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See also: ABRIGATION; ADULTERY AND FORNICATION; ALLIANCE AND TREATY; AL-ANŠĀR; APOSTASY; BEGUELEMENT; BELIEF; BREASTFEEDING; CAPTIVES; CHRISTIANS AND CHRISTIANITY; CREATION; DAY OF RECKONING; DISBELIEF; FIR‘AWN; INNATE NATURE; AL-JĀHILIYYA; JIZYA; LAW; MADINA; MAGIC; AL-MAJŪS; OCCASION OF REVELATION; PEOPLE OF THE BOOK.

MUZAFFAR IQBAL

COLORS

LAWN, ALWĀN

Definitions and Usage

The Qur’ān uses the noun *lawn* (pl. *alwān*), from the root *l-w-n*, as a general term for colors; it also mentions six specific colors: white, black, green, yellow, red,

and blue. As aesthetic elements (see BEAUTY), colors are often mentioned in the Qur’ānic descriptions of the panorama of creation (*q.v.*) ranging from the mountain-paths with *streaks of white and red, of diverse colors, and others pitch-black* (Q 35:27) to *mankind, beasts, and cattle of various colors* (Q 35:28). There are verses mentioning *crops of different colors* (Q 39:21), and *whatsoever He has created for you on the earth of diverse hues* (Q 16:13). Colors have literal as well as symbolic significance (see below).

As a general term, *lawn* is used for all colors, “ranging from white to black and all other colors between these two” (Rāghib, *Mufradāt*; Fayrūzābādī, *sub l-w-n*); it is also used to denote types (*durūb*) and species (*naw‘*) (Jawharī, *Ṣiḥāh*, *bāb al-nūn*, *faṣl al-lam*; Rāghib, *Mufradāt*; Ibn Manzūr, *Lisān*.)

The noun *lawn* appears twice (Q 2:69x2) in singular form, in reference to the color of the cow Children of Isrā’īl (*q.v.*) were asked to slaughter, and seven times in its plural form, *alwān* (Q 16:13,69; 30:22; 35:27x2,28; 39:21), referring to the color of various creations, which serve as reminders to reflect (see CONTEMPLATION):

And whatsoever He created for you on the earth of diverse colors—truly in this is a sign for a people who reflect (Q 16:13);

He has directed the bee to *take up dwellings among the mountains and the trees and among that which they build. Then eat of every kind of fruit, and follow the ways of your Lord made easy. A drink of diverse hues comes forth from their bellies wherein there is healing for mankind. Truly in that is a sign for a people who reflect* (Q 16:68–69);

And among His signs are the creation of the heavens and the earth and the variation in your languages and colors; truly in that are signs for those who know (Q 30:22);

Have you not considered that Allah sends down water from the sky, wherewith We bring forth fruits of diverse colors? And in the mountains are streaks of white and red, of diverse colors, and others pitch-black. And of mankind, beasts, and cattle there are, likewise, those of diverse colors. [Yet] only those fear Allah, from among His servants, who have knowledge; truly Allah is Mighty, Forgiving (Q 35:27–28);

Have you not considered that Allah sends down water from the sky, conducts it as springs in the earth, then brings forth crops of diverse colors? Then they wither and you see them yellowing. Then He turns them to chaff. Truly in that is a reminder for possess-