



Beginners Guide to the Quran 1



Islamic Outreach - ABIM

TIME TO BE AWAKE OF OUR LIFE WITH PROMISE BUNYATI, PIRANCA, AL QURAN, IS IS

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Objectives

- To understand what exactly is the Quran.
- To learn the basics about Quran and how it is organized.
- To know the major themes inclusive in the Quran.
- To understand the style of the Quran in discussing its themes.

• Exactly What is The Quran?

- The Quran is the literal, **spoken Word of Allah** revealed to the last Prophet Muhammad ﷺ through Gabriel, the Angel of Revelation, transmitted to us by numerous channels, both verbally and in written form. Inimitable and unique, it is divinely protected from corruption.
- Allah says:
- *'Indeed, it is We who sent down the message [i.e., the Qur'an] and indeed, We will be its guardian.'* (Quran 15:9)

The Quran is the exact Arabic words spoken by God, revealed to Prophet Muhammad ﷺ through Gabriel. The word of God is only the Arabic Quran.

Numerous channels means (*mutawatir*) - successive narration conveyed by narrators so numerous that it is not conceivable that they have agreed upon an untruth thus being accepted as unquestionable in its veracity.





The Basics

فَايُّهَا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا لَا تَكْفُرُوا بِاللَّهِ وَرَسُولِهِ بِالَّذِينَ كَفَرُوا إِنَّهُمْ كَفَرُوا قَبْلَ ذَلِكَ وَلَئِن كُنْتُمْ تُحِبُّونَ اللَّهَ فَاتَّبِعُوا أُمَّةَ مُحَمَّدٍ فَايُّهَا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا لَا تَكْفُرُوا بِاللَّهِ وَرَسُولِهِ بِالَّذِينَ كَفَرُوا إِنَّهُمْ كَفَرُوا قَبْلَ ذَلِكَ وَلَئِن كُنْتُمْ تُحِبُّونَ اللَّهَ فَاتَّبِعُوا أُمَّةَ مُحَمَّدٍ

SO, WHICH OF THE BOUNTIES OF YOUR LORD WILL YOU DENY?

- The Arabic word, 'Quran,' literally means both 'recitation' and 'reading'. The Quran was both recited orally and written down in book form. The true power of the Quran remains in the oral recitation, read aloud and melodiously.
- The verses were written down on available materials as an aid to memorizing and guarding it, and these were collected and arranged in book form.
- The Quran was not meant to tell a chronological story
- The Quran often repeats certain verses and themes, shifting topics between them, and often relates narratives in summarized form.

First, it serves a linguistic purpose and is one of the powerful rhetorical techniques of classical Arabic.

Second, all themes of the Quran, no matter how varied, are wrapped around one common thread running through the entire book: **there is no true god but Allah, and Muhammad is His messenger.**



The Basics

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ
الْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ الَّذِي أَنزَلَ عَلَىكَ
الْقُرْآنَ وَمَن لَّا يُلَاقِيهِ إِلَّا
الْخُسُوفُ وَالْجُمُودُ وَمَنْ لَّمْ
يَلْقَ الْيَوْمَ الْبِئْسَ الْقُودُ

- The Quran’s form and purpose is to use events, from past and present, to illustrate this central message. So when the Quran is discussing the healing properties of honey or the life of Jesus, neither topic is an end in itself, but each is related in one way or another to the central message – **the Oneness of God and unity of the prophetic message.**
- The Quran was not revealed in one sitting, but rather it was revealed in parts over a span of 23 years. Many passages were in response to specific events. Often, Quranic revelation would come from the angel Gabriel to Prophet Muhammad as a response to questions raised by unbelievers.
- The Quran addresses these unbelievers, the People of the Scripture (a term used by the Quran for Jews and Christians), humanity at large, believers, and, finally, the Prophet himself - commanding him what to do in a certain situation or solacing him in the face of ridicule and rejection. Knowing the historical and social context of revelation clarifies the meanings contained in the text itself.

- The Quran is composed of 114 parts or chapters of unequal length. Each chapter is called a *surah* in Arabic and each sentence or phrase of the Quran is called an *ayah*, literally ‘a sign.’
- The Quran is divided into discrete units, referred to as ‘verses’ in English. These verses are not standard in length and where each begins and ends was not decided by human beings, but dictated by God.
- All *surahs*, except one, begin with *Bimillah hir-Rahman nir-Rahim*, ‘I begin with the Name of Allah, the Most-Merciful, the Compassionate.’ Each *surah* has a name that usually relates to a central theme within it. For example, the longest *surah*, *Surah al-Baqarah*, or “The Cow”, is named after the story of Moses commanding the Jews to offer a sacrifice of a cow, which begins by God saying:
- “And remember Moses said to his people: ‘Allah commands that you sacrifice a cow’” (Quran 2:67)

How is The Quran Organized?

وَإِذْ قَالَ مُوسَىٰ لِقَوْمِهِ إِنَّ اللَّهَ يَأْمُرُكُمْ أَنْ تَذْبَحُوا بَقْرَةً قَالُوا أَتَتَّخِذُنَا هُزُوًا قَالَ أَعُوذُ بِاللَّهِ أَنْ أَكُونَ مِنَ الْجَاهِلِينَ ﴿٦٧﴾

- The various chapters are of various lengths, the Quran was divided by scholars of the first century after the death of the Prophet into thirty roughly equal parts, each part is called a *juz'* in Arabic.
- This division of the Quran was done in order for people to memorize or read it in a more organized fashion, and it has no influence on the original structure, as they are mere marks on the sides of the pages denoting the part.
- In the month of fasting, *Ramadan*, one *juz'* is usually recited every night, and the entire Quran is completed by the end of the month.

How is The Quran Organized?

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

- The Quran talks about the Oneness of Allah and how to live a life pleasing to Him for success in this world and the hereafter. The Quran is the book of guidance for mankind. Other topics include religious doctrine, God consciousness, creation, criminal and civil law, Judaism, Christianity and polytheism, justice, social values, morality, integrity, history, stories of past prophets, and science.
- The most important features of Quran's style in discussing these themes are:
 - (1) The use of parables to stir curiosity of the reader and explain deep truths.
 - (2) More than two hundred passages begin with the Arabic word *Qul* - 'Say' - addressing Prophet Muhammad to say what follows in reply to a question, to explain a matter of faith, or to announce a legal ruling. For example:

Style of the Quran

قُلْ يٰٓاَهْلَ الْكِتٰبِ هَلْ تَنقِمُوْنَ مِنّٰ اِلَّا اَنْ ءَامَنَّا بِاللّٰهِ وَمَا اُنزِلَ
 اِلَيْنَا وَمَا اُنزِلَ مِن قَبْلُ وَاَنْ اَكْثَرَ كُمْ فَسٰقُوْنَ ﴿٥٩﴾

“Say: ‘O People of the Scripture! Do you disapprove of us for no other reason than that we believe in Allah, and the revelation that has come to us and that which came before (us), and because most of you are rebellious and disobedient?’” (Quran 2:59)

- (3) In some passages of the Quran, Allah takes oaths by His marvellous creation, both to strengthen an argument or to dispel doubts in the mind of the listener:

- *By the sun and its brightness,*
- *By the moon when it follows it,*
- *By the day when it displays it,*
- *By the night when it covers it,*
- *By the sky and He who constructed it,*
- *By the earth and He who spread it,*
- *By the soul and He who proportioned it...*

(Quran 91:1-7)

Style of the Quran

وَالشَّمْسِ وَضُحَاهَا

وَالْقَمَرِ إِذَا تَلَّاهَا

وَالنَّهَارِ إِذَا جَلَّاهَا

وَاللَّيْلِ إِذَا يَغْشَاهَا

وَالسَّمَاءِ وَمَا بَنَاهَا

وَالْأَرْضِ وَمَا طَحَاهَا

وَنَفْسٍ وَمَا سَوَّاهَا

Sometimes Allah takes an oath by Himself:

“But no, by your Lord, they will not (truly) believe until they make you, (O Muhammad), judge concerning that over which they dispute among themselves, and then find within themselves no discomfort from what you have judged and submit in (full, willing) submission.” (Quran 4:65)

(4) Lastly, the Quran has what is called ‘the disjointed letters,’ composed of letters of the Arabic alphabet which, if taken together, do not have a known meaning in the Arabic lexicon. This was one of the ways that Allah challenged the Arabs, who were the most eloquent of people in speech, to bring forth something to the Quran, which consisted of the likes of these disjointed letters. They appear at the beginning of twenty-nine *surahs*.

Style of the Quran

فَلَا وَرَبِّكَ لَا يُؤْمِنُونَ حَتَّىٰ يُحَكِّمُوكَ فِي مَا شَجَرَ
بَيْنَهُمْ ثُمَّ لَا يَجِدُوا فِي أَنفُسِهِمْ حَرَجًا مِّمَّا قَضَيْتَ
وَيُسَلِّمُوا تَسْلِيمًا ﴿١٥﴾

الْم ﴿١﴾

ذَٰلِكَ الْكِتَابُ لَا رَيْبَ فِيهِ هُدًى لِّلْمُتَّقِينَ ﴿٢﴾

This is the Book (the Qur'an), whereof there is no doubt, a guidance to those who are God-conscious [the pious]

[Surah Al-Baqarah 2:2]

قُل لِّئِنِ اجْتَمَعَتِ الْإِنْسُ وَالْجِنُّ عَلَىٰ أَن يَأْتُوا بِمِثْلِ هَٰذَا الْقُرْءَانِ لَا يَأْتُونَ بِمِثْلِهِ ۚ وَلَوْ كَانَ بَعْضُهُمْ لِبَعْضٍ ظَهِيرًا ﴿٨٨﴾

Say: 'If the mankind and the jinn were together to produce the like of this Qur'an, they could not produce the like thereof, even if they helped one another''

[Surah Al-Israa' 17:88]

شَهْرُ رَمَضَانَ الَّذِي أُنزِلَ فِيهِ الْقُرْآنُ هُدًى لِّلنَّاسِ وَبَيِّنَاتٍ مِّنَ الْهُدَىٰ
وَالْفُرْقَانِ فَمَن شَهِدَ مِنْكُمُ الشَّهْرَ فَلْيَصُمْهُ ۖ وَمَن كَانَ مَرِيضًا أَوْ عَلَىٰ سَفَرٍ
فَعِدَّةٌ مِّنْ أَيَّامٍ أُخَرَ يُرِيدُ اللَّهُ بِكُمُ الْيُسْرَ وَلَا يُرِيدُ بِكُمُ الْعُسْرَ
وَلِتُكْمِلُوا الْعِدَّةَ وَلِتُكَبِّرُوا اللَّهَ عَلَىٰ مَا هَدَيْتُمْ وَلِعَلَّكُمْ تَشْكُرُونَ



Ramadan is the (month) in which was sent down the Qur'an as a guide to mankind also clear (Signs) for guidance and judgment (criterion between right and wrong)...

(Surah al Baqarah: 185)

Thank You

