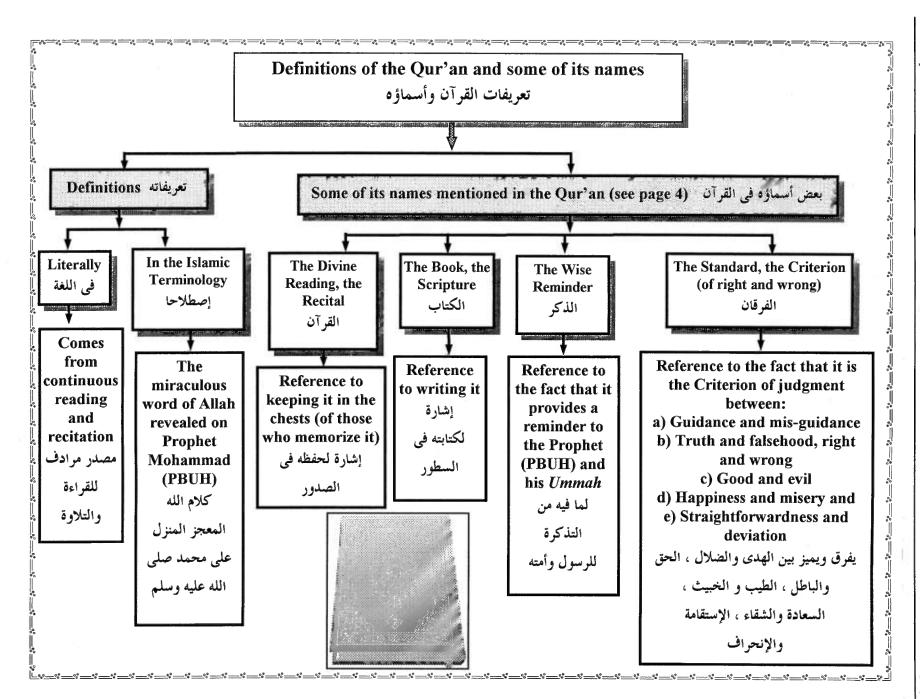
Allah who revealed the Qur'an Himself made arrangements for its safety and security forever.

إِنَّا نَحْنُ نَزَّلْنَا الذُّكْرَ وَإِنَّا لَهُ لَكُونَ وَإِنَّا لَهُ لَكُونَ .

(سورة الحجر - آية ٩)

We have, without doubt, revealed the Message; and We will assuredly guard it (from corruption). (Qur'an 15:9) Umar ibn Al-Khattab urged Abu-Bakr, during his reign as Khalifah to compile the Qur'an in the form of an authenticated book. Abu Bakr entrusted this task to Zaid ibn Thabit - one of the companions, who learned the Qur'an directly from the Prophet (PBUH), and was present when the Prophet (PBUH) recited the Whole Qur'an to angel Jibreel during the last Ramadan of his life.

Since its compilation in one book, the Qur'an has remained absolutely safe and secure against every kind of change and alteration. The authenticity, immunity and purity from any and every kind of addition, omission or alteration is one of the unique features of the



Four of the Names of the Qur'an mentioned in the Qur'an أربعة أسماء للقرآن ذكرت في القرآن

Transliter- ation	Translation	References in the Qur'an	Name in Arabic
Qur'an / Al- Qur'an (repeated 70 times)	(The) Reading, (the) Recital	2:185; 4:82; 5:101; 6:19; 7:204; 9:111; 10:15,37,61; 12:2,3; 13:31; 15:1,87,91; 16:98; 17:9,41,45,46,60,78,82,88,89,106; 18:54; 20:2,113,114; 25:30,32; 27:1,6,76,92; 28:85; 30:5; 34:31; 36:2,69; 38:1; 39:27,28; 41:3,26,44; 42:7; 43:3,31; 46:29; 47:24; 50:1,45; 54:17,22,32,40; 55:2; 56:77; 59:21; 72:1; 73:4,20; 75:17,18; 76:23; 84:21; 85:21	قرآن / القرآن
Kitab / Al- Kitab	, , ,	2:2,89,121,129,151,176,177,231 ; 3:3,7,23,164 ; 4:105,113,127,136,140 ; 5:48 ; 6:38,92,114,155 ; 7:2,52,196 ; 10:1 ; 11:1 ; 12:1 ; 13:1,36 ; 14:1 ; 15: ; 16:64,89 ; 18:1,27 ; 19:16,41,51,54,56 ; 21:10 ; 26:2 ; 27:1 ; 28:2,86 ; 29:45,47,51 ; 31:2 ; 32:2 ; 33:6 ; 35:29,31,32 ; 38:29 ; 39:1,2,23,41 ; 40:2,70 ; 41:3,4 ; 42:15,17; 43:2 ; 44:2 ; 46:2,12,30 ; 52:2 ; 56:78 ; 62:2	كتاب / الكتاب
Al-Zikr	(The) Wise Reminder	3:58; 15:6,9; 16:44; 36:11; 38:8; 41:41; 54:25; 68:51	الذكر
Al-Furqan	The Standard, the Criterion (of right and wrong)	3:4; 25:1	الفرقان

Qur'an.

Challenges of the Qur'an

The Qur'an challenged the entire human race, and the Jinns, to:

 Come up with a book similar to the Qur'an, or ten similar Surahs to its Surahs, or even a single Surah like the Qur'an.

قُل لِّيْنِ اجْتَمَعَت الإنسُ وَالْجِنُّ عَلَى أَن يَأْتُوا بِمِعْل هَـــنَا الْقُرَّانِ لاَ يَأْتُونَ بِمِعْلِهِ وَلَــوْكَانَ بَعْضُهُمْ يَأْتُونَ بِمِعْلِهِ وَلَــوْكَانَ بَعْضُهُمْ لِبَعْضٍ ظَهِيرًا .

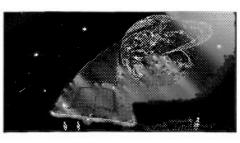
(سورة الإسراء - آية ٨٨)

Say: "If the whole of humans and Jinns were to gather together to produce the like of this Qur'an they could not produce the like thereof, even if they backed up each other with help and support.

(Qur'an 17:88)

أَمْ يَقُولُونَ افْتَرَاهُ قُلْ فَأَتُوا بِعَشْرِ سُورٍ مِثْلِهِ مُفْتَرَيَاتٍ وَادْعُوا مَنِ اسْتَطَعْتُم مُن دُونِ اللهِ إِن كُنتُمْ صَادِقِينَ .

(سورة هود - آية ١٣)



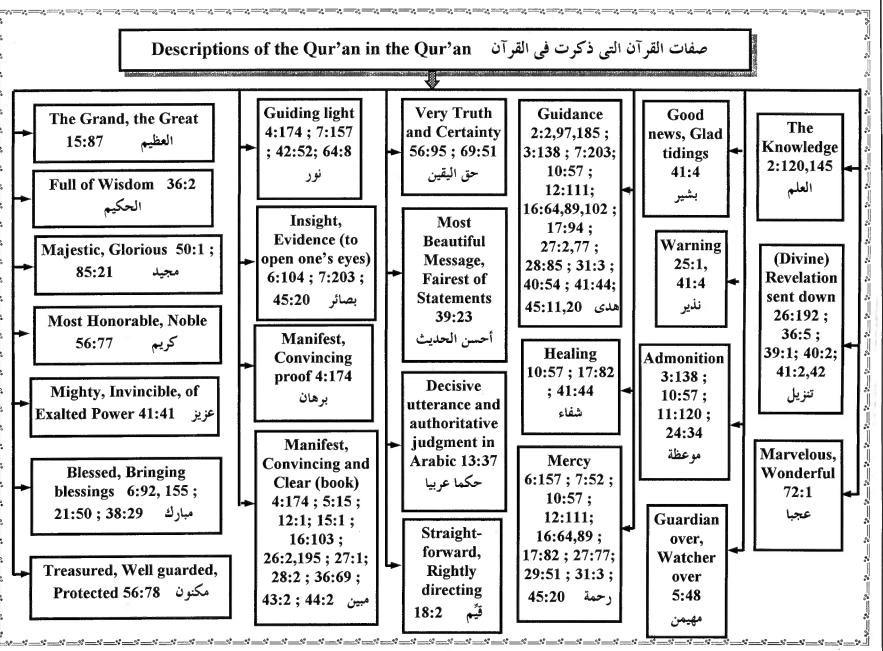
Or they may say, "He forged it." Say bring you then ten forged surahs, like it, and call (to your aid) whomsoever you can other than Allah! if you are truthful. (Our'an 11:13)

وَإِن كُنتُ مْ فِي رَيْب مِمَّا نَزَّلْنَا عَلَى عَبِي مَا نَزَّلْنَا عَلَى عَبِي عَبِي اللهِ وَادْعُوا عَبِي اللهِ وَادْعُوا شُهَدَآءَكُم مِّن دُونِ اللهِ إِن كُنتُ مَ

(سورة البقرة - آية ٢٣)

And if you are in doubt as to what We have revealed from time to time to Our servant, then produce a surah of the like thereof and call your witness or helpers (if there are any) besides Allah, if your (doubts) are true. (Qur'an 2:23)

 Find a mistake in the Qur'an falsification test.



أَفَلاَ يَتَدَبَّرُونَ الْقُرْءَانَ وَلَوْكَانَ مِنْ عِندِ غَيْرِ اللهِ لَوَجَدُوا فِيهِ اخْتِلافًا كَثِيرًا .

Do they not ponder on the Qur'an? Had it been from other than Allah, they would surely have found therein much discrepancy. (Qur'an 4:82)

Ask the people with knowledge about it.

Miracles of the Qur'an

The Qur'an is an amazing book and a living miracle. It was revealed on an unlettered Prophet (not able or trained to read or write). Nevertheless, he challenged, and taught, the most learned scholars.

The Qur'an is a pinnacle of linguistic perfection. It has a unique and wonderful structure. It has vast array of various combinations of its stipulations, across its entire text, each appearing unedited, harmoniously inserted in the text and fully consistent in meaning and style with one another. For example, Surat Al-Baqara سورة البقرة was revealed over a period of thirteen years (along with other Surahs), yet its verses are consistent with one another. Some statistics and facts about the Qur'an are given in the figure on page 7.

The Qur'an informed the unlettered Prophet (PBUH) about previous generations and previous Prophets. It provided information about things to come (in future), which came to pass in accordance with the way Allah has intended. Examples:

- ⇒Liberation of Mecca.
- ⇒Victory of the Roman Empire over the Persian Empire, after its humiliating defeat.
- ⇒His Uncle Abu-Lahab will die as an unbeliever.

It has moved millions of people of different cast, color and nations, uplifted them from ignorance, brought them from darkness to light, from corruption to nobility and from savagery to moral civilization..

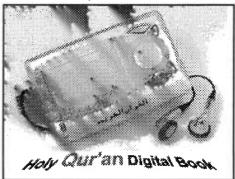
The Qur'an addresses several scientific subjects, and presents facts

about them, not known at the time of the Prophet (PBUH), including the planet Earth (its early history, shape, rotation, revolution, mountains, atmosphere, hydrosphere, and weather phenomena); vegetation and animal kingdoms; human reproduction; astronomy (the sun, moon, planets, meteors and stars); space travel, cosmology (extraterrestrial life, origin and fate of the universe).

The mode of expressing the scientific facts in the Qur'an enable the people of every era (or age) to understand from them as much as the amount of knowledge that Allah has guided them to acquire. That mode is inimitable by any human being.

Revelation of the Qur'an on the Prophet (PBUH) in stages

The unbelievers of Mecca claimed that had the Qur'an been really the word of Allah, it would have been sent



as a complete book all at once; for Allah has the knowledge of everything and every human affair. They did not realize that there are three revelations of the Our'an:

 In the first revelation, the Qur'an as a whole was placed in the Preserved Tablet اللوح المحفوظ , at a time and in a way known only to Allah.

Nay, this is a Glorious Qur'an. (Inscribed) in a Tablet Preserved. (Qur'an 85:21,22)

• In the second revelation, the Qur'an as a whole was placed in the Honor

Place in the Earthly Heaven بيت العزة in the night of Power.

Ramadan is the (month) in which was revealed the Qur'an. (Qur'an 2:185)

We revealed it during a Blessed Night for We (ever) wish to warn (against evil). (Our'an 44:3)

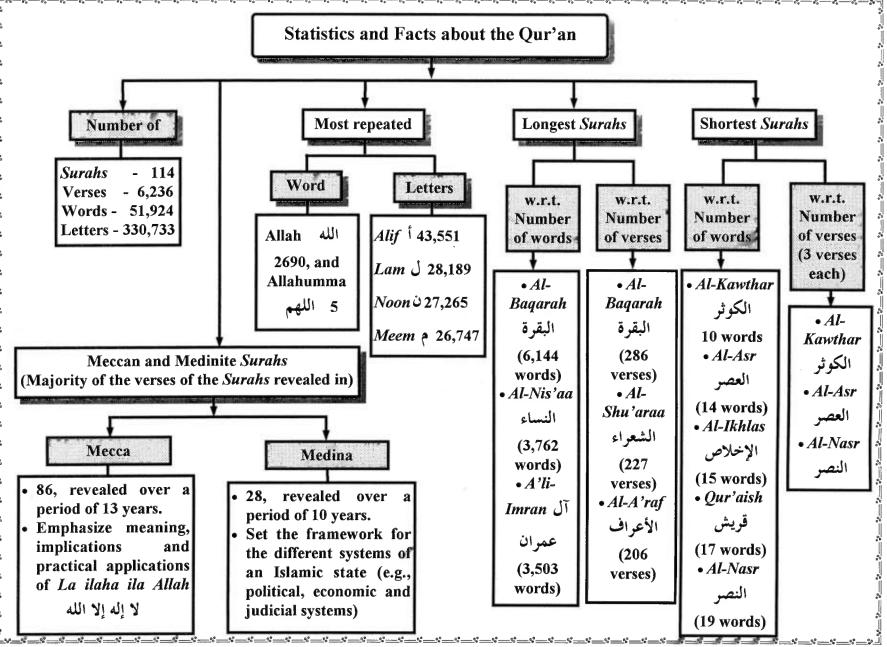
We have indeed revealed this Message in the Night of Power. (Qur'an 97:1)

 The third revelation, took place from the Earthly Heaven to Earth and to the heart of Prophet Mohammad (PBUH), over a period of 23 years.

To suit the guidance of the Islamic movement that started by the appointment of Mohammad (PBUH) as Allah's messenger, the third revelation of the Qur'an was piecemeal, as and when needed, according to the practical situation. The wisdom behind the slow, well-arranged stages of the third revelation, which started in the night of Power, is described in the figure on page 9.

وَقَالَ الَّذِينَ كَفَرُوا لَوْلاَ نُزِّلَ عَلَيْهِ الْقُرْءَانُ جُمْلَةً وَاحِدَةً كَذَلِكَ لِنُفَرِّءَانُ جُمْلَةً وَاحِدَةً كَذَلِكَ لِنُفَجِّتَ بِهِ فُوَّادَكَ وَرَتَّلْنَاهُ تَرْتِيلاً.

Those who reject Faith say: "Why has not the Qur'an been revealed to him all at once? Thus (is it revealed), that



We may strengthen your heart thereby, and We have rehearsed it to you in slow, well-arranged stages gradually.

(Qur'an 25:32)

وَقُرْءَانًا فَرَقْنَاهُ لِتَقْرَأُهُ عَلَى النَّاسِ عَلَى مُكْثٍ وَنَزَّلْنَاهُ تَنزِيلاً .

It is a Qur'an which We have divided (into parts from time to time), in order that you might recite it to the people at intervals: We have revealed it by stages. (Qur'an 17:106)

and Al-المحكمات and Al-

المتشابهات Mutashabihat

among the Verses of the Qur'an

Two categories of verses are included in the Qur'an (see the figure on page 10):

هُوَ الَّذِى أَنْزَلَ عَلَيْكَ الْكِتَابَ مِنْهُ ءَايَاتٌ مُّحْكَمَاتٌ هُنَّ أُمُّ الْكِتَابِ وَأَخُرُ مُتَشَابِهَاتٌ . وَأَخَرُ مُتَشَابِهَاتٌ . (سورة آل عمران - من آبة ٧)

He it is Who has revealed the Book to you; some of its verses are decisive and clear (in meaning) they are the foundation of the Book: others which are allegorical (not entirely clear in meaning) (Qur'an 3:7)

The first category consists of the verses

of the Qur'an which have been worded in such a manner as to make their meaning definite, clear and precise, leaving no room for ambiguity or misinterpretation. These verses cannot be abrogated and are referred to as Al-Muhkamat (decisive). They determine the aim and object for which the Qur'an has been sent down. The verses which are Muhkamat:

- * Expound the fundamentals of religion.
- * State the basic beliefs and practices.
- * Refute wrong beliefs and practices.
- * Invite the world to Islam.
- * Lay down the right way of living.
- * Teach morals and duties, commandments and prohibitions.

* Give warnings.

A seeker after the truth should turn to these verses to satisfy his/her needs.

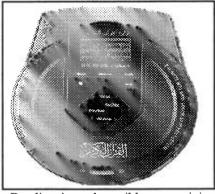
The second category of verses admit more than one meaning. They are referred as *Al-Mutashabihat* (Ambiguous, allegorical, not entirely clear). Their object is to give:

- > Knowledge about the universe, its beginning and end, and the position of the humans therein.
- > Certain minimum knowledge about the absolute unseen and supernatural things which human senses cannot grasp and human languages cannot fully describe.

The main benefit of such verses is to help one approach the reality and form a conception of it

Attitude towards the Qur'an

The Qur'an is the primary source of every Muslim's faith and practice. The proper use of the Qur'an involves:



- Reading it, and possibly memorizing it, or memorizing as much of it as is possible.
- Understanding it through (see the figure on page 11):
- ⇒ The Qur'an itself,

وَنَرَّلْنَا عَلَيْكَ الْكِتَابَ تِبْيَانًا لَكُلِّ شَيْءٍ . لَكُلِّ شَيْءٍ .

(سورة النحل - من آية ٨٩)

And We have revealed the Book to you explaining clearly every thing.

(Our'an 16:89)

وَأَنزَلْنَا إِلَيْكَ الذُّكْرَ لِتُبَيِّنَ لِلنَّاسِ مَا نُزِّلَ إِلَيْهِمْ . لِلنَّاسِ مَا نُزِّلَ إِلَيْهِمْ . (سورة النحل - من آية ٤٤)

And We have revealed to you the Message (Qur'an) that you may explain clearly to people what has been revealed for them.

(Qur'an 16:44)

⇒ The Sunnah (traditions) of the Prophet (PBUH),

ألا إنى أوتيتُ الكتاب ومثله معه. (سنن أبي داود)

Know that I have been given the Qur'an and something like it (the Sunnah).

(Sunan Abi Dawood)

⇒ The interpretations and statements of the companions,

استقرئوا القرآن من أربعة من عبد الله بن مسعود وسالم مولى أبى حذيفة وأبى بن كعب ومعاذ بن جبل . (صحيح البخارى)

Learn the recitation of the Qur'an from four: Abdullah ibn Masood, Salem Mawla abi Huzaifah, Ubbay ibn Ka'ab and Ma'az ibn Jabal.

(Sahih Al-Bukhari)

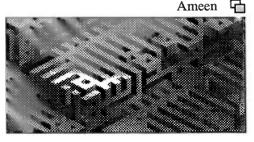
- ⇒ and, The interpretations and statements of the companions' successors.
- Applying it in every day life, through:
- ⇒ Identifying oneself with its spirit.
- ⇒ Practically involving oneself with the fulfillment of its mission.
- Teaching it to others.

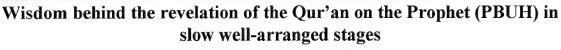
خيركم من تعلم القرآن وعَلَّمَهُ . (صحيح البخاري)

The best of you is the one who learns the Qur'an and teaches it to others.

(Sahih Al-Bukhari)

I pray to Almighty Allah to grant us the guidance and the support to understand the Qur'an, benefit from it and apply it in our daily lives.





حكمة نزول القرآن منجما على الرسول صلى الله عليه وسلم

To strengthen
the heart of the
Prophet
(PBUH) Qur'an (25:32)
التثبيت فؤاد
الرسول صلى الله

To make it easy to understand and remember - Qur'an (54:17,22,32, 40)

To suit the needs and requirements of the different occasions and the different stages of legislation for the Islamic state

and the different stages of legislation for the Islamic state

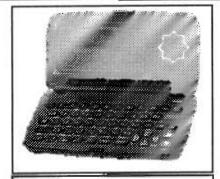
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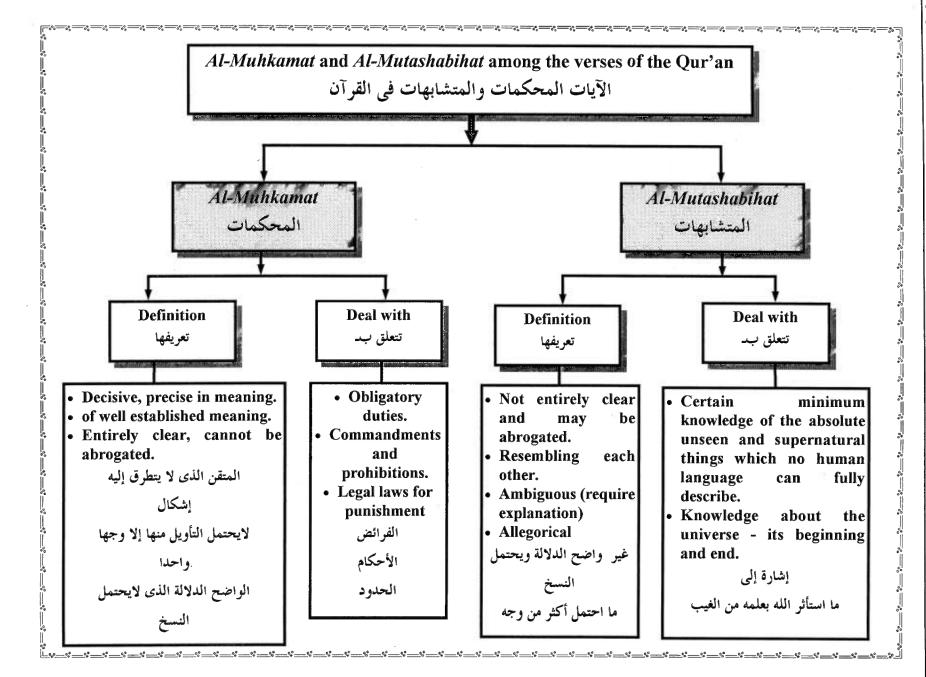
To challenge
the
unbelievers by
providing
better
similitude and
arguments
than theirs (in
their attempts
to oppose, or
to find faults
in the Qur'an
- Qur'an
(25:33)

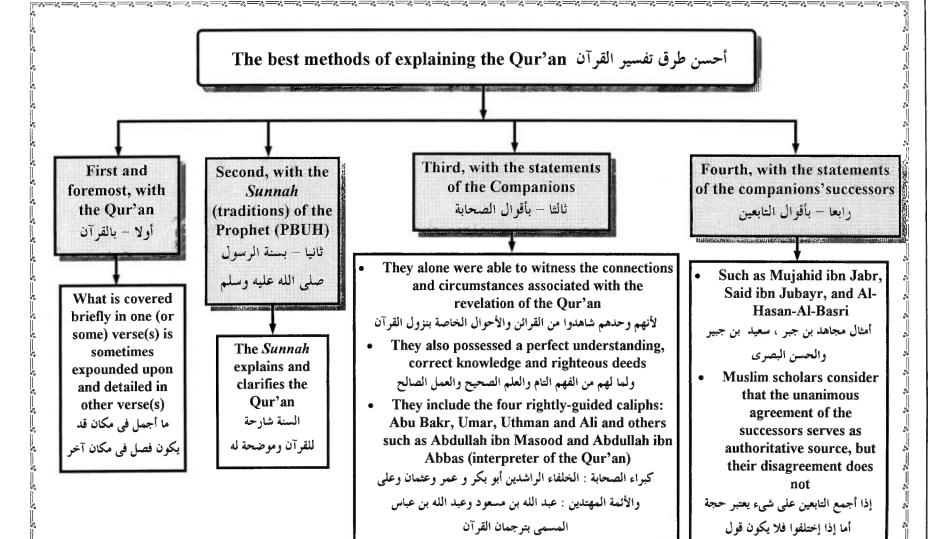
To train the Prophet (PBUH) and encourage him to persevere with sabr, and to give moral support and firmness to the believers - Qur'an (17:106) Luber of the sale of the believers function of the sale of the sale of the persent of the sale of the

To provide a manifest proof that it is coming from Allah - since it does not have any discrepancy or incongruity - Qur'an (4:82) القاطعة على أنه من عند الله سبحانه وتعالى



QA-6000, Handheld Electronic device containing the Holy Qur'an , Sahih Al-Bukhari and Arabic/English dictionary





Note that explaining the Qur'an through mere opinion (without knowledge) is totally forbideden تفسير القرآن بمجرد الرأى (دون علم) حرام

بعضهم حجة على قول البعض الآخر