

# **Assignment # 1**

## **Subject:**

Writing Workshop

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## **Program:**

BSSE F19 (morning)



# BOOK REVIEW

## Title:

# The Holy Quran

The term '**Quran**' is originated from '**Qura**' which means '**recitation**' or '**that which is often recited**'.

Quran is a book revealed by Allah Almighty in **Arabic** language and was brought in stages by Angel **Jibril** to Prophet **Muhammad** (SAW) over **23** years, starting one night during the month of **Ramadan** in **610CE**. It was then dictated to His companions who memorized it, and it was written down by scribes.

This book is divided into **30** parts called "**Parahs**", into **114** chapters called "**Surahs**" and further into verses called "**Ayahs**". The text of Quran is divided into **7** portions each known as "**Manzil**", for the convenience of those who want to read this book in a week. There is a further subdivision of **540** "**Rukus**" that is not the part of original revelation but adopted later-on to facilitate the completion of Quran on the **27<sup>th</sup>** night of Ramadan (i.e. on Laylatul Qadar).

This book contains the commandments of Allah, directives for mankind and historical accounts of certain prophets and people.

First of all, it must be understood that Quran is a Divine revelation and all the information in it is of Divine origin. It is the words of Allah, which existed before creation. Quran states, “This book is a Divine revelation; if you do not believe that, then what is it? Where did it come from?” In other words, the reader is challenged to come up with some other explanation. The interesting fact is that no one has yet come up with an explanation that works. But Allah gives answer in Quran:

***“He sent down to you the book with the Truth, confirming what came before it.....”(Al’Imran-3)***

Also Allah justifies His statement:

***“Do they not ponder the Quran? Had it been from any other than god, they would have found in it much discrepancy” (Surah Nisa-82)***

In essence, the Quran existed and was complete before the creation of Prophet Muhammad (SAW), so it could not contain any of the Prophet’s own words or advice. If one claims that Quran is the product of Muhammad’s mind, then it should contain all His ideas, psychological problems, and life happenings....but the Quran does not mention any of these things - not the death of his children, not the death of his beloved companion and wife, not his fear of the initial revelations, which he so beautifully shared with his wife – nothing; also Quran mentions many things with which the Arabs were not familiar.

Allah states in Quran:

***“Nor does He [i.e, Prophet] speak out of desire. It is but a revelation revealed. Taught to him by extremely powerful” (Surah Najm-3,4,5)***

Many centuries before, there was a well-known “**theory of atomism**” advanced by the Greek philosopher, Democritus. He and the people who came after him assumed that matter consists of tiny, indivisible particles called atoms. Now, modern science has discovered that this smallest unit of matter (i.e., the atom, which has all of the same properties as its element) can be split into its component parts. This is a new idea, a development of the last century; yet; interestingly enough, this information had already been documented in the Quran which states:

*“He [i.e., Allah] is aware of an atom’s weight in the heavens and on the earth and even anything smaller than that ....”(Surah Saba-3)*

Undoubtedly, fourteen centuries ago that statement would have looked unusual, even to Arabs. Indeed, this proves that the Quran is not outdated.

The Quran reveals the origin of the universe - how it began from one piece - and mankind continues to verify this revelation, even up to now. For example, one verse in the Quran reads:

*“.....and We made from water every living thing. Will they not believe?” (Surah Anbiya-30)*

The fact that ‘all life originated from water’ has now proved by the invention of microscope. Man has come to know that **cytoplasm**, the basic unit of cell, consists of **80-85%** water.

Beside containing scientific knowledge, Quran also provides health related information to its reader. Quran only mentions one item dealing with medical treatment, and it is not in dispute by anyone. It states that in **honey** there is healing, no one can deny because science has also proved it.

**I**nfact, Quran is in every detail the unique and miraculous text which was revealed to Prophet Muhammad (SAW) fourteen centuries ago. It is the personality of Quran that not one word of its 114 chapters has been changed over the centuries. The one who is protecting this book, is the most powerful.

***“Surely We revealed the message, and We will surely preserve it..” (Surah Hjr-9)***

Quran is a divine message for the whole mankind. It addresses in such words ***...oh people!...*** and gives the message to whole humanity. If we consider previous holy books, they were for a specific age. But, it is a universal book which can be followed in every era.

It deals with all subjects which concern us as humans beings: worship, wisdom and law, but its basic theme is the relationship between God and His creatures. Moreover, the most sublime language and a rational message that directly appeals to the human heart have caused this Divine book to move through nations and civilizations. It will continue to guide those who turn to God with a sincere heart, for all times.

As stated in Quran:

***“....as for those who believe, they know that it is the truth from their Lord. But as for those who disbelieve, they say, “What did God intend by this example?” He leads astray many thereby, and He guides many thereby; but He misleads thereby only the evildoers.” (Surah Baqarah-26)***

No one can deny the importance of Quran because there is no such a **comprehensive** book like Quran in the world that discusses each and every aspect of life.