

**BY WAY OF RECOUNTING BLESSINGS**  
*‘alā sabīl al-tahdīth bil-ni‘ma*

*Bi-smi-llāh al-Rahmān al-Rahīm*

*In the name of Allah, the All-Beneficent, the Ever-Merciful.*

*All Praise is for the One Who created the heavens and the earth, and created darkness and light; yet those who disbelieve ascribe [equals] to their Sustainer (Q 6:1).*

Praise be to Allah, to Whom thanks for even one of His favors cannot be given except through a new favor from Him: that of allowing one to be thankful, which in turn requires [further] gratitude for this new favor by the giver of thanks for His past favors.

Those who attempt to describe Him cannot touch His greatness; He is as He has described Himself, far above what creatures may attribute to Him.

I praise Him with praise commensurate with His kindness and the might of His Majesty. I ask Him for His succor; there is no power or might save through Him. I ask Him for His guidance, a guidance that cannot lead its adherent astray.

I ask Him for His forgiveness, for whatever I have already committed and what I have yet to commit—with the pleading of one who confesses in a state of servitude and who knows that He alone can forgive his offence and save him from it.

I bear witness that there is no god except Allah; He has no associate. And I bear witness that Muḥammad is His servant and Messenger...

When the foreordained term for the Book reached the appointed time, the Providential decree became a reality through the manifestation of His religion (*dīn*), which He chose; after disobedience to Him had become widespread despite His displeasure, He opened the gates of His heavens by His mercy. (...)

The one whom He chose for His revelation, the one selected to be His Envoy, the one favored above all His creatures through the gift of His mercy and the sealing of His Prophethood, more universal than all that He sent to any Messenger before him, was Muḥammad, His servant and Messenger. The mention of him is bound together with mention of [Allah]; he is the intercessor in the Hereafter, whose intercession shall be sought; the purest of His creatures in soul, who combines most fully every characteristic pleasing to Him—in both the spiritual and the temporal realms, the best in lineage and family: Muḥammad, His servant and Messenger.

(al-Shāfi‘ī, *al-Risāla*, opening supplication)

THE IEQ PROJECT was initially conceived in the winter of 2007 at the Center for Islamic Sciences (CIS)—then called the Center for Islam and Science—as a three-volume work entitled *The Concise Encyclopedia of the Qur’ān*. A list of almost six hundred entries was compiled to cover all concepts, persons, things, places, and events mentioned in the Qur’ān. This was the beginning of a long journey whose successive phases are briefly outlined here as the prelude to a list of acknowledgements, although it is impossible to mention by name all who have contributed to this undertaking.

After six months of discussion among a small group of scholars, the encyclopedia was renamed *The Integrated Encyclopedia of the Qur’ān* (IEQ). It was now reconceived as a more comprehensive seven-volume project. In the following year, an enlarged team of scholars joined hands to further refine the list of entries and identify specialists to whom entries could be assigned.

In time, text started to flow; it then seemed that the project would move forward steadily and come to fruition in five years. The immensity of the task and numerous practical difficulties, however, started to delay the publication of the first volume. IEQ proved to be a very demanding task: its text requires meticulous sourcing and precise wording; it demands attention to detail and a deep connection with the source material at several levels. Added to these demands of the text generation were numerous practical and logistic difficulties, such as communication with scholars spread over a large geographical distance.

This, however, is merely a small aspect of this undertaking and is noted here merely to express my heartfelt gratitude to all who have lent their support to this much overdue project. It is practically impossible to name all who have helped to produce this first encyclopedia of the Qurʾān in any Western language exclusively based on Muslim sources, but the following deserve special thanks:

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I am thankful to **Abdallateef Ian Whiteman** (Spain) for designing the original IEQ logo; to **Elinor Aishah Holland** (USA) for the calligram that now appears inside the lettering as well as for the *basmala* on the opening page; and to **Noor Fatima Kareema Iqbal** (Al-Qalam Publishing) for typesetting and page design.

Over the past decade and throughout the years of work on this project, the brotherly love of **Waqas Ahmed** has been a source of strength and his contributions to IEQ in so many different ways have been extremely valuable.

The text of this first volume owes a great deal to the sustained interest and painstaking work of my editorial colleagues, each of whom has contributed his unique talent to this work. I am thankful to them all: **Naseer Ahmad** (IUI, Islamabad, Pakistan), who brought the unique flavor of classical madrasa training, the gift of locating source material across a range of genres, and for co-authoring twelve entries; it has been a matter of joy to connect with him across the world each morning to discuss various matters; **Okvath Csaba** (Hungary), who brought to this project his mastery of Arabic, familiarity with source material, and who verified citations; **Gibril Fouad Haddad** (Brunei Darussalam), whose exacting scholarship greatly improved the quality of the text, who expanded the sources on which IEQ draws, and who wrote fourteen entries in this volume; **Aasim Ali Rashid** (Al-Ihsan Educational Foundation, Surrey, Canada), whose editorial work has contributed to making the text more accessible; **Zacharia al-Khatib** (Edmonton, Canada), who is gifted with finding implicit and subtle inaccuracies and whose dedicated work, first from Syria and later from Canada, is greatly appreciated; **Basit Kareem Iqbal** (University of Toronto), whose labor of love has brought concision, exactitude, and conceptual contributions, who copy-edited the entire text of this volume, and whose constant presence in the project has been a source of strength over the years; and **Muhammad Isa Waley** (British Library, London), who accepted my invitation to be the Language Editor at the very beginning of the project; it has been a joy to work with him; his meticulous editing and dedication has greatly enhanced the text.

IEQ is a collective and collaborative work. The authors and editors have worked together in the spirit of dedication to the Book which inspires hearts and minds and confers Divine blessings. May this humble effort be accepted by the One Whose succor has brought it to fruition. *Rabban taqabbal minn; innaka anta al-Sami al-Alim.*

Muzaffar Iqbal  
General Editor

## PREFACE TO THE FIRST REVISED EDITION

IN THIS REVISED EDITION all in-line references have been updated to conform to the slightly modified convention of citations (see pp. xxi-xxii). In-line references to Qurʾān commentaries now only provide the author's name, followed by the reference to the Qurʾānic verse commented upon; in most cases, titles of the well-known exegeses are not mentioned because the author's name is commonly associated with the exegesis he wrote. For example, al-Zamakhsharī is well-known for his *Kashshāf*, thus it suffices to indicate a reference to his exegesis without the title of the work: "Angels are honored servants (Q 21:26) endowed with perfections that make them "the most honored creatures of Allah in His sight" (Zamakhsharī, *sub* Q 43:19).

In-line references to the most common Hadith collections and commentaries likewise provide the author's name and assume the title; these include the *Muwattaʿ* of Imam Mālik, *Ṣaḥīḥ al-Bukhārī*, *Ṣaḥīḥ Muslim*, the *Sunans* of Ibn Mājah, Abū Dāwūd, al-Tirmidhī, and al-Nasāʾī, and the *Musnad* of Aḥmad b. Ḥanbal. For example:

Proximate Prophetic guidance is, however, found in a hadith: "Reflect on the creations of Allah (*fī khalq Allāh*) and not on Allah, the Exalted and Majestic (*fī Allāh ʿazza wa jall*)" (Ibn Baṭṭa, *al-Ibānat al-kubrā* 6:86; al-Aṣḥāhānī, *al-Aḥzām* 1:214; Ṭabarānī, *Muʿjam al-awsaṭ* 6:250; Haythamī, *Majmaʿ* 1:81 §260; al-Bayhaqī, *al-Asmāʿ* 2:46 §618; al-Qārī, *Mirqāt al-mafātīḥ*, al-iʿtiṣām bil-Kitāb wal-Sunna; al-Sakhāwī, *al-Maqāṣid al-ḥasana* 1:261). The meaning of this report is also confirmed by the following rigorously authenticated (*ṣaḥīḥ*) hadith: "People will not stop asking questions until they say, 'This is Allah, Who created creation—but who created Allah?' Whoever finds himself in that state should [simply] say: 'I believe in Allah'" (Muslim, *Īmān*, bayān al-waswasa fī-l-īmān wa mā yaqūluḥ man wajadahā).

Page numbering slightly differs from the first imprint due to changes to word and line spacing. A few blind entries have also been added. The "Introduction" has been slightly revised for greater clarity.

## INTRODUCTION

ONE IN EVERY FOUR MEN, WOMEN, AND CHILDREN believes that “there is no god except Allah, and Muḥammad is the Messenger of Allah.” Proclaimed by the tongue and attested in the heart, this testimony (*shahāda*) makes them Muslims. Muslims believe the Qurʾān is the last revealed Scripture sent to guide humanity to the Straight Path (*al-ṣirāṭ al-mustaqīm*), and that the best model to follow is the life of the Prophet Muḥammad, upon him blessings and peace. The Qurʾān and the vast repository of commentaries and specialized works on the Qurʾān as well as most primary sources about the life of the Prophet and his sayings are in classical Arabic. Today, less than fifteen percent Muslims speak Arabic as their mother tongue, and not all of those who acquire Arabic as their mother tongue understand classical Arabic of Islamic scholarship. Of the non-Arabic speaking majority, which is rapidly increasing due to population growth and conversion, it is estimated that only about 8–10 percent have knowledge of classical Arabic. This means that, at best, only 20 percent of all Muslims today understand the language of the primary sources of their tradition.

This linguistic severance from the primary sources is a recent phenomenon for Muslims. Until the middle of the twentieth century, a large proportion of literate Muslims had at least a working knowledge of Arabic, even though various colonial languages had begun in the eighteenth century to replace it as the lingua franca. This rupture occurred through a number of fundamental shifts in the makeup of the Muslim world over the last three centuries; the result is the emergence of millions of men and women whose links to their intellectual heritage are, at best, tenuous. The imposition of new and alien educational systems—as part of modernist (often colonial) projects—have further intensified the destruction of traditional Islamic institutions of learning. It is no exaggeration to say that the intellectual, social, political, economic, and cultural fabric of the Muslim world has been rewoven during the past three centuries with new material foreign to its spiritual ethos through a complex process of social engineering on a grand scale.

These radical changes—which have induced a widespread cultural schizophrenia—have exiled most Muslims from their spiritual and intellectual traditions, primarily by severing their links to the language of revelation and traditional scholarship. This widespread religious illiteracy has exacerbated (and perhaps precipitated) certain crises of authority and concomitant regimes of belief and practice. This has in turn contributed to the social and political instability, sometimes accompanied by rampant violence, in various regions of *Dār al-Islām*—the vast geographical area across which Islam has been practiced for centuries and where its intellectual traditions flourished. Similar disruptions have affected smaller minority Muslim communities living in many parts of the world.

### The Qurʾān and Muslims

Despite these enormous changes, intellectual displacements, and widespread religious illiteracy, the Qurʾān remains the uncontested source of Muslim beliefs and practices. It is a relatively small text: according to the enumeration of Abū ʿAmr al-Dānī (d. 444/1052) in his *al-Bayān fī ʿadd ay al-Qurʾān*, it comprises 77,439 words (*kalim*) in 6,216 verses (*āyāt*) arranged into 114 chapters (*sūwar*; sing. *sūra*). The shortest sura contains 3 verses; the longest, 286. Muslims believe the Qurʾān to be the actual Speech of Allah (*kalām Allāh*), which cannot properly be translated, having been revealed at a specific place and time but transcending both geography and history. The Descent (*nuzūl*) of the Qurʾān from the Well-Guarded Tablet (*al-lawḥ al-mahfūz*) was a solemn event that took place within the sacred time of revelation, not in the time of profane history marked by its incessant flow from one moment to the next. Furthermore, Muslims believe that this entrance into human history—the “event” of the Qurʾān—completes and culminates the cycle of revelation that began with Ādam, upon him peace.

Revealed in a language spoken by human beings, the Qurʾān bowed neither to the conventions of Arabic prosody (*nāẓm*) nor to the rhymed prose (*ṣajʿ*) of the pre-Islamic Arab poets, whose idiom set the contemporary standards for eloquence. Rather, it came with its own characteristic style, in the process imparting to Arabic a quintessential sublimity. The consecration of its language prevented any corruption of the text of the Qurʾān through historical linguistic variation and change. The remarkable stability of the root forms of Arabic, moreover, is such that the etymology of every Arabic word can be traced to one of fifteen verbal forms, making it possible to connect with the living source of the fundamental meanings of its consonantal root. The Qurʾān is preserved by Divine command: *Falsehood cannot come to it from before it or behind it; [a Revelation] sent down by the All-Wise, Worthy of all praise* (Q 41:42).

Neither poetry nor prose, the Qurʾān makes full use of the resources of the Arabic language but is not confined to them. Its eloquence, its grandeur, and its sublime beauty inspire awe and reverence of an order unmatched by any other book. In any passage can be found vivid imagery, powerful oaths, parables, and arguments employing both dialectical (*jadālī*) and syllogistic (*burhānī*) formulations, all contributing to its inimitability (*iʿjāz*). Its terse prose and rhymed passages, its ellipses, its parallelisms, its characteristic way of presenting two propositions of striking contrast—all impose upon the intelligence an irresistible imperative to discover Truth, while making it impossible to be properly rendered into any other language.

Reading the Qurʾān is no ordinary event. A first-time reciter or listener—whether a believer in its Divine origin or not—is awestruck and unsettled by this unearthly text. The narrative structures are unique: one might find oneself reading the story of a past Prophet, then encounter a reminder of God’s unchanging way of dealing with transgressors, and soon thereafter receive mention of His unbounded Mercy and Compassion. The Qurʾān seizes its readers in the midst of their everyday lives and makes demands on their spiritual and intellectual resources in a manner that no other book does. The sheer force of its narrative, its evocative imagery, its powerful oaths, its historical sweep, its insistent reproaches, and its gentle invitations to discover and dwell in the sublime and tranquil realm of awe (*khashya*) and Godwariness (*taqwā*)—all combine to produce in receptive readers a flowering of the heart, leading to an unquenchable thirst for further discovery of this extraordinary Book that has remained the most revered source of guidance for countless generations since its revelation some fourteen centuries ago.

Even though a large proportion of the contemporary Muslims cannot read the Qurʾān in its original language, it remains central to their lives. It is recited for them at all solemn occasions (birth, wedding, death); millions of believers recite it or hear it recited in its entirety in their mosques and homes during the month of Ramadan—the month wherein is the blessed Night of Qadr, *a night better than one thousand months* (Q 97:3)—in which the Qurʾān was first brought down from the Well-Guarded Tablet to be gradually revealed to the Prophet, upon him blessings and peace, over a period of twenty-three years, beginning when he was forty and ending a few days before his death (11/632). Linguistic barriers notwithstanding, most Muslims have a general understanding of the essential message of the Qurʾān. They know that they have been created by an Omnipotent, Powerful, Wise, and Merciful Creator, that they have been allotted a certain time on earth during which they are asked to remain conscious of their Creator and live a life of piety and high morals, and that all their deeds will come to an end at death. They know, too, that there will come a day when the entire order of creation will be abolished, followed by Resurrection—the rebirth and gathering together of all humanity, the Day when all deeds will be weighed—and Allah Most High will pass judgment, leading to everlasting life in Paradise (*janna*) or Hell (*jahannam*).

This knowledge of the essential teachings of the Qurʾān, however, does not suffice, for believers also need to have at least a basic understanding of what are they tasked with; what is lawful (*ḥalāl*) and unlawful (*ḥarām*) and what specific Divine rules (*ahkām*) pertain to their lives and observance of obligatory rites. They also need to understand the text of the Book they believe to be their ultimate source of guidance in accordance with its own dictates through the intricate system of interpretation that came into existence in the formative first two centuries of its revelation. While detailed knowledge of the linguistic intricacies of the Qurʾān and the nuances of creedal implications are not necessary for all believers, a certain level of proper understanding



of the Qurʾānic text is essential for all literate Muslims so that they are not confused when they come across isolated verses. The rapid destruction of traditional modes of transmission of such knowledge together with the modern busy lifestyles—which leave little room for learning sciences of the Qurʾān—have tremendously diminished the access of primary sources of Islam for a large proportion of the contemporary educated Muslims.

Aware of a widening chasm in their understanding of the Qurʾān, most educated Muslims attempt to read it—at some stage in their lives—a translation of the Qurʾān, but such reading often leaves them more confused because the Qurʾān cannot be translated into any language; a few translations containing explanatory notes are also not helpful because they are marred by translators' own perspectives and worldviews. Recognizing these obstacles, serious seekers go beyond a basic reading and consult a few classical commentaries in translation. While reading these sources may enhance the general understanding of the Qurʾān, such undirected reading is both intellectually and spiritually fraught because classical exegeses were never meant to be read without a teacher and thus reading them in translation provides little benefit. For instance, when one encounters a dozen different (and at times apparently mutually contradictory) opinions on a single topic in al-Ṭabarī's (d. 310/923) monumental exegesis, *Jāmiʿ al-bayān ʿan taʾwīl āy al-Qurʾān*, or when one finds three different sayings of the Prophet in reference to a verse in Ibn Kathīr's *Tafsīr al-Qurʾān al-ʿaẓīm*, only the requisite training in exegetical and ḥadīth methodology and scholarship will keep one from being confounded.

In addition to these obvious limitations, there is one additional difficulty most educated Muslims face today. Since the Qurʾān does not conform to the textual patterns most familiar to those tutored through a Western-style educational system—which is now the primary mode of education in all Muslim countries—a distinctively ultra-rationalist disposition of such education creates a number of barriers to understanding a text that operates at the supra-rational plane and calls for the simultaneous participation of inner resources and faculties including the heart (*qalb*), the intellect guided by revelation (*ʿaql*), and the inner most recesses of the human soul (*nafs*). *The Integrated Encyclopedia of the Qurʾān* seeks to provide a unique resource to such believers through its entries which cover all concepts, places, persons, events, and things mentioned in the Qurʾān.

### **The Qurʾān and Non-Muslims**

If it has become difficult for many Muslims to access the Book that is so central to their lives, this is even more true for serious non-Muslims who approach the Qurʾān, often through a translation. The number of non-Muslims who have actually opened one of the many available renditions of the Qurʾān into Western languages has increased immensely in recent years. The rapid shrinking of the world in so many aspects of life has created a “global neighborhood” in which there is a broadening interest in the Qurʾān, especially since the early 1970s, when the Muslim world started to develop a certain postcolonial prominence. This interest has grown rapidly since the dawn of the twenty-first century. Despite these new factors, and despite the publication of numerous new works on the Qurʾān, non-Muslim readers often experience a sense of alienation in their first encounter with the Qurʾān. After reading a few pages, a majority of them find it difficult to continue, for they encounter a text unlike any they have ever read. Even in the best translations, the imagery of the Qurʾān remains foreign to them, not to speak of its *totum simul* (simultaneous totality) that condenses every element of the Qurʾān's overall message in any given passage. The result can be incomprehension and confusion.

Such readers also do not find most books about the Qurʾān written by non-Muslim writers helpful in their quest, for most of them are replete with an Orientalism that is often more invested in establishing its own canon than explicating the message of a Book in which their authors do not believe. Most Muslim scholarship on the Qurʾān, on the other hand, remains inaccessible to non-Muslims as well as to many modern Muslims for reasons of style, basic premises, language, format, and even content. These, and many other factors, have contributed to a contemporary dilemma: billions of human beings pass through their earthly lives without

ever truly encountering the Word of their Creator which a fourth of humanity believes to be well-preserved in the Qurʾān; this reinforces a sharp division between the fourth of humanity that believes in this Book and the rest who do not.

There are, no doubt, individuals in the West who have overcome such difficulties. Some of these exceptional men and women have left behind inspiring testaments of their spiritual journeys and their encounters with the Qurʾān; these are useful starting points for those sincerely attempting to understand a Book that refers to itself as *guidance for all humanity* (Q 2:185). *The Integrated Encyclopedia of the Qurʾān* seeks to further address the needs of such interested and engaged readers, just as it does a Muslim audience and academic community.

### The Qurʾān and the Academic World

Academic scholars face yet another dilemma when approaching the Qurʾān. Their professional obligations require they maintain an agnostic detachment from their object of study; yet in this case the object—a highly reflexive text—insists that one must first settle the fundamental issue of its authorship prior to any further engagement, by either accepting or rejecting the Qurʾānic claim to be the actual Word of God. A corollary imperative concerns the Prophetic status of Muḥammad, upon him blessings and peace, the unlettered man from Makka whom Allah Most High chose as His final Messenger to humanity and to whom He sent His final Revelation. If such scholars reject the Prophetic claim, they find themselves in the punitive position of questioning the veracity of the Prophet, known to his contemporaries—believers and disbelievers alike—as al-Amīn, “the Trustworthy”. They also find themselves trapped in the mold cast by the polemical writers who laid the foundation of non-Muslim works on the Qurʾān, and whose early Latin corpus established the parameters of such discourse through the European Renaissance.

This legacy of the contemporary academic discourse on the Qurʾān is recognized by some perceptive non-Muslim scholars, yielding also the admission that no conclusive solutions exist. This lineage, integral to the study of Islam in the Western academy, includes centuries of accumulated and often detailed scrutiny of source material, study of valuable manuscripts, and insights of keen minds, but it also brings to bear the framework, premises, and biases of the previous generations. Hence, the contemporary academic scholarship on the Qurʾān has a genealogy that reaches back to the polemical works of pre-modern Christian writers—a pioneering tradition, which yielded early missionary and Orientalist works and, in time, reinvented itself as the “scientific Orientalism” of the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries. Some Qurʾān contemporary academic scholars have sought to excise the residual traces of the missionary approaches to the Qurʾān, but, in general, the field of Qurʾānic studies still rests largely on the putatively ground-breaking work of nineteenth-century Orientalism, which imparted a veneer of objectivity to the polemical tradition without rejecting its basic premises and which shared its fundamental belief that the text of the Qurʾān is humanly composed.

From a Muslim perspective, however, such non-Muslim studies tend to lack credibility. It may be argued that one can set aside the question of the authorship of the Qurʾān—bracket it away from consideration—and yet produce critical and objective studies, but the issue between belief and disbelief is too crucial for most believers to be able to take at face value the claims to objectivity of a non-believing academic, however learned. This is not to negate the possible interest of non-Muslim works by and for those who believe the Qurʾān to be either a forgery or a historically composed text, or who remain uncommitted to its authorship. Rather, it is simply to underscore the radically different premises and critical principles that motivate and sustain two very different approaches to the Qurʾān, however internally variegated each may be. One approach takes it to be a revealed Scripture, the Criterion (*al-furqān*) of truth and falsehood, a transforming Book whose study is bound with spiritual benefits and rewards in this and the next world; the other may be motivated by anthropological, historical, literary, or other academic interests, but finally refuses to accept the Book on its own terms or respond to the imperatives it expresses. *And He is the One Who has let free the two seas, one palatable and sweet, and the other salty and bitter; and He has set a barrier and a complete partition between them* (Q 25:53).



## The Integrated Encyclopedia of the Qurʾān (IEQ)

### Sources

IEQ has been conceived as the first English-language reference work encapsulating fourteen hundred years of Muslim scholarship on the Qurʾān, as an authoritative contribution to that same tradition, and as a source introducing a contemporary readership to centuries of reflective scholarly engagement with the Qurʾān. IEQ shares with its sources a committed scholarly approach. It is spiritually informed by the awesome encounter with the very Word of the Creator, and it securely rests on well-documented scholarship extending back to primary sources.

The tradition from which IEQ draws its inspiration—as well as its source material—goes back to the time when the Qurʾān was being revealed to the “Unlettered Prophet” (*al-Nabī al-ummī*, cf. Q 7:157), first in the harsh valley of Makka, his place of birth, and later in and around the oasis “between the two lava hills” that became the home of the nascent Muslim community when in June 622 the Prophet migrated to Yathrib (soon to be renamed Madīnat al-Nabī, *lit.* “the City of the Prophet”). Given the extraordinary amount of information we have about that era, we can trace the early exegetical tradition back even to the time of Revelation, in the light of prophecy, within the community that first heard the Qurʾān from the very tongue of the Prophet himself: his Companions, Allah be well-pleased with them all.

Those who first heard the Qurʾān—“the best of my community,” as described by the Prophet, upon him blessings and peace—were the keenest seekers of knowledge, wisdom, and purification, with their gaze fixed on the Divine promise of an everlasting life in His Mercy. They witnessed the descent of the Divine Word, were familiar with the occasions of its revelation, and many were masters of the Arabic language. Yet their hearts quivered when asked to explain this unearthly text that had transformed their lives. When the Prophet’s close companion Abū Bakr al-Ṣiddīq (ca.50 BE-13/573-634), Allah be well-pleased with him, was asked to interpret *wa fākihātān wa abbā* (Q 80:31), he replied: “Which sky would shade me and which earth would have space for me, were I to say something regarding the Book of Allah of which I had no knowledge?”

This reverential attitude toward the Book was typical not only of the Companions, whose lives had been dramatically transformed by the Qurʾān, but also of subsequent two generations—men and women who built a monumental tradition of scholarship that while steadily advancing always returned to the previous generation for understanding of the text. To be sure, this tradition was directed toward the production and transmission of knowledge, and was located within the social, political, and historical conditions and idioms of its various contexts, but at the same time it was sustained by an abiding concern with maintaining continuity with the previous generations as well as to continuous reflection and self-purification (*tazkiya*) in the very process of learning. Students flocked to scholars, often traveling for months to arrive at centers of learning where they found masters of exegesis and Hadith sitting in mosques, newly established madrasas, and even in the shade of trees, relating and expounding what they had learned from their own teachers.

During this formative period, the Muslim exegetical tradition not only produced the earliest commentaries we now have, such as that of the Successor Mujāhid b. Jabr (d. ca.104/722), but also developed its critical apparatus. Keenly aware of the limitations and possibilities inherent in the emerging epistemological and methodological framework, the scholars of the first two centuries developed robust methods of authenticating and hierarchically ordering the knowledge generated and transmitted. Guided by uncompromising fidelity to critical standards, they recognized that it might not be possible to determine all the meanings of a certain verse or the intent of a Prophetic statement, when he spoke to a certain Companion, but they understood this as a condition of the human encounter with Divine or Prophetic speech, rather than being a sign of its futility. The techniques of assessment and evaluation informed a broader matrix of interpretive procedures used to reconcile, contextualize, and specify or restrict variant reports or opinions.

These early scholars lived and worked in a social milieu that was in a rapid flux; even the geographical boundaries were quickly changing. One year after the death of the Prophet, upon him blessings and peace, southern Iraq had become part of the Muslim state (633); two years later, Damascus was in Muslim control;

the following year, the Byzantines were defeated at the River Yarmuk; in 638, Jerusalem was conquered; and in 639, Egypt, then part of the Byzantine Empire with its capital at Constantinople, fell to an army led by the Companion ‘Amr b. al-‘Āṣ (30 BH-63/592-682). By 640, the whole of Persia had become part of abode of Islam. In 710, a small battalion of four hundred landed at the southernmost tip of the Iberian Peninsula, and the next year Ṭāriq b. Ziyād’s 7,000 soldiers routed almost 28,000 warriors of the Visigoth King Roderic. Two years later, all Spain was conquered except for a strip of territory in the northwest of the Iberian peninsula. By 712, Muslims had established permanent states in Sind and around Samarkand. Within a century of the Hijra to Madina, Muslims had extended their empire from China to France. By the end of the third Islamic century, the Muslim polity stretched westward from Madina to Bukhara (present-day Uzbekistan) and Kashgar, eastward to Toledo (Spain), and southward to Aden (Yemen). This rapid expansion of the Caliphate brought this tradition of scholarship not only material resources but also ardent seekers of knowledge.

It was the passionate desire of these seekers and scholars to preserve every word of the Prophet and their deep resolve to emulate his life, upon him blessings and peace, which sustained the arduous journeys of men like Abū ‘Abd Allāh Muḥammad b. Ismā‘īl b. Ibrāhīm b. al-Mughīra b. Bardizbah al-Bukhārī (194-256/810-870). Al-Bukhārī, let us recall, had gone to Makka in 210/825 from his native Bukhara at the age of sixteen, together with his brother and widowed mother. When he embarked upon his journey for knowledge (*al-riḥla fī ṭalab al-‘ilm*), he had already studied with the Hadith masters of Mā warā’ al-nahr (Transoxania), the region between the rivers Jayḥūn and Sayḥūn (Amu Darya and Syr Darya respectively), corresponding approximately to contemporary Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, southern Kyrgyzstan, and southwest Kazakhstan. His teachers included ‘Abd Allāh b. al-Musnadi (d. 229/843), whose cognomen indicates his diligence in scrutiny of chains of hadith narrations, as well as the well-travelled Muḥammad b. Salām al-Bikandi (d. 225 or 227/839 or 841). The latter had heard hadiths from Sufyān b. ‘Uyayna (107-198/725-814), who had in turn received hadiths from Mālik b. Anas (93-179/712-795), whose Hadith collection *al-Muwatta’* (“The Well-Trodden Path”)—“the soundest book on earth after the Qur’ān,” as described by al-Shāfi‘ī (d. 204/820)—contains eighty Prophetic traditions through the short chain of narrators that al-Bukhārī would classify as “the soundest of all chains” (*aṣaḥḥ al-asānīd*): “Mālik from [the Follower] Nāfi‘, from [the Companion] Ibn ‘Umar” (Ibn Ḥajar, *al-Nukat ‘alā Kitāb Ibn al-Ṣalāḥ* 1:62; al-Zarkashī, *al-Nukat ‘alā muqaddima Ibn al-Ṣalāḥ* 1:140; al-Suyūṭī, *Tadrib al-rāwī* 1:79, 96).

During the course of his travels, al-Bukhārī would hear more than 700,000 traditions, from which he selected approximately 7,500 for his *Ṣaḥīḥ* collection, amounting to 2,513 distinct hadiths narrated by 1,744 narrators, the former being the count of Ibn Ḥajar (773-852/1371-1449), as mentioned by al-Suyūṭī (849-911/1445-1505) in his *Tadrib al-rāwī*, and the latter that of Abū Walīd al-Bājī (d. 474/1081) in his *al-Ta’dīl wal-tajrīḥ li-man kharraj ‘anh al-Bukhārī fī-l-Ṣaḥīḥ*. It was in Makka that he heard from ‘Abd Allāh b. al-Zubayr al-Ḥumaydī (d. 219/834), his teacher in the blessed city, the opening hadith of his collection. Al-Ḥumaydī would narrate hadiths to a gathering of scholars and students in a quiet section of the Ḥaram Mosque, and that is most likely where al-Bukhārī heard him say: “Sufyān narrated to us, saying: Yahyā b. Sa‘īd al-Anṣārī narrated to us, saying: Muḥammad b. Ibrāhīm al-Taymī told me that he heard ‘Alqama b. Waqqāṣ al-Laythī say: I heard ‘Umar b. al-Khaṭṭāb, Allah be pleased with him, say while he was on the pulpit: I heard the Messenger of Allah say: ‘Truly deeds are [judged] by intentions, and each man shall receive according to his intention; so, whoever migrates for the sake of this world or to wed a woman, his migration is for that unto which he migrated.’”

Two things immediately became obligatory for such a seeker of knowledge: to know with certainty that the report he or she received was, in fact, true; and, if so, to examine his or her own actions and intentions to gauge whether they conformed to the ethical and spiritual substrate of this knowledge. The former rested, among other factors, on the veracity and moral standing of the narrators in its chain of transmission; the latter depended on the correct perception and interpretation of the report as well as on the requisite spiritual and intellectual resources needed to conduct such self-examination. The former imperative was a communal obligation (*farḍ kifāya*), meaning that the verifying labor of some in this regard sufficed for all (in time giving

rise to the science of *‘ilm al-rijāl*, a uniquely Islamic discipline that insisted on the epistemological relevance of ethical character). The second imperative was more immediate to the individual, for it pertained to the Day when secrets shall be put on trial (Q 86:9), when no bearer of burdens shall bear the burden of another (Q 6:164), and when each will be recompensed for what he or she intended. The historical shape and quality of Islamic scholarly tradition emerged from the interaction of these two imperatives, as evident in the famous case of Abū Ḥāmid al-Ghazālī (450-505/1058-1111), who fled his prestigious post at the Niẓāmiyya madrasa in Baghdad when he realized his work there was eroding certain of his moral qualities.

Al-Bukhārī personally ascertained that the hadith concerning intentions he heard from al-Ḥumaydī was based on an unbroken chain of transmitters between him and ‘Umar b. al-Khaṭṭāb, Allah be well-pleased with him. In this quest, al-Bukhārī and others before and after him were following the footsteps of the Companions, whose own concern for verification of the Prophetic sayings is exemplified by the report of a trip Jābir b. ‘Abd Allāh (d. ca.77/696), Allah be well-pleased with him, specifically made to verify one Prophetic hadith. Jābir had been about eighteen when he first met the Prophet, upon him blessings and peace. He had gone with his father and seventy-one or seventy-two other residents of Yathrib to the second Pledge of ‘Aqaba (621 CE)—one year before the Hijra of the Prophet to Jābir’s city of birth, where his grandfather ‘Amr and his father (one of the martyrs of Uḥud) were chiefs of the clan of Banū Ḥarām. His passion for preserving each and every saying of the Prophet was such that he could not rest knowing that the Companion ‘Abd Allāh b. Unays (d. 54/673), then living in Syria, narrated a hadith which he had not heard. “I bought a camel,” related Jābir, Allah be well-pleased with him,

and rode it hard for a month until I reached Syria and went to [the house of] ‘Abd Allāh b. Unays. I told the doorman to tell [‘Abd Allāh] that Jābir was at the door. The doorman returned and asked, “Jābir b. ‘Abd Allāh?” “Yes,” I replied. He went back and told him, and ‘Abd Allāh came out and embraced me. I said, “A hadith about requital (*qiṣās*) reached me, narrated on your authority, which I had not heard from the Messenger of Allah, upon him blessings and peace—and I feared lest one of us might die before I heard it [from you].” So, he said: “I heard the Messenger of Allah, may Allah bless him and grant him peace, say: ‘Allah will gather His slaves’—or he said ‘mankind’—‘naked’ (*‘urātān*), uncircumcised (*ghurlān*), and *buhman*.’ We asked, ‘What is [meant by] *buhman*?’ He replied: ‘Having nothing with them. They will be called by a voice that is heard from afar just as it is heard from close at hand, saying, “I am the King. I recompense. None of the people of Paradise will enter Paradise, and none of the people of Hell will enter Hell, if anyone is seeking them for an injustice committed, until I have taken requital from him—even if it be [only] a slap on the face.”’ We said, ‘How can this be, while we will come to Allah naked, uncircumcised, without any possessions [with which to pay recompense]?’ He replied, ‘[It will be taken] from the good and evil deeds [acquired by each].’”

While the description of this scholarly tradition may seem to some an idealization of a distant past, a nostalgic fabrication, or at best a futile recall of something long expired, it is a living tradition that continues to nurture hearts and minds in centers of learning often not found on academic maps and is the bedrock of the faith community (*umma*) now suffering one of the most turbulent periods in its history. Nor is this to say that the Islamic disciplines from which IEQ draws its source material are monolithic or homogeneous—far from it! They rest on a uniquely configured discursive dynamic that filters, corrects, discards, authenticates, preserves, and transmits such knowledge to subsequent generations. This tradition has produced tens of thousands of works of importance and lasting value, some of which now survive only in the form of remnants embedded, quoted, or cited in later texts. IEQ taps into this vast body of traditional knowledge, encyclopedically integrates this material, and presents it to the reader in a lucid contemporary language and style.

Authenticity and authoritativeness are central concerns of the Islamic sciences, which engage various citational practices to gather and sift a profusion of texts. For instance, drawing on Abū ‘Ubayd al-Qāsim’s (d. 224/838) *Faḍā’il al-Qur’ān* written in Baghdad some five hundred years earlier, the master-exegete Ibn Kathīr—born in Basra in 700/1300 and taken to Damascus at the age of six after his father’s death, where he lived and wrote until he died in 774/1373—recorded that the chain of narrators of the above-mentioned

saying of Abū Bakr was “broken”. He decided to include it in his exegesis, nonetheless, because it was also reported, with a slightly different word order, through another chain of transmission. Such methodological rigor is neither incidental nor unique to Ibn Kathīr. Rather, it is a key element in Islamic scholarly tradition, for its practitioners recognize how their work carries a dual responsibility, affecting subsequent generations as well as their own otherworldly fate. As the Prophet, upon him blessings and peace, said: “Do not attribute falsely to me; whoever does so shall take his seat in the Fire.”

### *Raison d’être*

The men and women who built and continue to nurture the scholarly tradition upon which IEQ is based—and, we sincerely hope, to which it will itself belong—have, as the ultimate *raison d’être* of their toiling, a sublime goal: Divine pleasure. They considered their work a continuation of their prayer, in much the same way as a spiritually mature merchant, leaving the mosque to sell vegetables in the bazaar, would consider it a continuation of his remembrance of the Provider of provisions. Many of them were professional scholars, and were of course not immune from financial need or (in some cases) personal ambition. But the tradition they helped shape insists on the immediacy of ultimate concerns: *O Man, what has beguiled you from your Gracious Lord, Who created you, then fashioned, then proportioned you?* (Q 82:6-7). Rābi‘a al-‘Adawiyya (d. 185/801) declaimed: “My Lord, I love this world only that I might remember You in it, and I love the Hereafter only because I may see You there. Every moment that passes by while my tongue is not quickened with Your remembrance is accursed. My Lord, do not bring upon me these two things for I will not be able to bear them: burning in Hell and separation from You.” Knowledge and its existential realization in nobility of character are thus equally vital to the Islamic tradition of learning. The Qur’ān warns against betraying or profaning the trust of sacred knowledge, likening those given knowledge but not acting upon it to asses bearing tomes (Q 62:5). The Prophet, upon him blessings and peace, sought refuge from useless knowledge: “O Allah, I seek refuge in You from knowledge which does not benefit, from a supplication that is not answered, from a heart without awe [of You], and from a soul that is not content.”

Only recently has this tradition of “engaged scholarship” begun to enter Western languages. This phenomenon is borne out of a certain historic imperative. Several years ago, a former student of the distinguished Canadian orientalist Wilfred Cantwell Smith related the advice he had received from his teacher on presenting the first draft of his dissertation: “It is very good,” Smith commented, “but take a generous supply of ‘perhaps’, ‘maybe’, ‘probably’, and other qualifiers, and sprinkle them across the manuscript.” The young Muslim men and women from former colonies arriving in Oxford, Cambridge, Paris, Boston, Montreal, and other centers of Western academia dutifully submitted: the weight of the past few centuries had made it impossible for them to stand on the strength of their own tradition, which developed no such agnosticism—especially in works dealing with the Qur’ān, which proclaims, *This is the Book wherein there is no doubt, a guidance for the Godwary* (Q 2:2). They were not in a position to argue that this type of committed scholarship is not necessarily inferior to the putative objectivity being taught, or cite as proof works borne out of that tradition which had not lost their quality or luster over the centuries.

That generation of aspiring Muslim academics from former colonies bearing the unshakable weight of history has almost passed away. Most of them served at Western academic institutions without, as a rule, making a dent in the methodological and ideological framework upon which the academic study of religion in general and Islam in particular is based. Today, however, the academic discourse on the Qur’ān in Western languages is no longer monopolized by those who do not affirm its Divine origin. Those burdened by the weight of colonial history are increasingly being replaced by a new generation of Muslim academics discovering the wondrous fountains of fresh water in their own tradition. In addition, for the first time in history, a significant number of learned and eloquent Westerners—who have found in Islam the answer to their spiritual quest—are contributing original works on Islam and the Qur’ān in their own languages. Such texts are playing a very significant role in the formation of a new body of works which seems destined to supplant the often apologetic Muslim writings of the early to mid-twentieth century.

IEQ seeks to shape and contribute to this emergent tradition, to open up new vistas of academic studies of the Qurʾān in Western languages through a paradigmatic reconfiguration, and (as was mentioned earlier) to serve the needs of three definable audiences: Muslims interested in a deeper, source-based understanding of the Book which is the ultimate foundation of their beliefs and practices; non-Muslims seriously seeking to understand the message of the Qurʾān; and academic scholars interested in Muslim understandings of their Scripture. Specialists in Qurʾānic studies will find in IEQ a much-needed representative reference work; those working in the general field of Islamic studies will find bibliographic references to hundreds of classical works that are otherwise scattered over a vast body of sometimes inaccessible texts; and general researchers without the requisite linguistic skills will find a unique window to the formidable corpus of classical sources upon which IEQ is based.

The word *Integrated* in the title of the present work indicates a conceptual strategy as well as elements of its encyclopedic method. Although its approximately six hundred entries are presented alphabetically, the overall structure of this seven-volume encyclopedia is based on an integration of all themes, persons, things, places, and events mentioned in the Qurʾān. This selection highlights the internal coherence of the message of the Qurʾān, which, as Fakhr al-Dīn al-Rāzī (543-606/1148-1209) observed in his voluminous exegesis *Mafāṭīḥ al-ghayb* (“Keys of the Unseen”), revolves around three axial themes: the Unicity of Allah Most High (*tawḥīd*), Messengership or Prophethood (*risāla, nubuwwa*), and Resurrection (*maʿād*). Each entry is comprised of material integrated from various Islamic disciplines (Qurʾān exegesis, Hadith sciences, linguistic sciences, historiography). Finally, references to other lemmata at the end of each entry as well as in-line cross-references signal various levels of thematic integration.

### *Selectivity*

Faced with the immense volume of source material and the practical limitations of producing a manageable encyclopedic text, IEQ has restricted its own scope to certain aspects of Islamic tradition in order to be generally representative of one of its well-definable strands. This restriction is especially necessary given that IEQ seeks to locate itself within—not outside or above—the normative parameters of discourse on the Qurʾān in the Sunni commentary tradition. This is simply a practical necessity arising from the fact that the hermeneutical principles of Sunni and Shiʿī exegetical traditions differ with respect to the architect of these two traditions. The editors have, thus, decided to base IEQ entirely on the former. Where creedal or legal questions variegate Sunni commentary traditions, various schools are considered, although the Ashʿarī-Māturīdī and four extant Sunni legal schools respectively have greater representation. Every effort has been made to employ the earliest sources available, and to trace material and ideas back to their first appearance. For previously mentioned reasons, IEQ does not draw on non-Muslim works on the Qurʾān or Islam.

### *Spiritual Etiquettes*

As *The Integrated Encyclopedia of the Qurʾān* conforms to certain established generic encyclopedic conventions (presenting individual entries with concision and breadth, lemmata organized in encyclopedic fashion) yet without stepping outside the academic norms of the tradition it surveys, some reflections on method are in order. IEQ draws on the conventions and textual forms both of Western and classical Islamic encyclopedias. The Western encyclopedia, as a genre developed from older dictionary forms and inaugurated (for instance) by Diderot and D’Alembert’s 1751-1772 *Encyclopédie* and the 1768-1771 *Britannica*, proceeded under an Enlightenment mandate to systematically analyze all human knowledge as a bequest to future generations. In the process, such encyclopedias subjected their entries to a single, universal rationality inflected in their authors’ authoritative voices as “specialists”. Corresponding encyclopedic works in the Islamic tradition, on the other hand, while relying on the authors’ voices to mediate between the source material and the reader, made comprehensive use of sources from several different genres, included representative multiple variant narrations, and let the sources speak louder than the author. One perceives this spiritual humility in the works of such masters as al-Ṭabarī, who subtly employed the word *qāla* (“it is said”) for a report which in his estimation was not as sound as one he had reported a few lines before with *qāla* (“he said”).



While adopting certain aspects of the Western encyclopedic tradition, IEQ seeks to maintain a distinct tone and orientation regarding the nature of the content as well as its presentation. One facet of this is reflected in the authors' intention to let the source material speak on its own terms. In presenting a broad spectrum of representative scholarship with full documentation, the aim is to give a sense of the "texture" of traditional commentary on the topic of the entry. The authors' roles have been to conceive each topic in an encyclopedic manner, organize, summarize sources, and present them in an accessible manner. This approach may not avoid all the pitfalls of subjectivity inherent in such works, but it helps allow classical voices to speak for themselves and with each other. It seeks to avoid arrogating interpretive authority for itself, instead respecting the dynamic of an ongoing interpretive tradition.

IEQ maintains the etiquettes of Islamic tradition, including the conventional formulas of glorification and salutation when mentioning the names of Allah Most High, the Prophets, the Companions, and scholars. All proper names are transliterated from the Arabic forms in which they appear in the Qur'ān, Hadith, and Islamic sources. IEQ generally follows the way Islamic scholarship normatively proceeds in order of priority: first recording material collated from the Qur'ān, then from Prophetic traditions, then from the Companions, and then from later authorities. Finally, although the rest of the entries are ordered alphabetically, in conformity with hierarchical order the first volume begins with the entry on the Supreme Name, "Allah," followed by "Aḥmad," the second of the two Qur'ānic proper names of the Prophet, upon him blessings and peace.

While IEQ is firmly anchored in traditional Islamic scholarship and belongs to the emerging body of Muslim works on the Qur'ān originally composed in Western languages, we hope that it will also contribute to broader academic discourse on Islam as it brings to the readers new source material, rare bibliographic references, and resources which have never been used in any English reference work on the Qur'ān. Instead of polemically engaging the centuries-old biases and missionary or colonial heritage of non-Muslim works, IEQ has sought to offer a positive contribution to Qur'ānic studies in English by presenting a source-based Muslim understanding of the Qur'ān; this may open a path of possible interaction between the Muslim and non-Muslim traditions of works on the Qur'ān—a possibility that promises to bring some light to a world suffering from spiritual darkness of an unprecedented order.

We hope that IEQ will contribute to a better understanding of the message of the luminous Qur'ān—a Book which 'Alī b. Abī Ṭālib (13 BH-40/609-660), Allah be well-pleased with him, described as "a light whose radiance cannot be extinguished, a lamp whose flame does not die, an ocean whose depth cannot be fathomed, a path that does not lead astray, a blaze whose brilliance does not darken, a criterion whose evidence cannot be suppressed, an elucidation whose cornerstones cannot be demolished... Allah has made it the quencher of the thirst of the learned, a springtime for the hearts of jurists, a destination for the path of the righteous, a cure after which there is no malady, a light not followed by darkness, and a rope whose knots are firm".

*Wa-Ilāh al-Mustaʿān, wa mā tawfīqi illā bi-Ilāh.*

Muzaffar Iqbal  
Center for Islamic Sciences

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## CONVENTIONS

The *Integrated Encyclopedia of the Qurʾān* (IEQ) assumes no prior knowledge of Arabic or of the Qurʾān. It employs English-language lemmata for most of its entries, although all Qurʾānic proper names and certain Qurʾānic terms have been retained in original Arabic form because of their distinct semantic associations. Recognizing that this may pose difficulties to readers unfamiliar with the original term, corresponding English terms have been cross-referenced to the Arabic terms and proper names. Thus the entry for Prophet ʿĪsā, upon him peace, is found alphabetically under “I”, with cross-references under “C” (“CHRIST, see ʿĪSĀ”) and “J” (“JESUS, see ʿĪSĀ”); the entry for the untranslatable and distinct Islamic term *iḥsān* is listed alphabetically under I, with cross-references at “Excellence” and “Perfection”. Likewise, the entry for *Laylat al-qadr* is listed under NIGHT OF QADR and cross-referenced at the common approximations (“Night of Destiny”, “Night of Power”).

In certain cases, this convention may not appear straightforward. For instance, Hijra, Anṣār, and Muhājirūn can be translated as “Emigration”, “Helpers”, and “Emigrants”; but their distinctive Islamic usage is lost in such generalizing translations because these Qurʾānic terms refer in each case to a specific event and specific group of people. These terms are thus transliterated, not translated, while their approximate English renditions provide cross-references.

IEQ devotes individual entries to most concepts, persons, places, events, and things mentioned in the Qurʾān, but in some cases these may be subsumed under another entry or combined into a single entry. Blind entries direct readers to the appropriate title (e.g., “Anti-Christ, see DAJJĀL”; “Apocalypse, see RESURRECTION”). IEQ entries often provide both translations and transliterations of key terms or turns of phrase, in order to at once facilitate research and accessibility. Arabic words which have become part of the English language and are found in major dictionaries are not italicized. For instance, Hajj, Ramadan, Sunna, and sura are treated as English words. Cross-references within each entry indicated by (*q.v.*)—*quod vide*—direct readers to additional entries pertaining to the topic under discussion. For example:

They had lived in Yathrib (*q.v.*) for many generations before the Hijra (*q.v.*) of the Prophet to their city in 622 CE.  
They were two distinct parts of the first Islamic polity in Madina (*q.v.*) which came into existence through the fusion of these two communities, establishing a high level of spiritual kinship, mutual support, and friendship.

### Bibliographic References

References to the Qurʾān provide sura and verse numbers, and all translations from the Qurʾān are italicized without being bound by quotation marks. Thus Q 2:6 refers to the sixth verse of Sūrat al-Baqara: *As for the disbelievers, it is the same for them whether you warn them or warn them not: they do not believe.*

Frequently cited sources are abbreviated according to the guide provided on the following pages. Where a publication does not contain the Common Era date, only the Hijri date is given.

In-line references to Qurʾān commentaries provide the author name, followed by the reference to the Qurʾānic verse commented upon, unless it is implicit from the context. In most cases titles of well-known exegeses are not mentioned because the authors’ names are commonly and generally associated with their works. Thus:

The calligraphy of the *basmala* developed into an ornate genre in its own right, partly due to its merits and ritual significance. The Umayyad caliph ʿUmar b. ʿAbd al-ʿAzīz (*ca.* 62-101/682-720; r. 98-101/717-720), an eminent scholar in his own right and great-grandson of ʿUmar b. Al-Khaṭṭāb, used to tell his calligraphers: “Honoring the speech of Allah Most High, lengthen the *bāʾ*, write the *sin* distinctively, keep distance between [the two letters], and make the *mīm* circular” (Thaʿlabī, *fī faʿl al-tasmiya*, *sub* Q 1:1; Zamakhsharī, *sub* Q 1:1). Abū Khālid b. Yazīd al-Murādī comments that the reason why the *bāʾ* is lengthened is that the *alif* is elided, its length being incorporated into the *bāʾ* (Zamakhsharī).

In-line references to Hadith collections and commentaries, likewise, only provide the author name and *bāb*; titles of the most common hadith collections are often presumed (and only seldom listed when needed for additional clarity); these include the *Muwattaʾ* of Imam Mālik, *Ṣaḥīḥ al-Bukhārī*, *Ṣaḥīḥ Muslim*, the *Sunans* of Ibn Mājah, Abū Dāwūd, al-Tirmidhī, and al-Nasāʾī, and the *Musnad* of Aḥmad b. Ḥanbal. For example:

‘Umar b. al-Khaṭṭāb saw a similar dream (Tirmidhī, Ṣalāt, mā jā’a fi bad’ al-adhān; Ibn Ḥajar, qawlulu bāb bad’ al-adhān; Aḥmad, Musnad Abī Bakr al-Ṣiddīq 1:218 §45).

Verse, bāb, and consonantal root references respectively suffice in lieu of page numbers for Qur’ān commentaries, hadith collections, and lexicons, given the multiple editions (and hence conflicting paginations) often available. All other in-line references provide volume and page numbers—for example, “Ibn ‘Abd al-Barr, *al-Istī‘āb* 2:747-748” and, for single-volume works, “Ibn Jubayr, *Riḥla*, p. 127.”

In-line references to lexicons always refer to the consonantal root, they are not noted unless the context requires. For example:

The Qur’ānic collective noun for birds, *al-ṭayr*, is mentioned twenty times (singular *ṭā’ir*, plural *ṭayr*, *ṭuyūr*, and *ṭyār*). Lexically, *al-ṭayr* refers to “two-winged animals that fly,” though the category includes flightless birds (Ibn Manẓūr).

Animals, *dawābb*, singular *dābba*, often used specifically for mounts, from the root *d-b-b*, contracted verbal form *dabba*, “to tread the earth,” imperfect *yadibbu*, infinitive noun *dabīb* (Jawharī).

## ABBREVIATIONS OF FREQUENTLY CITED WORKS

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al-Qādir b. 'Abd Allāh al-'Aydarūs Bā 'Alawī's *Ta'rif  
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