

The Quran and its Message

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Joseph A Islam www.quransmessage.com

سَلَامٌ عَلَيْكُمْ

Salamun Alaikum (Peace be upon you)

HOW THE QURAN DESCRIBES ITSELF

Joseph A Islam

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No doubt, Muslims come across many arguments and concepts that get presented from various positions of thought and Islamic sources. The Quran describes itself in numerous ways and in doing so challenges the 'authority' of other sources. Some Quranic descriptions are discussed in the short article below.

- (1) A Clear Guidance (Huda)
- (2) Clear Proof (Burhan)
- (3) Explained in Detail (Fussilat)
- (4) Clear Explanation of All Things (Tibiana Lekulli Shayin)
- (5) The Ultimate Scale - Balance (Mizaan)
- (6) Discernment Between Truth and Falsehood (Furqan)
- (7) Evidence Absolutely Clear (Bayyina)

(1) CLEAR GUIDANCE (HUDA)

- The perfect guidance to lead mankind aright

002.002

“This Book (Arabic: Kitabu), there is no doubt in it, is guidance (Arabic: Huda-n) to those who guard (against evil) / fear God”

ذَٰلِكَ الْكِتَابُ لَا رَيْبَ فِيهِ هُدًى لِّلْمُتَّقِينَ

Huda

kitab

Illustration - Joseph Islam

هدى

1. **هُدَاهُ** *He directed him, or guided him, to the way ; (K, * TA ;) directed him aright ; or caused him to take, or follow, a right way or course or direction. (K, TA.)*

Source: Edward Lanes Lexicon [1]

(2) CLEAR PROOF (BURHAN)

- Manifest, convincing proof, strongest, clearest evidence to lead mankind aright

004.174

“O mankind! surely there has come to you a **convincing proof (Burhan)** from your Lord: For We have sent to you a light (that is) manifest”

النَّاسُ قَدْ جَاءَكُمْ بُرْهَانٌ مِّن رَّبِّكُمْ

Burhan

Illustration - Joseph Islam

بُرْهَانٌ *An evidence, or a proof: (T, Ṣ, Mṣb, K, and Ḥam p. 7:) and a demonstration; i. e. the manifestation of an evidence or proof: (Mṣb:) or a decisive and manifest evidence or proof: (TA:) or the firmest, strongest, or most valid, evidence or proof; which is such as ever necessarily implies truth, or veracity, as its consequence, or concomitant*

Source: Edward Lanes Lexicon [2]

(3) EXPLAINED IN DETAIL (FUSSILAT)

041.003

"A Book, whereof the verses are explained in detail / distinguished (Arabic: Fussilat); a Quran in Arabic, for people who understand"

011.001

"A. L. R. (This is) a Book, with verses perfected, moreover explained in detail / distinguished (Arabic: Fussilat) from One Who is Wise and Well-acquainted (with all things)"

The Arabic word 'Fussilat' is derived from its root 'Fa-Saad-Lam' and contains the inherent meaning of being distinct, separated, distinguishing that between what is true and what is false, plain, clear, manifest and explained in detail.

For example the word 'tafseel' is derived from the same root which means the analysis or the explanation in detail of a language or speech.

[hence, likewise,] تَفْصِيلٌ also signifies [The *dissecting*, or *analyzing*, of speech, or language: the *explaining distinctly*, or *in detail*: and] the *making distinct, clear, plain, manifest, or perspicuous*; i. q. تَبْيِينٌ. (Ş, O, K.) فَصَّلْنَاهُ in the K̤ur vii. 50 [referring to the book of the K̤ur-án] means بَيَّنَّاهُ [Which we have made distinct, &c.]: or, as some say, *whereof we have divided the verses by means of the فَوَاصِلُ* [pl. of فَاصِلَةٌ, q. v.]. (TA.)

Source: Edward Lanes Lexicon [3]

(4) CLEAR EXPLANATION OF ALL THINGS (TIBIANA LEKULLI SHAYIN)

- The perfect and only source of clarification

016.089

“And on the day when We will raise up in every people a witness against them from among themselves, and bring you as a witness against these and We have revealed the Book to you **explaining clearly / clarification of everything (Arabic: tibiana lekulli shayin)**, and a guidance and mercy and good news for those who submit”

tibiana (clarification) lekulli (of every) shayin (thing)

Please note that the Arabic word 'tibiana' is formed from the root 'Ba-Ya-Nun' and forms words such as 'bayan' as we will note in more detail in section 7 below. It has inherent meanings of proof, evidence, demonstration, manifest truth and an argument that is clear.

It is important to remember that from a Quran's perspective, God does not 'omit' things which are necessary for human guidance or run out of words.

006.038

“There is not an animal (that lives) on the earth, nor a being that flies on its wings, but (forms part of) communities like you. **Nothing have we omitted from the Book**, and they (all) shall be gathered to their Lord in the end”

031.027

“And if all the trees on earth were pens and the ocean (were ink), with seven oceans behind it to add

to its (supply), yet would not the words of God be exhausted: for God is Exalted in Power, full of Wisdom”

From the above verse it is absolutely clear, that if crucial guidance for God's religion were necessary, it would have been expounded in the Quran. There is simply nothing omitted from the Quran which is necessary for the 'deen' of Islam (religion of Islam).

(5) THE ULTIMATE SCALE - BALANCE (MIZAN)

- The perfect weighing tool for ascertaining right and wrong.

042.017

“It is God Who has sent down the Book in Truth, and the **Balance (mizana)**. And what will make thee realise that perhaps the Hour is near?”

اللَّهُ الَّذِي أَنْزَلَ الْكِتَابَ بِالْحَقِّ وَالْمِيزَانَ

mizana

Illustration - Joseph Islam

مِيزَانٌ *A weighing-instrument; (TA;) a balance; a pair of scales. — The weight of a thing. (K, &c.)* See مِثْقَالٌ.

Source: Edward Lanes Lexicon [4]

057:025 (part)

"We verily sent Our messengers with clear proofs, and revealed with them the Scripture and the **Balance (Arabic mizana)**, that mankind may observe right measure..."

(6) DISCERNMENT BETWEEN TRUTH AND FALSEHOOD (FURQAN)

025.001

“Blessed is He Who has revealed to His slave the **criterion of right and wrong (Arabic: Furqan)**, that he may be a warner to the peoples”

The Arabic word 'Furqan' is formed from the root Fa-Ra-Qaf which means to separate or to show distinction, divide, split, decide or distinguish. A 'Furqan' is the criterion between right and wrong, an evidence or demonstration.

This name has also been used to describe the Book revealed to Moses.

002.053

“And remember We gave Moses the Book and the **criterion of right and wrong (Arabic: Furqan)** There was a chance for you to be guided aright”

فُرْقَانٌ, originally an inf. n. (Mṣb. [See 1, first sentence.]) Anything that makes a separation, or distinction, between truth and falsity. (Ṣ, O, K.) — Hence, (TA,) الْفُرْقَانُ signifies The K̄ur-án; (Ṣ, O, Mṣb, K;) as also الْفَرْقُ. (Ṣ, O, K.) — And The Book of the Law revealed to Moses, (Az, O, K,) in which a distinction is made between that which is allowable and that which is forbidden. (O.) — And *Proof, evidence, or demonstration.*

Source: Edward Lanes Lexicon [5]

(7) EVIDENCE ABSOLUTELY CLEAR (BAYYINA)

020.133

“And they say: If only he would bring us a miracle from his Lord! Has there not come to them the **proof / evidence (Bayyinatu)** of what is in the former scriptures?”

006.157

“Or less ye should say: If the Scripture had been revealed unto us, we surely had been better guided than are they. Now has there come to you a **clear proof (Arabic: Bayyinatun)** from your Lord, a guidance and mercy; and who doeth greater wrong than he who denies the revelations of God, and turns away from them? We award to those who turn away from Our revelations an evil doom because of their aversion”

The Arabic word 'Bayyina' means a proof, evidence, demonstration, manifest truth and an argument that is clear. It is formed from the root word 'Ba-Ya-Nun' which means to become separated, apparent, manifest, known and distinguished from another.

FINAL THOUGHTS

Having read some of the powerful epithets that the Quran describes itself by, one is compellingly persuaded to question what authority any other source could possibly possess along with or in conjunction with the Quran.

038:029

"(This is) a Scripture that We have revealed unto thee, full of blessing, **that they may ponder its revelations, and that those of understanding may reflect / be reminded"**

REFERENCES

[1] LANE. E.W, Edward Lanes Lexicon, Williams and Norgate 1863; Librairie du Liban Beirut-Lebanon 1968, Volume 8 SUPPLEMENT, Page 3042

[2] Ibid., Volume 1, Page 196

Highlights marked in red on the lexicon excerpt are my own insertions. They have no bearing on the original text other than they emphasise relevance to the topic at hand. These are merely illustrations and have solely been utilised for educational and explanatory purposes.

[3] Ibid., Volume 6, Page 2406

[4] Ibid., Volume 8 SUPPLEMENT, Page 3052

[5] Ibid., Volume 6, Page 2385

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[Joseph Islam](#)

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