

THE HOLY QUR'AN

INTRODUCTION

Qur'an is the book of God revealed to Holy Prophet (SAW) Muhammad (PBUH) through Jibriel. This is a universal book which has authority to be placed as the last book of God. It has the quality of endorsing the previous books of Allah and it encompasses all aspects of life to be practised in a befitting way. Qur'an is divided into 30 chapters (Paras) and seven 'Manzals'. There are 323760 letters and 86430 words in the Qur'an. Total ayats number to 6666, 114 Surats; 86 revealed in Mecca and 28 in Madina. The Qur'an is divided into following seven Manzals:

1. From Sura Fateha to Sura Al-Nissa.
2. From Sura Ma'eda to Sura Tauba.
3. From Sura Yunus to Sural Al-Nehel.
4. From Sura Ban-i-Israeel to Sura Furqan.
5. From Sura Al-Sho'ra to Sura Yasin.
6. From Sura Al-Saffat to Sural Al-Hujraat.
7. From Sura Qa'hf to Sura Al-Na'ss.

There are 557 Sections, 15 compulsory Sajdaas and 700 Kalmats. Name of 22 Prophet (SAW)s and 13 famous women have been mentioned. 700 times stress has been laid on "Kalmats". Similarly at 70 places prayer has been asked to be seeked. At 11 places name of Muhammad (SA) has been mentioned. The smallest Sura is "Al-Kausar", consisting of three Ayats and the longest sura is "Al-Baqar" based upon 40 sections. Out of total Ayats, 1000 Ayats relate to promise whereas 1000 to be promised, 1000 to 'Order' and 1000 to Negation, 1000 to examples, 1000 to stories, 500 to Piousness, 100 to Hamad and 66 relate to other subject.

The glory of the Qur'an lies in the fact that since its revelation by God it is present within the memory of people in its original form. The Qur'an was revealed in parts over a period of 23 years and since then it has been preserved in the same tone and tune which speaks of the virtue and authenticity of this Holy Book. This book has been named as "Kareem" i.e. worthy of receiving honour. The Book is well guarded, precious in itself and well preserved in purity. None else but the pure can touch it: pure in body, mind, thought, intention and soul. It is revelation from Lord of the Worlds and is therefore universal. Moreover, there is no doubt concerning its revelation and it guides those who possess "Takwa". The

message of God in this book is for those who surely seek his light and Hippocratic are liable to suffer. Each chapter and portion of the Qur'an is called 'Sura' and possesses wisdom. If it is practiced then the most gracious Allah has promised to show mercifulness.

The Quran is read by people all over the globe. It was originally revealed in Arabic, and has been translated into many languages.

The Holy Qura'an was revealed in the holy month of Ramzan. The Holy Prophet (SAW), Muhammad (SA) at the time of its revelation was already considered to be the most honest and truthful person in Arabia. Around the age of 40 Hazrat Gabriel appeared to him and asked Muhammad (SA) "Iqra" (read). He said, I cannot read. He repeated, Read with the name of Allah", at which the Holy Prophet (SAW) trembled and out of fear came home from his place of worship, "Ghar-e-Hira" (610 B.C.). He told this story to his wife "Hazrat Khadeeja" and after six months a part of Sura Mudassar was revealed.

Revelation of Qur'an

Quranic verses were revealed to the Apostle of Allah, Hazrat Mohammed (SA) in accordance with the need of the society in order to change their life. The Qur'an was initially revealed in parts and was later collected according to the will of God.

The Apostle used to narrate the spiritual "Ayats" to his companions (Sehabas) who stored it in their memories and afterwards it was written down in many places, on leaf, papers, camel's skin. Subsequent chain of revelation was established through the evidence of the companions in accordance with the guidance of the Apostle. There are many "Surats" which have been revealed in Meccah and some were revealed in Madina after Hijrat. The Ayats of Mecci Surats are called Mecci and were arranged in the divine order in the life of Holy Prophet (SAW) (SA). At times, there was a need for explanation of the verses of Quran and people used to ask the Apostle all sorts of questions regarding the verses. The Apostle used to answer very carefully in compliance with the Divine Will. This again was stored in the memories of Sehaba to be revealed later through routine conversation and the organized compilation of the Hadith.

OBSERVATIONAL QUALITIES OF MECCI SURATS

- The Surats which were revealed in Meccah are smaller in length.
- In these Surats Qur'an has addressed "Oh Ye People".
- In these Suras mankind at large is asked to accept the belief of Islam, Unity of God, that is, "God alone is to be worshiped".
- In these Surats emphasis is laid on the basic concept of Oneness of God and Prophet (SAW)hood.
- These Surats do not refer to Jihad.
- In these Surats the stories and happenings of the previous nations and the Prophet (SAW)s have been discussed.

MADNI SURATS

The Apostle of Allah, Muhammad (SA) received the revelation of Qur'an at Madina after the historical journey of Hijrat. The Qura'n was revealed for 13 years at Meccah and 10 years at Madina.

- The surats revealed at Madina are longer and lengthy as compared to those of Meccah.

- Qur'an addresses the Momoneen as (Oh Ye Believers).
- When Madina was declared the first city state various political issues were raised. In accordance with the need of inert time, Madni Ayats confirm that Islam is a religion of peace, goodwill, mutual understanding and good faith and that it will not allow wrong doing to men and women but will protect the honour of those who follow it.
- In Madni Surats, great emphasis is laid on obedience, duty to Islam and constantly striving for the need to spread the physical, moral and spiritual aspect of Islam for the establishment of truth and righteousness.
- It also addresses the followers to fight against the suppressing forces in the form of "Jehad" and minimize the opposite party to cease to show hostility, and if the need arises to ensure that suppression should be dealt with force.

In these Surats, the obligation of religion and limitation of the faith have been well defined for obedience in all customary life.