

The True Teachers of the Qur'an

The Qur'an. *"He it is Who raised among the inhabitants of Mecca an Apostle from among themselves, who recites to them His communication (Quran), and purifies them, and teaches them the Book and the wisdom, although before they were in clearer error," (62: 2)*

A Parable. At a University a faculty teaching a subject resigns. The Dean has No faculty replacement. The department closes. Students are confused and scatter. They try to read the text books themselves! How will you judge the Dean?

Now, Substitute Faculty with the Prophet PbuH, the Course with Quran, and students with Muslim Ummah. Now, Prophet left, the book (Quran) remains, Divine source of teaching ends. Now, if Allah were the dean, then how would you judge the dean?

It is inconceivable that Allah did not make arrangements to continue the teaching of the Quran through qualified and divinely approved teachers. Who were they?

Basic Concepts.

1. Quran, a divine book for all times, till the Day of Judgment, and for all people.
2. Islam was perfected and chosen by Allah (Quran 5:3) for mankind for all times, till the Day of Judgment.
3. A teacher was sent; Prophet Muhammad (p). JumuaH S. 62: verses 2 & 3.
4. **Context.** Each Surah or verse was revealed in answer to a situation, need, or prayer for help. Thus knowledge of context is essential for full understanding of the revelation.
5. **Parable.** An anniversary gathering. Lights went off and it was dark. Host informed all was OK. Lights came back. There appeared a table with a decorated box. The host challenged the guests to tell him what was inside the box and earn a gift. People were unable to arrive at the correct answer. Then the host informed them what was in the box. Similarly someone knowledgeable about the Quran (Divinely appointed teacher) is needed to tell people the significance and explain the meaning of the verses.
6. Similar passages in different part of the Quran may have different message and implications depending upon the circumstances.
7. The Prophet's leaving the world was not the end of teaching. The divinely appointed successors of the Prophet (p) carried on the teaching. The purified and divinely appointed Imams were repository of divine knowledge. They were Imam Ali A.S. and 11 successive imams from his progeny. However, they were not recognized as such by the rulers of their times and the public. They were sidestepped, tortured, and even martyred by the Umayyad and Abbasside rulers. They all died as martyrs. This was, and is a great tragedy and misfortune for the Ummah.
8. The sources of authentic Hadith are needed in order to interpret the Qur'an correctly. The Sahih books have many weak traditions. They contain very few Hadith by Imam Ali A.S.
9. **Qualifications of Ali bin Abu Talib A.S.**
 - A. Hadith. "I am the city of knowledge and Ali is the gate.

- B. Hadith. Ali is with Quran and Quran is with Ali. (Ref. Al Mustadrak Vol. 3. Page 124)
- C. Hadith. Verily the Quran is revealed on seven letters (Levels of understanding). Each one has a manifest and a latent meaning. Ali ibn Abu Talib has with him the manifest and the latent (meaning). Suyuti in Itteqan.
- D. Hadith Saqlain. Hadith of two heavy or important things. Prophet (p) said, "I leave behind *Saqlain*, the book of Allah (Quran) and my Ahlul Bayt. They will not separate from each other till they reach me at the pond of Kauthar."
10. **Quranic commentaries** with explanation by the Imams from the family of the prophet (p).
- Tafseer Namoonah by Ayatullah Makaram Shirazi. Arabic /Urdu, 16 volumes. It is available on the internet, for free download.
 - Same as above in Arabic / English. Available on the internet for free.
 - Quran with English translation and commentary by Agha Pooya and Mir Ahmed Ali. (Recommended).
 - Tafseer Noorul Saqlain. Arabic Quran with Urdu translation and hadith attributed to the Imams.
 - Al Mizan. Quran Tafseer by Allamah Tabatabai. Available in Arabic and Farsi. English translation in progress. Available on internet free.
11. **Islamic scholars and sources** that do not acknowledge Ali bin Abu Talib as a Maula, Master and successor to the prophet, are following the Islam that was not perfected, favors not completed and Islam not chosen by Allah. (Quran S.5: V.3.). The verse of perfection of Islam was revealed after Prophet PbuH&p announced the following: *"To whom I am the Maula (Master/ Guardian), Ali is the Maula."* Many hadith in the Sahih books are weak and manipulated by Bani Umayyad and Bani Abbas rulers, who were more concerned about their power than Islam. Their Quran commentaries are based upon conjecture and weak references.
12. **Allah has condemned conjecture** in Islam in the Quran. (51:10). However, Imam Abu Hanifa used conjecture in the Quran and in issuing fatwas. He was told not to practice conjecture in the religion by Imam Ja'far-as-Sadiq A.S.

The End.

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