



In the name of Allah, the Most Beneficent, the Ever-Merciful

March 20, 2018

Aslamu alaykum

I pray this message reaches you in the best of states, in the Mercy of Allah Most High, and in His protection.

You are invited to join the IEQ-100, a global group of 100 individuals and institutions supporting one of the most important contemporary works of Islamic scholarship in English: *The Integrated Encyclopedia of the Qur'ān* (IEQ). IEQ is the only encyclopedia of the Qur'ān in any Western language being produced by an international team of Muslim scholars. By becoming a member of IEQ-100, you will participate in the historic legacy of supporting Islamic scholarship that has produced an enchanting and glorious tradition of knowledge that continues to benefit humanity.

THE IEQ PROJECT was conceived at the Center for Islamic Sciences, Canada. After extensive discussion and meetings with Muslim scholars around the world, an international team started to produce text for Volume 1 in 2009, which was published in 2013. It was received with unprecedented praise and endorsements (<http://iequran.com/project/endorsements.php>).

THE IEQ PROJECT responds to three contemporary global realities:

- i. **The Current Linguistic Disconnect with the Language of the Qur'ān:** Today, eight out of every ten Muslims have no direct access to the Book which is the foundation of their faith. This linguistic disconnect has uprooted a vast majority of Muslims from the worldview of the Qur'ān, and produced spiritual, intellectual, and emotional upheavals of unprecedented nature. No translation of the Qur'ān can replace what has been lost; only an encyclopedia based on 1400 years of Islamic scholarship can help to reconnect Muslims with a deeper understanding of the message of the Qur'ān.
- ii. **There is simply no comprehensive resource for a serious non-Muslim Seeker:** While over-arching questions have been thrust on center stage, there is no authentic and fully-referenced source that provides answers to the burning questions of our times: What does the Qur'ān say about women, marriage, family, children, neighbors, jihad, war and peace? How do we understand modern scientific discoveries and theories in the light of the Qur'ānic teachings? Only a full-length treatment of these topics, drawing on all verses and related material from the rich Islamic tradition, written in concise encyclopedic style can provide authentic answers to these questions.
- iii. **Three hundred years of misrepresentation of Islam and the Qur'ān by the Orientalists** has made a deep impact on academic discourse on the Qur'ān. The Orientalist enterprise of Qur'ānic Studies has been aptly described by S. Pervez Manzoor as “a project born of spite, bred in frustration and nourished by vengeance, the spite of the powerful for the powerless, the frustration of the rational towards the ‘superstitious’ and the vengeance of the orthodox against the non-conformist”. For more examples of misrepresentation, see two reviews of Brill's *Encyclopedia of the Qur'an* at <http://www.cis-ca.org/muzaffar/rev.html>.

Against this historic background, and responding to the urgency of contemporary global realities, the *Integrated Encyclopedia of the Qur'ān* presents a trove of knowledge about the Qur'ān and its exegetical tradition as an indispensable tool for specialists as well as the engaged general reader. Held to a high standard of academic rigor, IEQ draws on a wide range of traditional Muslim sources, including *tafsir*, Hadith collections and Hadith commentaries, classical lexicons, biographical dictionaries, universal histories, works of

jurisprudence, Prophetic biographies, and treatises on spiritual and moral psychology—some of which have never before been presented in any encyclopedic work in a Western language.

IEQ fills a critical gap as currently no encyclopedic work presents the integrated message of the Qurʾān through authentic Islamic sources. Once completed, its 585 alphabetically arranged entries will cover all concepts, persons, places, events, and things mentioned in the Qurʾān. (For project details, please visit, www.iequran.com! audio-visual presentations are at <http://iequran.com/project/ppt.php>.)

ROLES, BENEFITS, AND EXPECTATIONS

As member of IEQ-100 group, you would be requested to:

- Your donations will be used for text generation by contributing editors; no part of your donation will be used for administrative costs. Text generation process involves rigorous blind reviews, copy and language editing, and proof reading;
- You will have life-time online access to the digital version of IEQ (<http://online.iequran.com/>);
- Please note that this project does not qualify for zakat funds.

Was-salam



Muzaffar Iqbal
(President CIS and General Editor IEQ)

