

The Holy Quran as Book of Regulations and Law

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Received: 26th August 2022

Revised: 20th October 2022

Accepted: 27th October 2022

Abstract: The Quran is the last revealed Book of Allah. It is a word-by-word record of Allah's communication with Prophet Muhammad, His last Messenger on earth. The Divine Message called Revelation (*Wahi*), was brought by the Archangel Jibrail (Gabriel) from time to time over a period of 23 years.

It is fully established by tradition and research that the Quran, in its present shape and form, was arranged in the lifetime of the Prophet in his own supervision. The Message was received by the Prophet as a Divine instruction to guide him as well as the people in specific situations, or as a response to the non-believers' objections. These Messages received at different times, were placed immediately in a particular Chapter (*Sura*) by the scribes as advised by the Prophet. There is consensus of Islamic scholars that the Quran in its present shape and form has existed through the centuries, without any change or alteration and there is no doubt about its authenticity.

The present book is intended to provide the facts about the Quran to the students. It is hoped however, that other readers will also find it useful, and it will help them in their understanding of the Quran.

Keywords: Holy Quran, Law, Regulations, Family, Peace

Introduction:

The Holy Quran forms the bedrock of Islamic law, even though many legal details are derived not from scripture but from extra-Quranic utterances and actions attributed to Muhammad—the so-called Hadith. Most of the Quran's legal or quasi-legal pronouncements are concentrated in a few of the longest Surah's, the most extensive block of such material being 2:153–283. The domains covered by Qurānic

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law include matters of family law (e.g., inheritance rules), ritual law (e.g., the performance of ablution before prayer or the duty to fast during the month of Ramadan), dietary regulations (e.g., the prohibition of consuming pork or wine), criminal law (e.g., the punishment for theft or for manslaughter), and commercial law (the prohibition of usury). Concrete behavioral prescriptions are not expounded in a systematic order and can be presented as responses to audience queries—for instance, at 5:4, “They ask you what is permitted to them [to eat]. Say...”

Basic Facts

The Basic Facts on the Quran are culled from the Quran itself. It is also in a sense, the thumb-nail 'history' of the Quran, and the history of its translations. The history of the translations of the Quran is adapted from the translation and commentary of the Quran.

Islamic Objectives Base

Islam is the world's only major monotheistic religion that is also a total political system, complete with rules of law, a system of government, and an economic infrastructure.

Islam is not the religion of Muhammad, the Messenger of God (may God bless him and his Ahl al-Bayt). It is the religion of surrender to God's Will - the surrender implicit in the submission of Abraham (Ibrahim) and his son Ismael, in the supreme test - the attempted sacrifice expressed in the word *aslama*.

Tauheed or belief in the Oneness of God, is the central doctrine of Islam. All of Islam revolves around *Tauheed*. It is the first Article of Faith in Islam, and is summed up in the 112nd Chapter of the Quran (Sura Ikhlas) or (Purity of Faith), which reads as follows:

'Say; he is God, the One and Only; (112:1).

God, the Eternal, Absolute; (112:2).

He begetteth not nor is He begotten; (112:3).

And there is none like unto Him." (112:4).

Etymologically the term Quran simply means 'reading' or 'reciting'. Theologically it means the Word of God Almighty.

Quran, the Divine Book of Islam, was revealed to Prophet Muhammad (may God bless him and his Ahl al-Bayt), for the guidance of mankind, for all times to come. The Quran is the last and final revelation.

The first Revelation was brought to Prophet Muhammad by the Archangel Gabriel. The Prophet was 40 years old when this occurred. Ramadan, the ninth month of the Islamic calendar, forty years after the Year of the Elephant (570 AD), or thirteen years before the Hijra (the migration of the Prophet from Makkah to Medina in 622 AD). He was in the cave of Hira when he received the first Revelation. Hira is a cave on a hill, three miles north-east of Makkah in Arabia.

The first Revelation consisted of the following five verses:

"Read! In the name of your Lord and Cherisher, (96:1).

Who created - created man out of a (mere) clot of congealed blood, (96:2).

Read! And your Lord is most bountiful, (96:3).

He who taught (the use of) the pen, (96:4).

Taught man that he knew not." (96:5).

These five verses are at the beginning of the 96th Sura or Chapter of the Quran. The Chapter is called *Iqraa* (Read or Proclaim), or *Alaq* (the clot of congealed blood).

The last verse of the Quran which was revealed to Muhammad, the Apostle of Allah, was the following one:

"This day I have perfected your religion for you, completed my favor upon you, and have chosen for you Islam as your religion."(5:3).

This clause occurs in the 3rd verse of the fifth chapter *Al-Maida* (the Table Spread) of the Quran. It was revealed on the plain of *Ghadir*, on the 18th of *Zilhajj* of 10 AH, a date which corresponds to March 21, 632, when the Prophet had completed the Farewell Pilgrimage, and was returning from Makkah to Medina.

Since God Himself perfected Islam, it is not subject to any modification by anyone; it is impervious to change for all time. But Islam allows flexibility in the interpretation of its laws.

After the revelation of this verse, the Prophet of Islam, lived another 80 days in the world. No other revelation came to him during those eighty days. The Message was complete; the religion had been perfected. The Revelation had thus ended forever.

Quranic Suras and their Implication

The opening Sura (chapter) of the Quran is *Al-Fatiha*. It is indeed the essence of Quran. It consists of seven verses. Recited at least seventeen times daily in the five daily prayers by every man and woman, old and young, this is the most recited prayer in the world. It is most inspiring to dwell upon each word of this miraculous revelation.

Sura *Al-Baqara* (the Cow), is the second chapter in Quran. It is the longest chapter in the Book and contains 286 verses. Also, its verse 2:282, is the longest verse of the Quran.

Ayat *Al-Kursi* (the Verse of the Thorne), verse 2:255 also occurs in the Sura *Baqara*. It is one of the most important verses of the Quran, repeatedly recited by the Muslims for *thawab* (blissful reward).

Al-Baqara is also important because it encompasses the bulk of Islamic jurisprudence.

The second longest chapter in the Quran is the 26th Chapter, *Shuaraa* (the Poets), with 227 verses; the third longest is the 7th Chapter, *Araf*, (the Heights), with 206 verses; and the fourth longest is the 3rd Chapter, *Al-Imran*, with 200 verses.

The following three short Suras consists of three verses each.

1. *Al-Asr* (Time) - Chapter 103
2. *Al-Kauthar* (Abundance) - Chapter 108
3. *Al-Nasr* (Help) - Chapter 110

Al-Kauthar is the shortest Sura.

The Quran was completed in 23 years - from 610 AD to 632 AD.

The Quran is divided into 30 parts; it is sub-divided into 114 Suras. The Suras are designated as *Makkan* or *Madinite* according to where it was revealed. The number of *Makkan* Suras (those revealed in Makkah) is 70, whereas the number of *Madinite* Suras (those revealed in Medina) is 44.

Quran has 338,606 letters (*huruf*); 86,430 words (*kalamat*); and 6,666 verses (*ayat*). It has 39,582 signs of *kasra* (*zer*); 53242 *fatha* (*zabar*) and 8804 *zamma* (*peh*). It has 1252 *tashdeed*, 1771 *madda* and 105,684 dots. It is the basis of religion, and the canon of ethical and moral life. It is also the first prose book in Arabic. Its style is Divine, and inimitable. It is one of the greatest miracles.

We are not sure if Hazrat Luqman was a Prophet as the traditions vary.

Janabe Mary or *Maryam*, the mother of Prophet Jesus (*Isa*) (peace be upon them), is the only woman mentioned by name in the Quran. The 19th Chapter of the Quran - *Maryam* - is named after her. *Zaid* is the only companion of the last Prophet, mentioned by name in the Quran.

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Sura Anam (the Cattle), is the sixth Chapter of the Quran. It has the names of 18 Prophets in four consecutive verses.

Prophet Abraham (Ibrahim), has been called 'friend of Allah'; the verse 125 of the Sura *an-Nisaa* or the Women, (Chapter 4), reads as follows:

"Who can be better in religion than one who submits his whole self to Allah, does good, and follows the way of Abraham the true in faith! For Allah did take Abraham for a friend." (4:125)

Prophet Abraham had two sons. "The younger son's progeny developed the Faith of Israel and that of Christ; the elder son's progeny perfected the more universal Faith of Islam, the Faith of Abraham the True." (A. Yusuf Ali).

Prophet Moses (Musa), was honored by Allah Who spoke to him directly; the verse 164 of the Sura *an-Nisaa* or the Women, (Chapter 4), reads as follows:

"Of some Apostles we have already told you the story; of others We have not; and to Moses Allah spoke direct." (4:164).

The name of Prophet Muhammad (may God bless him and his Ahl al-Bayt) has been honored in Quran in the following verses:

1. "O Prophet! Truly we have sent you as a Witness, A Bearer of Glad Tidings, and a Warner" (33:45).
2. "And as one who invites to Allah's (Grace) by His leave, And as a Lamp spreading light." (33:46).
3. "We have not sent you but as a universal (Messenger) to men, Giving them glad tidings, and warning them (against sin), but most men do not understand." (34:28).
4. "Muhammad is not the father of any of your men, But (he is) the Apostle of Allah, and the Seal of the Prophets, And Allah has full knowledge of all things." (33:40).
5. "We have sent you not, but as a Mercy for all creatures." (21:107).

The name of Prophet, Muhammad occurs in Quran in the following five verses:

- Chapter 3, Verse 144:

And Muhammad is no more than a messenger; the messengers have already passed away before him; if then he dies or is killed will you turn back upon your heels? And whoever turns back upon his heels, he will by no means do harm to Allah in the least and Allah will reward the grateful. (3:144).

- Chapter 33, Verse 40

Muhammad is not the father of any of your men, but he is the Messenger of Allah and the Last of the prophets; and Allah is cognizant of all things.(33:40).

Chapter 47, Verse 2

And (as for) those who believe and do good, and believe in what has been revealed to Muhammad, and it is the very truth from their Lord, He will remove their evil from them and improve their condition.(47:2).

Chapter 48, Verse 29

Muhammad is the Messenger of Allah, and those with him are firm of heart against the unbelievers, compassionate among themselves; you will see them bowing down, prostrating themselves, seeking grace from Allah and pleasure; their marks are in their faces because of the effect of prostration; that is their description in the Taurat and their description in the Injeel; like as seed-produce that puts forth its sprout, then strengthens it, so it becomes stout and stands firmly on its stem, delighting the sowers that He may enrage the unbelievers on account of them; Allah has promised those among them who believe and do good, forgiveness and a great reward. (48:29).

Chapter 61, Verse 6 (as Ahmad)

And when Isa son of Marium said: O children of Israel! Surely I am the messenger of Allah to you, verifying that

which is before me of the Taurat and giving the good news of an Messenger who will come after me, his name being Ahmad, but when he came to them with clear arguments they said: This is clear magic. (61:6).

Among all the contemporaries of the last Prophet of Islam, only two men have been mentioned by name in the Quran; they are Zayd bin Haritha and Abu Lahab. They are cited in the following verses:

1. "Then when Zayd (bin Haritha) had dissolved (his marriage) with her, With the necessary (formality), We joined her in marriage to thee:" (33:37).
2. "Perish the hands of Abu Lahab (the Father of the Flame)! Perish he!" (111:1).

In the Quran:

Adam is mentioned 25 times, Idris twice, Nuh 49 times, Hud 8 times, Saleh 9 times, Ibrahim 49 times, Ismael 12 times, Ishaq 17 times, Yaqub 16 times, Yusuf 27 times, Lut 27 times, Ayub 4 times, Shoaib 11 times, Musa 133 times (the most mentioned name of a Prophet), Haroon 19 times, Dawood 16 times, Sulayman 17 times, Yahya 7 times, Isa 36 times, Uzair once, Al-Yasa twice, Dhul-Kifl twice, Yunus 6 times, Ilias 3 times and Zakariah 7 times.

May Allah's peace be upon all of them.

The first Ayat of the Quran:

Bismillahir Rahmanir Rahim, has 19 Arabic alphabets. It is interesting to note that whereas every chapter of the Quran starts with this Ayat (*Bismillah*), except for Sura *Tauba*, all *Kalemats* (sentences) of the Quran, have one or more out of the 19 alphabets of *Bismillah* except for one Kalima, 'Qad Saghat' in Ayat 4 of the 66th Sura, *Tahreen*.

Allah (swt) has used His Name, *Allah*, in the Quran 2698 times, *Rahman* 57 times, *Rahim* 114 times and *Ism* 19 times. These numbers are other than *Bismillahir Rahmanir Rahim*.

Sura *Mujadilah* is the only Sura of the Quran, where in each verse (Ayat), the name of Allah has been mentioned.

Whereas the longest verse (Ayat) of Quran is Verse of Sura *Al-Baqara* 2:282, the shortest verse is Verse of Sura *Muddaththir* 74:21.

There are 29 letters in the Arabic alphabet (counting *hamza* and *alif* as two letters), and there are 29 Suras (chapters) which have abbreviated letters prefixed to them. These abbreviated letters are called *Muqattaat*.

Conclusion

The mission of the Prophet of Islam has been delineated in the following verse:

"A similar (favor you have already received) in that We have sent among you as Apostle of your own, rehearsing to you Our Signs, and sanctifying you, and instructing you in Scripture and Wisdom, and in new Knowledge." (2:151).

According to this verse, Muhammad Mustafa (S) had to carry out the following duties as the Messenger of Allah:

1. Rehearsing the Signs of Allah;
2. Sanctifying the Muslims through Faith and Good Works. Most important of the Good Works are the five daily canonical prayers of Islam, regular charity, and the duty of commanding others to do good, and forbidding them from doing wrong;
3. Instructing the Muslims in Scripture and good sense; and
4. Imparting new Knowledge to the Muslims.

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Islam is the greatest leveler of political, social and economic inequalities, and ethnic and national distinctions, as we read in the following verse:

"O mankind! We created you from a single (pair) of a male and a female, and made you into nations and tribes, that ye may know each other (not that ye may despise each other). Verily the most honored of you in the sight of Allah is (he who is) the most righteous of you. And Allah has full knowledge and is well acquainted (with all things)." (49:13).

This verse is addressed to all mankind and not only to the Muslim brotherhood. The tribes, races and nations are convenient labels by which we may know certain differing characteristics. Before God they are all one, and he gets most honor who is most righteous.

There is no question now of race or nation, of a 'chosen people' or the 'seed of Abraham'; or the 'seed of David'; or of Hindu Arya-varta; of Jew or Gentile, Arab or 'Ajam (Persian), Turk or Tajik, European or Asiatic, White or Colored; Aryan, Semitic, Mongolian, or African; or American, Australian, or Polynesian. To all men and creatures other than men who have any spiritual responsibility, the principles universally apply. (A. Yusuf Ali)

Each Chapter of the Quran begins with *Bismillahir Rahmanir Rahim* (in the name of Allah, Most Beneficent, Most Merciful) except for Sura *Tauba* (Repentance) or *Berat* (Immunity) - the 9th Chapter.

This Sura was a notable declaration of State policy promulgated about the month of Shawwal, 9 AH (630 AD). The Messenger of Allah selected Ali ibn Abi Talib to promulgate this important Sura (Chapter).

Muhammad Husayn Haykal, the Egyptian biographer of the Prophet of Islam, writes in his *The Life of Muhammad*, about the promulgation of this chapter, as follows:

"Ali ibn Abi Talib was entrusted by the Prophet with the duty to proclaim the commandments of God and His Prophet. When the pilgrims congregated at Mina, Ali rose, and delivered all these verses from Surah *Al-Taubah*. After he finished his recitation of the Qur'an, he continued in his own words: "O men, no unbeliever will enter paradise; no polytheist will perform pilgrimage after this year; and no naked man will be allowed to circumambulate the Kaaba. Whoever has entered into a covenant with the Apostle of Allah will have his covenant fulfilled as long as its term lasts." Ali proclaimed these four instructions to the people and then gave everybody four months of general peace and amnesty during which anyone could return safely home. From that time on no polytheist performed the pilgrimage and no naked man circumambulated the Kaaba. From that day onwards, the Islamic state was established."

Each chapter of the Quran begins with *Bismillahir Rahmanir Rahim* (in the Name of Allah, the Most Beneficent, the Most Merciful) except for the Sura *Tauba* (Repentance) or *Berat* (Immunity), the 9th Chapter.

Sura *Naml* (the Ants), the 27th Chapter of the Quran, has two *Bismillahs*, one at the beginning, and one in Verse 30.

Ramadan (the 9th month of the Islamic calendar) is the only month mentioned in the Quran. The name occurs in Verse 85 of Sura *Baqara* (the second Sura).

Friday is the only day mentioned in the Quran. Sura 62 has been titled *Jumaa* (Friday).

The Treaty of *Hudaybiyya* is the most important political document in the entire history of Islam. The Secretary who was chosen by the Prophet of Islam for indicting its terms, was Ali ibn Abi Talib. The Treaty of *Hudaybiyya* was signed in Zilqaad 6 AH (February 628).

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