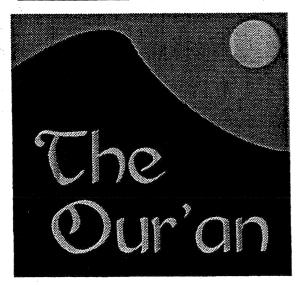


VERSES FROM THE QUR'AN - 1



Introduction N. J. Dawood, in his translation of the Qur'an, states, "The Qur'an is the earliest and by far the finest work of Classical Arabic prose. For Muslims it is the infallible word of God, a transcript of a tablet preserved in heaven, revealed to the Prophet Muhammad by the Angel Gabriel. Except in the opening verses and some few passages in which the Prophet or the Angel speaks in the first person, the speaker throughout is God."

Historically, Dawood points out, the verses of the Qur'an were written during Prophet Muhammad's lifetime on anything at hand, such as palm-leaves, stones, or any other material that could be inscribed. After Prophet Muhammad's death in 632, these verses were collected into an authorized version of the Qur'an during the caliphate of Othman, 644-56. It is this version which Muslims recognize as the authoritative word of God.

In the verses which follow, the reader should realize that God is speaking directly to His human creation using the editorial "We" mostly, but also using "He" as being pronouns referring to Himself.

Your task is to analyze one of the verses and be able to explain what the verse means in relationship to life, today, to meet the Salaat activity requirement.

The Exordium

In the name of Allah, the Compassionate, the Merciful

Praise be to Allah, Lord of Creation, The Compassionate, the Merciful,

Kins of Judsment-day!

You alone we worship, and to You alone we pray for help.

Guide us to the straight path

The path of those whom You have favoured,

Not of those who have incurred Your wrath,

Nor of those who have sone astray.

Night

"...for him that gives in charity and guards himself against evil and believes in goodness, We shall smooth the path to salvation; but for him that neither gives nor takes and disbelieves in goodness, We shall smooth the path of affliction. When he breathes his last, his riches will not avail him"

Abraham

"Do you not see how Allah compares a good word to a good tree? Its root is firm and its branches are in the sky; it yields it fruit in every season by Allah's leave. Allah sives parables to men so that they will take heed. But an evil word is like an evil tree torn out of the earth and shorn of all its roots."