

PREFACE

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

The Quran is the absolute truth, the only scripture valid and unwavering till the Day of Judgment. It is this book that we must learn and study in order to be successful in this life and the life in the hereafter. Thus, Tafsir of the Quran makes it easier for any individual to understand the Quran better.

As said by the Prophet صلى الله عليه وسلم (Pbuh) in his last sermon:

“I leave behind me two things, the Quran and the Sunnah (Hadith), and if you follow these you will never go astray.”

Allah says in the Quran:

“Verily this Quran leads to the path that is most right” [Quran 17:9],

and thus, everybody can find the Straight Path through this Book. The Quran is a complete source of light & guidance in and of itself, as Allah says:

“And we have sent down the Book to you as an explanation for everything, a guidance, a mercy and glad tidings for Muslims” [Quran 16:89]

A person well versed in Quran and its Tafsir will be better able to understand the intended meanings of verses, and derive rulings from it, as compared to the average believer, who is not well versed to understand and determine rules and regulations from the Quran. So, we can say that for a better understanding of Quran we have to look into Tafsir of Quran and then we can implement it into our daily life.

The need for an explanation of the verses of the Quran arose quite early. Even before the whole of the Quran was revealed to Prophet Muhammad صلى الله عليه وسلم, people used to ask him all sorts of questions as to the meaning and understanding of certain words, spiritual matters, incidents in history in verses that were revealed to him by Allah. The Prophet's صلى الله عليه وسلم answers were carefully stored in the memory of the companions (Sahaba) and were then written down. In the next generation the Tabi'in who had not met the Prophet صلى الله عليه وسلم but learned and conversed with the Sahaba followed the same meanings given. Therefore, generations always went back to establish a chain of evidence through the Tabi'in and Sahaba back to the Prophet صلى الله عليه وسلم.

During 19th century Delhi, in the Indian Subcontinent arose a great, famous Muhaddith (Scholar), Shah Walli Ullah Dehlvi and his 2 sons Shah Abdul Aziz & Shah Abdul Qadir (May Allah be please with them) they wrote both translations, commentaries, and explanations of Quran.

The teaching of this Tafsir (Exegesis) relies heavily on the commentaries and teachings of Shah Walli Ullah (Delhvi), Hussain Ali (Punjabi), Ubaidullah (Sindhi), Shah Muhammad Ismail (Shaheed), Sheikh Muhammad Tahir (Panjpiri) and My Teacher Sheikh (Dr) Akbar Khan (Badaber) (May Allah be please with them all). These Scholars all trace their teaching and commentaries back to the Tabi'in, Sahaba and Prophet صلى الله عليه وسلم in a proven chain which can be seen in the 'Sanad' tab on our website www.sheikhakbar.com.

Sheikh ul Quran Maulana Muhammad Tahir (R, A.) {My Sheikh's teacher} mentioned above was a proficient writer and an industrious research scholar and wrote more than twenty books and booklets. Only a few of them have been published until now. His most important and impressive work is the commentary and translation of the Holy Quran, which remains unpublished. Since preaching and the propagation of Islam was the passion of his life, his righteous deeds also show the same enthusiasm and zeal. His main task was aimed at religious learning, especially about dogmatic theology. It touches almost every field of theological learning. He spares no effort to eradicate 'bidah' (creating new things in Islam) and promote the Tawheed of Allah, and as a reformer stands out as a proficient writer whose work has freshness and has the force of conviction.

One of his published books in Arabic which my work relies heavily upon and is the reason for me to attempt this explanation of Quran is **Simt-ud-Durar Fi-Rabtil Aayaat-e-Was-Suwar** (Garland of Pearls), it consists of 254 pages and gives introductions, the main themes and objectives or principles of every Surah of the Holy Quran. If I say the book is amazing would be an understatement as it blows away every reader of it. The book is not currently available in English thus the reason why I am attempting to translate it alongside commentary of the Quran by my Sheikh. In this book he outlines the Order of revelation (Nuzul) of each surah, Interconnection (Rabat) between various Suras/chapters and verses of the Holy Quraan based on their importance, Objectives and the message, Importance or Excellence (Mumtaz) of each Surah, Purpose (Maqsad) of each Surah, and the Summary (Khulasa) of each Surah. It explains all the important points discussed in each Sura, its number, the necessity and purpose of its revelation, its special features and its relationship with, other Suras/chapters and verses of the Holy Quraan.

Every Sura of Quraan from "Sura Al-Fatiha to Sura Al-Nas" is discussed separately in such a way that it fully acquaints the reader with all the necessary and essential information about the Holy Quran. Different names and basis of the nomenclature of every Sura are given. The most distinctive feature of the book is that at the end of almost every Sura, the veracity of the Oneness of Allah (Tawheed) is proved and established beyond doubt. The book, though not very voluminous, is comprehensive enough in its scope. It testifies to the proficiency of the author in understanding and interpreting the Quranic message.

I am No Scholar or No Sheikh, I am just a Student of the Quran attempting to write this brief explanation from what I was taught by my great teacher Sheikh Akbar. In the little knowledge Allah has bestowed upon me in explaining the Text, I have aired no views of my own, but followed only the teachings of my teacher.

As Sheikh used to say; The Quran is like a letter from your Lord sent to you, the point of it is to open the letter (the Quran) and read it, understand it, and try to implement in your life what Allah is telling you (as He is your creator). There is no point in the Quran being sent to us if we just leave it on top of

the bookshelf gathering dust and don't even try to understand what Allah is telling us. Yes of course we get rewards for reading it in Arabic (as it was sent down as a recitation), but the main purpose (objective) is for us to understand it and bring this into our lives.

The purpose of this Tafsir is to enable the reader to understand what the Holy Quran is, how it was sent down to us and for what purpose? The aim here is to make the Quran easier to understand and inshallah after reading this, you will understand how the Quran has a structure (how the Quran is split up into sections), what are the main points of discussion and for what purpose (what are the main principles outlined in Quran), how Allah proves these points in a systematic way, how Allah proves his statements with Daleels (evidences), the objective of each surah, the subject matter of each surah and the importance of each surah. (It's somewhat like academia or essay writing, where you first have an introduction, then the body of the essay discussing the main points and then a summary and conclusion).

You see, the Quran wasn't just sent down to us 'bang' here you go, or it didn't just drop down from the sky. It was revealed over a 23-year period of Prophet's صلى الله عليه وسلم life, on every occasion or incident that happened in Prophet صلى الله عليه وسلم life a revelation (light/noor) used to come down from Allah through Gabriel to Muhammad صلى الله عليه وسلم to show him the right way (the Quran). Therefore, This Quran is the light, or a torch sent to Prophet صلى الله عليه وسلم and Prophet صلى الله عليه وسلم was the torch bearer bringing people out of the darkness's into the true and clear light, Into the light of Monotheism in that Allah is ONE He is the Creator of the worlds so worship him alone, DO NOT associate partners with him and do not seek Wasila/ways through any other means.

The objective of attempting this Tafsir is firstly for me to learn, remember what I was taught, act upon it and implement it in my life, and secondly for me to teach my children, family, and anyone else this reaches. I cannot really say I'm teaching this, but more in a sense I'm conveying this teaching from my teacher to others.

I ask Allah the almighty to accept this effort from me and my wife for his sake and make this work a Sadaka Jariyah for my deceased Father (may Allah be pleased with him and enter him into Jannat Al Firdous), my Mother and my Sheikh (may Allah be pleased with him and enter him into Jannat Al Firdous). "Oh, Allah forgive me for any mistakes in this, you are the one who gives wisdom/knowledge and guides to the straight path".