

An Introduction to the Holy Qur'an

Allah sent 124000 prophets for the guidance of mankind. To some of these Prophets, he gave a set of rules and instructions that the prophets left behind in the form of books.

The Divine Books were:

- **Zabur** to Prophet Dawud (A),
- **Tawrat** to Prophet Musa (A),
- **Injil** to Prophet `Isa (A)
- **Holy Qur'an** to Prophet Muhammad (S)

According to many traditions, the revelation of the Holy Qur'an began on the 23rd night of the month of Ramadhan (Laylatul Qadr). They began when the Prophet (S) was 40 years old and continued for the next 23 years.

The Holy Qur'an broadly contains:

1. **Ahkam:** These are verses about the Furu'-e-Din from which the Mujtahidín prepare the various Fatwas to do with Salaat, Sawm, Haj etc.
2. **Tareekh:** These are the verses that narrate the history of people who lived before our Holy Prophet (S).
3. **`Aqa'id:** These are verses that explain the Belief in the Unity of Allah, the Prophet (S) and the Day of Judgement.
4. **Akhlaq:** The verses outline the moral behaviour that Muslims are required to observe.

The Holy Qur'an therefore contains guidance that teaches a man about his duties to himself i.e. how to lead a successful life in this world and the hereafter. It also teaches him how to act with other people i.e. how to contribute as an individual towards the betterment of society. Finally it teaches him about his duty to his Creator i.e. how to worship Allah.

Merits of Recital of the Holy Qur'an

There are many Ahadith (sayings) of the Holy Prophet (S) and our Aimmah (AS) on the reward and blessing of reciting the Holy Qur'an. Only some are quoted here:

The Prophet (S) has said,

“The most excellent amongst you is the one who learns the Qur'an and teaches it to others.”

“The more Qur'an is recited in a home, the greater the good for it. The lives of the people in the house are made easier. When the angels view this house from the heavens they see it shining in the same way as stars seen from the earth.”

“The heart gathers rust just like iron; remove this rust by reciting the Qur'an.”

Imam `Ali (A) has said,

“Whosoever recites 100 verses daily from the Book (Holy Qur'an) in the order it is in, Alláh writes for him the reward equal to all the good actions of every one on this earth.”