

THE HOLY QUR'AAN AT A GLANCE

Bis Millaa Hir Rahmaa Nir Raheem

(In the name of ALLAH, Ever Gracious, Ever Merciful.)

1. Islam is in fact in the Holy Qur'aan as much as it is in the personality of Holy Prophet Muhammad Mustafa (*Sal Lal Laahu 'Allehi Wa Sallam*). We should therefore first have a look into the pages of Holy Qur'aan.
2. The word "*Qur'aan*" means: "that which is read or "that which should be read again and again." The Holy Qur'aan is a Divine Scripture. It is the Word of One True GOD—ALLAH. Holy Qur'aan was revealed by ALLAH through Angel Jibreel '*Alle his Salaam*' in Arabic language to Prophet Muhammad (*Sal Lal Laahu 'Allehi Wa Sallam*) bit by bit over a period of about twenty-three years. As soon as these verses were revealed to Prophet Muhammad (Peace Be Upon Him) they were dictated by him immediately to the ready scribes who wrote them down immediately and the *Hafiz-e-Qur'aan* then memorized them by heart. No other Book of Revelation can claim such an authenticity. Holy Qur'aan is the Revealed Book of ALLAH and not of any human being.
3. ALLAH (Sub haana wa t'a'laa) had sent a number of Messengers for the guidance of mankind. Besides many small size Scriptures (*Sahufaz*), ALLAH had also revealed *Tawrah* (Torah), *Zaboor* (Psalms), and *Injeel* (Gospel), the originals of which are lost. Moreover, human authors have modified them considerably. (Holy Qur'aan, Surah Baqarah 2:59 and Surah Maaidah 5:14).
4. Holy Qur'aan at Surah *Maaidah*, 5:44 and 5:46 confirms that ALLAH did send those Scriptures to the People of the Book, i.e. to Jews and to Christians, as a guidance and light. Then ALLAH says at Surah Maaidah

5:14: "But they forgot a good part of Message that was sent to them." Again at Surah Baqarah 2:59 ALLAH says: "But those who did wrong changed the word from that which had been told to them for another... ."

5. Holy Qur'aan is, therefore, the Final Guidance from ALLAH, and Islam, as a Religion, is a "Complete Way of Life." ALLAH says at (Surah *Maaidah* 5:3): "This day I have perfected your Religion for you, and have chosen for you Islam as your religion."

6. After the Final Revelation from ALLAH i.e. the Holy Qur'aan, all other earlier Scriptures and Books, which were modified by humans, are superseded by ALLAH. Mankind from now onwards will receive all time guidance from Holy Qur'aan only. Since the Last Book i.e. the Holy Qur'aan has arrived, ALLAH has therefore confirmed that HE will not send any more Messenger or any other Divine Book in future. ALLAH confirms this by saying:- "Muhammad is *Rasool* (a Messenger and a Prophet) of ALLAH and he is the Seal on Prophethood. (Surah *Ahzaab*, 33:40). Muhammad (P.B.U.H.) is the Last and the Final Messenger of ALLAH. ALLAH further says: "We have without doubt, sent down the Message, (i.e. the Holy Qur'aan) and WE (i.e. ALLAH) will assuredly guard it from corruption. (Surah *Al-Hijr*, 15:9).

7. Holy Qur'aan is the Mother of All Books. It is all embracing. ALLAH has given various qualifying names and has used other adjectives and titles in Holy Qur'aan itself to indicate its many splendoured qualities and to highlight its multidimensional magnificence. These titles are: "The Book", "The Criterion of Right and Wrong", "The Reminder", "Full of Wisdom", "The Protecting Guardian", "The Divine Illumination", "The Revelation from the Merciful", "The Book in Which There is No

Doubt Whatsoever”, “The Book Full of Glorious Material” and “The Book Which Takes One Beyond Experience and Knowledge” etc.

8. Holy Qur’aan is written in the purest of *Arabic* Language. It is neither poetry nor a straight prose, yet it has its most exalted style of its own. It is the Word of ALLAH. Therefore, its linguistic charm and sublimity of style has no parallel. Its lucidity, fluency and eloquence, is singularly its own. The elegance and the grace of Holy Qur’aan, is unmatched. Its expressions are short and direct. Its verses are loaded with wisdom, beauty and thought. They have a stunning effect not only on heart and mind, but also on the soul of a reader. The Message of Holy Qur’aan is the ABSOLUTE TRUTH. Its Message therefore penetrates right into the deepest recesses of the reader. And it is for this reason that the Message of Holy Qur’aan becomes the dominating force in one’s thoughts and life.
9. The Holy Qur’aan, which is in Arabic Language has a unique pattern. It has its own special terminology. From any one basic word, many other words are derived, each word meaning differently. Its innumerable stops and pauses, short and long, are there to give clarity of expression. They also provide an eloquent manner of speech. In fact there is no other Book in the World that it is so heavily and so meticulously punctuated as the Holy Qur’aan is. There are Signs to indicate where to “Stop” and where “Not to Stop.”
10. Holy Qur’aan is the only Book in the world that remains unaltered even to the minutest of inflexions till today. Not even a single word has been replaced. ALLAH declared that HE Himself is its Protector and Guardian. (Surah *Al-Hijr*, 15:9). It has been preserved as it was originally revealed, and thousands of thousands of

Muslim men, women and children have memorized it by heart. This process of memorization of the entire Holy Qur'aan in *Arabic* language has gone on from generations to generations and it, ALLAH willing, will continue till the end of the world. This feature of Holy Qur'aan is of special attention and it proves conclusively, to anyone that Holy Qur'aan certainly is the Word of ALLAH. This also proves, with certainty, the superiority of Islam over all other religions.

11. There never will be a revised version of Holy Qur'aan. It is, and it will always remain the same as it was originally revealed. If Holy Prophet Muhammad (*Mustafa Sal Lal Laahu 'Allehi Wa Sallam*) were to return to the earth today, he would find the faithful Muslims reading exactly the same Holy Qur'aan, worshipping and praying to ALLAH in exactly the same manner as he had taught. He would find them fasting, giving charity and performing Haj etc. in exactly the same manner as he had taught them over fourteen centuries ago.

12. Originally, the Qur'aanic words were the "spoken words." These verbatim words used to be reduced to writing immediately. Therefore these spoken words have a life and a force. They are dynamic in power, effect and result. These words are explosive in meaning and carry an all conquering effect on the hearts. The Holy Qur'aan speaks for itself. Holy Qur'aan is the embodiment of Living Truth. Unless people understand the existence of ALLAH — the Eternal Living GOD, they cannot understand and comprehend the Message of Holy Qur'aan.

13. There is a unity of purpose in the entire Holy Qur'aan. The topics of each of its 114 Surahs (Chapters) revolve around the same central theme, i.e. the existence of **One True GOD — ALLAH**. There is a great emphasis on the arrival of Day of Judgment. This was also the

Message of all previous Prophets. Each Surah is a complete whole, and within it, the verses are closely interwoven. The Message of Holy Qur'aan is an eye opener.

14. The rhyme of Holy Qur'aan is remarkable and most beautiful. It is absorbing, captivating and grasping. The sounds of its verses are exceptionally sonorous. In the recitation of the Holy Qur'aan, the Divine symphony, the articulation and the resonance of its Divine Words echo into the heart. They touch the very core of the heart. The heavenly music enralls the heart. The Divine Words bring spiritual ecstasy both to mind and to the soul. The sounds of Qur'aanic Words, when recited in absolute spiritual devotion completely overtake the feelings of the reader. These verses then arouse in the reader's heart uncontrollable ecstasy that is beyond description. As an external expression of deepest devotion to ALLAH, the tears begin to roll down the cheeks. This is the miracle of Holy Qur'aan that no other scripture can match. Try its recitation, enjoy its richness and feel happiness and satisfaction. Read a little of it at a time but understand its meaning. Then meditate, ponder and contemplate more on it. One would be moved. In fact one would feel himself close to ALLAH. Therefore, "recite Qur'aan in slow measured rhythmic tones." (Surah *Muzzammil*, 73:4)

15. The Holy Qur'aan itself is a miracle of ALLAH because as mentioned earlier, the entire Holy Qur'aan can be memorized by heart by thousands of faithfuls known as *Hafiz-e-Qur'aan*. Yet another miracle of Holy Qur'aan is hidden in the numerical figure of Nineteen (19) that appears in Surah *Muddassir* 74:30. In Holy Qur'aan most of the figures and verses that are revealed are divisible by figure 19. It is no co-incidence. Surely no human being can produce a Book with such a precision. For detailed information concerning figure Nineteen, please read my Article: "The Holy Qur'aan is a Mathematical Miracle."

16. It is also a miracle of Islam that it has forcefully come back again. It was erroneously thought by the West that Islam was lost and finished and had no further role to play. They thought that Islam, was almost lost and forgotten. Yet Islam is to play a decisive role in shaping the future of mankind and in saving the crumbling modern civilization. In fact it is the only tool available to humanity today to civilize the society and the nations. Holy Qur'aan is the only therapy that is available to humans to eradicate the ills of the society. All other religions and scriptures would wane away with the passage of time, except Islam and the Holy Qur'aan. In fact the Holy Qur'aan is the Greatest Gift of ALLAH to all HIS creatures.

17. The Holy Qur'aan is an encyclopedia of Divine Knowledge. It is the Last, the Final and also the Most Comprehensive Revealed Book. There is a constant and a repeated mention of ALLAH (One True GOD) to be worshipped by all humans. None else is worthy of worship except ALLAH. HE is Omnipotent, Omniscient and Omnipresent. HIS is the Kingdom on the Earth and in the Heavens, and all that exists in between belongs to HIM. Stories of 26 Prophets is mentioned. There is a repeated mention of another Life in the Hereafter that would be eternal. Holy Qur'aan gives warnings to the Guilty, and hope to the Righteous. Holy Qur'aan constantly warns men and women against *Shaytan's* (Satan's) misgivings and the consequent perils of Hell. Holy Qur'aan also gives men and women the guidance and shows the Straight Path to ALLAH and that is an attractive goal to aspire for, i.e. "the Blessings of Heaven." Holy Qur'aan constantly condemns idolatry, erroneous concepts of begotten son and trinity. It condemns all kinds of evils. It encourages man to be righteous with Right Belief.

18. Holy Qur'aan provides guidance to humanity in every sphere of human life whether it be religious, social,

monetary, secular or spiritual field. Thus the scope and the spread of Qur'aanic teachings is far more wide and far more comprehensive than any other religion. In its light, the right can be clearly distinguished from the wrong and the virtue from the vice. It gives guidance in improving morals, character, and personality right up to the ultimate perfection stage. It lays down laws for marriage, divorce, inheritance, charity, congregational prayers, mental hygiene and various other aspects of social life from cradle to the grave, and even beyond. It prescribes strictest punishments for sex crimes. Holy Qur'aan gives a woman a high moral status and respect. It treats her as a free and an equal individual and gives her the right to own a property, and to do business. For information please read my book. "The Personality of ALLAH's Last Messenger."

19. According to Holy Qur'aan all human beings form one universal brotherhood and one community irrespective of colour of skin, area of origin, or spoken language. ALLAH forbids racism and discrimination within humanity. In the sight of ALLAH only right faith and good deeds give a person superiority over others. All knowledge projects from only one source— ALLAH. Holy Qur'aan is a treasure of knowledge and wisdom. Holy Qur'aan urges mankind to explore space and the heavens. It urges mankind to build up a close relationship with nature. Let then the whole mankind read ALLAH's Book —the Holy Qur'aan and ponder, reflect, think, and contemplate over its contents. It should be studied with a critical eye and an analytical mind. The meanings of its verses are like the fragrance from the rose buds. More of it is hidden in the successive layers of their petals. Deeper you go more you understand.

20. To bring the points home to the reader's mind references to 19 males and 11 females of the past are

mentioned. Twenty-eight stories are mentioned. Thirty-one ancient communities are mentioned. Thirty-seven parables are quoted. There is repeated mention of the teachings of Twenty-six Messengers of ALLAH. Some seventeen major sins are mentioned. Forty prayers (Duas/Supplication/Invocation) begging ALLAH for various things are quoted. Holy Qur'aan is full of reasonings, appeals, persuasions and commands of ALLAH to lead a righteous life. The Holy Qur'aan has 114 Surahs, 558 Rukoos, 6236 Ayahs (Verses) having 76,546 words which contain 3,25,026 letters. For more information please read my book "Qur'aanic Information."

21. Those faithful who daily recite the Holy Qur'aan assert that the Holy Qur'aan will have their eyes overflowing with tears because they recite the very words of ALLAH—their Creator. In the Holy Qur'aan they recognize the Absolute Truth about man. While reading the Holy Qur'aan a reader would perceive that his Creator is directly addressing him through HIS verses. A reader would feel as if he is in "one to ONE" conversation with his Creator. A reader would not see ONE TRUE GOD—ALLAH each time he reads the Holy Qur'aan, but he would virtually hear HIM each time he reads it. The reader would feel the awe that he is virtually in the Presence of his Almighty RABB

22. Unfamiliarity un-awareness and ignorance of the Message of Holy Qur'aan amounts to degradation of intelligence and life itself. Surely such a Divine Book deserves to be read again and again, and adopted more readily and more widely. Reading the Holy Qur'aan in the Arabic Script is the only right and the most beautiful way. But it is pity that even many Muslims cannot read it in Arabic Script and yet call themselves literate and educated. They depend upon its translation. But no translation, no matter how good and close to perfection can ever take the

place of Arabic Scripted Holy Qur'aan. It is impossible to reproduce that matchless, enchanting grand style of Arabic Qur'aan. Its forceful diction and rhetoric can never be recreated in any other human language no matter how rich that language may be. One must understand that the Arabic Qur'aan is a Divine Word whereas its translation is a human word. The difference is obvious. If one reads the translation alone, then of course, the message would get into his mind but not the real effect of those Spiritual and Divine Words of ALLAH on his soul.

23. Centuries of biased propaganda, ignorance and neglect continue to prevent people from reading the Holy Qur'aan. They remain ignorant of its deepest and the most sublime message and its blessings to humanity. They should try to understand the Message of Holy Qur'aan. If they fail to do, then the loss is their own. The entire humanity should read it, debate it and think over its contents, and then form its own independent and honest opinion about its usefulness to human life. This would give them a new orientation in life and a new goal to aspire for. They should therefore, read the Arabic Scripted Holy Qur'aan, then go through its translation. Holy Qur'aan should be accepted after the total inner satisfaction of mind, heart and soul. Only then it should be accepted and adopted on its merit and excellence alone.

For more information on Islam and comparative religious study, please visit my website:

www.islam-christianity.com

By Abdul Waheed Khan