

الْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ رَبِّ الْعَالَمِينَ، أَحْمَدُهُ سُبْحَانَهُ حَمْدًا طَيِّبًا مَبَارَكًا فِيهِ كَمَا يَحِبُّ
وَيَرْضَى، وَأَشْهَدُ أَنْ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ وَحْدَهُ لَا شَرِيكَ لَهُ، وَأَشْهَدُ أَنَّ سَيِّدَنَا
مُحَمَّدًا عَبْدُهُ وَرَسُولُهُ، اللَّهُمَّ صَلِّ وَسَلِّمْ وَبَارِكْ عَلَى سَيِّدِنَا مُحَمَّدٍ وَعَلَى آلِهِ
وَصَحْبِهِ أَجْمَعِينَ، وَمَنْ تَبِعَهُمْ بِإِحْسَانٍ إِلَى يَوْمِ الدِّينِ.

All praise is due to Allah the Lord of the worlds, I praise His glorious status and majesty as is befitting to Him. I bear witness there is no deity except Allah, He is alone having no partners. And I bear witness that Muhammad is His servant and Messenger. May the peace and blessings of Allah be upon him, his family, his companions, and all those who live like them till the Day of Resurrection.

Carrying The Qur'an - **إِنَّا نَحْنُ نَزَّلْنَا الذِّكْرَ وَإِنَّا لَهُ لَحَافِظُونَ**

- In October this year, the University of Birmingham will showcase the oldest Qur'an in the world - at least 1,370 years old
- The Qur'an is the divinely scripture revealed by Allah ﷻ onto the Prophet Muhammad ﷺ. It came via the angel Gibrael ﷺ, in form of a ringing bell, dreams or direct revelation to the heart of the Prophet. It has two parts, the Makkan Surahs and Madinan Surahs, revealed over a period of 23 years containing 114 Surahs.
- Scribes would write the revelations as they came on what ever material was available, from a stone, the leaf of a palm tree, shoulder-bone of a camel, the membrane on the inside of a deer-skin, a parchment or a papyrus.
- The Makkans, being a merchant society, had a large pool of those who could read and write, there were as many as 11 scribes during the early part of the Madinan period also. The most prominent of these was an elderly gentleman, named Ubayy ibn Ka`b رَضِيَ اللهُ عَنْهُ. Zayd ibn Thabit رَضِيَ اللهُ عَنْهُ was placed directly under the Prophet's supervision and became the principal scribe, organiser, and keeper of the record.
- Hundreds of people memorized the Qur'an and many wrote what they learned. At the time of the Prophet's death, Zayd ibn Thabit رَضِيَ اللهُ عَنْهُ had a complete record of all revelations.
- After the Prophet ﷺ death, a large number of memorizers were killed in a battle. Abu Bakr Siddiq رَضِيَ اللهُ عَنْهُ formed a committee to preserve the Qur'an. They compiled a collection by checking and double checking each Ayah of the existing record of the Qur'an with the memories of each member of the committee as well as of the other prominent Qur'an experts. This copy was housed with the Prophet's wife Hafsa.
- As Islam spread, the need to spread authentic copies of the Qur'an grew so Zayd bin Thabit رَضِيَ اللهُ عَنْهُ during Uthman ibn Affans رَضِيَ اللهُ عَنْهُ caliphate made 7 copies from the original Qur'an which was sent out to all the Muslim lands. This became known as the Uthmani text, 60 years later the vowels – Harakaat were inserted by Hajjaj bin Yusuf as non-arabs/new Muslims were making mistakes in the recitation of the Qur'an.

Carrying The Qur'an - إِنَّا نَحْنُ نَزَّلْنَا الذِّكْرَ وَإِنَّا لَهُ لَحَافِظُونَ

- Muslims will be familiar with the verses in the Birmingham fragments: verses 23 to 31 from chapter 18 (Surah Al-Kahf); and from verses 91 of chapter 19 (Surah Maryam) to verse 13 of chapter 20 (Surah Ta Ha). On these pages, the Qur'an speaks to the Christians and Jews, and a much needed reminder for Muslims.

- **A Message To Christendom:**

وَقَالُوا اتَّخَذَ الرَّحْمَنُ وَلَدًا ﴿٨٨﴾ لَقَدْ جِئْتُمْ شَيْئًا إِدًّا ﴿٨٩﴾ تَكَادُ السَّمَاوَاتُ يَتَفَطَّرْنَ مِنْهُ وَتَنْشَقُّ الْأَرْضُ وَتَخِرُّ الْجِبَالُ هَدًّا ﴿٩٠﴾ أَنْ دَعَوْا لِلرَّحْمَنِ وَلَدًا ﴿٩١﴾ وَمَا يَنْبَغِي لِلرَّحْمَنِ أَنْ يَتَّخِذَ وَلَدًا ﴿٩٢﴾ إِنْ كُلُّ مَنْ فِي السَّمَاوَاتِ وَالْأَرْضِ إِلَّا آتِي الرَّحْمَنِ عَبْدًا ﴿٩٣﴾ لَقَدْ أَحْصَاهُمْ وَعَدَّهُمْ عَدًّا ﴿٩٤﴾ وَكُلُّهُمْ آتِيهِ يَوْمَ الْقِيَامَةِ فَرْدًا ﴿٩٥﴾ إِنَّ الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا وَعَمِلُوا الصَّالِحَاتِ سَيَجْعَلُ لَهُمُ الرَّحْمَنُ وُدًّا ﴿٩٦﴾ فَإِنَّمَا يَسَّرْنَاهُ بِلِسَانِكَ لِتُبَشِّرَ بِهِ الْمُتَّقِينَ وَتُنذِرَ بِهِ قَوْمًا لُدًّا ﴿٩٧﴾ وَكَمْ أَهْلَكْنَا قَبْلَهُمْ مِّنْ قَرْنٍ هَلْ نُحِسُّ مِنْهُمْ مِّنْ أَحَدٍ أَوْ تَسْمَعُ لَهُمْ رِكْزًا ﴿٩٨﴾

And they say, “The Most Merciful has taken [for Himself] a son.” You have done an atrocious thing. The heavens almost rupture therefrom and the earth splits open and the mountains collapse in devastation. **That they attribute to the Most Merciful a son. And it is not appropriate for the Most Merciful that He should take a son.** There is no one in the heavens and earth but that he comes to the Most Merciful as a servant. He has enumerated them and counted them a [full] counting. And all of them are coming to Him on the Day of Resurrection alone. Indeed, those who have believed and done righteous deeds – the Most Merciful will appoint for them affection. So, [O Muhammad], We have only made Qur'an easy in the Arabic language that you may give good tidings thereby to the righteous and warn thereby a hostile people. **And how many have We destroyed before them of generations? Do you perceive of them anyone or hear from them a sound?**

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