

Fruits for the Week

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THE QUR'AN

Allah (SWT) says: *"We have, without doubt, sent down the Message (the Qur'an) and we will assuredly guard it (from corruption)."* (Al-Hijr: 9)

The Qur'an, the Book of Allah (SWT), enshrines the teachings which are basically the same as were to be found in previously revealed scriptures. But these ancient scriptures are no longer preserved in their original state. Later additions and deletions have rendered them unreliable, whereas the Qur'an, preserved in its original state, is totally reliable.

The Qur'an has 114 chapters. Its contents, in a nutshell, are: (1) belief in one God, that is, Allah (SWT) and considering oneself answerable to Him; (2) belief that the guidance sent by Allah (SWT) through Prophet Muhammad (SAW) is the truth and that man's eternal salvation rests thereon.

The position of the Qur'an is not just that it is one of the many revealed scriptures but that it is the only authentic heavenly book, as all other books, due to human additions and deletions, have been rendered historically unreliable. When a believer in the previously revealed scripture turns to the Qur'an, it does not mean that he is rejecting his own belief, but rather it amounts to his having rediscovered his own faith in an authentic form.

The Qur'an is a sacred book sent by the Lord of the whole creation. It is a book for all human beings, because it has been sent by that Divine Being who is the God of all of us. The Qur'an is

no new heavenly scripture but it is an authentic edition of the previous heavenly scriptures. In this respect, the Qur'an is a book for all human beings and of all nations. It is the expression of Allah's mercy for every one of us. The Qur'an is a light of guidance for the entire world just as the sun is the source of light and heat for the whole world.

Islam means submission. The religion of Islam is so named because it is based on obedience to Allah (SWT). A true believer in Islam is one who subordinates his thinking to Allah (SWT), who follows His dictates in all aspects of his life. Islam is the religion of the entire universe because the entire universe and all its parts are functioning in accordance with the law laid down by Allah (SWT).

When a man, in his daily life comes under Allah (SWT)'s commands, his behaviour with people, his dealings, all are molded by the demands of Islam. From inside to outside he becomes a person devoted to Allah (SWT).

Man is Allah (SWT)'s servant, and indeed, the only proper way for man in this world is to live as the servant of Allah (SWT). Islam teaches man to lead an obedient life and surrender himself completely to the will of Allah (SWT). It is people who do so who will share Allah's blessings in the next world. Wallahu A'lam.

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