

**The Islamic
Scientific
Comparative
Series**

3

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**The Book of Allah and its Clear Miracles: Addressing the Recent
Raids on the Qura'an's Miracles and its Preservation in a Series of
Scientific and Comparative Studies that Prove the Historical,
Literary, Effective and Creed Miracles of the Holy Qura'an.**

Revised by a number of scholars

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The dialogue between cultures, religions and principles is one of the effective methods in calling to Islam, and Islamic and universal peace.

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Dr G. Hamdoun

Introduction:

Living with the breezes of the miracles of the Holy Qura'an is a blessing that can only be felt by those who experience it and those who live it. It is indeed a blessing that guides man into the path of Allah; a path that He ordered humanity to live in complete happiness in this life and in the Hereafter. Furthermore, it is an accurate and sublime blessing that proves that the Qura'an is from Allah the All-Knowing, the Most Expert, the Most Wise. It is also a blessing that is inaccessible to those who put aside mind and mercy and want to ruin, harm, and misguide humanity. It is a blessing that urges man to be far away from the misery and injustice of the modern paganisms that look down upon human rights and deprive Man from making his own self-determination. It is a blessing that indicates the nice order and the fine harmony between man's life according to the Divine guidance and the creation of the universe and man. It is a blessing, which indicates that there is no place in this universe for things to happen coincidentally or

by chance since the effects of the Oneness, wisdom, mercy, generosity and guidance signify the existence of Allah the One, the Wise, the Merciful, the Most Generous and the Most Guiding.

The Miracles of the Qura'an are the path to the pillar of faith that direct those who believe in the Qura'an to follow the orders of the Almighty Allah in the Qura'an. Thus, the field of the miracles of the Qura'an has been an important one that all Muslims should present to humanity as to prevent humanity from going astray from the right path and also to get rid of evil.

Multiplicity of the Miracles of the Qura'an:

One of the blessings of Allah is that the Qura'an has multi-miracles so that every person can comprehend some of its parts so as to believe that the Qura'an is the book of the Almighty Allah that was revealed to His Messenger Mohammad (peace be upon him).

The literary, the scientific, the effective, the historical, the creed miracles of the Qura'an are varied so that a just person he has but to comprehend all or some of these miracles. This adds to the universality of the call of the Qura'an and Islam. The Almighty Allah addressed his Messenger Mohammad (peace be upon him): "Say: 'O mankind! I am sent unto you all, as the Apostle of Allah.'"¹ This variation in the miracles of the Qura'an has been a Mercy of God that Prophet Mohammad (peace be upon him) took the burden of conveying it to all people so that they believe in the Qura'an, the Book

of God. Allah addressed His Messenger (peace be upon him): (We sent thee not, but as a Mercy for all creatures).² Truly, the human mind has its own harmonies, peculiarities, and specialization and, therefore, it might comprehend only one kind of the Qura'an's miracles and not the others. Thus, the variation in the miracles of the Qura'an is sign of beneficence, mercy, and guidance for the human beings.

The literary miracle of the Qura'an was the most effective one among the Arabs due to the fact that they were well known for their appreciation and understanding of both the Arabic language and its literature for many centuries. Thus, the Arabs and then those who became Muslims from the other nations proceeded together to destroy the state of ignorance surrounding them. They established the largest State in the Old and Modern history of the world. A state that was governed by the people of the Qura'an with their sublime principles, religious forgiveness, and following the path of the Almighty Allah that He sent to humanity so as to live the kind of life in which the human rights are observed.

In recent times, a prominence is directed towards the Scientific Miracle of the Qura'an that shows that the Almighty Allah revealed in the Holy Qura'an facts that human beings were not able to comprehend at that time due to their limited resources, means, and knowledge. Sciences of our age have acknowledged the facts that the Qura'an stated more than 14 centuries ago.

² Al-Anbyaa (The Prophets) 107

Another Qura'anic miracle that becomes prominent in recent years is the "Divine Creed" (the Names and Attributes of the Almighty Allah) that the Holy Qura'an depicted. Thus, the recent contemplative, free, and scientific approach to the universe, life and man harmoniously matches that of the Devine Creed of the Qura'an. What the Qura'an mentioned in this regard goes hand in hand with the recent Sciences. The marks of the Oneness of God indicate the existence of the Only One God in the Qura'an and the new sciences. Furthermore, the traces of the Oneness of God, wisdom, mercy, and generosity proof that Allah is The One and Only, the Wise, the Merciful, and the Generous in both the Qura'an and the new science. Thus, the base of the Qura'anic Divine Faith is scientifically solid because of the harmony that exists between the findings of the new sciences with the Qura'an. As "Miracle" has the sense of "precedence", the Qura'an has preceded all the faiths since its revelation till now. In fact, the other faiths were unable to catch up with the Qura'an. Therefore, whoever said that the Qura'an and its Faith were quoted from other religions and faiths had truly committed an offence against the Qura'an.

In recent years and throughout history, the Miracle of Effectiveness of the Qura'an on the individuals, groups, and nations has driven humanity to the Path of the Almighty Allah without any distinction of color, race, language, continent, or land.

In recent years and throughout history, the Historic Miracle of the Qura'an has come to talk about some events of Old History which were totally lost such as the safety of Pharaoh's body after sinking in

the sea and Flood of Noah (Peace be upon him). These events and others as we will see later indicate that the Qura'an is from Allah the All Knowing, the Glorious.

The Qura'an also and through the historical miracle has pointed out to future and unseen events that were beyond the expectation of the human thinking and they became facts just as the Qura'an foresaw.

The Miracle of the Qura'an between Originality and Modernism:

The variation of the Miracles of the Qura'an are a scientific commencement for the mind of a contemporary Muslim. However, this commencement has to closely adhere to the Book of Allah which was revealed to the humanity in order not to lose the Path of Allah. The Miracle of the Names of Allah and of the Qura'anic Divine Creed pushes the one who is acquainted with it to a higher level of the commencement of a science-oriented mind. That is either through looking directly at our surroundings in the "Open Book" (the universe, life, and man) or by looking through the "Written Book" (the Holy Qura'an). The Scientific Miracle talks about scientific facts either in the universe, the seas, or the man's body. This increases our scientific knowledge that leads to believing in the Qura'an based on solid and scientific foundations. The Historic Miracle of the Qura'an takes us through accurate historical meditations regarding the time and situation prior to the dawn of Islam whether that is about Pharaoh or the Flood of Noah (peace be upon him), etc) and after the "Sunrise" of Islam regarding the foretelling of the Qura'an about future events that

took place later such as that the Muslims would take the lead at a time when they were so weak and they were also facing several types of punishment from the Pagans in Mecca. Several are the historical matters that make a Muslim realize the Laws of the Almighty God in history. This realization is based on true and scientific foundations.

The literary miracle of the Qura'an provides the reader with the chance to be familiar with the highest level of Arabic literature in its eloquence, rhetoric, poetic versification, and style. Furthermore, the artistic portrayal of the Holy Qura'an has led to the development of both Modern Arabic literature as well as the universal literature.

The effective miracle of the Qura'an contains the drives that push individual as well as the nation to implement faithfully the human rights according to the Book of Allah. Defending human rights should not be "ink on paper" as seen in the resolutions of many contemporary countries that have abused and misused human rights. The Qura'an through its high effects- especially in the faith side- pushes individuals and nations to offer whatever they have in the path of Allah so as to abide by His Book. This can be clearly observed in the suffering and tolerance of the youths of the Qura'an these days. The Qura'an's miracle of effectiveness eradicates the differences among individuals, nations, etc. This is due to the fact that the message of the Qura'an is not limited to certain individuals, or a particular nation, or specific region. But it is a universal message to all mankind. Thus, the effect of the Qura'an can be clearly found in several nations such as the Arab, the Kurdish, the Barberi, the Indian, the Persian, the

Turk, the Indonesian, the Malaysian, the Eurasian, the Blush, the Albanian, etc. Islam has established brotherly relationships among all the afore-mentioned nations, which constituted the biggest State throughout history. This is because the message of the Qura'an is universal in its principles, content, and effect. Thus, we have seen that the miracles of the Holy Qura'an essentially proof that the Qura'an is the Book of Allah and guide humanity into the scientific, practical, and true path which is useful for mankind in the Modern era.

Raids on the Qura'anic Miracles Needed to be responded to:

The relationship between the West and the East is old and varied. Due to this relationship, many western people have studied the Qura'an and Islam. This was driven by various scientific, economic, commercial, religious, colonial or even authoritarian motives. Through such varied motives, many western thinkers were influenced by the Qura'an and Islam. They have positively spoken about the Qura'an saying that it contains lights for the human race. Among those are Mohammad Assad (Lybold Fais), Roger Garaudi, Maurice Bucaille, Michael H. Hert and Morad Hoffman. Also among them was a great orientalist, professor Anna-Mary Shmel. They have written books in which they have positively talked about the Qura'an, Islamic ideology, the Prophet Mohammad or the Islamic history. Some of those western thinkers ended up embracing Islam as a way of life while others did not out of fear of being the target of the unjust media attack such as that which the German ambassador in Casablanca, Morocco (Morad

Hoffman), underwent after he embraced Islam. He was severely attacked by newspaper media on 23/3/1992 after he talked about his book “Islam is the Alternative” on the First Channel of the German television. Among those who attacked him was Herta Dorbler Gemlin the vice-president of the German Socialist Party in the Byled um Zontag newspaper. Thanks are due to Allah that German Ministry of Foreign Affairs issued a decree saying that there was no need to call the minister Morad Hoffmann back from Casablanca.¹

Similarly and with no excuse, some other Westerns wanted to attack Islam under various motives. One of their main targets was the Qura’an and then, consciously or unconsciously, its miracles especially its foretelling that the Qura’an is preserved from tampering and change throughout time. Allah says in the Qura’an “ We have sent the Qura’an and We will preserve it” Surat Al-hejr, verse 9.

Among the people who lately attacked the Qura’an was an American writer called Toby Lester in the Atlantic Monthly magazine issued in Washington in the January 1999 issue. He claimed that the old fragments of the Qura’an that were discovered in 1386 *hijra date*/ 1965 A.D. in the Great Mosque in Sana’a, the capital of the Republic of Yemen and which were written in the first, second, and third *hijra* century, are different from the written Qura’an that is found among the Muslims nowadays. Since Toby Lester is not an Arabic calligraphy or Qura’anic paleography specialist, he claimed that Dr. Gerd. R. Puin, a German scholar said so. Toby said in the Monthly Atlantic magazine:

¹Look at “Islam is the Alternative”, Morad Hoffmann

“The first person to spend a significant amount of time examining the Yemeni fragments in 1981, was Gerd R. Puin, a specialist in Arabic Calligraphy and Qura’an paleography based at Saarland University, in Saarbrücken, Germany. Puin, who had been sent by the German government, to organize and oversee the restoration project, recognized the antiquity of some of the parchment fragments, and his preliminary inspection also revealed unconventional verse ordering, minor textual variations, and rare styles of the orthography and artistic embellishment What the Yemeni Qura’an seemed to suggest, Puin began to feel, was an *evolving* text rather than simply the Word of God as revealed in its entirety to the Prophet Muhammad in the seventh century A.D.” Atlantic Monthly, Washington, January 1999 issue, page 44.

To validate his claims, Toby Lester quoted some scholars at the American Universities such as Andrew Rippin a professor of religions studies at the University of Calgary, who, as Toby claimed, is at the forefront of Qura’anic studies today. Toby quoted Mr. Ribbin saying about the Yemeni fragments: “These manuscripts say that the early history of the Koranic text is much more of an open question than have suspected: the text was less stable, and therefore had less authority, than has always been claimed” Atlantic Monthly, Washington, January 1999 issue, page 45. Toby also quoted R. Stephen Humphreys, a professor of Islamic studies at the University of California at Santa Barbara, saying: “To historize the Koran would in effect delegitimize the whole historical experience of the Muslim community”, Atlantic

Monthly, Washington, January 1999 issue, page 45. In the same page Toby continued quoting Humphreys saying: “if the Koran is a historical document, then the whole Islamic struggle of the fourteen centuries is effectively meaningless”.

I was not aware of Toby’s article. But once I visited the Yemen’s House of Manuscripts in Sana’a, and there I met the manager of the House, Abdul-Kareem AL-Maqhaafi who looked very sad. He said to me referring to Toby Lester’s article: “Look at this article about our manuscripts and look at what Fahmi Howaidi wrote about it”. He also requested me to respond to Toby’s article in the mentioned magazine since this article contains a serious attack on the Qura’an based on Sana’a’s manuscripts that are there in the Yemen’s House of Manuscripts.

Fahmi Howaidi pointed out in his article in *SL-Sarq AL-Awsat* daily newspaper, issue 7349, Monday 11-1-1999, page: 9 that Toby Lester was one of the America Peace Corps volunteers -young people sent by the United States to spend their military service by doing voluntary works in the Third World countries. Fahmi Howaidi also said that Toby Lester came to Yemen in 1988 as a Peace Corps volunteer. After two years in Yemen, he came back to the United States. Then he worked for the United Nations Relief and Works Agency in the West Bank from 1992 to 1994. In his article, Fahmi Howaidi asked the officials in Sana’a to respond to Toby’s allegations that Sana’a’s manuscripts have proved that the Qura’an is an evolving text as was reported by Toby Lester that Puin said. Thus, we believe

that the reply to this raid on the Qura'an came from Egypt, the defender of Islam that country which was behind the many heroic deeds such as those of Salah Adeen Al-Ayyobi and the AL-Malik AL-Mudhafar (the Victorious King) may Allah have mercy on both of them.

After this request, AL-Qadi Isma'il AL-Akwa', the X-president of the General Yemeni Antiquities and Manuscripts Authority took the stand to reply to Toby's claims. First he called Dr. Puin asking him about Toby's claim that Puin said that the Qura'an is evolving based on his examination of Sana'a's fragments since Puin was requested to help in the restoration of those fragments. Puin sent a handwritten letter denying Toby's claim. He also confirmed that the parchments found in Sana'a do not in any way prove Lester's claim. Puin's letter was published in AL-Thawra daily newspaper on 24 *Dhilqada*, 1419 *hijra date*, 11/3/1999 and also in September and AL-Shahid weekly newspapers. He also asked me to reply scientifically to Toby's claims.

The American Muslim Council denounces this claim about Sana'a manuscripts especially at a time when Islam is widely spreading in the United States. As reported in AL-Ahram Egyptian Newspaper, issue on 2nd of Ramadhan 1420, 10/12/1999 in the front page that Bill Clinton acknowledged that Islam is the fastest spreading religion in the United States. The same thing was also reported by the Yemeni AL-Thawra Daily Newspaper in its front page on the 3rd of Ramadhan 1420 *hijra*.

Due to the seriousness of the situation, and because Lester's article contains a collection of claims, and because I am specialist in studying the Qura'anic paleography approved by my teacher Yousef Dinoon and I have a Ph.D. degree in Qura'anic interpretation and sciences, and due to the request of the Al-Alamah Mohammad Ahmad AL-Jorafi, AL-Qadi Isma'il AL-Akwa' the X-president of the General Yemen Antiquities and Manuscript Authority, and Abdul-Malik AL-Maqhafi the manager of the House of Manuscripts-due to all of this I found it obligatory to reply to Lester's allegations. Allah said in his preserved book:

"إِنَّ الَّذِينَ يَكْتُمُونَ مَا أَنْزَلْنَا مِنَ الْبَيِّنَاتِ وَالْهُدَىٰ مِنْ بَعْدِ مَا بَيَّنَّاهُ لِلنَّاسِ فِي الْكِتَابِ أُولَٰئِكَ يَلْعَنُهُمُ اللَّهُ وَيَلْعَنُهُمُ اللَّاعِنُونَ" البقرة-159

“Those who conceal the Clear (Signs) We have sent down, and the Guidance, after we have made it clear for the People in the Book, on them shall be Allah's curse, and the curse of those entitled to curse.”

In my reply, I will be an objective and unbiased researcher who adheres to the Islamic morals which require every Muslim to respond and invite others to Islam with wisdom and beautiful preaching.

"ادْعُ إِلَى سَبِيلِ رَبِّكَ بِالْحُكْمَةِ وَالْمَوْعِظَةِ الْحَسَنَةِ وَجَادِلْهُمْ بِالَّتِي هِيَ أَحْسَنُ" النحل-125

“Invite (all) to the Way of thy Lord with wisdom and beautiful preaching; and argue with them in ways that are best and most gracious.”

I will do this specially since I'm writing the reply in the country of wisdom (Yemen) and among its scholars and wise thinkers.

As I have begun the Islamic scientific comparative series, I made my reply objective based on my knowledge of the historical

miracle of the Qura'an in its foretelling about the unseen such as the preservation of the Holy Qura'an. I pointed out to the history of the Qura'an and carried out a comparative study between the old Qura'anic Yemeni fragments that belongs to the 1st, 2nd and 3rd *hijra* centuries and the current printed copies of the Qura'an which are in the hands of all the Muslims. Via such comparison and via the history of the Qura'an, I proved that the current printed copies of the Qura'an do not differ from the old copies and fragments and it is kept intact and preserved as it was recited by the Prophet Mohammad (peace be upon him). I also included a copy of Dr. Gerd R. Puin handwritten letter which denies and nullifies Lester's claims of Puin's position about Sana'a's Qura'anic figments. Puin confirmed that Sana'a's figments do not differ as a reciting text form any other copy of the Qura'an that can be found in the world museums or book houses. ¹

Since Lester targeted in more than one place in his article in the Atlantic Monthly to degrade the supreme literary style of the Qura'an and the faultlessness of the Qura'anic language, I assigned a section dealing with the literary miracle of the Qura'an. In the third section, I responded to Lester's claims through which he tries to degrade the literary miracle of the Qura'an and the faultlessness of the Qura'anic language. In his approach, Lester follows the approach of the previous orientalist such as Jerjes Sal, G. Famsberf, and W. Montgomery Watt. R. J. Plasheer, and others.

¹Look at Puin's letter on page 102-105

I also talked about the influential miracle of the Qura'an after the literary miracle. This research is essentially important because of its rareness and its harmony with the human nature that is affected by the Qura'an, the Book of the Lord of the Universe, especially since Lester admitted that the Qura'an is the greatest ideological and most influential book nowadays.

In the third chapter, the eleventh section in particular, I discussed many of Lester's allegations such as his allegation that there is contradiction in the Qura'anic abrogation. In this approach he follows the approach of the orientalist John Berton. I pointed out Lester's erroneous opinion that the Qura'an follows the Torah 'Bible' and the Enjeel in its creed and stories. Lester here follows Kyler Tesdal's approach in his book "The Sources of Islam" and Dr. Felhlem Rodolf in his book "The Qura'an's Relationship with Christianity and Judaism." In all of this, I proved that Mohammad is truly and truthfully Allah's true Messenger and he never quoted from anyone. Not only this, but I also proved that the miracles of the Qura'an in Allah names and attributes (the Divine Creed) was not what the people believed in prior to the time of the Prophet Mohammad (Peace Be Upon). It was surely a revelation that Allah reveals to his messenger Mohammad (Peace Be Upon). I also referred to Al-Aqad's confirmation in which he pointed out that the Qura'an has a miracle in the Divine Creed, and in this it is superior above all other creeds. He considered this the *greatest miracle*, the *miracle of the miracles* and the *highest miracle* of the Qura'an. Al-Aqad came to this conclusion- in his book "The Truths of

Islam and the Lies of its Enemy ” which is widely spread in all the Arab countries- through mental pondering, intuition and comparison between religions. I also proved the miracle of the Qura’an in the Divine Creed (Allah’s Names and Attributes) in the first book of this series, and that was through a comparative study which shows the correspondence between modern science and the Qura’an in confirming some of the names and attributes of Allah. This confirms that this by itself in the Qura’an is a high miracle especially since during the time of Prophet Mohammad (Peace Be Upon), there was no such creed. At that time, I was not aware of what Al-Aqad had already written. Thus, the miracle of the Divine Creed of the Qura’an has been proved from two approaches: modern science and its correspondence with the Qura’an as I have proved that and through the pondering of the mind and intuition as was shown by Al-Aqad.

Due to the seriousness of the subject matter and in order to obtain correct information, I requested scholars who are specialists in Qura’an interpretation, Qura’an sciences, the Arabic language and its literature, and the human sciences to review this book. I showed the book to specialist scholars in Sana’a – Yemen and took their remarks into account, thanked them, and prayed for them for their contribution

"Our Lord! Accept (this service) from us: for Thou art the All-Hearing, the All-Knowing.. and turn unto us (in Mercy); for Thou art the Oft-Returning, Most Merciful. Our Lord blesses us with good prayer from an impartial and unbiased reader during this life or after death.