

AL-QURAN, A COMPLETE CODE OF LIFE

DR. MATLOOB AHMAD☆

Quran literally means reading or recitation. The Holy Prophet Muhammad (Salla Allahu alaihi wa-Sallam) did not receive the whole of it at one time at a stretch. Revelation came to him in fragments from time covering a period of 23 years. As soon as he received a revelation, the Holy Prophet (Salla Allahu alaihi wa-Sallam) communicated it to his companions and asked them not only to learn it by heart, in order to recite it during the prayers but also to write it down.

The Holy Quran is addressed to the entire humanity transcending all barriers and limitations of race, religion or time. Further, it seeks to guide man in all walks of life, spiritual, temporal, individual and collective. It contains directions for the conduct of the head of state as well as a simple commoner, of the rich as well as poor, for peace as well as for war, for spiritual well being as for commercial and material prosperity.

The Holy Quran adopts various ways and methods for enabling man to understand the truth. It relates stories and parables and invokes the testimony of history to show what the right course is and what doomed the nations in the past. "The Quran also points out what the duties of man are with regard to Allah, to his fellow beings and to his own self."⁽¹⁾ It lays stress on the fact that man has been created to fulfill the wishes of his creator and lead his individual and collective life in accordance with the instructions contained in the Holy Book and as taught by the Holy Prophet (Salla Allahu alaihi wa-Sallam).

The Holy Quran is a "comprehensive code of life covering each and every aspect and phase of human life."⁽²⁾ This Book of Allah lays down, the best of rules relating to social life, commerce and economics, marriage and inheritance, penal laws and international conduct.

The diction and style of the Holy Quran are magnificent and appropriate to its Divine origin. "Its recitation stirs the spirit and soars the imagination of even those who are not so well versed in the niceties of the Arabic language."⁽³⁾

☆ Assistant Professor, G.C. University, Faisalabad

Above all, the Sacred Book has by virtue of its claim of Divine origin, challenge man to produce, even unitedly, just a few link comparable to those of the Quran. The challenge has remained unanswered to this day.

The Holy Quran reveals:

وَإِنْ كُنْتُمْ فِي رَيْبٍ مِمَّا نَزَّلْنَا عَلَىٰ عَبْدِنَا فَأْتُوا
بِسُورَةٍ مِثْلِهِ وَادْعُوا شُهَدَاءَكُمْ مِنْ دُونِ اللَّهِ إِنْ
كُنْتُمْ صَادِقِينَ^(٤)

“If ye are in doubt concerning that which we reveal our slave (Muhammad), then produce a Surah of like thereof, and call your witnesses if ye are truthful.

The Holy Quran reveals in another place.

لَوْ أَنزَلْنَا هَذَا الْقُرْآنَ عَلَىٰ جَبَلٍ لَّرَأَيْتَهُ خَاشِعًا
مُّتَصَدِّعًا مِنْ خَشْيَةِ اللَّهِ وَتِلْكَ الْأَمْثَالُ نَضْرِبُهَا لِلنَّاسِ
لَعَلَّهُمْ يَتَفَكَّرُونَ^(٥)

“Had we sent down this Quran on a mountain, you would surely have seen it humbling itself and sent as under by the fear of Allah. Such are the parables which we put forward to mankind that may reflect.

The Divine Book gives a masterly exposition of the fundamental truths of religion and a complete scheme of life, the existence and unity of Allah, the principle of rewards and punishments for evils, the inevitability of life after death, the existence of heaven and hell, the truth and necessity of revelation.

The Holy Quran offers a solution of the most bewildering problems of man’s life on this earth, such as the distribution of wealth, the relationship between individual and society, the question of man’s true status and station in life, the balanced relation between man and woman, whether man’s freedom is unbridled or he is accountable and unanswerable for his deeds and all such questions on which depend in any degree, the happiness and advancement of man and about which the human intellect can not present a balanced and satisfactory solution and which have been a major rather the only source of human misery and suffering throughout the long history of mankind.

The Holy Quran swept away all superstitions and the followers of Islam became lovers of knowledge, drinking deep at every fountain of learning. This was because “The Sacred Book appealed to reason and declared man’s thirst for knowledge to be insatiable.”⁽⁶⁾

The Holy Quran did not bring the miraculous transformation in the individual alone. It brought about a transformation of the family, of the society, nay of the entire people out of the warring elements of the Arab race, the Holy Quran “welded a nation, united and full of life and vigour, before whose onward march of the greatest kingdoms of the world crumbles.”⁽⁷⁾

Recitation of the Holy Quran carries with it great rewards since it is the best mode of remembering of Allah (ذکر اللہ). The Holy Prophet (Salla Allahu alaihi wa-Sallam) said:

خَيْرُكُمْ مَنْ تَعَلَّمَ الْقُرْآنَ وَعَلَّمَهُ

“The Best among you is the person who read the Holy Quran and educated others in the Quranic-teachings.”⁽⁸⁾

Although the mere recitation of the Sacred Book is virtuous, it must be known that mere reading, it is not enough.

The Holy Prophet (Salla Allahu alaihi wa-Sallam) said:

“To read a small portion of the Quran slowly and to contemplate its meaning is much better than reading a large portion of it, the reason being that the real purpose of studying Quran is to understand so that we may follow it.”⁽⁹⁾

Hazrat Ali (R.A) quotes the following saying of the Holy Prophet (Salla Allahu alaihi wa-Sallam).

The Holy Quran is strong cord of Allah meaning the Quranic saying is:

وَاعْتَصِمُوا بِحَبْلِ اللَّهِ جَمِيعًا وَلَا تَفَرَّقُوا⁽¹⁰⁾

“All of you hold Allah’s rope (Faith of Islam) and be not divided among yourselves.”

It is a council of great merit.

The Holy Quran can never lead a person astray, and no language of the earth can meddle with it.”⁽¹¹⁾

Hazrat Ubaida relates the following saying of the Holy Prophet (Salla Allahu alaihi wa-Sallam).

“O those who recite the Holy Quran! Do not make the Sacred Book your expletive, but recite it in the way it deserves. Read it clearly and in a beautiful expressive tone ponder over the contents, since it may bring you success. Do no hurry in earning the reward of recitation, since it is obligatory in the Hereafter.”⁽¹²⁾

The Holy Quran is an incomparable miracles piece of literary work.

F.F Arbuthnot accepted the greatness of the Holy Quran and said:

“From the literary point of view, the Koran regarded as a specimen of the purest Arabic, written in half poetry and half prose. It has been said that in some cases grammarians have adopted their rules to agree with certain phrases and expressions used in it, and that though several attempts have been made to produce a work equal to it as far as elegant writing is concerned, none has as yet succeeded.”⁽¹³⁾

Harry said:

“It (Quran) is a literal revelation of God, dictated to the Holy Prophet (Salla Allahu alaihi wa-Sallam) by Gabriel, perfect in every letter. It is an ever-present miracle witnessing to itself and to the Holy Prophet (Salla Allahu alaihi wa-Sallam) the Prophet of God. Its miraculous quality resides partly in its style, so perfect and lofty that neither men nor Jinn could produce a single chapter to compare with its content of teachings, prophecies about the future and amazingly accurate information.”⁽¹⁴⁾

H.A. R Gibb said:

“Well, then if the Koran were his own composition other men could rival it: Let them produce ten verses like it. If they could not (and it is obvious that they could not) then let. Then accept the Koran as an outstanding exidetal miracle.”⁽¹⁵⁾

The Holy Quran is an excellent moral code of life. “The Koran abounds in excellent moral suggestions and precepts.”⁽¹⁶⁾

“It is the combination of dedication to one God plus practical instruction that makes the Koran unique. Each Islamic nation contains many citizens who are convinced that their land will be governed well only if its laws conform to the Koran.”⁽¹⁷⁾

“The Koran admittedly occupies an important position among the great religious books of the world. Though the younger of the epoch-making. Works belonging to this class of literature, it yields to hardly any in the wonderful effect which it has produced on large masses of men. It has created an all but new phase of human thought and a fresh type of character.”⁽¹⁸⁾

While Charles said “It (Quran) is more read than any other book in the world.”⁽¹⁹⁾

The Holy Quran seeks, primarily, to develop the personality of the individuals and then shape them into an ideal society, for ushering in an era where goodness and virtue may flourish and evil and vice eliminated. It declares that every human being is personally responsible to his creator.

The method of the Holy Quran is that “it not only commands, but also tries to educate the people and convince them about the validity and usefulness of its injunctions.”⁽²⁰⁾ It appeals to the reason of man and invites him to exercise his own intellect in order to understand himself and his purpose in life, his conduct with his fellow-beings and above all his relationship with his sustainer.

The Holy Quran is not only a guide in worldly matters, it also “inspires mankind to do the right, so that he be rewarded by Allah”⁽²¹⁾, and reap a rich harvest in the life Hereafter. Its miracle lies in the fact, also that it was revealed for the whole world without distinction of caste, creed or colour. It has knitted, all the people of the world and all races therein, into one common brotherhood, who are all equal before Almighty Allah.

Marmaduke said:

It (Quran) respects all the great religions of the world and their Holy Scriptures. It is the Heavenly Book, which brings light and truth to those who read it dispassionately and follow its contents, with a firm belief in Allah and His Message.”⁽²²⁾

Thus the Holy Quran effected a transformation of humanity itself, a transformation material as well as an awakening intellectual, moral, judicial and spiritual. There is no other book which has brought about a change so deep and everlasting in the lives of men.

In the end, it has been said in the light of above facts that Holy Quran emphasises on the study of nature and research. It is an incomparable, miraculous piece of literary work. It is an excellent moral code. It is the most influential and the most often read Book. It is the Fountain Head of knowledge. So, Al-Quran is a complete code of life.

Reference

1. Al-Zirkili, Khayr Al-Din, Al-Alam, Cairo: 1959, P.286
2. Hamid-u-Allah, Muhammad, The Muslim conduct of state, Lahore: P.77
3. Dr. Hamidullah, Introduction to Islam, Lahore: P.336
4. Al-Baqarah, 2 : 23
5. Al-Hashr 59 : 21
6. Ibn Arraq, Tanzih al Shariah, Berut: 1956, P.135
7. Qutab Shaheed Sayyid, Social Justice in Islam, Islamic Publications, Lahore: P.212
8. Al Bukhari Shawkani, Al-Fawaid al-Majmuah, Cairo: 1960, P.177
9. Nuomani Shibli, Seerat un Nabi, Dar al-Musannifin, Azaongarh, 1974, P.207
10. Dr Hency Stubbe, Rise and Progress of Muhammadanism, London: 1911, P.158
11. Al-e-Imran, 3 : 103, J.M. Rodwell, M.A, The Koran, London: 1918, P.15
12. E.Eension Ross, Introduction to the Koran, London: P.13
13. F.F. Arbuthnot, The construction of the Bible and the Koran, London: 1885, P.5
14. Harry Gaylord Dorman, Towards understanding Islam, New York: 1948, P.3
15. H.P. R Gibb, Muhammadanism, London: 1953, P.33

16. John William Draper, A History of the Intellectual development of Europe, Vol-1, London: 1875, P.343-344
17. James A. Michener, Islam the Misunderstood Religion, Reader Digest, American edition for May, 1955
18. G Margoliouth, Introduction of the Quran, R.V J.M Rodwell, London: 1918, P.61
19. Charles, Francis Potter, The Faiths Men Live By, Kingwood Surrey, 1955, P.81
20. George Sale, The Koran, The Preliminary Discourse, London: New York: 1891, P.47-48
21. John Waish, M.A The wisdom of the Qur'an, Oxford: 1937, Preface P (viii)
22. Marmaduke Pickthall, The Glorious Koran, London: New York: 1913, P.167