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P.O. Box 43476, Tucson, AZ 85733-3476
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How Many Verses in the Quran?

One of the many things that the so-called Muslim scholars cannot agree on is how many verses there are in the Quran. But how can we expect them to agree on something that needs adding or counting verses while they cannot even count the 19 letters of the *Basmalah* (the first verse of the Quran)? Unfortunately, some scholars claim that the *Basmalah* does not consist of 19 Arabic letters, and they are sure about it. However, they are not sure if it has indeed 18, 20, 21, or 22 letters. This is in spite of the fact that historically, the gematrical (or numerical) value of the *Basmalah* has been known to be 786, which nails down the number of its letters to 19. One of these religious scholars who cannot count well is Sheikh Abdul Aziz Bin Baz, the Grand Mufti of Saudi Arabia. He also declared that the Quran does not consist of 114 suras (chapters). By the way, he still insists on his view that the earth is flat. Imagine the people who take his word on religious issues!

The Quran is clear about the scholars who follow their opinions and mislead the people who follow them:

Say, "O people of the scripture, do not transgress the limits of your religion beyond the truth, and do not follow the opinions of people who have gone astray, and have misled multitudes of people; they are far astray from the right path." [5:77]

Sura and Verse Numbers

The numbering system of the Quran's suras and verses has been perfectly preserved. Only a few unauthorized and easily detectable printings deviate from the standard system that is divinely guarded.

The total number of verses in the Quran is 6346. This includes 112 unnumbered *Basmalahs* which occur at the beginning of the suras. (Note that the first sura has a numbered *Basmalah*, and Sura 9 has no *Basmalah*). Without the unnumbered *Basmalahs*, the number of verses in the Quran is 6234. The mathematical structure of the Quran based on the number 19 makes this number an undeniable fact.

Review of Some Known Facts

1. The number 6346 is a multiple of 19:

$$6346 = 19 \times 334.$$

2. The digits of 6346 add up to 19:

$$6 + 3 + 4 + 6 = 19.$$

3. When we add the numbers of all suras, plus the number of verses in every sura, plus the sum of verse numbers, the grand total for the whole Quran comes to 346199, or $19 \times 19 \times 959$.

If we consider only the 29 initialed suras, the above procedure gives a total of 190133, or 19×10007 .

4. Adding up the digits of the Quran's suras and verses produces a total of 1881, or 19×99 .

As can be seen from the few samples above, the Quran's mathematical structure is vast and very intricate. Yet, it is simple to understand.

New Findings

Brother K. Emami, from Atlanta, Georgia, made a discovery by God's leave, further verifying the number of verses in Quran.

The last sura revealed to Prophet Muhammad was Sura *Al-Nassr* (Triumph). The number of this sura is 110, and it has three verses. We know that this sura consists of 76 (19×4) Arabic words, and the first verse of the sura consists of 19 Arabic letters.

Brother Emami added the gematrical value of each Arabic letter in this sura. (Note that the gematrical value of a letter is the value assigned to the letter, an old practice before the current numbering system was introduced). The total gematrical values of the three verses in this sura are as follows:

Verse	Gematrical Value
1	1638
2	1771
3	2715
Total	6124

Adding the sura number, 110, to the total we get

$$6124 + 110 = 6234$$

which is the total number of (numbered) verses in the Quran.

Also, he concatenated the verse number and the gematrical value of each verse and added the resulting numbers. As in the case of previous calculation, he also added the sura number, 110, to the total. The resulting number is a multiple of 19: $11638 + 21771 + 32715 + 110 = 66234$ or 19×3486 .

God be glorified.

Abdullah Arik

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

In the name of God, Most Gracious, Most Merciful

Submitters Perspective

Monthly Bulletin of United Submitters International Published by Masjid Tucson August 1994 Rabi I 1415 Vol. 10 No. 8



Goals and Priorities

We have many things in our lives we would like to achieve at any given time. Some are short term goals, such as passing a test in a class, or giving a good presentation at work that will assure us a promotion. Some are long term goals, such as getting a good education.

Our goals and desires in life never end. Many are attainable and within our reach, some are wishes which may or may not come true. There are other goals which may seem to take forever to achieve. For example, when we were in high school, we looked forward to the day of graduation. At the time, it seemed so far away. During college days, we contemplated the day we would get our diploma, then find a good job. It also seemed so far away then. Yet, one day we find ourselves having achieved many of the things that we thought of being difficult or almost impossible to achieve.

One Life to Live?

After God blesses us with a job and we have our own money to spend, we set up new goals. We usually want a car or to get a new one, to get married, have children, get a house, have a successful career, move to a bigger house, and so on. If God gives us children, we worry about our children's well-being, education, and their future. We want them to be the best, and to have the best. We sometimes work ourselves to death trying to achieve all

that. Nevertheless, our desire to have better social and material things is endless. As the Quran states in Verse 41:49: "The human being never tires of imploring for good things..."

The next generation will want to achieve similar, if not better things in their lives. The cycle will continue until the end of the world. If we believe in the creation, this brings us to the following questions: Did God create us all in vain, for play? What is the purpose of this life? Furthermore, we should question ourselves: What do we want to really get out of this world by the time we die? Is it our aim that we want to accumulate wealth, have a big family, a successful career in life? How about preparing ourselves for the real, eternal life? The Quran gives us the answers:

God did not create the heavens and the earth, and everything between them, except for a specific purpose, and for a specific life span... [30:8]

We did not create the heavens and the earth, and everything between them for amusement. If we needed amusement, we could have initiated it without any of this, if that is what we wanted to do. [21:16-17]

God created the heavens and the earth for a specific purpose, in order to pay each soul for whatever it earned, without the least injustice. [30:8]

I did not create the jinns and the humans except to worship Me alone. [51:56]

This worldly life is no more than vanity and play, while the abode of the Hereafter is the real life, if they only knew. [29:64]

What is Our Priority?

There is nothing wrong in wanting to be the best we can be, and to have the best we can have, as long as we do realize the purpose of our lives, are appreciative of God's blessings and use our resources to strive more in the cause of God:

Use the provisions bestowed upon you by God to seek the abode of the Hereafter, without neglecting your share in this world. Be charitable, as God has been charitable towards you... [28:77]

Our ultimate goal in this life should be to be a righteous person so that God will be pleased with us. In all our actions and decisions, our priority should be the eternal life of the Hereafter, not the temporary one on this earth. If we can maintain this throughout our lives, then we can be a winner both in this life and in the Hereafter. It will be the biggest triumph of our lives if we make it to Heaven, even barely, by God's leave.

Anyone who chooses this fleeting life as his priority, we will rush to him what we decide to give him, then we commit him to Gehenna, where he suffers forever, despised and defeated. As for those who

continued on the next page

Priorities *continued*

choose the Hereafter as their priority, and work righteousness, while believing, their efforts will be appreciated. [17:18-19]

Every person tastes death, then you receive your recompense on the Day of Resurrection. Whoever misses Hell, barely, and makes it to Paradise, has attained a great triumph. The life of this world is no more than illusion. [3:185]

Abdullah Arik

Road to Happiness

Our happiness in this life and in the Hereafter depends on whether or not we become submitters to God alone. As submitters, we should make pleasing God our highest priority. We should make it our ultimate goal to fulfill God's expectation of us. We must not set up any idols beside God, whether the idol is a saint, the prophet, our ego, business, children, spouse, money, or what have you. We should aim to live a righteous life, and treat each other amicably. We should not lie, cheat, or backbite people. We should do our best to live a life in accordance with God's commendments in the Quran. Simply put, we should do the things that God wants us to do, and avoid the things that God does not want us to do. Our ultimate aim in doing all this is to get ourselves worthy of God's blessings and mercy.

When pleasing God becomes the most important aspect of our lives, God makes everything wonderful for us:

God promises those among you who believe and lead a righteous life, that He will make them sovereigns on earth, as He did for those before them, and will establish for them the religion He has chosen for them, and will substitute peace and security for them in place of fear. All this because they worship Me alone; they never set up any idols beside Me... [24:55]

We have to strive to be righteous and to be in the right path in order to attain God's promise. Therefore we should examine ourselves sincerely at every opportunity. Any time we have a problem in any aspect of our lives, we should search for the lesson, and learn from our lessons. We should submit to God's will, and remember that God will test us through different means to see if we are steadfast.

No person and nothing else should take priority over God. Once we make this the

most important aspect in our lives, we will possess the most valuable thing one can ask for — God's support. But, if we make anything more important than pleasing God, we will be tested over and over. If we do not realize that fact after all the tests, and we keep confusing our priorities, then we may loose both in this life as well as in the Hereafter.

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Notes on the 9th Annual Conference

July 15 through July 17, 1994 Submitters from all over the world came together for the 9th annual conference of the United Submitters. This year our conference was held on the beautiful campus of Western Washington University in Bellingham, Washington. We began by sharing a wonderful buffet lunch, and an even more wonderful and nourishing Friday Congregational Prayer, led for us by brother Abolfazl Firouzi of Atlanta. Brother Abolfazl's inspiring *khutbah* set the tone for the whole conference.

In his opening remarks, Abdullah Arik reminded us that we came together to worship God alone and to be with the believers. Any differences we have in this, our real family, are minor and worldly. There is only one source to worship, and one source to follow... God and the Quran. We must be careful to treat each other well, even in our disagreements. Only God knows the belief in each heart and He guides accordingly. We must be very patient and tolerant of each other, and become examples for the rest of the world. We can only do this by truly living submission. As for the disagreements and varying opinions in different communities, it is unavoidable and part of the test. We should try to hold fast to the rope of God as best as we can, and ask Him to help us stay in the right path. He reminded us Verse 5:105 of the Quran: "O you who believe, you should worry only about your own necks. If others go astray, they cannot hurt you, as long as you are guided." He closed his remarks with a beautiful prayer.

Parivash then recited most beautiful *Al-Fatehas* for us, first in Arabic and then in Farsi.

We had two Masters of Ceremony, Chris Moore and Yasser Elkadi. Chris began by having everyone introduce themselves and then called the community representatives to speak. We had reports from the many communities with members attending this year's conference.

Our first formal speaker was Carol Qureshi. She shared excerpts from an article in the London Sunday Telegraph, regarding the unquestionable prejudice against Islam. And she told us about a chapter from *The Great Reckoning* entitled "Muhammad Replaces Marx," which proposes that Islam will replace Marxism as the perceived enemy of the West. Since population growth in Muslim countries far outstrips that of the West, Carol suggested that it may be God's plan for the West to fight fire with fire, fighting the false Islam with true Islam. It is our duty to spread the message of what true Islam really is.

Our next speaker was Karim Jaffar who is 17 years old. He spoke with poise and wit. He talked about trying to deliver the message to people he met. Using an analogy of cutting down a tree with a pocket knife, which might eventually be successful, or using a chain saw which gets right to the point. His idea of cutting to the chase was to go right to the miracle, and "wow" people. Then, of course, it is up to them to hear or to be deaf.

Lorry Sierras began her talk with Verse 49:13: "...The best among you is the most righteous..." We are all here to grow and develop our souls, and we will all be at different stages at

different times. We have the Quran, and each of us will be guided with it in an individualized and personalized way. This is a great blessing, and can also be a test. It is a test when we do not understand that others may have a different understanding; then the ego gets involved. She reminded us of the verses 45:17 & 42:14 that people did not dispute among themselves until the knowledge had come to them. It is idolization of the ego which creates divisions into sects. Satan's system is to try to divide us. We must treat each other in the best possible manner to avoid his trap.

Hossein Kowsari's talks at our conferences are always inspiring and this year's was no exception. A title for the talk might be "God's Attributes" and as Hossein said it was appropriate for us to reflect on those attributes, as explained in the Quran and to be among those who "remember God while standing, sitting, and on their sides, and they reflect upon the creation of the heavens and the earth..." [3:191]. Hossein discussed the oneness of God as contrasted to the necessary polarity of all other things in creation and the concept of God as *Rabb* (Lord) of all things but *Mawlaa* (Protector) only of the believers. Overall, the talk was truly a glorification of God's sovereignty and great majesty, and was a wonderful reminder for us all.

The rest of the first day was taken up with dinner, prayer, group discussion, Quran recitation and socializing.

Reports on the conference and the presentations will be continued in the coming issues, God willing.

Many thanks to all the sisters and brothers who attended the conference, and contributed its success. Special thanks to our brothers and sisters in Vancouver who organized the conference. May God reward everybody for their time and financial sacrifices, and for their genuine effort to be with the submitters to God alone.

Mathematical Conference

Before the annual conference of United Submitters, a conference on the mathematical miracle of the Quran was held on July 13-14. The speakers were Milan Sulc and Ali Fazely. The majority of the audience were people who were exposed to the mathematics of the Quran only recently. The talks generated great interest and a lot of discussions.

1995 Conference

We are planning to hold next year's United Submitters Conference in Tucson, Arizona, God willing. The preliminary date is set to August 18-20, 1995. However, we want to hear from you, especially if these dates are not suitable for you. Please let us know any suggestions you may have as soon as possible.