

Bismillah-ir-Rahman-ir-Rahim

THE QUR'AN

The Qur'an is the final revelation from our Creator, Allah (Subhanahu Wa Ta'ala) to our beloved Prophet Muhammad (S.A.W) and was revealed over a period of 23 years to our beloved Prophet through Angel Jibril (A.S.) in the form of speech and then later compiled into book form.

The first verses of the Qur'an to be revealed are the first five verses of Surah Al-Alaq (Chapter 96) where Allah (Subhanahu Wa Ta'ala) commands our beloved Prophet Muhammad (S.A.W) to: "Recite, in the name of your Lord Who created."

The Holy Qur'an was revealed in the month of Ramadhan (9th month of the Muslim calendar) as a guidance for all of mankind. Allah (Subhanahu Wa Ta'ala) says in Surah Al-Baqarah (Chapter 2, Verse 185): "The month of Ramadhan is that in which the Qur'an was revealed, as guidance to mankind and with clear proofs of the guidance and the Criterion." Muslims typically complete the recitation of the whole Qur'an in the Month of Ramadhan during *Tarawih* prayers.

The Holy Qur'an teaches us the proper way to live life. For example, it tells us about the five pillars of Islam, how to treat your family and your neighbors, how to treat people with respect and kindness, how to have and maintain good character, how to deal in work or business and so many other basic rules of life.

It also tells us many historical stories about the Prophets (A.S) that were chosen by Allah (Subhanahu Wa Ta'ala) such as Nabi Adam (A.S.), Nabi Nuh (A.S.), Nabi Ibrahim (A.S.), Nabi Musa (A.S.), Nabi Isa (A.S.) and Prophet Muhammad (S.A.W) so that we may learn from them.

There are also many Duas (supplications), pearls of wisdom and knowledge and signs of Allah's creation within the Qur'an.

The opening Chapter of the Qur'an is Surah Al Fatiha which begins by praising Allah (Subhanahu Wa Ta'ala) as our Creator and then continues as a prayer for guidance and mercy. Muslims recite Surah Al Fatiha in all our obligatory (fardh), sunnah and voluntary (nafl) prayers.

The Qur'an has 114 Chapters called Surahs. The longest Chapter is Surah Al- Baqarah ("The Cow" Chapter 2) with 286 verses and the shortest Surah is Surah Al- Kawthar ("The Abundance" Chapter 108) with 3 verses. Some of the Chapters were revealed while Prophet Muhammad (S.A.W.) was in Makkah. These are called "Makki" Surahs while some Chapters were revealed after Hijrah (migration) in Madina. These are called "Madani" Surahs. Surah Yasin (Chapter 36) is known as the heart of the Qur'an, and it is a "Makki" Surah.

When the Qur'an was compiled into book form, it was divided into 30 Juz (parts) to make it easier for recitation during a calendar month. Muslims should try their best to recite the entire Qur'an at least once every month. Our beloved Prophet Muhammad (S.A.W.) said: "Recite the Qur'an, for it will come as an intercessor for its reciters on the Day of Resurrection" (Sahih Muslim). People who have memorized the entire Qur'an are called Hafiz-al-Qur'an.

The Holy Qur'an is the greatest miracle bestowed on our beloved Prophet Muhammad (S.A.W.) and the best gift given to mankind. It will remain unchanged, and in its original form, from the time it was revealed almost 1400 years ago until the final day of judgement. This is Allah's (Subhanahu Wa Ta'ala) promise.

It is therefore our responsibility to recite the Holy Qur'an, learn from it, understand it and if possible, memorize it as much as we can. Our beloved Prophet Muhammad (S.A.W) said: "The best amongst you (Muslims) are those who learn the Qur'an and teach it." (Sahih Al-Bukhari).

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