

# The Qur'an on Interpreting the Qur'an

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We have not sent down the Qur'an to you to distress you  
but only as a counsel to those who stand in awe of God,  
a revelation from Him Who created the earth and the high heavens;  
[20:1-2]

This Book of blessings We have sent down to you—  
so that they may meditate on its signs  
and that people of insight might take them to heart.  
[38:29]

It is He who has bestowed upon you from on high this divine writ,  
containing messages that are clear in and by themselves –  
and these are the essence of the divine writ- as well as others that are allegorical.  
Now those whose hearts are given to swerving from the truth  
go after that part of the divine writ which has been expressed in allegory,  
seeking out what is bound to create confusion,  
and seeking to arrive at its final meaning in an arbitrary manner;  
but none save God knows its final meaning.  
Therefore, those who are deeply rooted in knowledge say:  
“We believe in it; the whole of the divine writ is from our Sustainer –  
albeit none takes this to heart save those who are endowed with insight.”  
[3:7]

And thus do We give many facets to Our messages:  
To the end that they might say, “You have learned this well”;  
and that We may make it clear to people of inner knowing.  
Follow then, what has been revealed by inspiration to you by your Sustainer:  
[6:105-106]

And so we have sent down this, an Arabic Qur'an,  
and explained in it in detail some of the warnings  
so that they may stand in awe of God  
or that it may cause remembrance in them.  
High above all is God, the Sovereign, the Truth!  
Do not be hasty with the Qur'an  
before its revelation to you is complete,  
but say: “O my Sustainer! Increase my knowing.”  
[20:113-114]

Will they not, then, try to understand this Quran?  
Had it issued from any but God,  
they would surely have found in it many inner contradictions.  
[4:82]

God has revealed the most beautiful message  
in the form of a Book consistent within itself,  
repeating its teaching in various guises—  
the skins of those who stand in awe of their Lord tremble with it;  
then their skins and their hearts soften  
with the remembrance of God.  
Such is God's guidance:  
with it He guides the one who wills to be guided,  
but those whom God lets stray have none to guide them.  
[39:20-23]

And We have indeed made the Qur'an  
easy to understand and remember:  
Who then is willing to take it to heart?  
[54:17]

Certainly, though some reject the truth of this reminder  
whenever it comes to them –  
The loss is theirs:  
For this Qur'an is a book of exalted power:  
It cannot be made false by open reading or deliberately confounding interpretations,  
since it is sent down from on high by One who is truly wise, ever to be praised –  
And nothing is being said to you, Mohammed,  
different than what was said to all of God's messengers before your time.  
[41:41-43]

This is indeed a most noble discourse, in a well-guarded book,  
which none but the pure of heart will fully grasp.  
[56:77-79]

So do not move your tongue in haste,  
repeating the words of the revelation;  
for truly it is for Us to place it into your heart,  
and to cause it to be read as it should be read.  
Thus, when We recite it, follow its wording with all your mind:  
and then, witness,  
it will be for Us to make its meaning clear.  
[75:16-19]