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Tadabbur Magazine

A reviewed academic periodical dedicated to the review and publication of research and academic studies in the field of promoting the understanding of the Qur'an. It is published twice a year.

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Mission: To be researchers' first choice for the publication of their research and studies in the field of understanding the Qur'an.

Vision: The magazine will provide an academically reviewed facility for researchers to publish their academic studies in the in-depth understanding of the Qur'an and related areas, observing professional publishing international standards.

Aims:

- Encourage academic studies leading to in-depth understanding of the Qur'an.
- Publish academic research and studies in the field of understanding the Qur'an.
- Ensure inter-communication between academics dedicated to Qur'anic studies and promote exchange of experience.
- Open up new areas of academic studies in the field of in-depth understanding of the Qur'an.



One: Research and studies in the field of in-depth understanding of the Qur'an.

- 1. The formulation of academic principles applicable to the understanding of the Qur'an.
- 2. Teaching methods of in-depth understanding the Qur'an.
- 3. Deduction from the Qur'an.
- 4. Objectives of the Qur'an.
- 5. The inimitability of the Qur'an.
- 6. The superior excellence of the Qur'an style.
- 7. Qur'anic themes.

Two: Reports of academic meeting and conferences related to the in-depth understanding of the Qur'an.

Three: Summaries of theses of distinction focused on the in-depth study of the Qur'an.

Four: Issues raised by the Editorial Board so as to request essays by specialists in the understanding of the Qur'an.

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Conditions for Publication

One: material to be published:

The magazine aims to provide a forum for researchers all over the world to publish their academic studies in the area of in-depth understanding of the Qur'an, provided that such research reflects originality and conforms to the ethics and methodology of academic research.

The magazine will publish material that has not been already published in Arabic, in any of the following areas:

- Original research
- Academic debate
- Summaries of academic theses of distinction
- Reports of academic seminars and conferences.

Two: Format guidelines

- Studies must not be more than 50 pages or less than 25 pages, 17x24 cm, including abstracts in Arabic and English, as well as a bibliography.
- 2. Two centimetres margins should be left on all four sides of the page, with single spacing between the lines.
- 3. For Arabic, the font adwa-assalaf should be used, size 16 for the research itself, 12 for footnotes and the abstract, and 11 for figures and tables.
- 4. For English, Times New Roman should be used, size 12, and size 10 for the footnotes, abstract, figures and tables.

- 5. Qur'anic verses cited should be written as in the electronic copy published by King Fahd Complex for the Publication of the Qur'an, size 16, not bold.
- 6. Footnotes should be page by page, with separate numbers for each page. Footnotes should be automatically, not manually, entered.
- 7. Every submitted contribution should be accompanied by the following details in both Arabic and English: The title; the author with his or her biodata; the author's contact details; themes of his or her previous research.
- 8. The abstract should not exceed 250 words, and should include: the theme of the contribution, its aims, methodology, main findings and recommendations. Special attention should be given to the writing of abstracts.
- 9. Every abstract in Arabic and English should give at the end no more than six key words that clearly identify the topic and the main issues it addresses.

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10. Contributions must be free of grammatical mistakes.

Structure of contributions

Submitted contributions should be structured according to the requirements of academic research, in the following order:

- 1. The introduction should define the subject matter, its limits, objectives, methodology, strategy and plan.
- 2. Literature review, if any, and what the submitted research adds.
- 3. The submitted research should address certain inter-related aspects, in accordance with the research plan.
- 4. Each aspect should address a particular topic that forms a part of the overall theme of the research.
- 5. The submitted research should be written in proper academic style, free of grammatical mistakes, and with accurate citations.
- 6. A proper conclusion should be added, which includes the main findings and recommendations.
- 7. Footnotes citing works of reference should follow the proper standard used in Islamic and Arabic language research: "The work; the author; volume; page". E.g. Lisan al-Arab; Ibn Manzur; 2/233. Quoted Qur'anic verses should be followed in the main text by the name of the Qur'anic surah and the number of the verse. E.g. (Women: 55)
- 8. References should be added at the end of the research according to the following system:
- If the reference work is a book: the title; the author's surname; the author's first name(s); the name of the editor, if any; the edition number, city of publication, the publisher, year of publication. E.g. *Al-Jami*' *al-Sahih*; al-Tirmidhi, Abu Isa



Muhammad ibn Isa; edited by Ahmad Muhammad Shakir, et al; 2nd edition, Beirut; Dar Ihya' al-Turath al-Arabi, 2004.

- ii. If the reference work is an unpublished dissertation: the title of the dissertation; the author's surname; the author's first name(s); the degree for which it is submitted (Masters or Doctorate); the country; the faculty; the university; year of submission. E.g. Ya'qub ibn Shaybah al-Sadusi: Atharuh wa Minhajuh fi al-Jarh wal-Ta'dil; Matiri al-, Ali ibn Abdullah; M.A. Saudi Arabia; Faculty of Education; King Saud University; 1418 AH.
- iii. If the reference work is an essay published in a periodical: the title; the author's surname; the author's first name(s); the name of the periodical; place of publication; volume and number; year of publication; pages in the periodical x-xx. E.g. *Imam 'Affan ibn Muslim al-Saffar wa Minhajuh fi al-Talaqqi* wal-Ada' wal-Naqd; Matiri al-, Ali ibn Abdullah; Majallat Jami'at al-Qasim [Al-Qasim University Magazine]; Islamic Studies Section; al-Qasim. Vol. 3, No. 1; 1431 AH; pp. 35-85.
- iv. Certain abbreviations should be used where entries are unavailable. These are:
- n.p. where the publisher is not mentioned
- n.e. where the edition is not mentioned
- n.d. where the date of publication is not mentioned.
- To submit a contribution through the magazine's website or by post implies that the author confirms that the research was not published anywhere else and is not, and will not be, submitted for publication elsewhere until it has been peer-reviewed by the magazine.

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- The Editorial Board has the right to decide, on initial reading, whether it should be sent for review or rejected.
- The author is entitled to receive summaries of the reports of the reviewers so as to make the necessary amendments and to respond to any points that he or she finds unacceptable. The Editorial Board has the final say with regard to any ensuing dispute between the author and the reviewers.
- Authors will receive a letter to inform them whether their contributions have been accepted for publication in the magazine or a letter of apology if the contribution is rejected.
- Authors may publish their research that are published in the magazine after six months of the date of the magazine, but in any future publication, they must mention its publication in the magazine.
- Submission of a contribution through the magazine website or its email constitutes acceptance by the author of the magazine's conditions for publication. The Editorial Board determines the priorities of research publication.
- Views expressed in the published contributions reflect the views of the authors, and they are not necessarily shared by the magazine.
- The magazine adopts the University of Chicago referencing system in citing foreign sources.
- The author of a published contribution is given five copies of the magazine number in which his or her research is published.

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No. (1)

Means of Self-Purification in the Qur'an Lubna bint Khalid ibn Muhammad al-Arfaj ⁽¹⁾

Abstract

Objectives:

This paper aims to shed light on the concept of self-purification and its importance as highlighted in the Qur'an. It will also try to explain its benefits. It will outline the means of self-purification mentioned in the Qur'an, relating these to the aims and objectives of the Qur'an in an inductive and deductive reasoning approach.

The paper finally gives an outline of the most important conclusions, including:

One: Great importance is attached to self-purification among the general objectives of the Qur'an. It has always been one of the main objectives of the messages of prophets.

Two: Self-purification has multiple benefits for the one who does it, and these are reflected in a person's strength of faith, as well as his present life and the life to come.

(1) Lubna is a Ph.D. student in the Department of Qur'anic Studies at the Faculty of Advocacy and Islamic Fundamentals at the University of Umm al-Qura, Makkah. She obtained her Masters degree at the same faculty, editing Abu Bakr Muhammad ibn Ali al-Edfawi's book, *al-Istighna' fi Uloom al-Qur'an*, focusing on the commentary of verses 9: 81 through 10: 24.

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Three: As clearly mentioned in the Qur'an, there are nine means of self-purification, which are:

- I. Belief in God's oneness;
- II. Implementation of God's rulings;
- III. Prayer and God glorification;
- IV. Recitation of the Qur'an; reflection on it; learning and understanding its lessons;
- V. Repentance of sin;
- VI. Charitable donations;
- VII.Stating the truth and refusal to barter it for any price;
- VIII. Refraining from self praise and justification;Refusal to follow Satan's promptings.

The paper concludes with outlining two ways of identification to help the reader.

Key words:

purification, self-purification, personal manners, self-education, means of education, heart disease.

No. (2)

Applied Reflection Skills Abstract

Muhammad ibn Abd al-Azeez al-Awaji Professor, Department of Tafseer and Qur'anic Studies, Islamic University, Madinah

Reflection is an interactive process of study that has well defined steps and stages. It aims to produce an intellectual and practical effect of the Qur'anic verse you wish to study and reflect upon. There are several approaches, means and skills that may be found helpful in a positive process of reflection on the Qur'an.

This paper, 'Applied Reflection Skills', describes a number of practical ways of reflecting on the Qur'an together with illustrative examples. It is hoped that these will constitute a starting point that helps in developing one's skills in reflecting on the Qur'an. A gradual application of these skills should, with God's help, be sufficient to make a person ready to reflect on the Qur'an.

My search failed to find anything written on the subject. Faced with the difficulty of giving an academic description of practical skills and the need for careful accuracy in such a study so as to ensure that identified skills remain free of deviation and outlandish elements, I have tried to deduce such skills from theoretical studies. I then trained myself



and others to implement them and discovered that they were very effective on all those who participated in such training. Hence, I have written this paper to present to my teachers and colleagues, praying that it will be of benefit. I praise and thank God for enabling me to write and explain these skills. I have identified seven main skills that Muslims need to apply in their reflection on the Qur'an.

One: Self preparation. This means taking suitable steps in order to be mentally ready to reflect on a particular verse.

Two: Identifying the question. This requires a careful look at what a particular verse says and its effect.

Three: The means that help to find the answer, or answers, to the question.

Four: Finding interlinks between the meanings included in the verse. The means used in skill number three should help in this.

Five: Widening the area of reflection. This means that students should not focus all the time on a particular point. They should look on the Qur'an in total, and on life and its need for divine legislation that combine comprehensiveness and perfection.

Six: Revision. In one's reflection on the Qur'an, the process must remain within certain controls. One must always consider whether one's reflection is on the right course or not.

Seven: Dissemination and education. One should look at what one has gathered from reflection on a particular verse and consider how to retain it and how to teach it to others.



All these skills are arrived at through personal study. Neither their number nor the name given to each was intended in advance. It is hoped that they will be further studied and consolidated so that they may be better implemented and prove to be more effective, God willing.

It is hoped that these skills will be the nucleus of some practical programmes and applied courses, enabling Muslim individuals and communities, everywhere, to better reflect on the Qur'an, as their own educational standards, time and circumstances permit.

This paper reflects personal endeavour in this very important subject. What is right and correct in it is achieved by God's grace, and whatever is faulty or wrong is due to my own shortcomings and I seek God's forgiveness.

Key words:

reflection, applied, skills, preparation, question, means, interlinks, widen, revision, dissemination.

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No. (3)



The Qur'anic Approach to Voluntary Work: A Basic Study

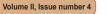
Muhammad ibn Abdullah al-Amir, Ph.D. Faculty Member at the University of al-Qasim⁽¹⁾

Abstract

I have endeavoured in this paper to define the concept of volunteering, linguistically and as used by Islamic scholars, sociologists and various international agencies. I explain institutionalised voluntary work, which is predominant in our world as it is adopted and financed by large organisations and governments. I outline the advantages of such institutionalised voluntary work. I then lay down the basis of voluntary work as mentioned in the Qur'an, listing the Qur'anic verses that specifically use the word 'voluntary' before adding the verses that refer to the idea of voluntary work. I add a brief explanation of these verses, so as to make their meaning clear without dwelling too long on that. I follow that with practical examples of voluntary work mentioned in the Qur'an and undertaken by prophets or devout people who personally did voluntary work.

(1) M.A. thesis entitled: Manners and Morality in the Islamic Encyclopaedia: a critical study.

Ph.D. thesis entitled: Michael Cook's book: *Commanding Right and Forbidding Wrong in Islamic Thought*: an analytical and critical study.





The final part of the paper outlines the main conclusions identified by my research, such as:

 The Qur'an encourages voluntary work in several verses, showing it as one of the best reward-earning good actions;

2- The area of voluntary work is very broad, unlimited to any particular model. It incorporates all that serve people's interests; and

3- Voluntary work is a method of training which encourages people to give. I then list some recommendations which I believe will help the development of voluntary work within the Muslim community.

May God bestow peace and blessings on Prophet Muhammad and his household.

Key words:

Principles of voluntary work outlined in the Qur'an, Qur'anic evidence in support of voluntary work, Qur'anic examples of voluntary work, goodness, dutifulness, financial support.

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No. (4)

The Qur'anic Approach to the Presentation of **Opponents' Suggestions and its Response:**

An Analytical Study

Ali ibn Humayd al-Sinani, Ph.D.

Associate Professor at the Faculty of Our'anic Studies

Islamic University, Madinah

Objectives:

1. Presenting the Qur'anic method of stating its argument and evidence to refute the objections of its persistent opponents;

2. How to benefit by the Qur'anic presentation of opponents' suggestions, within the field of Islamic advocacy. The stubbornness faced by advocates of Islam is a normal attitude. Therefore, advocates must remain firm, unperturbed by the stubbornness of their opponents;

3. Recognition of the nature of opponents' attitude who persist with their falsehood, regardless of all the clear evidence put to them;

4. Highlighting the stark difference of attitudes of believers and their opponents when clear evidence is presented. Believers find their faith strengthened, while their opponents go further away from the truth, unwilling to admit it.

The paper focuses on the Qur'anic approach to the presentation of opponents' suggestions and their refutation,



adopting an inductive methodology in citing and analysing its material, giving it suitable headings. The paper starts with a foreword that defines the verses that includes such suggestions. It shows that signs and miracles were given as an act of God's grace, so that people would recognise the truth. The paper concludes with a presentation of its main findings, including:

- IX.There is no successful way of convincing stubborn opponents. They adamently refuse every argument, because they are not in search for the truth. Hence, giving them more evidence is of no use.
- X. God is very merciful to those stubborn opponents. He gives them respite and does not inflict immediate punishment on them. That He does not act on their suggestions is an aspect of His grace.
- XI.Prophet Muhammad's companions had pure hearts. When they recognised the truth of the Islamic message, they immediately accepted it, stating no conditions. They did not request any miracle as a condition for their acceptance of the divine faith.
- XII. The paper highlights the impudence of those stubborn opponents in their attitude to God. It does not behove anyone to set conditions for believing in the truth. The proper attitude is to appeal to God to guide one to the truth and follow it. God knows what is best for His servants.
- XIII. As presented in the Qur'an, God's comments on those suborn opponents' suggestions clearly show that they had no right to make such suggestions.

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XIV. The only one of suggested miracles that was granted was the repast. It was given to them as they requested. When they disbelieved, despite having it, they deserved a most severe punishment that was not dealt to any other community.

The paper provides comprehensive indexes.

Key words:

The Qur'an, suggestion, people of earlier revelations, stubborn opponents, miracles, rejection, examples of verses stating suggestions, persistence, denial, refutation of argument.

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