

# 1.1 Welcome to The Quran – Course Introduction

## Main Topics Covered

- **The Quran: A Book where God is speaking** (0:00 to 1:40)
- **What does the Quran say about itself?** (1:40 to 2:00)
- **Prophet Muhammad, peace be upon him, and the start of the revelation** (2:00 to 4:30)
- **The first word of the Quran** (4:30 to 5:35)
- **Why was the Quran revealed over 23 years?** (5:35 to 6:30)
- **Why is the Quran in Arabic?** (6:30 to 9:57)

## Welcome to The Quran

Welcome to this course on the most fascinating topic that a human being, not just a Muslim, could learn about. It is the Quran. It is the book that Allah sent.

This is a fascinating topic because this is a very different book. This module is about welcoming you to the general features and the nature of this book.

This is a book in which Allah (SWT) – God – is speaking; and that is different from any other book: religious or non-religious in any other tradition.

There is no other book in the world in which Allah is speaking. Even if you look at the books of the other originally heavenly religions in which there is a Prophet speaking. If you read the Bible, sometimes Jesus would say that God is saying this. Or Moses would say that God is saying this... and so on. But this is a book where actually God is speaking.

From the beginning to the end, Allah is speaking to us. And that is a very different approach to that book, because when you see that Allah is speaking then Allah is telling us things. Welcome to an introduction to that.

## A Book of Light, Guidance & Mercy

This is a book that the best knowledge that you can get about it is from it, is what it says about itself.

It says about itself that it is **a rope** between us and Allah, not in the physical sense obviously, but in the sense of being connected with Him.

It says about itself that it is **light**, it is **life**, it is **guidance**, it is **mercy**, it is a book that will bring so much to your life.

Personally, as somebody who studied that book since I was a kid and lived with it despite a feeling of not giving it enough of my life, but actually living with it all over the years that I personally lived, has given me so much blessing to every day of my life.

It is Allah educating me; it is Him, through His words shaping, if you wish, my worldview, shaping how I define and how I see things and that is a huge blessing.

Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) was from the children of Ibrahim (peace be upon him), and they knew about Allah. Yet Arabs, at that time, started to worship idols.

That is what humanity does when there is no messenger and no Prophet; they started to worship idols.

### Read O Muhammad

Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him), with his nature, rejected that and worshiped Allah, One God, without knowing much about Him. He would go out to the desert and the mountains and seclude himself sometimes for a whole month to worship Allah and to search for the truth.

He would take a little food, go back to Makkah sometimes home for a week or two, when he was not in the business of trading, he would go out and reflect.

Then one day, Allah sent him and sent humanity since then, the most important gift and the most important knowledge, that humanity could ever dream of getting, by an angel coming to him and in a non-human form. He hugged him and said “read”.

It turned out that “read” is the first word of that message of that book. And from the time he told him, “read”, he (peace be upon him) revealed over twenty-three years bits and pieces, sometimes a whole surah, sometimes a few words of the whole book...

And for 23 years, that book started to shape in the form that we know today. He (peace be upon him) would receive a paragraph and would tell the companions to put this paragraph in this surah, after that story or after that verse... We’ll talk about a lot of details on that.

Therefore, it is revealed to him over 23 years, yet when you read it from cover to cover, it is a holistic, integrative and coherent message, which is fantastic!

Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) would put bits and pieces in different parts of the book, yet the book is such a beautiful message.

### Why Was it Revealed Over 23 Years?

The Prophet (peace be upon him) was asked that, and the Quran itself is answering:

And those who disbelieve say, “Why was the Qur’an not revealed to him all at once?” Thus [it is] that We may strengthen thereby your heart. And We have spaced it distinctly. ([25:32](#))

This means that every time he (peace be upon him) or the Muslim community are facing something, then Allah reveals a piece of the Quran to strengthen their hearts, to guide them through the questions they ask or the issues they face, and so forth.

That is how over the years the Quran was compiled.

It is then a revelation that is given to the Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him). It was not as some orientalist say, “a coded message in which he compiled in his own language...”

No. The Quran was revealed in the Arabic language. And everything, by the way, that I will say about the Quran is from the Quran, and of course from the Sunnah of the Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him). And we will learn the relationship between both, and how important the Sunnah, or the tradition, the Hadith of the Prophet (peace be upon him) is.

But the Quran is saying about itself that it is an Arabic message; it is revealed in this clear Arabic way in that language so that the Prophet (peace be upon him) could illustrate the message and could convey it.

### Why Arabic?

One basic question is asked sometimes: “Why is it in Arabic?”

First of all, it has to be in a human language, because Allah is saying that He is revealing this through a Prophet, who is a human prophet. And He is saying too that if those who walk on earth were angels, He would have sent an angel prophet.

So, He’s sending a human prophet because we’re human. So, it has to be one human language or the other. But Arabic is actually one of the richest and oldest languages on earth.

I know that people in linguistics have all sorts of premises, and unfortunately, Muslims did not contribute enough to many fields of knowledge including linguistics. But Arabic is the closest to the origin of all human language.

Language, by the way, did not develop from the beginning of humanity and so on and evolve. Allah taught Adam all the names. We have a different history of humanity, a different history of language, and different history of war and peace...

### The Arabic Language

In Islam, we have a different history and the Quran gives us that.

So, the history of language, Allah is saying that He taught Adam all the names and that Noah, Hud, Saleh, and Ibrahim... all of these were prophets of Islam spoke a language that is a variation, or another of the Arabic language.

Of course, the Arabic developed a lot and comprehended into it some words from non-Arabic origins, included in that were words that were Arabized they are part of the Arabic language.

That's why we see these words in the Quran, like "Sundus, Istabraq..." they don't have a root, and therefore they are not Arabic; we know that from the Arabic linguistics.

So, it was revealed like that to him (peace be upon him).

Arabic is a very rich language. Yes, the Quran gives about 70,000 kind of vocab, of words, but the Arabic language is a 12 million-word language, and therefore it's one of the richest.

Allah chose this language and chose this Prophet to send us this wonderful gift. So, let us learn about it in ways of introduction to its meanings, its surahs, its parts and sections and themes.

We ask Allah to guide us and forgive us and to help us with this journey.