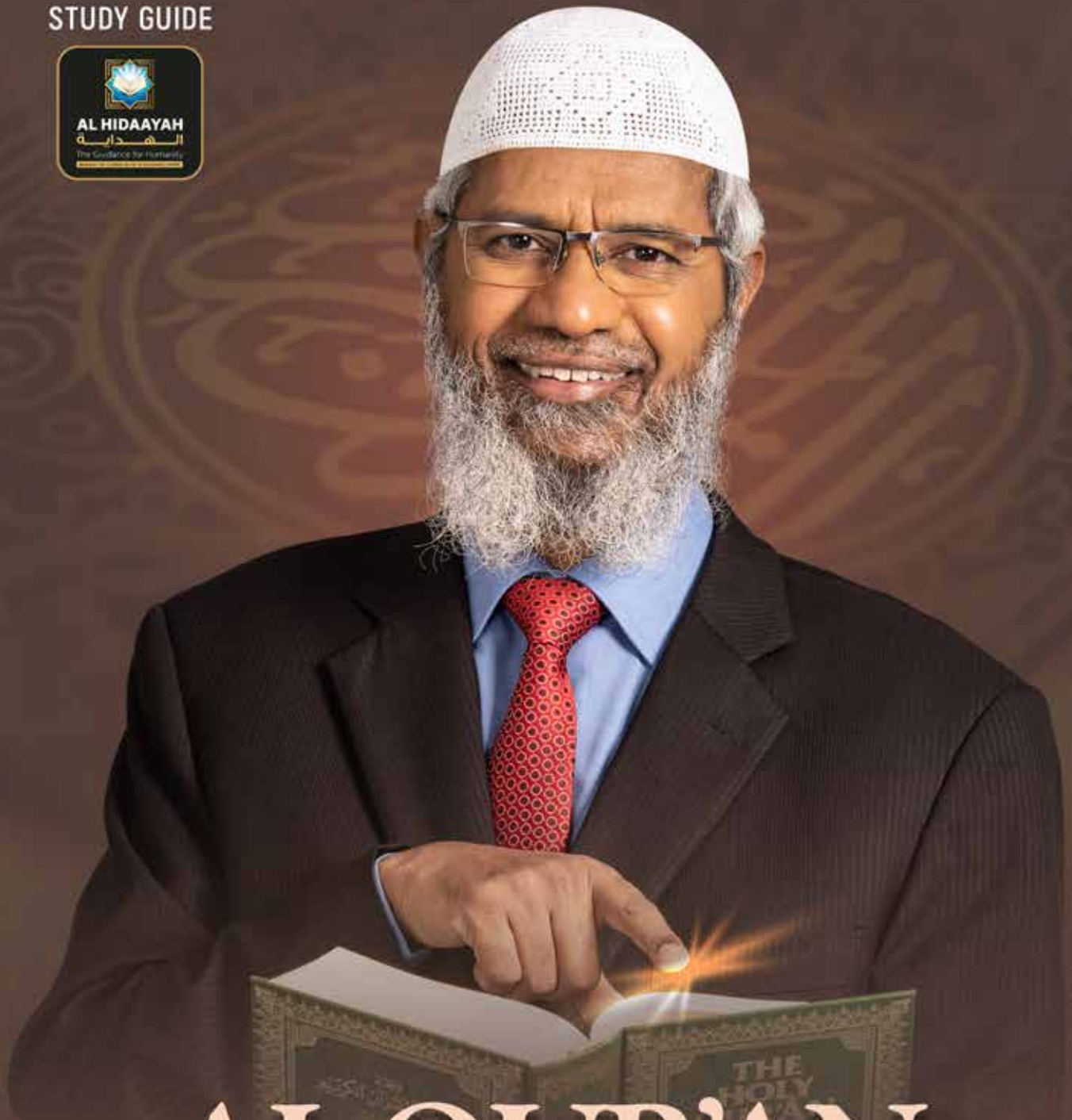


STUDY GUIDE



ALQUR'AN

SHOULD IT BE READ

With

Understanding?

Dr Zakir Naik

From the series: Al Qur'an – Should it be Read with Understanding?



Course Topics

1. Introduction
2. Excuses for not reading the Qur'an with understanding
3. Qur'an was revealed for whole of humankind and can be given to non-Muslims
4. Qur'an is meant not only for Aalims
5. Only reciting the Qur'an without understanding is not sufficient
6. Muslims are only satisfied by giving outwardly respect to the Glorious Qur'an
7. Making a mockery of the Qur'an
8. Understanding the Qur'an
9. Translations of Glorious Qur'an
10. Conclusion

Course Objectives

1. To realise the importance of reading the Qur'an with understanding
2. To analyse the various excuses which the Muslims put forth for not reading the Qur'an with understanding
3. To remove the misconceptions of Muslims with respect to the reading, understanding, and preaching of Qur'an

COURSE
OUTLINE



Question & Answer Bucket

Transcripts

Graphic Posts

Assessment

Multiple Choice Questions

Match the Columns

True or False

Course Duration

Video	– 3 hours 11 min
Study Guide	– 1 hour 4 min
Graphic Posts	– 20 min
Assessment	– 10 min
Total Duration	– 4 hours 45 min

COURSE
OUTLINE



LESSON 1

INTRODUCTION



1

Introduction





1

Al Qur'an – last and final revelation of Allah (swt)

Al Qur'an is the last & final revelation of Allah (swt) which was revealed to the last and final messenger Prophet Muhammad (pbuh).

It is the most positive book in the world

A proclamation to humanity

A fountain of mercy and wisdom

A warning to the heedless

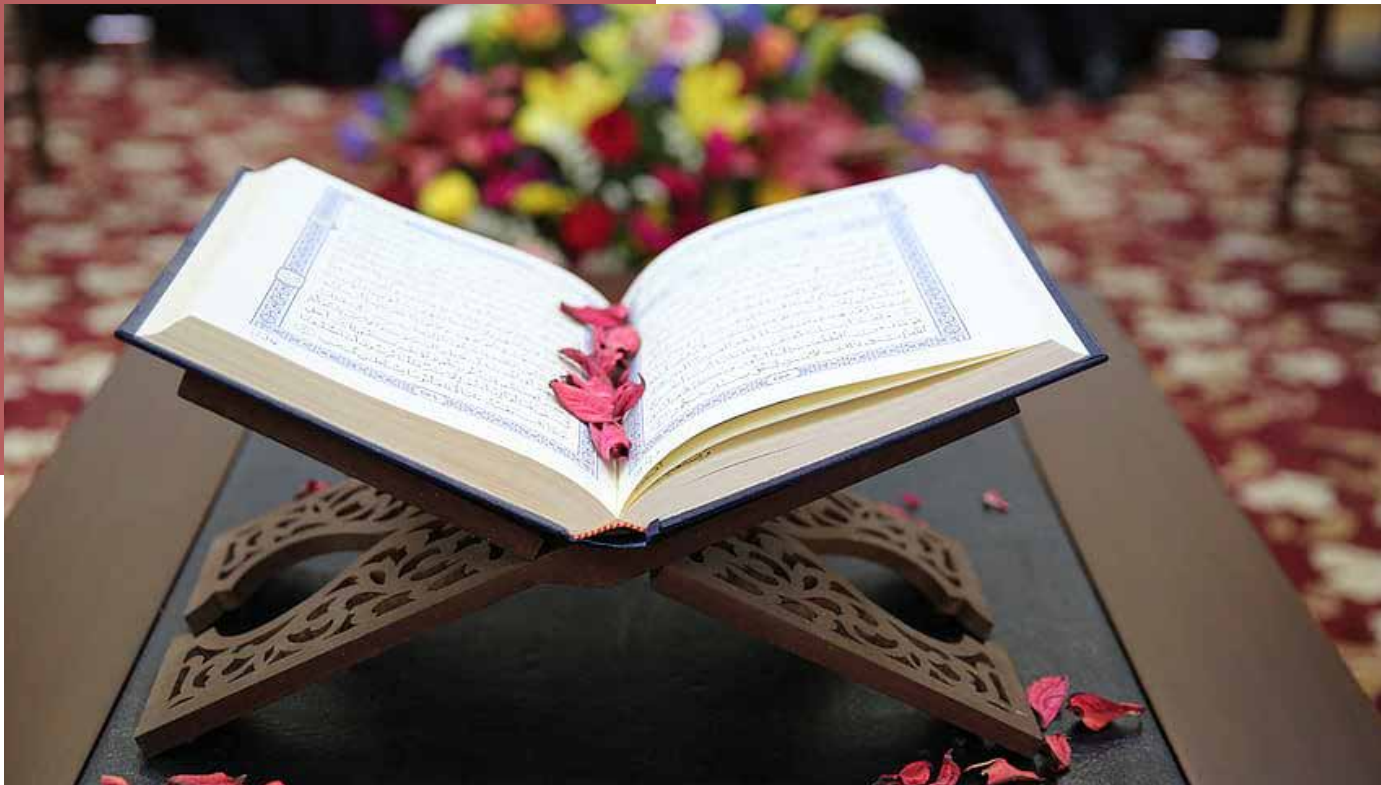
A guide to the erring

An assurance to those in doubt

A solace to the suffering

A hope to those in despair

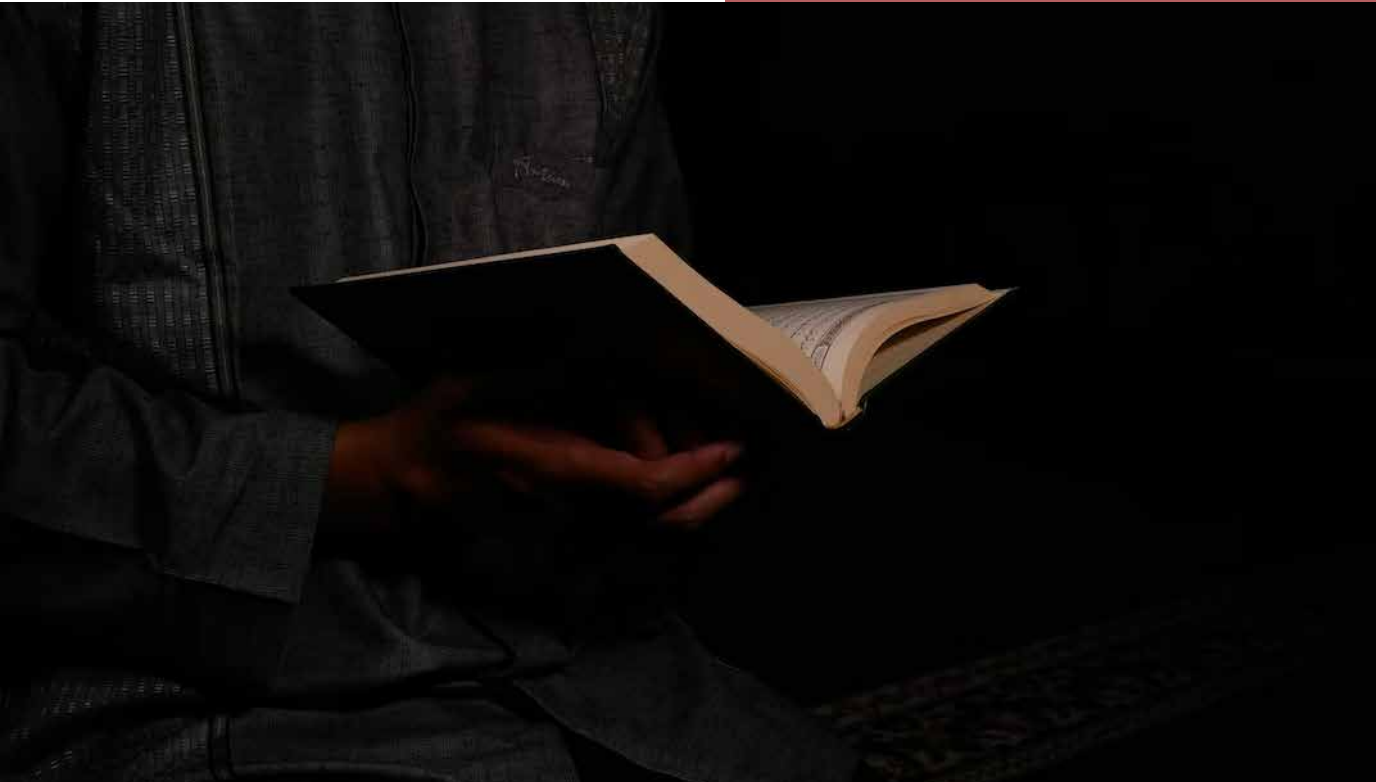




2

Important to read, understand, ponder, implement & practice

Do you think it is possible to derive and acquire all the benefits of the Glorious Qur'an without reading, understanding, pondering, implementing and putting into practice?



3

Most widely read and not understood book in the world

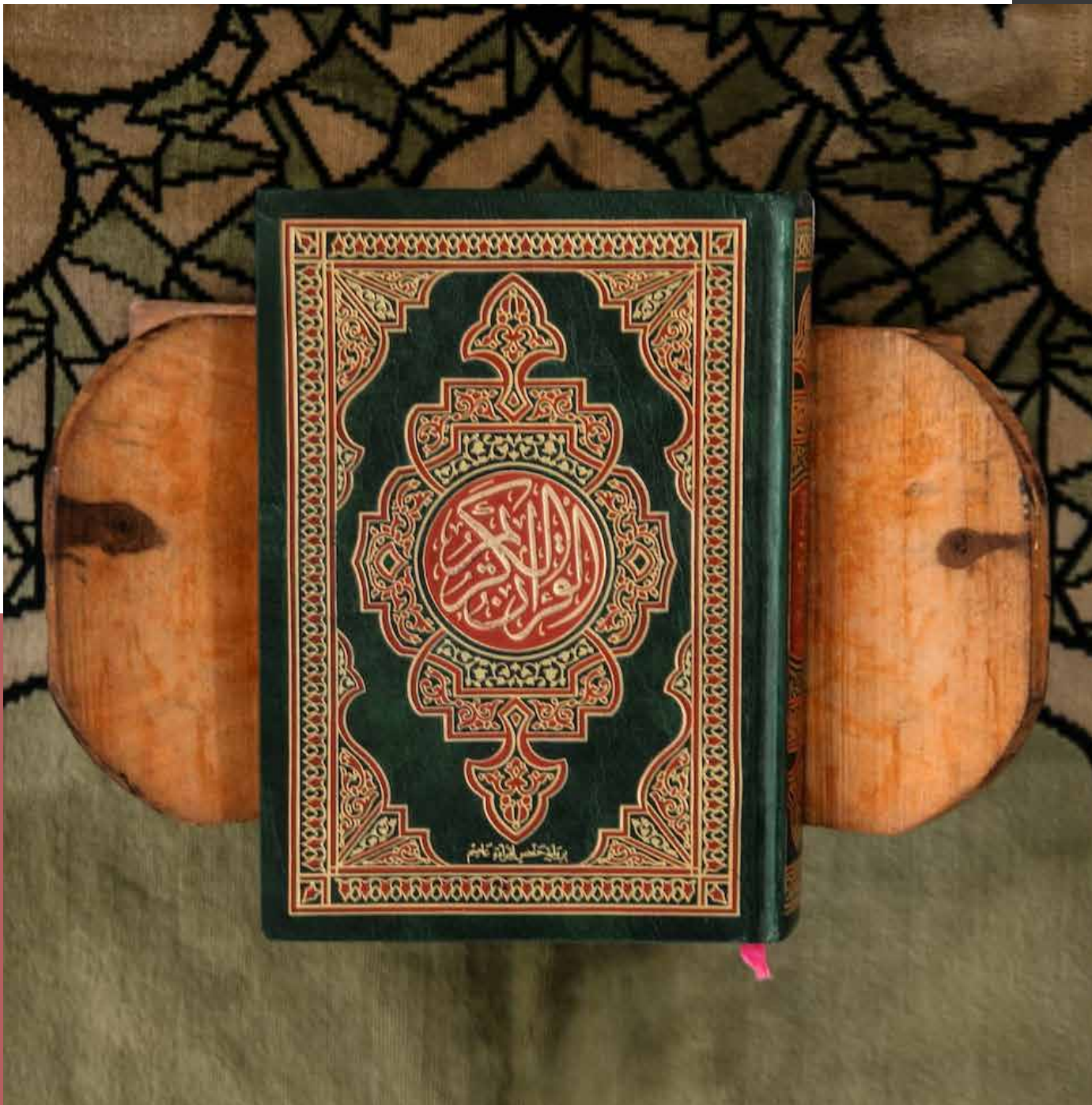
Alhamdulillah, the Glorious Qur'an is the most widely read book in the world but unfortunately very few Muslim readers understand it. Thus, the relationship of the Muslims with the Qur'an has weakened and has left us only paying respects to the Qur'an without deriving the benefits and guidance for which it was revealed.



4

Tragic misfortune is – went away empty handed

What a tragic misfortune it would be if you came to the Qur'an and went away empty handed – soul untouched, heart unmoved, life unchanged.





5

Muslims can be the 'Khaira Ummah' only if we understand the Qur'an

كُنْتُمْ خَيْرَ أُمَّةٍ أُخْرِجَتْ لِلنَّاسِ تَأْمُرُونَ بِالْمَعْرُوفِ وَتَنْهَوْنَ عَنِ الْمُنْكَرِ
وَتُؤْمِنُونَ بِاللَّهِ



"Ye are the best of peoples, evolved for mankind, enjoining what is right, forbidding what is wrong, and believing in Allah."

Al Qur'an 3:110

Allah (swt) is calling us Muslims the best of people evolved for mankind and the reason he gives is because we are supposed to enjoin what is good & forbid what is wrong. Is it possible to enjoin the good and forbid the wrong, without knowing (and understanding) what is good and what is wrong? If we do not enjoin what is good and forbid what is wrong, we are not fit to be called as 'Khaira Ummah'; the best of people evolved for mankind; we are not fit to be called as Muslims.





6

Qur'an derived from 'Qara' and referred to as Furqan

Qur'an which is derived the root word 'Qara', which means to read, recite or proclaim. The Qur'an refers to itself as the Furqan which means criteria to judge right from wrong. In order to proclaim the message of the Qur'an, to judge right from wrong, it is compulsory for every Muslim to read the Glorious Qur'an with understanding.





LESSON 2

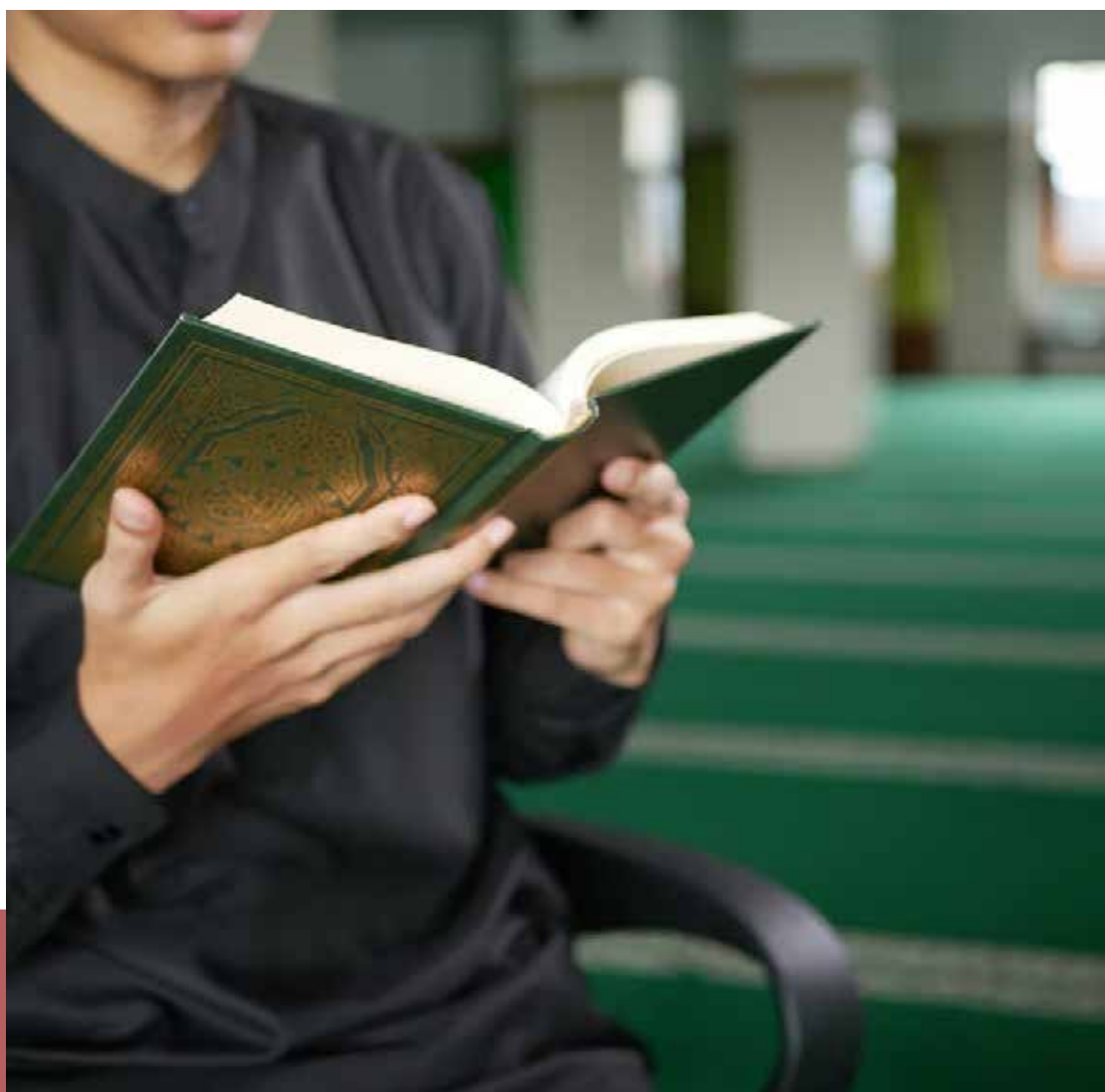
EXCUSES FOR NOT READING THE QUR'AN WITH UNDERSTANDING PART 1



2

EXCUSES FOR NOT READING THE QUR'AN WITH UNDERSTANDING

Let's analyse the various excuses which the Muslims put forth for not reading the Qur'an with understanding.





1

Do not know Arabic as a language

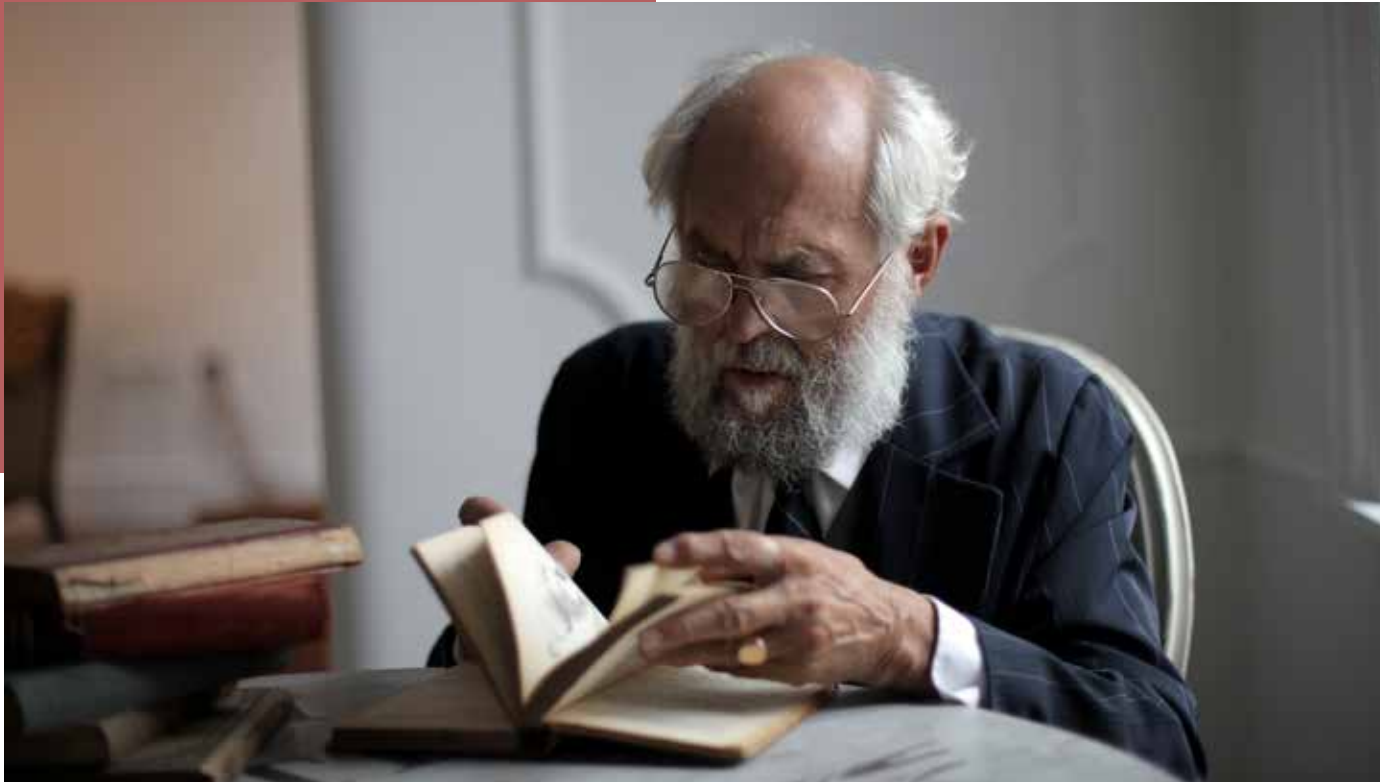
The most common excuse is that we do not know Arabic as a language. But of the total population, of 8 billion people in the world more than 25% i.e., more than two billion are Muslims. Amongst them Muslims, about 15% are Arabs. Besides the Arabs, very few Muslims know Arabic as a language. Therefore, more than 80% of the Muslim population don't understand Arabic.



2

New-born child does not know any language

A new-born child does not know any language but later learns the mother tongue in order to communicate with the family members. The child learns the local language to converse with the people living around. He learns the language in which he is educated at school so that he can gain worldly knowledge. Most of the human beings at least know 2 to 3 languages. Others know 4 to 5, while some are linguists. When most of the people know 2 to 3 languages for various reasons and benefits, is it not required that every Muslim should know the language of the last and final message of Allah (swt)? i.e., Arabic.



3

Age is not a barrier for learning a language

It is much easier to learn a language during childhood. But age is never a barrier for doing a good work. I cannot resist giving you the example of Dr Maurice Bucaille – the world-renowned surgeon and scientist, who got the French academy award for medicine. He was selected to treat the mummy of Merneptah (Pharaoh of Exodus mentioned in the Bible). Dr Maurice Bucaille being a Christian was conversant with the biblical version of Pharaoh's story as being drowned in pursuit of Prophet Moses (pbuh). During his visit to Saudi Arabia, he was informed that Allah (swt) has mentioned in the Glorious Qur'an that the body of the Pharaoh will be preserved as a sign for posterity.



فَأَلْيَوْمَ نُنَجِّيكَ بِبَدَنِكَ لِتَكُونَ لِمَنْ خَلَقَكَ ءَايَةً ۚ وَإِنَّ كَثِيرًا مِّنَ النَّاسِ عَنْ
ءَايَاتِنَا لَغَفْلُونَ



"This day shall We save you in the body, that you may be a sign to those who come after you! but verily, many among mankind are heedless of Our Signs!"

Al Qur'an 10:92

Dr Maurice Bucaille was surprised that the Glorious Qur'an made definite predictions 1400 years ago about preserving of the body of Pharaoh of Moses' (pbuh) time which was recently discovered. This inspired Dr Maurice Bucaille to read the Glorious Qur'an. He was so impressed that even though being a Christian at the age of 50, he learnt Arabic as a language to understand the Qur'an better and directly. The conclusion of his comparative study of the Qur'an and the Bible was that scientific phenomenon mentioned in the Glorious Qur'an are in perfect conformity with modern science whereas most of the biblical narrations on the same subject are scientifically entirely unacceptable. He is also the author of the very famous book, 'The Bible, The Qur'an & Science', which contains the result of his research.





The point to be noted is that because Dr Maurice Bucaille was interested, even though being a non-Muslim at the age of 50 he learns a foreign language to understand the Qur'an. Thus, age is never a barrier to learn a new language.

So, I don't expect that each and every Muslim to learn Arabic at the elderly age. But surely it is the duty of every Muslim to make an effort to learn Qur'anic Arabic and most of the Muslims should be successful. The best method of understanding Qur'an is to know Qur'anic Arabic.

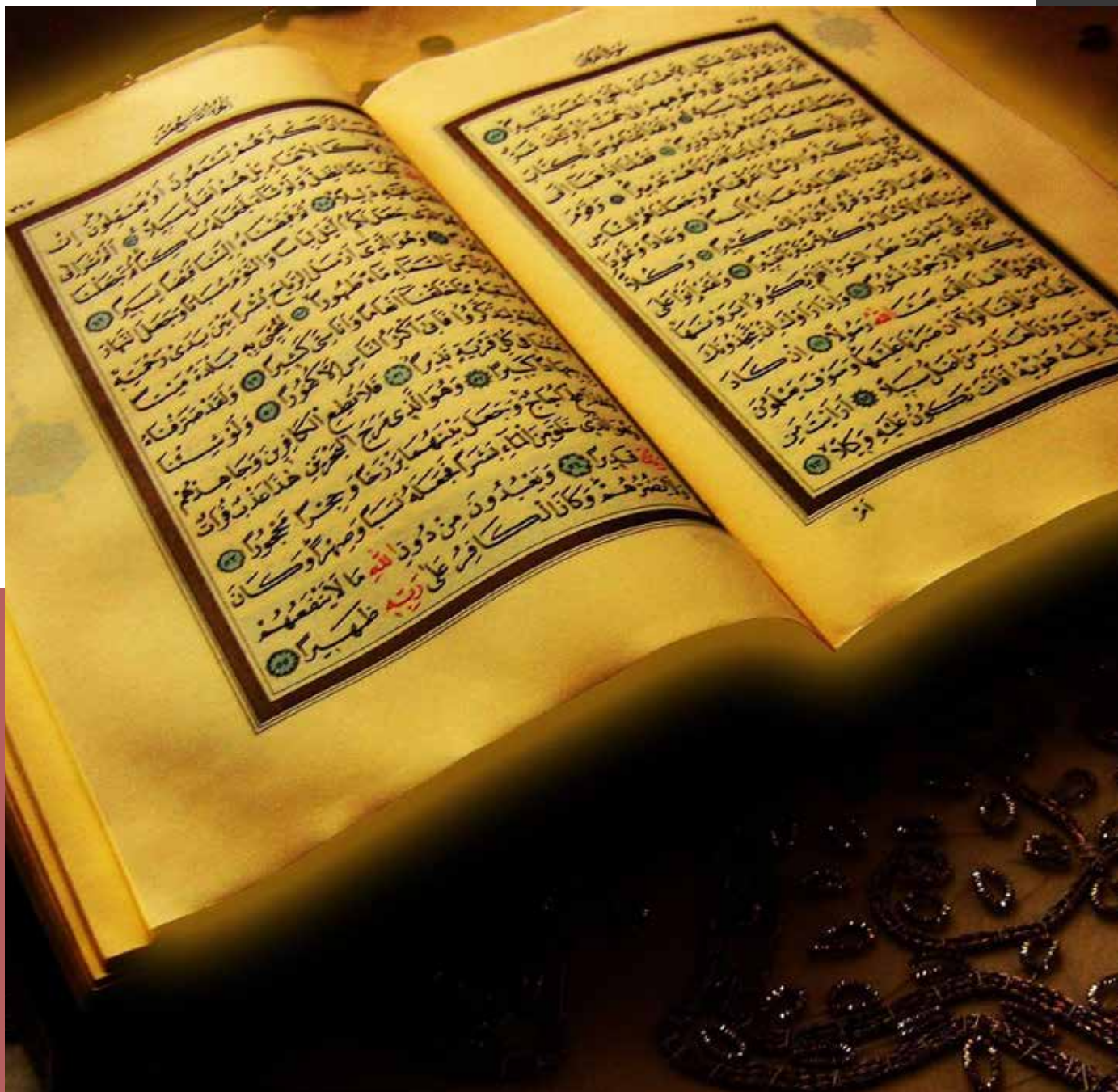




4

If cannot understand Arabic then read translation

Even if a person doesn't understand Arabic, he has no excuse of not reading the Qur'an with understanding since there are several translations of the Glorious Qur'an available in all the major languages of the world.





Maulana Abdul Majid Daryabadi rightly said that the Glorious Qur'an is most untranslatable book in the world, since the language of the Glorious Qur'an is so divine, noble, pure, miraculous, unsurpassed, intelligible, etc., it makes it the book with the most difficult to be translated in the world. No translation of the Glorious Qur'an can equal its text, and neither can it convey 100 % the same message as that of the original, because the language of the Glorious Qur'an is very rich, each word giving a deep meaning, which to explain may require few words and sometimes sentences, many words having several meanings, often more than one or all are applicable. The same verse will even satisfy a layman as well as an intellectual. This beauty of the Qur'an cannot be found in its translation.

In spite of this difficulty many scholars have spent years and decades in translating the Glorious Qur'an, even though the complete meaning in its totality cannot be obtained by reading the translations. Yet the majority of the basic message of the Qur'an can be acquired.

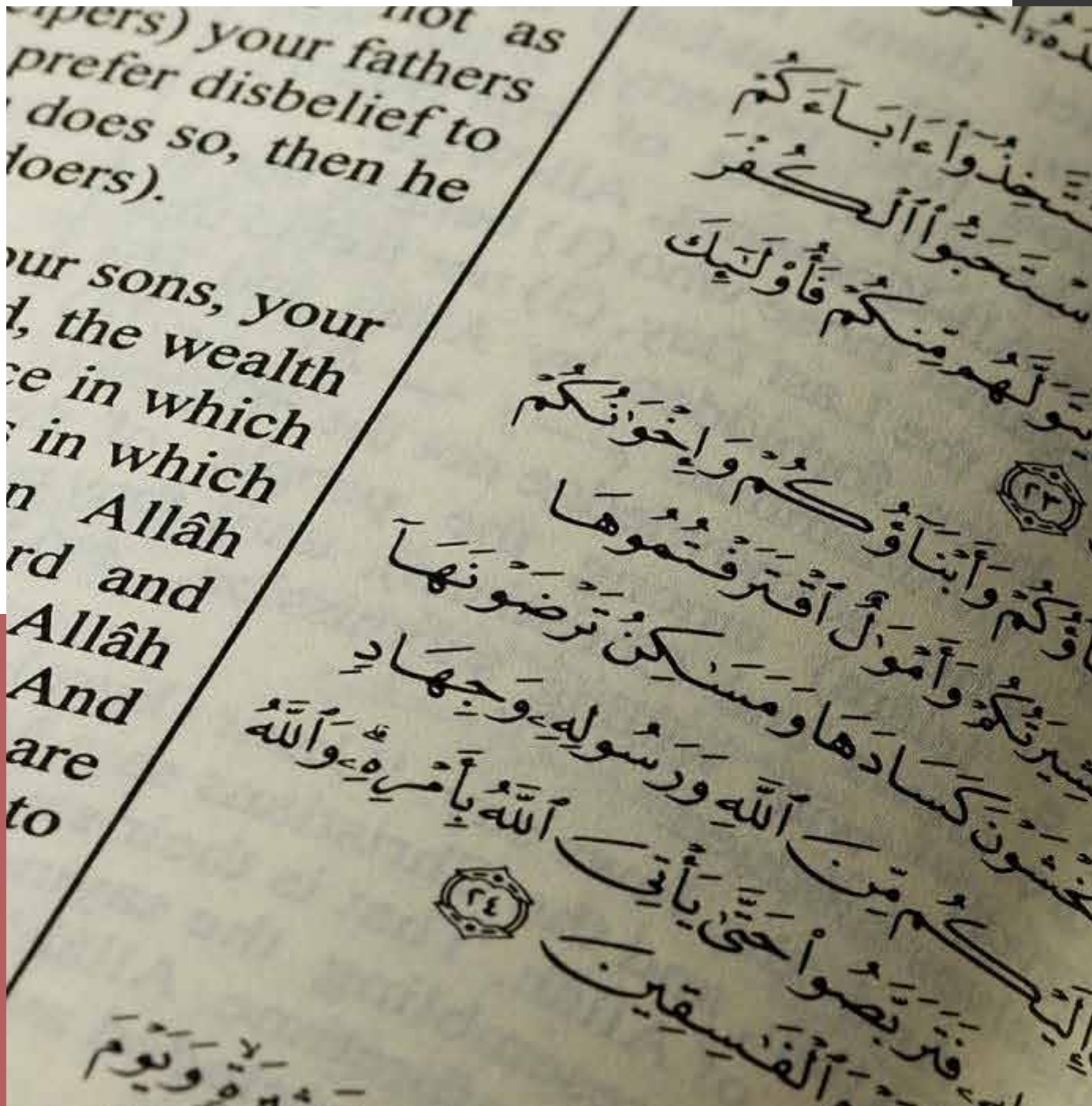




5

Read translation of Qur'an in language best understood

If you cannot understand Arabic read the translation of the Qur'an in the language you understand best irrespective whether it is English, Urdu, Hindi, French, Germany, Gujrati, Tamil, Bengali, etc.

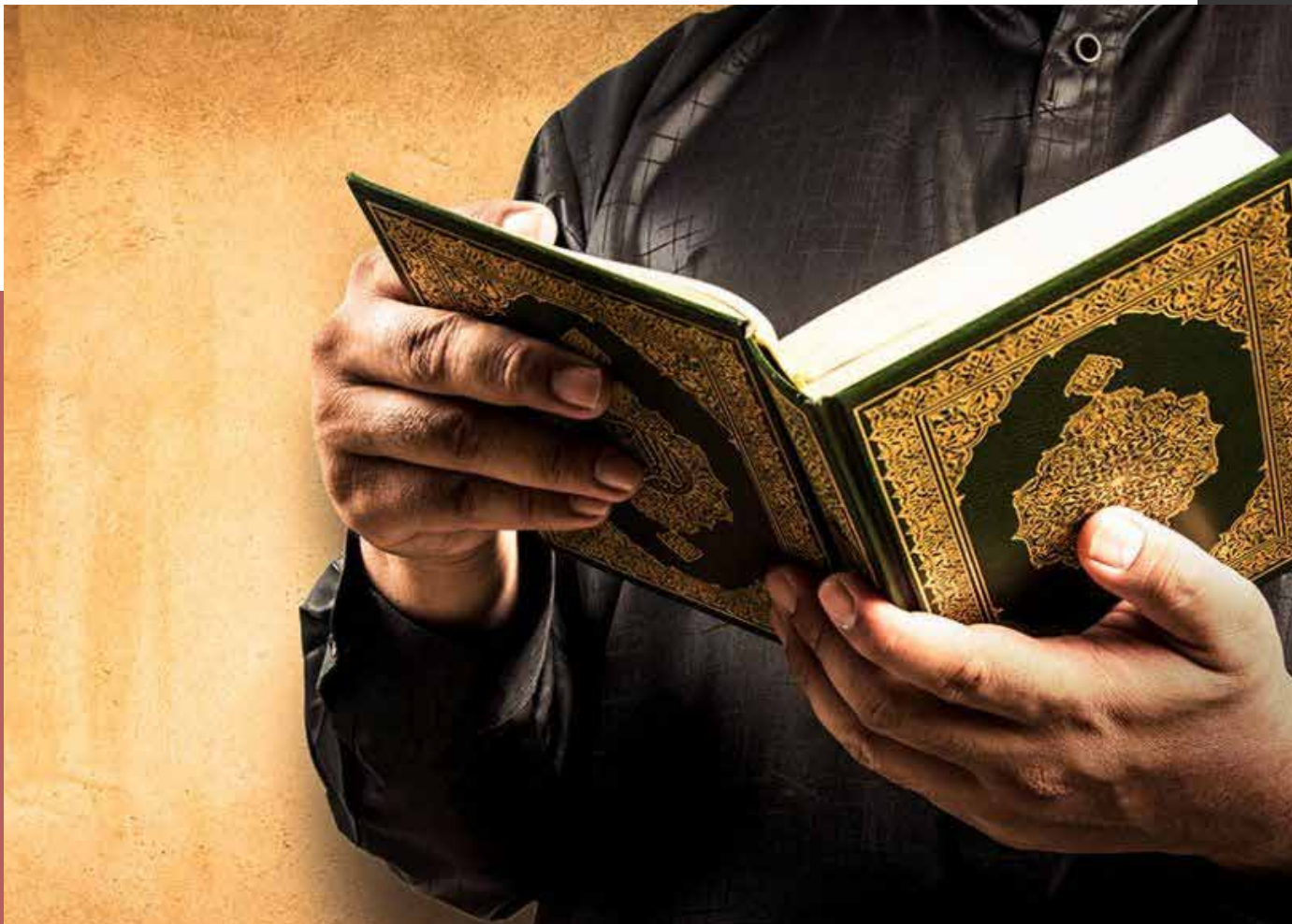




6

People spend years in acquiring degree but no time to read Qur'an

- A** Many Muslims give the excuse that we are:
- i** Very busy with our studies, profession, business, and other materialistic involvements that time doesn't permit us to read the translation of the Glorious Qur'an.
 - ii** Majority of the people spend decades in schools, colleges and universities and read and memorise volumes and volumes of books in order to obtain a degree which may or may not help us in this world, then why can't we spare time to read and understand the message of our Lord and Creator Allah (swt).





- iii If you read the Qur'an like any other normal book, it will not take more than a couple of days to finish it but it is mentioned in the Hadith:



Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) said:

"Whoever completed the reading of Qur'an in less than 3 days, did not understand anything."

Sunan At Tirmidhi – Vol 5 Hadith 2949

If a person reads the Glorious Qur'an slowly with understanding it will take about a week's time and if he reads one part, i.e., one Sipara everyday then he will complete the Qur'an in a month's time. Can we not spare this much time for our Creator?





B

- i** The degree obtained from colleges or universities may or may not help us in this world. There are several graduates and postgraduates who are jobless while some have changed their studies to earn a living thus wasting their years in education.
- ii** The knowledge acquired in schools, colleges and universities, unless used to understand and come closer to our Creator, it will be useless for the hereafter.





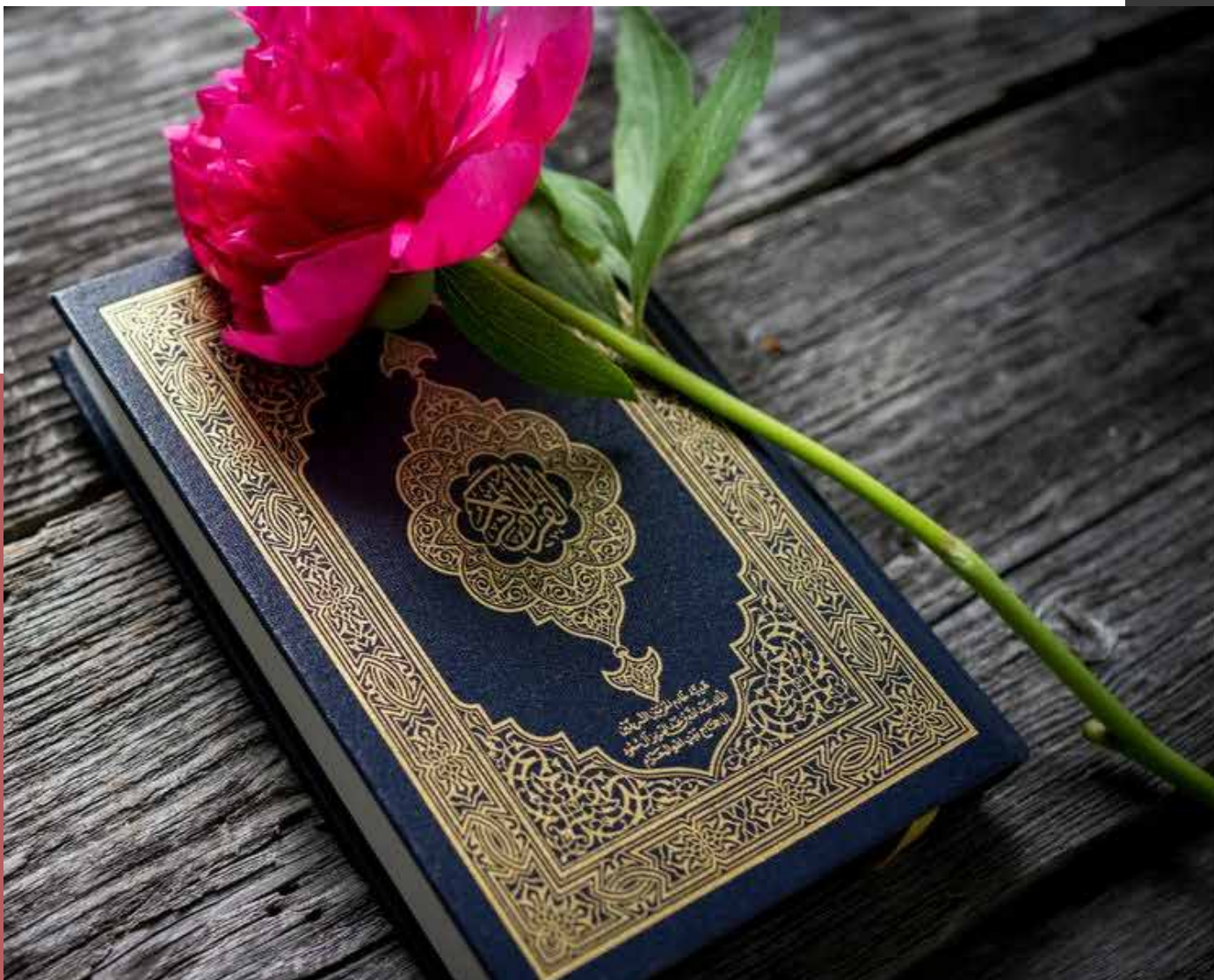
أَلَمْ ذَٰلِكَ الْكِتَابُ لَا رَيْبَ ۚ فِيهِ ۚ هُدًى لِّلْمُتَّقِينَ



"A. L. M. This is the Book; in it is guidance sure, without doubt, to those who fear Allah."

Al Qur'an 2:1-2

Allah (swt) promises to give us guidance which will surely help us in this world and in the hereafter.





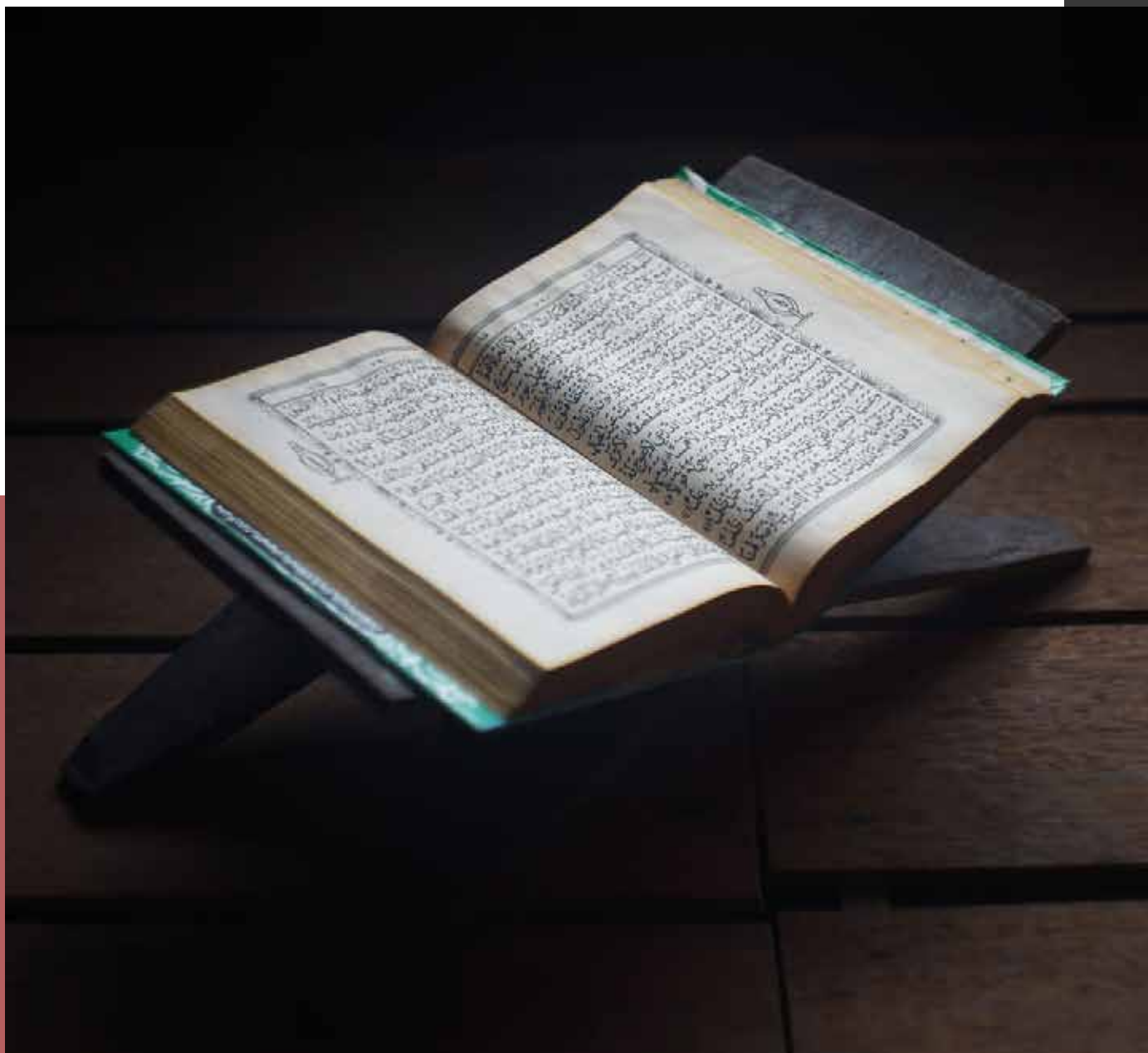
ii

وَلَقَدْ صَرَّفْنَا فِي هَٰذَا الْقُرْآنِ لِلنَّاسِ مِنْ كُلِّ مَثَلٍ ۚ وَكَانَ الْإِنْسَانُ أَكْثَرَ شَيْءٍ جَدَلًا



"We have explained in detail in this Qur'an, for the benefit of mankind, every kind of similitude: but man is, in most things, contentious."

Al Qur'an 18:54





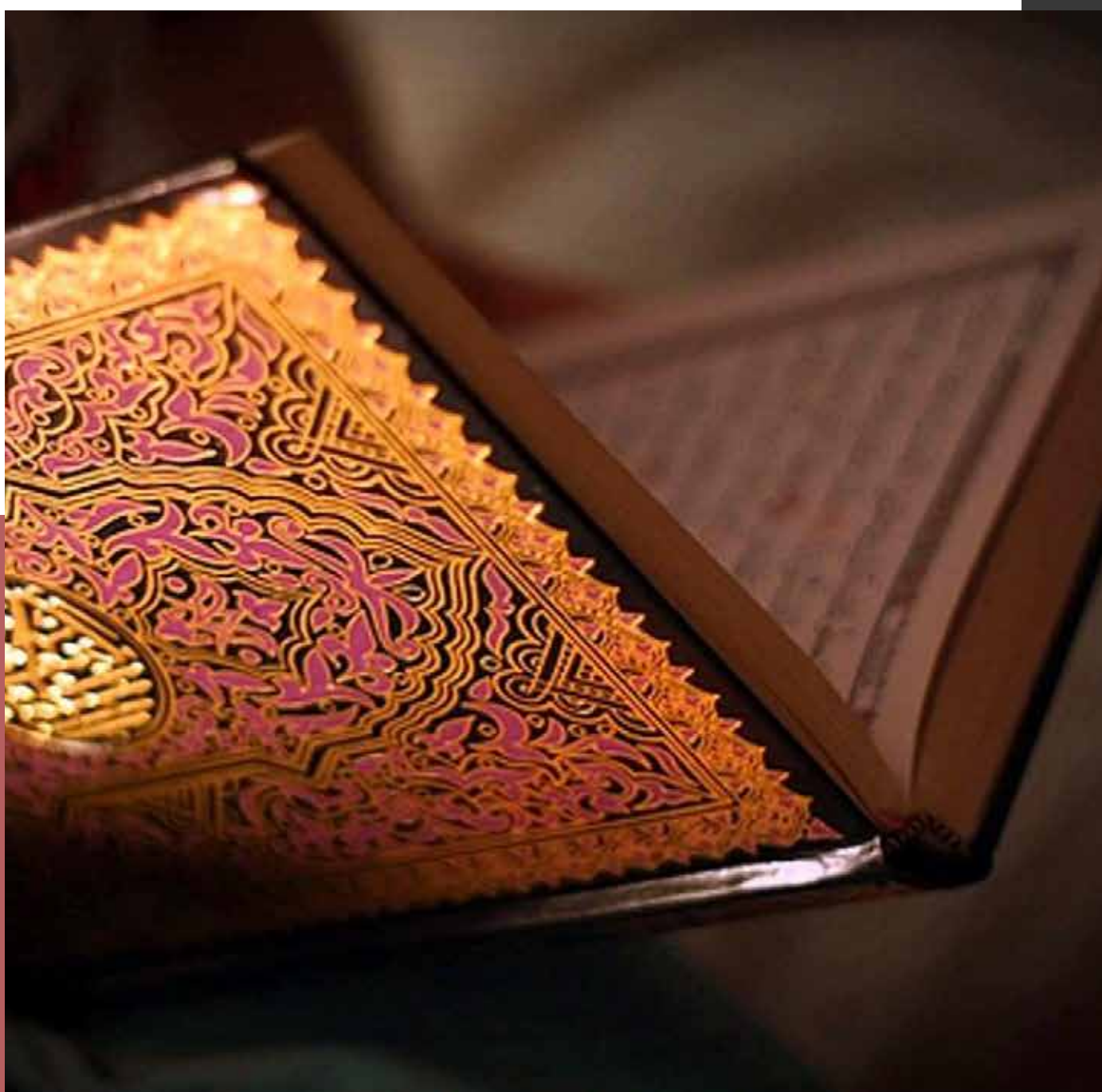
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وَلَقَدْ ضَرَبْنَا لِلنَّاسِ فِي هَٰذَا الْقُرْآنِ مِنْ كُلِّ مَثَلٍ لَّعَلَّهُمْ يَتَذَكَّرُونَ



"We have put forth for men, in this Qur'an every kind of Parable, in order that they may receive admonition."

Al Qur'an 39:27





- D** The Qur'an gives us guidance for a complete way of life. One who has the Qur'an with him and yet goes to other sources for guidance is surely running after mirages.





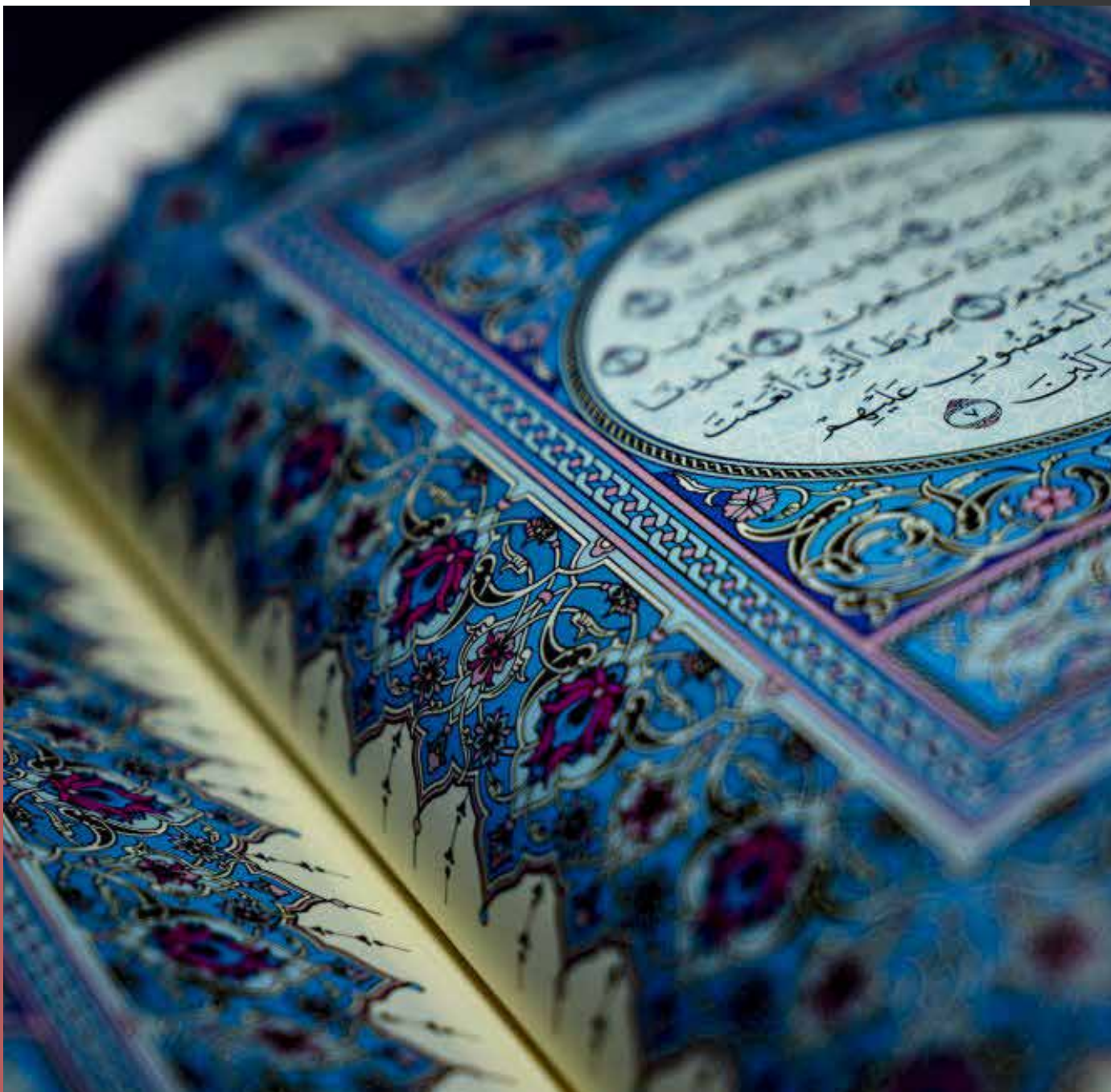
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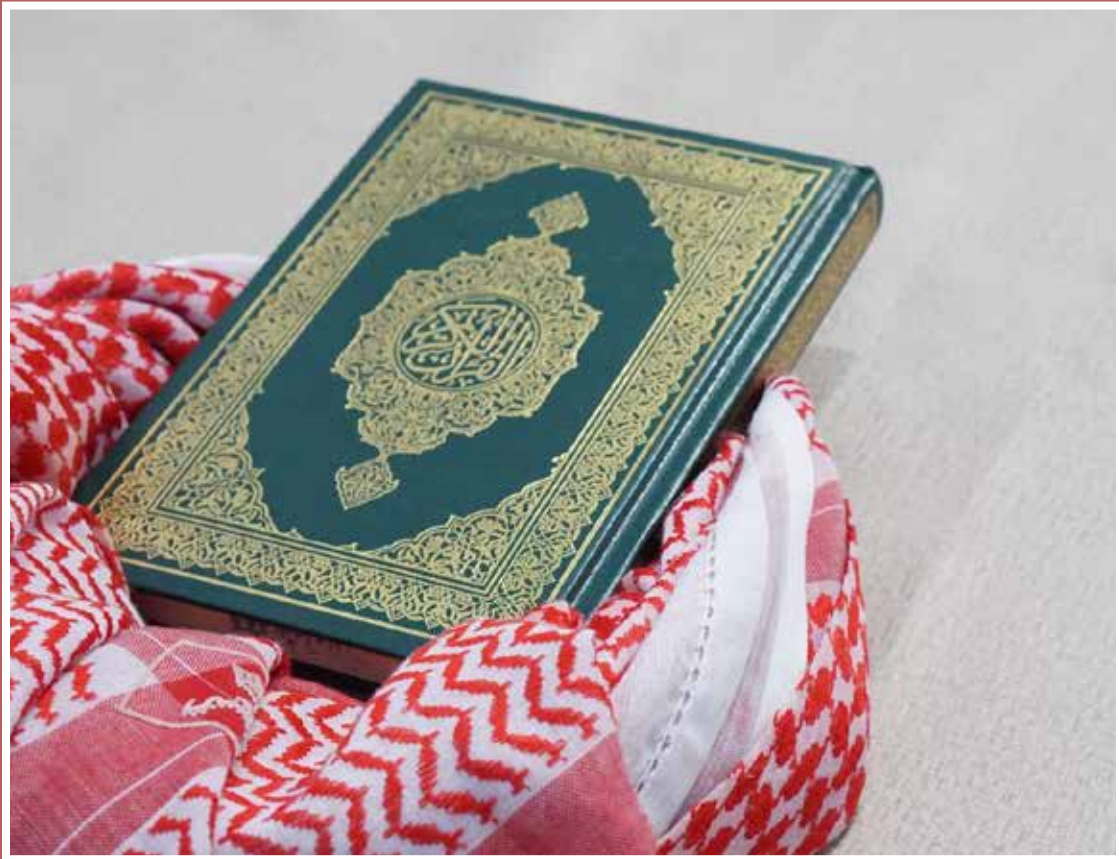
Friend writes a letter in foreign language

A close friend of yours living in Germany comes to visit you and spends a couple of weeks with you. He could converse with you in broken English but when he returns to Germany, he writes to you an email in German which you are unable to understand; but naturally since he is very close to you, you would be eager to know what the contents of the email are. You would immediately have the email translated in a language you understand. Are we Muslims not interested in knowing the message of our Lord, Sustainer, Allah (swt)?



We need not take the trouble of translating the message since Glorious Qur'an has already been translated in most of the major languages of the world. Yet, if you don't read and understand the message of Allah (swt) this clearly shows that we are not interested and bothered to know what message He has to give. Verbally, we Muslims do proclaim that we love Allah more than anyone in the world but practically we care the least for Him.





LESSON 3

**QUR'AN – A GUIDANCE FOR
THE WHOLE OF HUMANKIND**



3

QUR'AN WAS REVEALED FOR WHOLE OF HUMANKIND AND CAN BE GIVEN TO NON-MUSLIMS

1

Qur'an is a guidance for the whole of humankind

Many Muslims have a misconception that the Qur'an was revealed only for the Muslims and it is not meant to be read by the non-Muslims and neither should a Muslim give the Qur'an to a non-Muslim.





In fact, the Qur'an mentions:

a الرِّكَتِبُ أَنْزَلْنَاهُ إِلَيْكَ لِتُخْرِجَ النَّاسَ مِنَ الظُّلُمَاتِ إِلَى النُّورِ بِإِذْنِ رَبِّهِمْ
إِلَى صِرَاطٍ الْعَزِيزِ الْحَمِيدِ



"A. L. R. A Book which We have revealed unto you, in order that you might lead mankind out of the depths of darkness into light - by the leave of their Lord - to the Way of (Him) the Exalted in power, worthy of all praise!"

Al Qur'an 14:1

b هَذَا بَلَاغٌ لِلنَّاسِ وَلِيُنذَرُوا بِهِ وَلِيَعْلَمُوا أَنَّمَا هُوَ إِلَهُ وَاحِدٌ وَلِيَذَّكَّرَ أُولُوا
الْأَلْبَابِ



"Here is a Message for mankind: Let them take warning therefrom, and let them know that He is (no other than) One Allah: let men of understanding take heed."

Al Qur'an 14:52





c شَهْرُ رَمَضَانَ الَّذِي أُنْزِلَ فِيهِ الْقُرْآنُ هُدًى لِّلنَّاسِ وَبَيِّنَاتٍ مِّنَ الْهُدَى
وَالْفُرْقَانِ



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

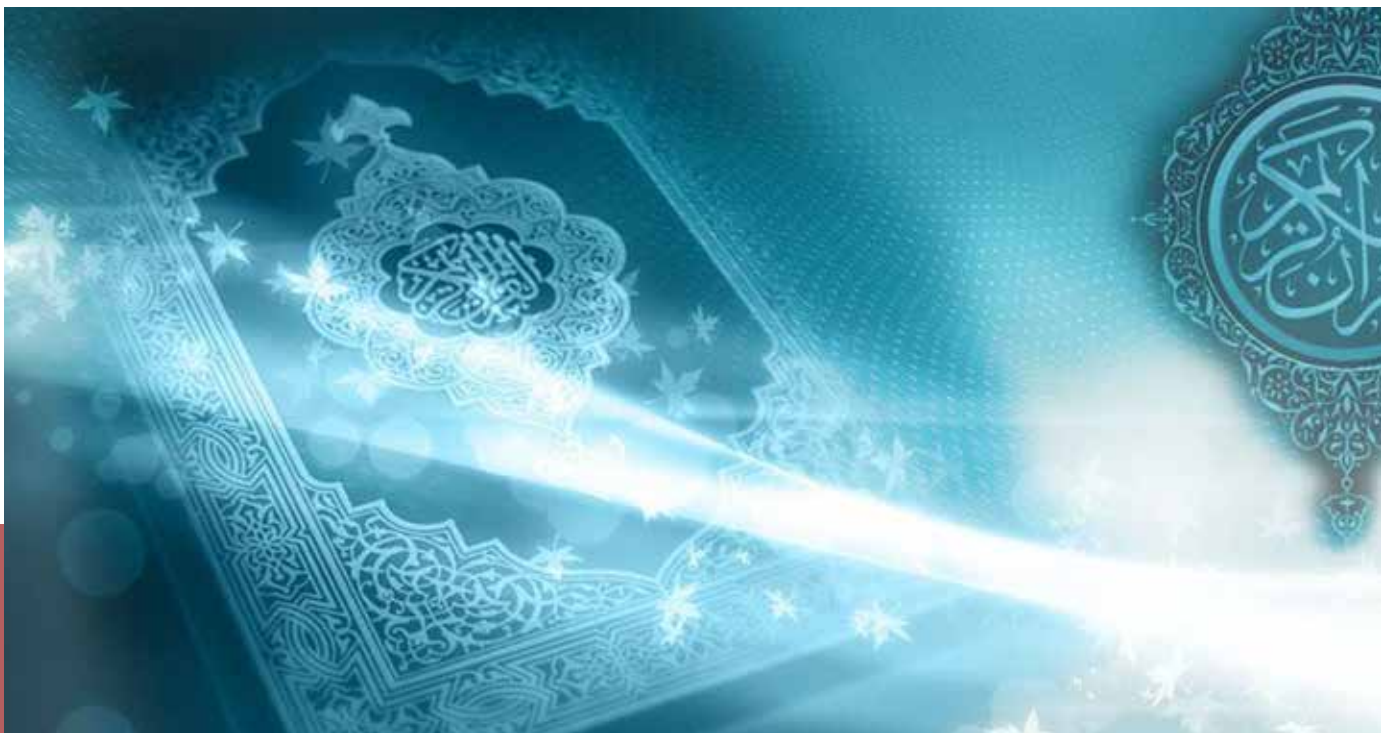
Al Qur'an 2:185

d إِنَّا أَنْزَلْنَاهُ عَلَيْكَ الْكِتَابَ بِالْحَقِّ ۖ فَمَنِ اهْتَدَىٰ فَلِنَفْسِهِ ۖ وَمَنْ ضَلَّٰ فَإِنَّمَا
يَضِلُّ عَلَيْهَا ۖ وَمَا أَنْتَ عَلَيْهِمْ بِوَكِيلٍ



"Verily We have revealed the Book to you in Truth, for (instructing) mankind. He, then, that receives guidance benefits his own soul: but he that strays injures his own soul. Nor are you set over them to dispose of their affairs."

Al Qur'an 39:41





e

وَمَا هُوَ إِلَّا ذِكْرٌ لِّلْعَالَمِينَ



"But it is nothing less than a Message to all the worlds."

Al Qur'an 68:52

f

إِنَّ هُوَ إِلَّا ذِكْرٌ لِّلْعَالَمِينَ



"Verily this is no less than a Message to (all) the Worlds."

Al Qur'an 81:27





Many Muslims feel what is the use of giving the Qur'an to the Mushriks or Kafirs?

What will they understand about the Qur'an?

The Qur'an was revealed 1400 years ago in the deserts of Arabia in Ayyamul Jahiliyyah, in the days of ignorance. The Arabs of that time were considered to be the most ignorant people of the world. The Qur'an changed the lives of these Arabs and made them the torch bearers. Why can't the same Glorious Qur'an change the lives of the non-Muslims of the present time.





2

Muhammad (pbuh) as a messenger to the whole of mankind

Prophet Muhammad was not sent only for the Muslims or the Arabs but was sent as a messenger to the whole of humankind.

a

وَمَا أَرْسَلْنَاكَ إِلَّا رَحْمَةً لِّلْعَالَمِينَ



"We sent thee not, but as a mercy for all creatures."
Al Qur'an 21:107



Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) was sent as a mercy for all the humans, as a mercy for all the worlds.

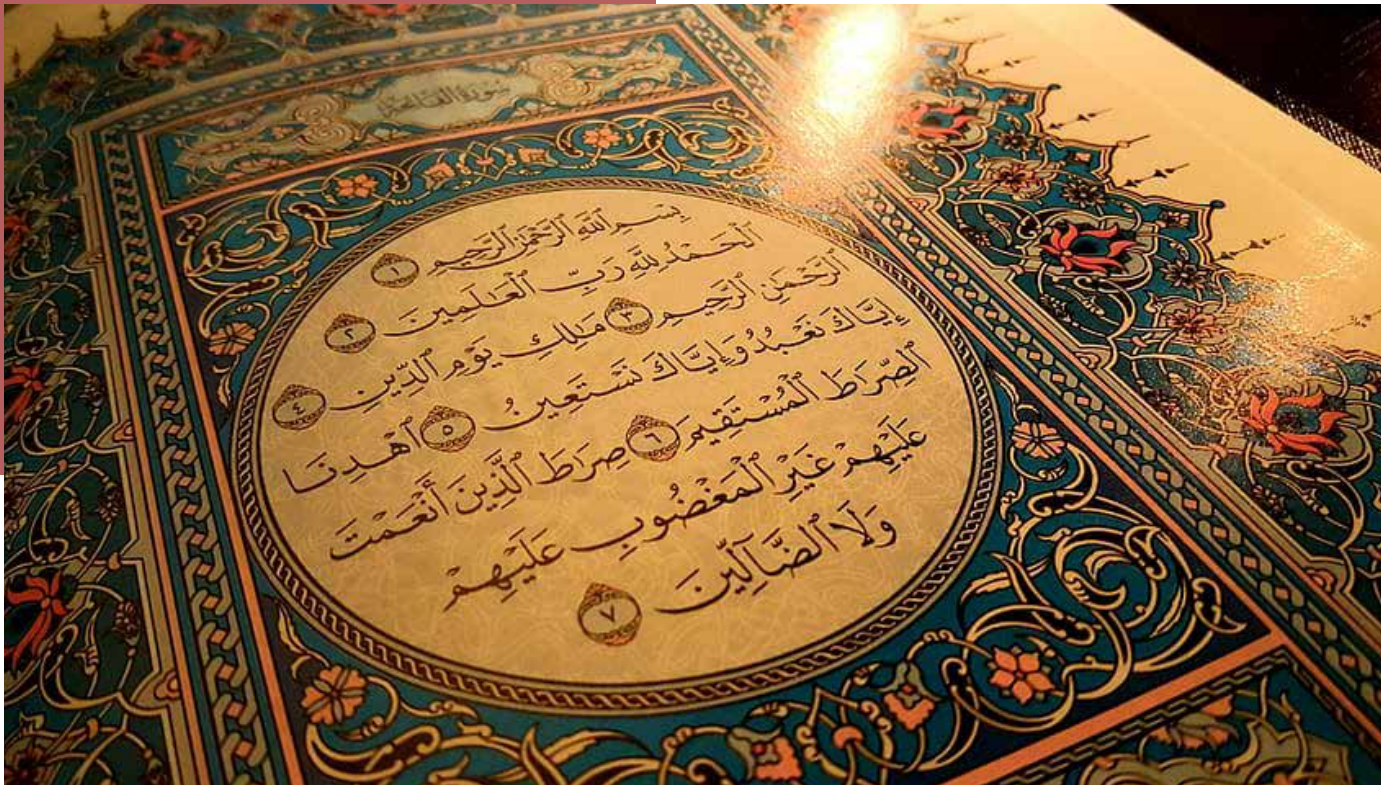
b وَمَا أَرْسَلْنَاكَ إِلَّا كَافَّةً لِّلنَّاسِ بَشِيرًا وَنَذِيرًا وَلَكِنَّ أَكْثَرَ النَّاسِ لَا يَعْلَمُونَ



"We have not sent thee but as a universal (Messenger) to men, giving them glad tidings, and warning them (against sin), but most men understand not."

Al Qur'an 34:28





3

Non-Muslims are unclean

Many Muslims support their claim of not giving the Glorious Qur'an to the non-Muslims by quoting Surah Al Waqiah chapter 56 verse 77-80.

إِنَّهُ لَقُرْءٌ كَرِيمٌ فِي كِتَابٍ مَكْنُونٍ لَا يَمَسُّهُ إِلَّا الْمُطَهَّرُونَ تَنْزِيلٌ مِّن رَّبِّ
الْعَالَمِينَ



"That this is indeed a Qur'an Most Honourable, In Book well-guarded, Which none shall touch but those who are clean: A Revelation from the Lord of the Worlds."

Al Qur'an 56:77-80



Since the non-Muslims are impure and unclean it is Haram i.e., prohibited for them to touch the Glorious Qur'an. The 'Kitabun Maknoon' mentioned in these verses does not refer to this Glorious Qur'an in the book form which we know and the Arabic word 'Mutahharoon' does not merely refer to cleanliness of the body, if it was then any non-Muslim can purchase a copy of the Glorious Qur'an from the bookstall and prove the Qur'an wrong.





In fact, Kitabun Maknoon means a book well-guarded or a protected book referring to 'Lawhul Mahfooz', which is also mentioned in another place in the Qur'an.

بَلْ هُوَ قُرْآنٌ مَّجِيدٌ فِي لَوْحٍ مَّحْفُوظٍ

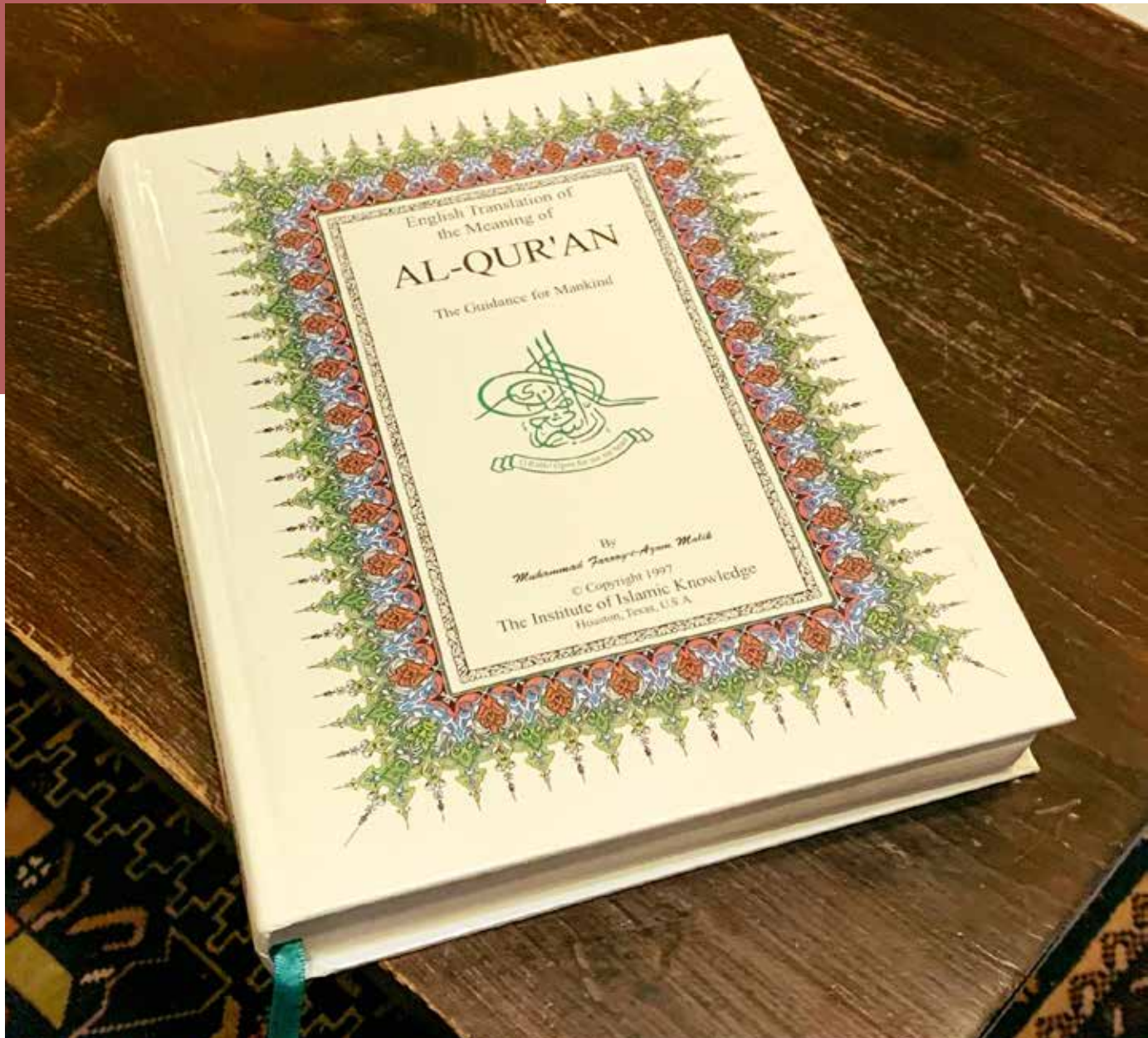


"Nay, this is a Glorious Qur'an, (Inscribed) in a Tablet Preserved!"

Al Qur'an 85:21-22

Mutahharoon' does not refer to mere body cleanliness but means those who do not have any cleanliness or impurity like sin and evil & thus referring to the angels. Even according to the commentary of the Tabari, Mutahharoon refers to the angels.





4

Give only translation of the Glorious Qur'an without Arabic text to the non-Muslims

Some Muslims compromise by saying that you should only give the translation of the Glorious Qur'an to non-Muslims without the Arabic text. I have no objection in only giving the translation of the Glorious Qur'an to non-Muslims but I personally prefer giving it along with the Arabic text and the mistakes will not be attributed to Allah (swt).

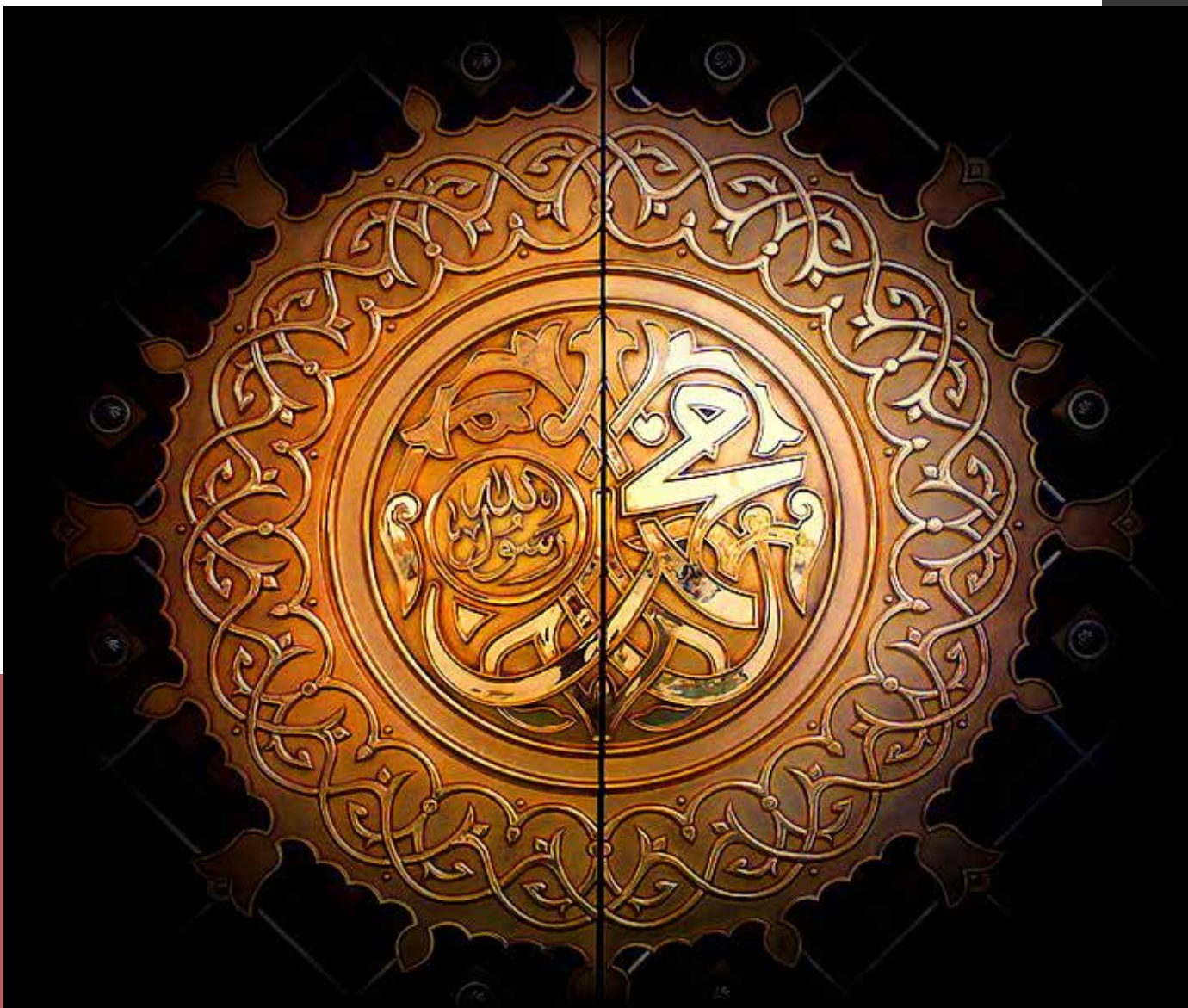


5

Prophet dictated letters containing Qur'anic verses to non-Muslims Kings

If Allah (swt) holds me responsible for giving the Arabic Qur'an to the non-Muslims, I will be in good company. I will be in the company of the beloved Prophet Muhammad (pbuh).

Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) dictated letters to several non-Muslim kings, Negus of Abyssinia, Emperor Heraclius, Emperor of Persia, King of Yemen, King of Egypt in which he dictated verses of the Glorious Qur'an asking them to accept Islam.





Some of the non-Muslim kings accepted Islam while some tore the letter and some of them even trampled it beneath their feet. One such letter is preserved in the Topkapi museum in Turkey, which contains verse 64 of Aali Imran, chapter 3 of the Qur'an.

قُلْ يَٰٓأَهْلَ ٱلْكِتَٰبِ تَعَالَوْا۟ إِلَىٰ كَلِمَۃٍۭ سَوَآءٍۭ بَيْنَنَا وَبَيْنَكُمْ أَلَّا نَعْبُدَ إِلَّا ٱللَّهَ وَلَا
نُشْرِكَ بِهِۦ شَيْئًا وَلَا يَتَّخِذَ بَعْضُنَا بَعْضًا أَرْبَابًا مِّنْ دُونِ ٱللَّهِ ۚ فَاِنْ تَوَلَّوْا۟ فَقُولُوْا
أَشْهَدُوْا بِأَنَّا مُسْلِمُوْنَ



Say: "O People of the Book! come to common terms as between us and you: That we worship none but Allah; that we associate no partners with him; that we erect not, from among ourselves, Lords and patrons other than Allah." If then they turn back, say ye: "Bear witness that we [at least] are Muslims (bowing to Allah's Will).

Al Qur'an 3:64





6

Which translation of the Glorious Qur'an will you give to the non-Muslim Arabs

Today there are most than 14 million Arabs who are Coptic Christians i.e., Christians since generations, which translation of the Glorious Qur'an will you give to these non-Muslim Arabs.



LESSON 4

EXCUSES FOR NOT READING THE QUR'AN WITH UNDERSTANDING PART 2



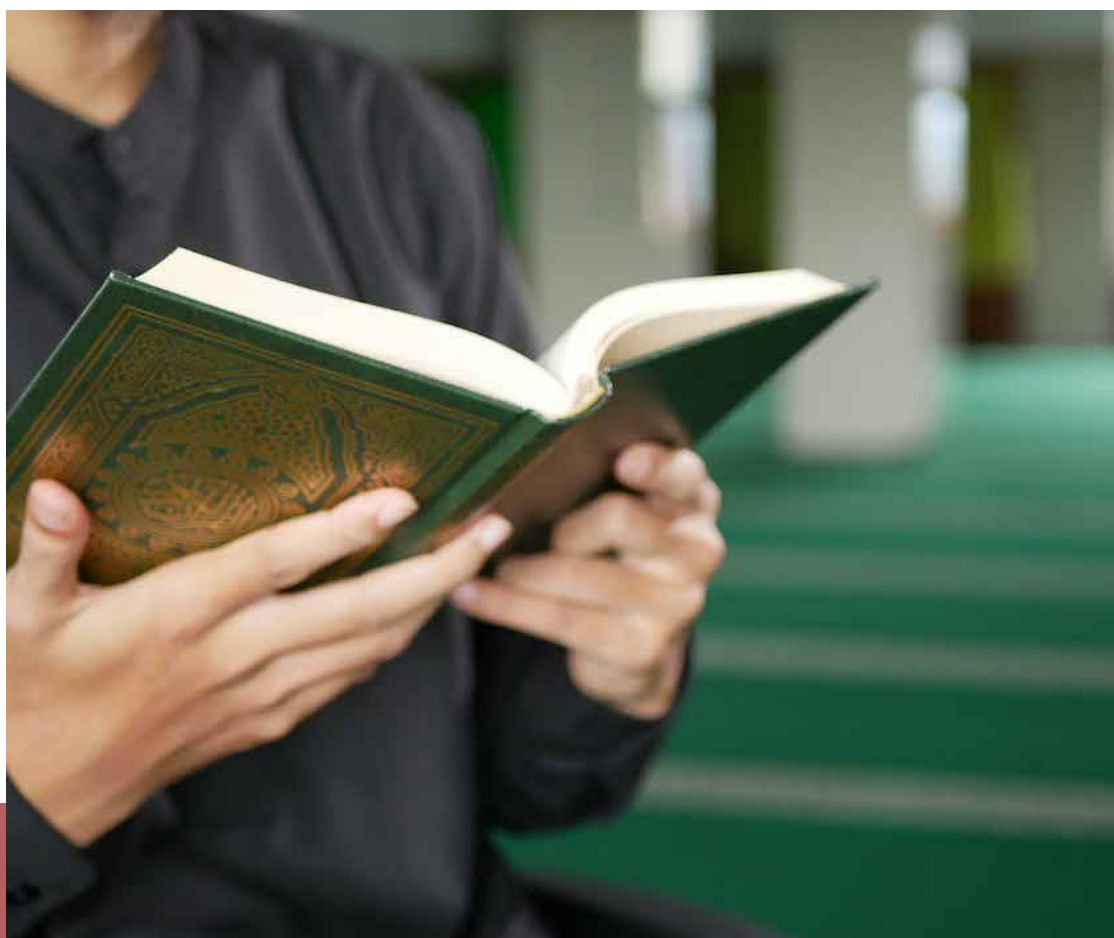
4

QUR'AN ONLY FOR AALIMS

1

Qur'an is meant for everyone & not only Aalims

Many Muslims think that the Qur'an is only meant to be understood by the Aalims, and if layman reads and tries to understand the Qur'an, he will be misled.





- a** The Glorious Qur'an mentions no less than 4 times in Surah Al Qamar chapter 54 verses 17, 22, 32 & 40:

وَلَقَدْ يَسَّرْنَا الْقُرْءَانَ لِلذِّكْرِ فَهَلْ مِنْ مُدَكِّرٍ



"And We have indeed made the Qur'an easy to understand and remember: then is there any that will receive admonition?"

Al Qur'an 54:17, 22, 32 & 40

Would you believe in those Muslims who say that the Qur'an is difficult for the layman to understand and is exclusively meant for the Aalims or would you believe in Allah (swt), Who says We have made the Qur'an easy for you to understand?





- b Allah (swt) further reconfirms several times in the Qur'an including Surah Al Baqarah,

لَعَلَّكُمْ تَعْقِلُونَ



"so that you may understand."
Al Qur'an 2:73

- c It is mentioned in Surah Al Hijr chapter 15 verse 1 the purpose of the revelation is:

الرَّ تِلْكَ ءَايَاتُ الْكِتَابِ وَقُرْءَانٍ مُّبِينٍ



"A. L. R. These are the Ayats of Revelation,- of a Qur'an that makes things clear."
Al Qur'an 15:1





2

Aalim is the person who has knowledge

While reading the Qur'an if you come across any difficulty or do not understand, then the Qur'an says:

a

فَسْأَلُوا أَهْلَ الذِّكْرِ إِنْ كُنْتُمْ لَا تَعْلَمُونَ



"If you realise this not, ask of those who possess the Message."

Al Qur'an 16:43, 21:7

- b The Qur'an says if you are in doubt ask the persons who knows, ask an Aalim; does not only mean a person who has studied in Darul Uloom for 7 years or 14 years. Aalim means a person who has Ilm i.e., knowledge. If Allah speaks about science, you will not seek clarification from a cobbler but from a scientist. If the Qur'an speaks about medicine & you require clarification, you will go to a doctor, not to a person who has gone to Darul Uloom, for 7 years and has no knowledge of medicine. Similarly, if you have difficulty in Nuzulul Qur'an you will go to a Maulana who is an expert in this field and not to a scientist or doctor.





3

Example of Keith Moore

A few years ago, a group of Arabs collected all the data concerning embryology from the Qur'an and they followed the instructions mentioned in the Glorious Qur'an:

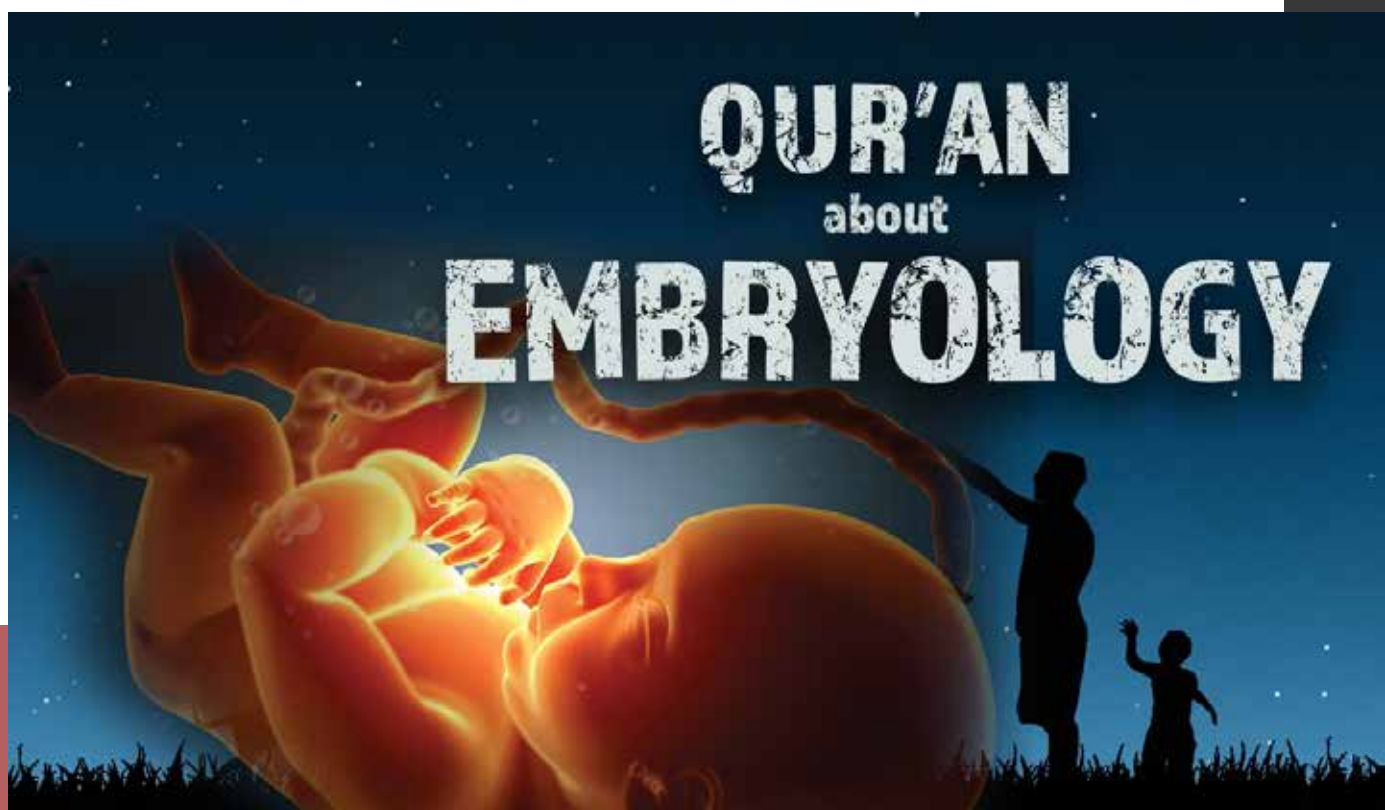
فَسْأَلُوا أَهْلَ الذِّكْرِ



"Ask the person who knows."

Al Qur'an 16:43, 21:7

All the data of embryology present in the Qur'an was translated into English and presented to Professor Dr Keith Moore who is the Professor and chairperson of the department of Anatomy in the university of highest authority in the field of embryology throughout the world.





He was asked to give his opinion regarding the embryological data in the Qur'an. After carefully examining the various Quotations of the verses of the Qur'an presented to him, he said that most of the embryological facts mentioned in the Qur'an are in perfect conformity with the modern discovery in the field of embryology and in no way conflict with it, but there are few verses which he himself could not comment on whether they are right or wrong as there is no mention of these facts in modern embryology.

One of these verses is from Surah Alaq chapter 96 verses 1-2:

اقْرَأْ بِاسْمِ رَبِّكَ الَّذِي خَلَقَ خَلَقَ الْإِنْسَانَ مِنْ عَلَقٍ



"Proclaim (or read) in the name of thy Lord and Cherisher, who created. Created man out of a (mere) clot of congealed blood (a leech like substance)."

Al Qur'an 96:1-2

The word 'Alaq' besides meaning a congealed clot of blood also means something which is a leech like substance.





He has no knowledge whether an embryo in the initial stage looks like a leech. He went to his laboratory and saw the initial stage of the embryo under a very powerful microscope and compared it with a diagram of a leech and he was astonished at the resemblance of the two.

In the same manner he acquired more information on embryology from the Qur'an, which was not known earlier.

Prof Keith Moore after answering about 8 questions dealing with embryology which were in full agreement with the Qur'an and Hadith said, "If I was asked these questions 30 years ago, I would not have been able to answer half of them for lack of scientific knowledge."



A. Embryo at 24-25 days



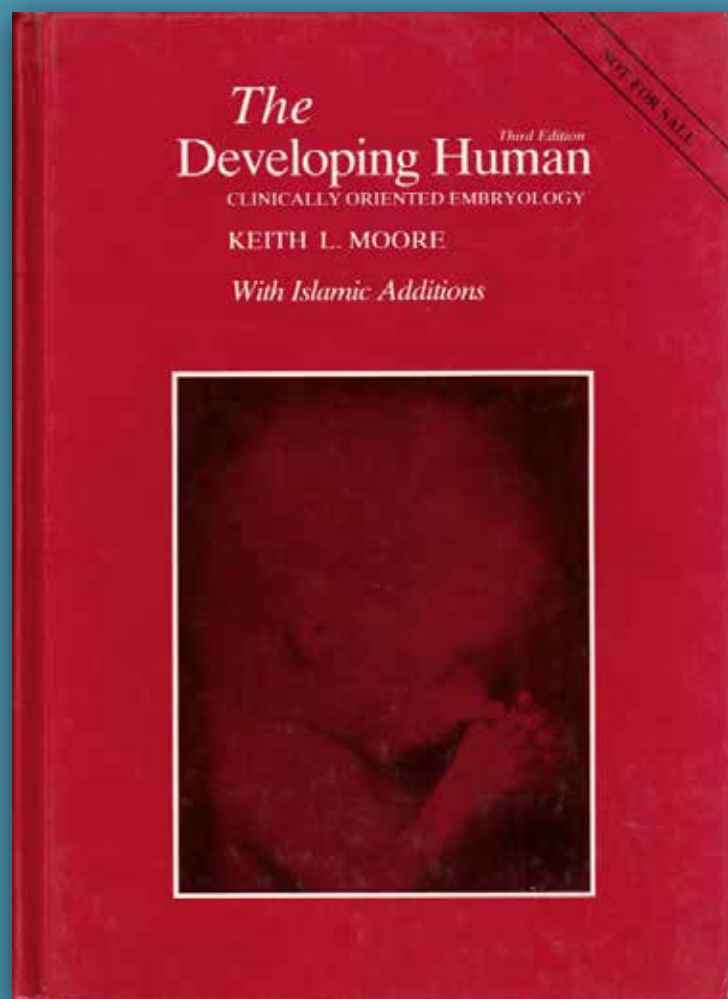
B. Leech or bloodsucker



Prof Keith Moore happens to be the author of the book, 'The Developing Human'. After acquiring the new knowledge from the Qur'an Prof Keith Moore wrote a new edition that is the 3rd edition of the same book, 'The Developing Human' in 1992, for which he got the award for the best medical book written by a single author.

This book was translated into several languages of the world. This book also happens to be the textbook of embryology in the first year of MBBS.

Prof Keith Moore had no hesitation in accepting the Qur'an to be a divine revelation & that Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) was a messenger of God.





4

Qur'an is an instruction manual of the human being

Every machine has an instruction manual; for example, when you purchase a DVD player it comes along with an instruction manual. If you want to play a DVD, insert the DVD and press the PLAY button.

In order to stop, press the STOP button. Don't immerse it in water, it will get spoilt. The more complicated the machine, the more is the requirement of the instruction manual. If you allow me to call the human being a machine, I will say it's the most complicated on the face of the earth. Doesn't it require an instruction manual?

The last & final instruction manual of the human being is the Glorious Qur'an. The instruction manual will only be useful if you can understand it. If the DVD player gets spoilt you will call an engineer or a technician, as the circuit diagram given in the instruction manual will be too complicated for a common man to understand. Similarly, if there are some complications in the life of a human being or certain difficulties in understanding the instruction manual i.e., the Glorious Qur'an he can very well approach an expert in that field.





5

Example of Nawab & the car

When automobile was introduced for the first time in India people did not know how to drive it. Therefore, whenever a car was purchased, the company along with the car also provided a driver. A rich Nawab purchased a new car along with which he was also provided a driver. One day he wanted to take his Begum Sahiba for shopping, and he asks his driver to keep the car nearby. The driver says that the car is out of order. The Nawab gets angry and tells the driver he wants the car in working order under any circumstances. The driver says that to put the car back to working order he requires 10 kgs of pure honey, 20 litres of pure milk, 30 kgs of pure ghee & 40 kgs of rice that too Basmati rice. The Nawab provides all these things to the driver who in turn gives it to his wife and within a few minutes, the car is back in walking condition.



I am asking you the question that today if your driver demands 10 kgs of pure honey, 20 litres of pure milk, 30 kgs of pure ghee, 40 kgs of Basmati rice to repair the car, you will kick him out of the job because even though you may not be a mechanic you very well know that a car does not run on honey, milk, ghee or rice but requires petrol or gas. Similarly, every Muslim needs to understand the Glorious Qur'an & know the basics of Islam. No one will be able to confuse him or take him for a ride.





6

Less punishment for learners' license

Some people encourage the Muslims not to read the Qur'an with understanding giving the example that if you have a Kaccha license, i.e., a learner's driving license and then if you have an accident the law will give you less punishment & fine as compared to a person who bangs up the car after having a Pakka license i.e., a permanent full-fledged license. Therefore, in order to get less punishment, it is preferable to remain ignorant and not to read Qur'an with understanding. If we agree with the logic and suppose a person having a Kaccha learner's license bangs up a car the law may impose a fine of Rs 1000/- and another person having Pakka permanent license may be fined Rs 2000/- for banging up the car.



The chances of a person having a permanent license and having an accident may be once in a year but the chances of a person having a temporary Kaccha license & having an accident may be 50 times in a year. Thus, at the end of the year, the person having a permanent Pakka license pays a fine of Rs 2,000, while the person holding a temporary Pakka license ends up paying a fine of Rs 50,000.





5 ONLY RECITING THE QUR'AN WITHOUT UNDERSTANDING IS NOT SUFFICIENT

1

Importance of recitation of the Glorious Qur'an

- a** There are some Muslims on the other extreme, who say that only reciting the Glorious Qur'an in Arabic is absolutely useless. The Glorious Qur'an says:

لَا تَغْلُوا فِي دِينِكُمْ



"Commit no excesses in your religion."

Al Qur'an 4:171





- b** It would be wrong to say that only recital of the Glorious Qur'an in Arabic without understanding is useless for the Glorious Qur'an says:

أَتْلُ مَا أُوحِيَ إِلَيْكَ مِنَ الْكِتَابِ



"Recite what is sent of the Book by inspiration."
Al Qur'an 29:45





2

Sawab for reciting every letter of the Arabic Qur'an

- A** **i** There are also several Hadith which mention the importance of reciting the Glorious Qur'an.



Ibn Masud (ra) narrates that the Messenger of Allah (pbuh) said:

"Whosoever reads one letter of the Book of Allah is credited with one Sawab (blessing) and one blessing is equal to tenfold the like thereof its reward. I do not say that **الم** is one letter. But **أ** is one letter, **ل** is one letter and **م** is one letter."

Sunan At Tirmidhi – Hadith 2910

- ii** The scholars say that for every alphabet of the Glorious Qur'an a person recites he gets 10 Sawab i.e., 10 blessings; for e.g., if a person recites "Alif, Laam Meem" he gets 10, 10, 10 Sawabs i.e., total of 30 Sawabs. There is no doubt at all that he will get Sawab for reciting the Glorious Qur'an but are these limited Sawab of 10,10,10 sufficient to transport a human being to Paradise considering the amount of mistakes and sins the human beings commit daily.





- B** Besides reciting the Arabic portion of the Glorious Qur'an, understanding, receiving guidance, and putting into practice will give multiple times more Sawab or blessings as compared to only recitation.

i كَتَبَ أَنْزَلْنَاهُ إِلَيْكَ مُبَارَكٌ لِّيَدَّبَّرُوا آيَاتِهِ وَلِيَتَذَكَّرَ أُولُوا الْأَلْبَابِ



"(Here is) a Book which We have sent down unto thee, full of blessings, that they may meditate on its Signs, and that men of understanding may receive admonition."

Al Qur'an 38:29

ii مَثَلُ الَّذِينَ حُمِّلُوا التَّوْرَةَ ثُمَّ لَمْ يَحْمِلُوهَا كَمَثَلِ الْحِمَارِ يَحْمِلُ أَسْفَارًا



"The similitude of those who were charged with the (obligations of the) Mosaic Law, but who subsequently failed in those (obligations), is that of a donkey which carries huge tomes (but understands them not)."

Al Qur'an 62:5





3

Khatmul Qur'an

- a** Many Muslims do Khatmul Qur'an i.e., recite to complete Qur'an specially in the month of Ramadhaan many recite the complete Qur'an, some once, some twice, some even 10 times, but they do not understand anything. In Sha Allah, they will get the Sawab. But it would have been much better that instead of reciting the complete Qur'an without understanding twice that they recite it only once and simultaneously read the translation. Instead of reciting 2 Siparas without understating it is preferable to recite one Sipara with understanding. Only if you recite with understanding are there possibilities of you implementing the guidance of Allah (swt)

b



Abu Dharr (ra) reports that the Messenger of Allah (pbuh) said:

"O Abu Dharr, if you go in the morning and learn one Ayat from the book of Allah, it will be better for you than your offering 100 Rakat of Salat."

Sunan Ibn Majah – Vol 1 Hadith 219
(Declared as Hasan by Imam Mundhiri in At Targheeb Wat Tarheeb)

In every Rakat of Salaah you have to recite Surah Al Fatihah which contains 7 verses; therefore, if you learn one verse with understanding, it's better than reciting 700 verses.





4

Qur'an Khawani

When we ask some of the Muslims that why was the Qur'an revealed? So, they reply that it was revealed for Qur'an Khawani, so that it can be recited for the opening ceremony of the shop, house-warming ceremony, after a person dies etc. I do not know of any Qur'anic verse or any Hadith of the Prophet (pbuh) where he recommended such an act. People are invited and they rattle the Qur'an at 100 miles per hour. If someone wants the Qur'an to be completely read, I advise them that instead of having Qur'an Khawani, they can have Qur'an Fahmi & instead of calling 30 people and asking each one to recite one Sipara only in Arabic ask them to recite along with that the translation even though it will take double the time. Irrespective whether it benefits the host or not, it will give guidance to each one reading the Qur'an with understanding and hence he can take back with him some message to implement in his life, In Sha Allah.



5

Acquiring a degree in French, a language not understood

- a** A student goes to France to acquire a degree in science where the medium of instruction is French, a language he does not understand. Throughout the year, the student regularly attends each and every class but does not understand anything, for every class he attends he gets a "P" that is, 'present' mark. At the end of the course when he sits for the examination and receives question paper, since the script of English and French is same, he is able to read the question paper but unable to understand it, do you think he will pass the examination? Yes! He will surely get a "P" but this "P" does not indicate that he has passed but only that he was present for the examination.



b

الَّذِي خَلَقَ الْمَوْتَ وَالْحَيَاةَ لِيَبْلُوَكُمْ أَيُّكُمْ أَحْسَنُ عَمَلًا



"He Who created Death and Life, that He may try which of you is best in deed."

Al Qur'an 67:2

The life we are living in this world is a test for the hereafter.

If a person only recites the Arabic portion of the Glorious Qur'an without understanding and implementing it. He will surely get a present mark but will surely fail in the test of this life.





LESSON 5

MISCONCEPTIONS ABOUT THE QUR'AN



6

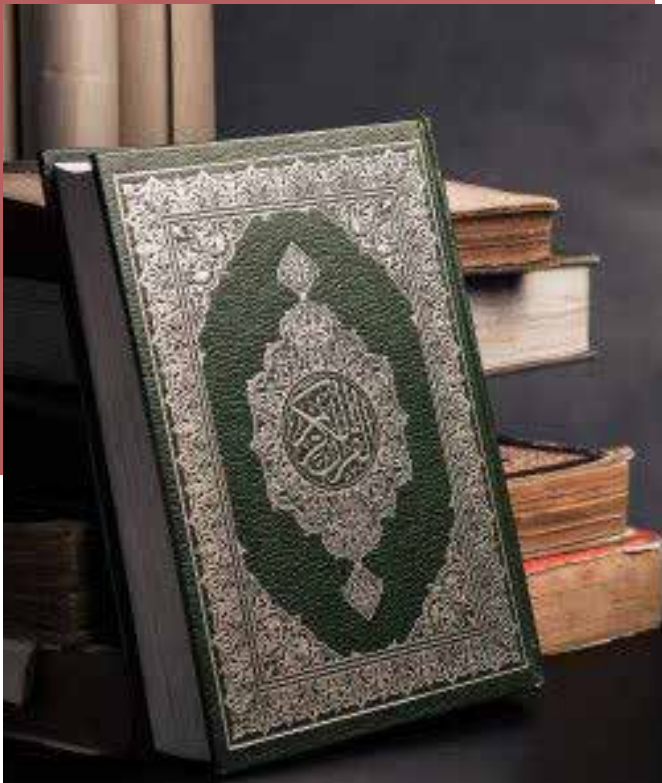
MUSLIMS ARE ONLY SATISFIED BY GIVING OUTWARDLY RESPECTS TO THE GLORIOUS QUR'AN

1

The Muslims kiss the Qur'an and keep it on the topmost shelf

Alhamdulillah. It's very important to give respect to the Qur'an. But while doing so it should not defeat its purpose. The Muslims keep the Qur'an on such a height and far away that it's not easily approachable and at the same time its accumulating dust on the top.





2

Qur'an is a guide and a textbook to be used daily

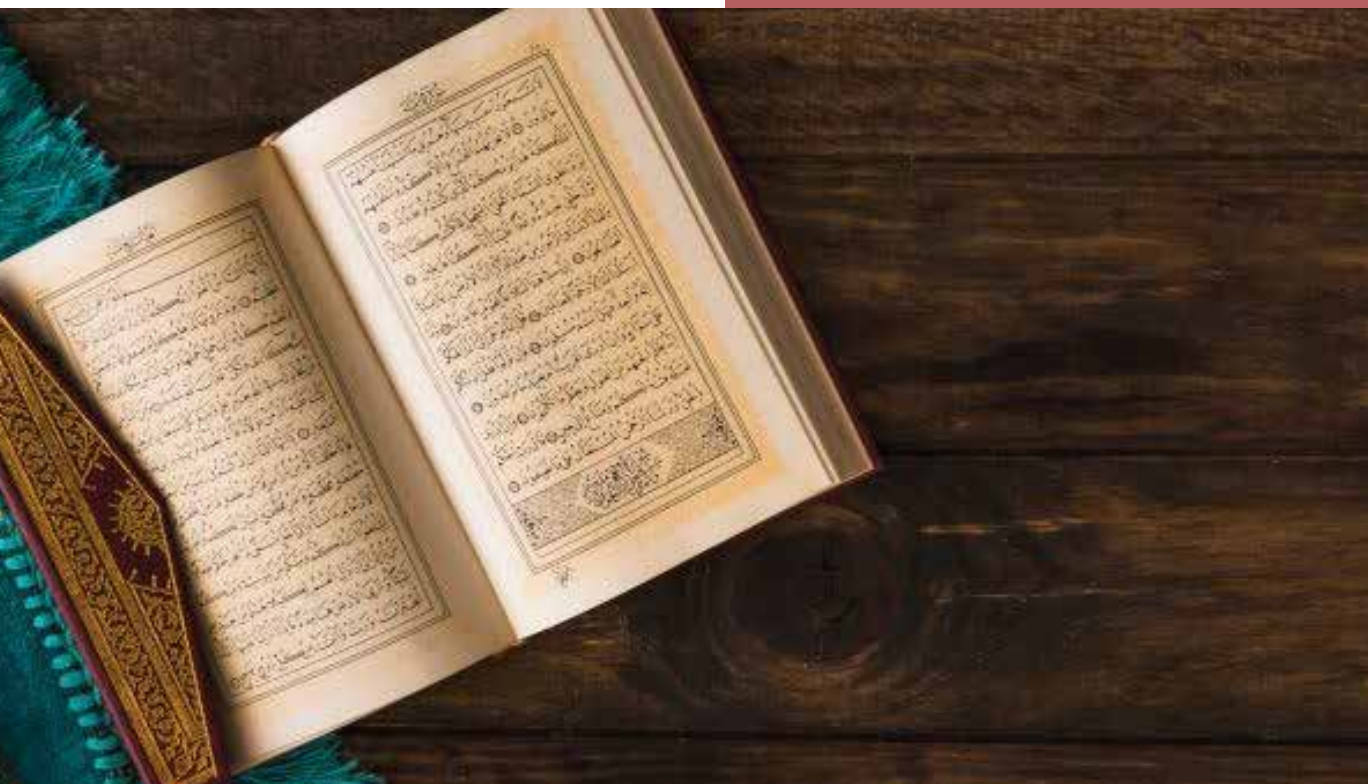
Qur'an is not a book only meant for decorating the shelf. It's a guide that should be used daily. It's a textbook as well as a reference book for the human beings. The things that are used in our daily life are always kept in places which are approachable.



3

Tie in expensive cloth

Some Muslims keep the Qur'an in a very expensive beautiful silk cloth and tie it very securely that a person will have to think 10 times before reading the Qur'an, and then if he feels like reading the Qur'an, the thought of trouble and time taken to recite will surely discourage him from reading it.



4

Muslims afraid to touch Qur'an as though time bomb

Many Muslims are even afraid to touch the Qur'an and scrutinize 100 things before touching it as though it is a time bomb or RDX which will explode.

Many people have a misconception that the Qur'an cannot be read while standing, while travelling, at work, in the office, etc.

Holding a Qur'an wearing a footwear is disrespecting it and several others.

The most important point to be related is that the Qur'an should not be intentionally disrespected. People who are giving outward respect to the Qur'an defeat its main purpose for what it was revealed.



5

Reading the Qur'an in the mosque: back can be facing to the Qur'an

a Alhamdulillah it's a very good practice in the Arab country when people arrive in the mosque before Salaah most of them open and read the Qur'an, even if few minutes are remaining for the Jamaah. But natural, they do not have to read the translation since they understand Arabic. Even in the Indian mosque you may find a few people reciting the Qur'an before Salaah but only in the first row. If a person reads in the 2nd row, there is bound to be someone who will object saying how can you read the Qur'an when the back of the people sitting in the first row is facing the Qur'an? I do not understand from where they get all these new ideas. I have been to the Masjidul Haram in Makkah, several times where they have classes for learning the recitation and memorisation of the Glorious Qur'an where hundreds of students sit in rows in which most of the students backs point towards the Qur'an of the colleague.

If any person in India reads the Qur'an with his back facing the Kaaba, in most of the mosques he will immediately be stopped. In fact, in Masjidul Haram, the back of most of the students learning the Qur'an face the Kaaba.





6

Yusuf (pbuh) not removed from pit during Salaah

Once an Indian Imam whose Qiraat was very good was asked to lead the Salaah in Saudi Arabia. After the Salaah was over, one of the Arab brothers was smiling looking at the Imam. The Imam enquired that wasn't his Qiraat good. The Arab replied that the Qiraat was fine, but he was wondering that why did the Imam put Yusuf (pbuh) in the pit but did not remove him out of the pit before ending the Salaah.



LESSON 6

UNDERSTANDING THE QUR'AN



7

MAKING A MOCKERY OF THE QUR'AN

1

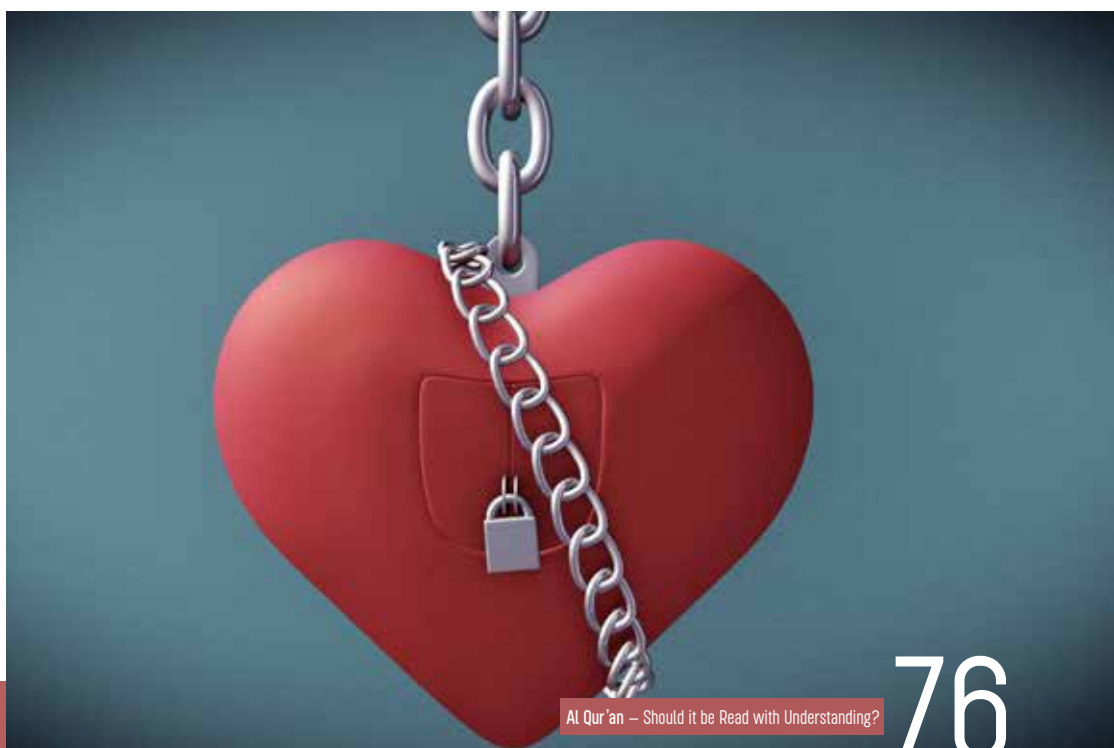
Are our hearts locked up?

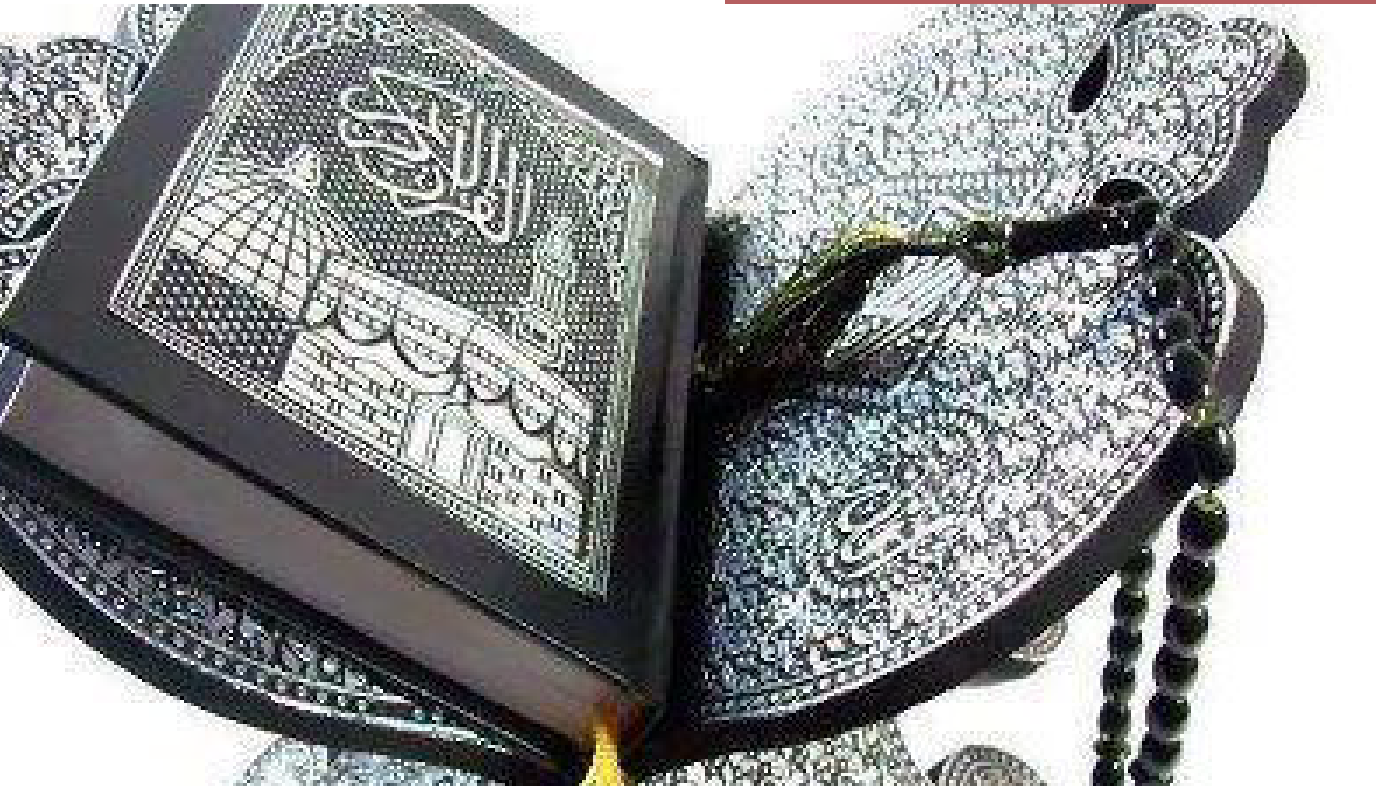
أَفَلَا يَتَذَكَّرُونَ الْقُرْءَانَ أَمْ عَلَى قُلُوبٍ أَقْفَالُهَا



"Do they not then earnestly seek to understand the Qur'an, or are their hearts locked up by them?"

Al Qur'an 47:24





2

Do not conceal signs of Qur'an

إِنَّ الَّذِينَ يَكْتُمُونَ مَا أَنزَلْنَا مِنَ الْبَيِّنَاتِ وَالْهُدَىٰ مِنْ بَعْدِ مَا بَيَّنَّاهُ لِلنَّاسِ فِي الْكِتَابِ ۖ أُولَٰئِكَ يَلْعَنُهُمُ اللَّهُ



"Those who conceal the clear [Signs] We have sent down, and the Guidance, after We have made it clear for the people in the Book, -on them shall be Allah's curse."

Al Qur'an 2:159



3

People take Qur'an for foolish nonsense

وَقَالَ الرَّسُولُ يَرَبِّ إِنَّ قَوْمِي اتَّخَذُوا هَذَا الْقُرْآنَ مَهْجُورًا



"Then the Messenger will say: "O my Lord! Truly my people took this Qur'an for just foolish nonsense."

Al Qur'an 25:30

Imagine the Qur'an itself says that Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) will himself give the Shahadah that these are my people who took the Qur'an for foolish nonsense.



8

UNDERSTANDING THE QUR'AN

1

Tazakkurul Qur'an and Tadabburul Qur'an

- a There are 2 types of reading the Qur'an: one is Tazakkurul Qur'an, i.e., reading the Qur'an with understanding it superficially which is very much possible even by reading the translation of the Glorious Qur'an.





- b** The other one is Tadabburul Qur'an which is pondering over the verses of the Glorious Qur'an. Tadabburul Qur'an can also be done to a certain level by reading the translation of the Glorious Qur'an but for an in-depth pondering and doing Tadabburul Qur'an knowing Qur'anic Arabic is a must.
- c** It's possible for a person to complete Tazakkurul Qur'an i.e., superficial reading of the Qur'an but it's impossible for a person to complete Tadabburul Qur'an i.e., pondering over the complete Qur'an.





2

Qur'an can be read several times

Even if a person reads the Qur'an 1000 times, yet he will receive guidance when he reads it the 1001st time. A person can never get tired of reading the Qur'an unlike other books. Each time he reads it he enjoys it better and discover new dimensions of the Glorious Qur'an.



3

Every house should have a translation of the Qur'an

It's compulsory for every Muslim to have a copy of the Glorious Qur'an in his house and since the majority of the Muslims do not understand Arabic its compulsory for such Muslims to possess a translation of the Glorious Qur'an in the language, we understand best. Besides, possessing one it should also be read and utilised in day-to-day life.



4

Hadiyah of the Qur'an is less and the Best Gift

The Hadiyah of the translation of the Glorious Qur'an is so less that no Muslim can say that he cannot afford to acquire a copy.

It is the best gift in the world that you can give to any person irrespective whether he is a Muslim or non-Muslim; irrespective whether he is rich or poor; it's invaluable for him for any occasion whether wedding, inauguration etc. The Qur'an is the best gift you can present.





5

First textbook to be given to your child; and teach Arabic

- a** The first textbook that should be given and taught to your child is the Glorious Qur'an. It will be his guide till the last day of his life.

How many Muslim parents have given and taught to their children the Glorious Qur'an in the infancy. Parents may send the children to a Madrasa to learn the Arabic alphabets and recite the Qur'an but not to understand it.

- b** If our parents did not understand the importance of teaching us Qur'anic Arabic from the children. We should not make the same blunder and see to it that we teach our children Qur'anic Arabic from the childhood.

Parents do take personal care to teach ABC and other worldly knowledge, which is required but it is not more important than the knowledge of the Glorious Qur'an



6

Reading the Glorious Qur'an

- a The Glorious Qur'an should be read along with the translation every day in the house, if possible all the family members should gather together and read the Arabic text along with the translation and commentary after the Fajr Salah in the morning or after Isha Salaah at night whichever is convenient. People can take turns in reading. Every day one or two section or Ruku a day the Qur'an will be completed in a span of one and half year.
- b Every Muslim office should make it a point that when their employees enter the office in the morning the first thing to be done is read at least one Ruku' or one section of the Glorious Qur'an with understanding.



It will benefit you in your business. Your employees will get guidance in your business your employees will get guidance to be honest, not to cheat, to accept or give bribe.

Even your non-Muslim employees if any will get guidance and you will get Sawab.

- c** Besides, reading in a sequence from 1st page to last page whenever you are free at home or office you can pick up the Qur'an and browse through the index and read whichever topic that interests you.
- d** Or open the Qur'an at random and read the portion which is open.





9

TRANSLATIONS OF THE QUR'AN

SR. NO.	NAME OF THE QUR'AN	NO. OF VOLS	TRANSLATOR	PUBLISHER'S NAME AND ADDRESS
1	THE HOLY QUR'AN	1	ABDULLAH YUSUF ALI	Amana Corporation 4411 41st Street, Brentwood, Maryland 20722 U.S.A.
2	THE QUR'AN	1	SAHEEH INTERNATIONAL	Abul Qasim Publication House P.O. Box 6156 Jeddah 21442, Saudi Arabia. This book has been produced in collaboration with Saheeh International.
3	AL QUR'AN	1	MUHAMMAD FAROOQ -I-AZAM MALIK	The Institute of Islamic Knowledge P.O. Box 8307, Houston, Texas 77288-8307, U.S.A.
4	THE NOBLE QUR'AN	1	DR MUHAMMAD TAQI-UD-DIN AL HILALI AND DR MUHAMMED MUHSIN KHAN	Maktaba Darussalam Int'l Publishing & Distribution Prince Abdul Aziz Bin Jalawi Street, P.O. Box 22743, Riyadh 11416, KSA, or King Fahd Complex for the Printing of the Holy Qur'an
5	THE MESSAGE OF THE QUR'AN	1	MUHAMMAD ASAD	Dar Al-Andalus - Gibraltar, Distributors: E. J. Brill, Publishers and Book - Sellers, 41, Museum Street London - WC1A1LX
6	TAFSIR-UL-QUR'AN	4	MAULANA ABDUL MAJID DARYABADI	Darul Ishaat, Urdu Bazar - Karachi 1, Pakistan
7A	HOLY QUR'AN	1	MARMADUKE PICKTHALL	Taj Company Ltd. (Pakistan)
7B	THE MEANING OF THE GLORIOUS QUR'AN	1	MUHAMMAD MARMADUKE PICKTHALL - Revised and edited in Modern Standard English by Arafat K. El-Ashi, Ph.D.	Amana Publications Beltsville, Maryland, U.S.A.
8A	THE MEANING OF THE QUR'AN	6	S. ABUL A'LA MAUDUDI English Translation by Muhammad Akbar (I-III) and Abdul Aziz Kamal (IV - VI)	Islamic Publication (Pvt.) Ltd. 13-E Shahalam Market, Lahore, Pakistan
8B	TOWARDS UNDERSTANDING THE QUR'AN	8	S. ABUL A'LA MAUDUDI English Translation by Zafar Ishaq Ansari	Islamic Foundation Markfield Conference Centre, Ratby Lane, Markfield, Leicestershire LE67 9SY, UK
9	DAWATUL QUR'AN	3	SHAMS PIRZADA English Translation by Abdul Karim Sheikh	Idara Dawatul Quran 59, Muhammad Ali Road, Mumbai, India
10	TAFSEER IBN KATHIR	10	Abridged by a group of scholars under the supervision of Shaikh Safiur Rahman Mubarakpuri	Maktaba Darussalam Int'l Publishing & Distribution Prince Abdul Aziz Bin Jalawi Street, P.O. Box 22743, Riyadh 11416, KSA
11	TAFSEER AS SA'DI	10	SHAIKH ABDUR-RAHMAN IBN NASIR AS-SA'DI Translated by Nasiruddin Al Khattab	International Islamic Publishing House (IIPH) P.O. Box 55195 Riyadh 11534, Saudi Arabia
12	TAFSIR ISHRAQ AL MA'ANI	14	SYED IQBAL ZAHEER	Iqra Welfare Trust, Bangalore India



10

CONCLUSION

1

If Qur'an is revealed on mountain,
it would have humbled

لَوْ أَنزَلْنَاهَا هَذَا الْقُرْآنَ عَلَىٰ جَبَلٍ لَّرَأَيْنَاهُ خَاشِعًا مُّتَصَدِّعًا مِّنْ خَشْيَةِ اللَّهِ ۚ
وَتِلْكَ الْأَمْثَلُ نُضْرِبُهَا لِلنَّاسِ لَعَلَّهُمْ يَتَفَكَّرُونَ



"Had We sent down this Qur'an on a mountain, verily, you would have seen it humble itself and cleave asunder for fear of Allah. Such are the similitudes which We propound to men, that they may reflect."

Al Qur'an 59:21





If the mountain had a feeling and if the Qur'an was revealed on it, then it would have humbled itself and would have cloven asunder. The mountain is a symbol of strength, stability and size and is hard as a rock. The Qur'an was revealed on human beings, but it makes no difference to us neither brings a change in our lifestyle. As though we are stronger and harder than the rock.

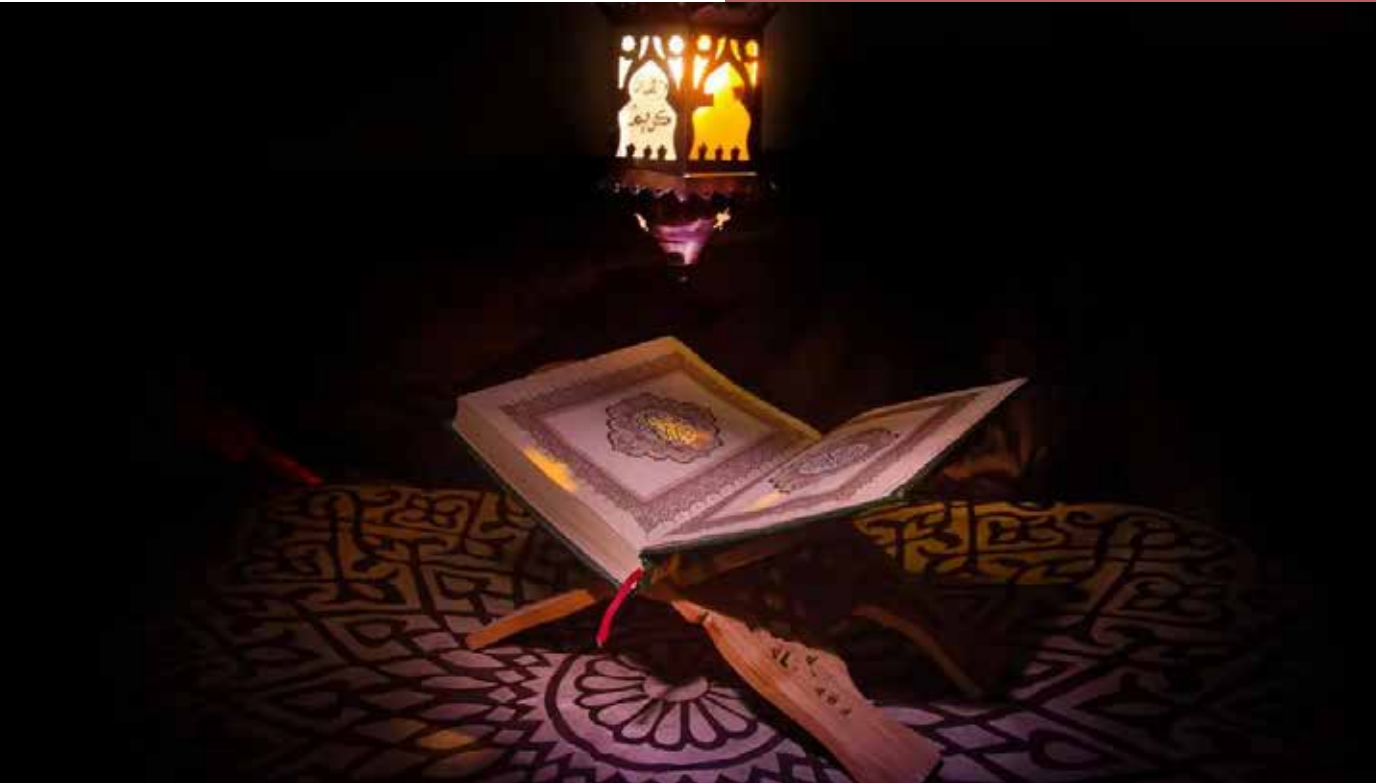




2

Muslims backward because away from Qur'an

The reason that Muslims today are backward is because we have gone away from the religious book the Glorious Qur'an and the reason is that the westerners are advanced today is because they too have gone away from this religious book.



3

Accepting the guidance of the Qur'an is our own choice

وَأَنْ أَتْلُوا الْقُرْآنَ ۚ فَمَنْ أَهْتَدَىٰ فَإِنَّمَا يَهْتَدِي لِنَفْسِهِ ۗ



"(I have been commanded) to rehearse the Qur'an:
and if any accept guidance, they do it for the good
of their own souls."

Al Qur'an 27:92



4

The best among Muslims

Uthman (ra) narrated that the Prophet (pbuh) said:

خَيْرُكُمْ مَنْ تَعَلَّمَ الْقُرْآنَ وَعَلَّمَهُ



"The best among you are those who learn the Qur'an and impart its knowledge to others."

Sahih Al Bukhari – Vol 6 Hadith 5027





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