

About Qur'an

Muhammad H. Shahri*

I was asked to dedicate some brief information about the holy book "Qur'an". Here, I provide you with some information:

- The holy book of Muslims of the world is called Qur'an.
- This name "Qur'an" has been mentioned in Qur'an in Chapter of Bani Israel (Bani-Israel):

"Surely this Quran guides to that which is most upright and gives good news to the believers who do good that they shall have a great reward" (Qur'an,17:9)

Chapter Waqia (The Event):

"Most surely it is an honored Quran, in a book that is protected" (Qur'an, 56:77-76)

* Ph.D.Student in Islamic Studies

- Besides the above mentioned name, the holy book of Muslim called by these names:

Furqan, Al-Kitab, Az-zikr , Tanzil

- Furqan (The Criterion)

"Blessed is he who sent down the Furqan upon his servant that he may be a warner to the nations;" (Qur'an,25:1)

- Chapter Baqara (The Cow)

"This book, there is no doubt in it, is a guide to those who guard (against evil)" (Qur'an,17:2)

- Chapter Hijr (Al-Hijr)

"Surely we have revealed the reminder and we will most surely be its guardian" (Qur'an,15:9)

- Chapter Shuara (The Poets)

"Truly, it is the sending of the lord of the worlds." (Qur'an,26:192)

- "Qur'an" is come down on the heart of the holy Prophet "Muhammad" by "Gabriel".

"Say: 'whoever is an enemy of Gabriel, indeed, he has brought it down by the permission of Allah to your heart, confirming what was before it and a guidance and glad tidings to the believers.'" (Qur'an, 1: 97)

- In "Qur'an", the agent of carrying "Divine Revelation" has other names:

Ruhul-Amin, Ruhul-Qudus, Ruh, Shadid Al-Ghavi

- The meaning of Qur'an's coming down on Prophet is the "revelation of it to Prophet".
- "Qur'an" has been sent to Prophet in two ways of one time (in whole) and gradually.
- One time (in whole) means the coming down of the generality of "Qur'an" to the heart of Prophet in "the night of Fate" and the "gradual coming down" of "Qur'an" means its coming down during 20 years (or according to some 23 years) related to different events and conditions of holy Prophet's life.

Chapter Dukhan (Smoke)

"Swear by the book that makes manifest (the truth)" (Qur'an, 44:1)

Chapter Qadr (Power)

"Surely we revealed it on the grand night" (Qur'an, 97:1)

Chapter Isra (Isra')

"Say: 'believe in it, or do not believe. When it is recited to those to whom knowledge was given before they fall prostrate upon their faces.'" (Qur'an, 17:107)

- "Qur'an" has 114 chapters, each comprised of several verses.
- The longest chapter of "Qur'an" is Baqara (The Cow) of 286 verses, and the shortest chapter is Kauther (Abundance) of 3 verses.
- Chapter Tawba (Repentance) is the only chapter which has no "In the Name of God" due to the content of the chapter showing hatred towards unbelievers and polytheists by God; as "In the Name of God" is the

verse of God's blessings and it is not suitable to start this chapter with this verse.

- The verses and chapter of "Qur'an" are divided into two parts " Madinite suras and Meccan suras "regarding the time and place of their coming down.
- Regarding the place, those chapters coming down in Mecca called Meccan suras and those in Meddina called Madinite suras.
- According to the time, the chapters coming down before the holy Prophet's migration are Meccan suras and the verses of after migration are Madinite suras.
- Regarding the addressees, those which address public are Meccan suras and those which address Fatefuls are Madinite suras .
- 87 chapters of "Qur'an" have been come down in Mecca and 27 in Meddina.
- Several chapters of "Qur'an" have more than 1 name.
- The chapter "Hamd" (Faatehah (The Key)) is directly called "Sab'a Samani" in "Qur'an" meaning "of seven verses." and it is read twice in each prayer.

Chapter Hija (Al-Hija)

"We have given you the seven dual (verses, Faatehah) and the mighty holy reading (Qur'an)." (Qur'an, 15:87)

- Hamd chapter has other names as: Faatehah, Fatehat ul-ketab, Ommol Ketab, Ommol Qurán, Kanz, Asas, Monajat, Shifa, Noor, Vafiye va Kaffiya

- The holy Prophet introduces Yasin chapter as the heart of "Qur'an".
- The holy Prophet introduces Rahman chapter as the bride of "Qur'an".
- Five chapters of "Qur'an" are named by The holy Prophets's names: Abraham, Hud, Jonah, Joseph, Muhammad
- Five chapters of "Qur'an" are named by heavenly bodies: Shams(The Sun), Qamar (The Moon), Najm (The Star), Tariq (The Morning Star), Burooj (The Mansions of The Stars)

Five chapters of "Qur'an" are named by the names of insects and animals: Naml (The Ant), Nahl (The Bee), Baqara (The Cow), Ankaboot (The Spider), Fil (The Elephent)

- Four chapters of "Qur'an" are named by natural phenomena: Rad (The Thunder), Dukhan (Smoke), Zariyat (The Winnowing Winds), Zalzala (The Earthquake)
- Four chapters of "Qur'an" demonstrate the social and ethical values: Shura (Council), Talaq (Divorce), Takathur (Rivalry In World Increase), Mujadila (She That Disputeth)
- Four chapters of "Qur'an" show the titles of Prophet: Muzzammil (The Enshrouded One), Muddaththir (The Cloaked One), Ya seen