‘IN SEARCH OF A BOOK’

Assessing the newest research on the historicity of the Qur’an

By Dr. Jay Smith

2023

(Shortened version)

What Muslims claim about the Qur'an

1) The Qur'an is **uncreated** and exists eternally on clay tablets in heaven (S.85:22)
2) The Qur'an was **sent down** to Muhammad between 610 – 632 AD
3) The Qur'an was **completed** by Uthman in 652 AD
4) The Qur'an is **unchanged** in the last 1400 years

What Christians claim about the Bible

1) The Bible **was created**, as it was written by man
2) The Bible was **not sent down** to anyone, but inspired by God
3) The Bible was **complete** in its original form
4) The Bible has been **changed** in the last 2000 years, and we know where, and say so

My remit

- We can't critique 'uncreated' or 'sent down'
- But we can critique 'complete' and 'unchanged'
- Thus, we would want to find:
  - **1 Qur'anic manuscript**
  - Dated from the **mid 7th century** (652 AD)
  - **Complete** (i.e. all 114 Surahs)
  - **Unchanged** (exactly like the 1924 'Hafs' Qur'an used today)

13 areas we will investigate…

[1] What do modern Muslim Leaders Claim?

[2] What did early Muslim Scholars Say?

[3] Historical Anachronisms

[4] Source Criticism

[5] The 2 compilations of the Qur'an

[6] The 30 late Diacritical Variants (i.e. the different Arabic Qur'ans)

[7] The 6 Earliest Qur'anic Manuscripts

[8] The 2 Layers of the Sana'a Palimpsest

[9] The 4 Carbon Dating Lab Reports

[10] The 4,000 early Consonantal Variants

[11] The 63 Earliest Extant Fragments

[12] The 1924 Hafs canonized text

[13] The New Aramaic 'Proto-Qur'an' research

[1] WHAT DO MODERN MUSLIM LEADERS CLAIM?

The 21st century Narrative

Fethullah Gulen

"One Qur'an, unaltered, unedited & untampered"

"The Qur'an's text is entirely reliable. ***It has not been altered, edited, or tampered with*** *since it was revealed… all Muslims know only one Qur'an, perfectly preserved in its original words since the Prophet's death, when Revelation ended."*



Influential Turkish 'cult' leader

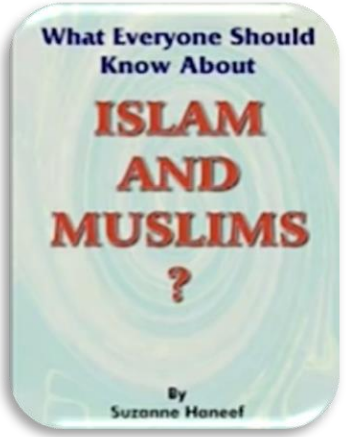
Fethullah Gulen, *Questions and Answers about Islam*, Vol. 1

Suzanne Haneef



"Preserved today…in its exact original form"

*"The Holy Qur'an is the only divinely revealed scripture in the history of mankind which has been **preserved to the present time** in its exact original form."*



Suzanne Haneef, What Everyone Should know About Islam and Muslims (Chicago: Kazi Publications, 1979), 18-19.

Abdullah Yusuf Ali

"Not a single letter has changed…"

"So well has it been preserved, both in memory and in writing, that ***the Arabic text we have today is identical to the text as it was revealed to the Prophet. Not even a single letter has yielded to corruption*** *during the passage of the centuries."*



Popular translator of the Qur'an

Yusuf Ali, The Holy Qur'an: English Translation of the Meanings & Commentary (Madinah: King Fahd Complex, 1413AH), V.

Maulvi Muhammad Ali

"Not even a diacritical point has changed"

"The Qur'an is one, and ***no copy differing in even a diacritical point*** *is met with.. There are, and always have been contending sects, but* ***the same Qur'an is in the possession of one and all... A manuscript with the slightest variation in the text is unknown***"



Influential Pakistani theologian

Maulvi Muhammad Ali, Muhammad and Christ (Lahore: The Ahmadiyya Anjuman-i-ishaatt-Islam, 1921,7)

Dr. Shabir Ally

“Exactly identical for over 1300 years”

*“…We have a copy of the Qur’an dating from 790 in the British Museum (MS2165 Ma’il Codice). Folks, that’s **1,300 years ago**. And **we can compare that with what we’re reading today and we find them to be exactly identica**l.”*



During a Debate with Tony Costa in Canada

Influential Canadian Scholar

Dr. Shabir Ally



"Muslims have not quarreled over what is the text…"

"But what is important to notice is that throughout the ages of Muslim history, the Muslims have not quarreled over what is the text of the Qur'an because ***the text was known through memory work and through the written materials*** *handed down right from the time of the prophet Muhammad (peace and blessings of God be upon him). As I said, the two copies that were made* ***1,400 years ago****, one which is in* ***Tashkent, Russia****, for example, has been demonstrated by Ahmad von Denffer in his book Ulum Al-Qur'an to be an early copy from that time, and* ***we find no difference from that copy to what we're reading today****"*

Dr. Yasir Qadhi

"Not a word, nor a letter has changed"

"Uthman standardized the copies of the Qur'an and from his time up until our time there hasn't even been two copies of the Qur'an that are different, even one letter or one word"

"The Qur'an is the most protected of all scriptures and God has protected his Qur'an from any kind of alteration, deviation, miss-writing, because he says he is going to protect it"

"All Qur'ans, even up to our time, conform letter for letter, word for word, with the Uthman Mushaf…to this day there is no different version of the Qur'an; there is but one Qur'an"



Influential American Scholar

Why do they make these claims?

Because the Qur'an makes these claims

- **Surah 85:21-22** "*This is a Glorious Qur'an, Inscribed in the preserved Tablet*"
- **Surah 10:15** "*Bring us a Qur'an other than this or change it. Say, it is not for me to change it on my own accord*"
- **Surah 18:27** "*And recite what has been revealed to you of the Book of your Lord. None can change His Words*"
- **Surah 15:9** "*Verily, We, it is We who have sent down the Qur'an and surely We will guard it*"



The Qur'an opened to recite

Conclusion:

What do they all agree upon?

- That the Qur'an we have today has not changed 'one iota' since its inception 1,400 years ago!
- That the Qur'an we have today is exactly the same as that which is on the 'preserved tablets' in heaven…every word, even every letter is the same
- That our Qur'an parallels in every detail that which was revealed to the prophet Muhammad, and was written down completely by Uthman in 652 AD

But is that what the earliest Muslim scholars believed?

Let's look at what they said concerning the Qur'an



[2] WHAT DID EARLY MUSLIM SCHOLARS SAY?

The 9th – 10th century Narratives

Some Verses were LOST

Many (of the passages) of the Qur'an that were sent down were **known by those who died on the day of Yamama**...but they were **not known (by those who) survived them**, **nor** were they **written down**, nor had Abu Bakr, Umar, or Uthman (by that time) collected the Qur'an, **nor** were they **found with even one (person) after them**.

(**Ibn Abi Dawud**, *Kitab al-Masahif* p.23)

Some Verses DISAPPEARED

It is reported from Ismail ibn Ibrahim from Ayyub from Naafi from Ibn Umar who said: **“Let none of you say ‘I have acquired the whole of the Qur’an’. How does he know what all of it is when much of the Qur’an has disappeared? Rather let him say ‘I have acquired what has survived.’**

(**as-Suyuti**, [d. 1500sAD] *Al-Itqan fii Ulum al-Qur’an,* p.524).

Some Verses were FORGOTTEN

We used to recite a surah which resembled in length and severity to (Surah) *Bara'at.* **I have, however, forgotten it with the exception of this which I remember out of it**: "If there were two valleys full of riches, for the son of Adam, he would long for a third valley, and nothing would fill the stomach of the son of Adam but dust".

(**Sahih Muslim**, [d. 875 AD] Vol. 2:2286, p.501)

Some Verses were CANCELLED

We used to read a verse of the Qur'an revealed in their connection, **but later the verse was canceled**. It was: "*convey to our people on our behalf the information that we have met our Lord, and He is pleased with us, and has made us pleased*".

(**Sahih al-Bukhari**, [d. 870AD] Vol. 5:416, pg.288)

Some Verses went MISSING

"Allah sent Muhammad (saw) with the Truth and revealed the Holy Book to him, **and among what Allah revealed, was the Verse of the *Rajam*** (the stoning of married persons, male and female, who commit adultery) and **we did recite this Verse and understood and memorized it. Allah's Apostle** (saw) **did carry out the punishment of stoning** and so did we after him. **I am afraid** that after a long time has passed, **somebody will say**, 'By Allah, **we do not find the Verse of the *Rajam* in Allah's Book**', and thus they will go astray by leaving an obligation which Allah has revealed"

(**Sahih al-Bukhari**, [d. 870AD] Vol. 8:817, pg.539)

Some Verses were OVERLOOKED

Khuzaimah ibn Thabit said: “I see **you have overlooked (two) verses and have not written them**”. They said “And which are they?” He replied “I had it directly *(tilqiyya* - ‘automatically, spontaneously’) from the messenger of Allah (saw) (Surah 9, ayah 128) ... Uthman said “I bear witness that these verses are from Allah”

(**Ibn Abi Dawud**, *Kitab al-Masahif* p.11)

Some Verses were CHANGED

Abu Yunus, freedman of Aishah, Mother of Believers, reported: **Aishah** ordered me to transcribe the Holy Qur'an and asked me to let her know when I should arrive at the verse *Haftdhuu alaas-salaati waas-salaatiil-wustaa wa quumuu lillaahi qaanitiin* (2.238). When I arrived at the verse I informed her and **she ordered: Write it in this way**, *Hafidhuu alaas-salaati waas-salaatiil-wustaa wa salaatil 'asri wa quumuu lillaahi qaanitiin.* She added that **she had heard it so from the Apostle of Allah** (may peace be upon him) *(***Muwatta Imam Malik***,* [d.795 AD] p.64)

Some Verses were MODIFIED

Altogether **al-Hajjaj ibn Yusuf made eleven modifications** in the reading of the Uthmanic text. ... In al-Baqarah (Surah 2.259) it originally read *Lam yatasanna waandhur,* but it was altered to *Lam yatasannah* ... In al-Ma'ida (Surah 5.48) it read *Shari ya'atan wa minhaajaan,* **but it was altered to *shir 'atawwa minhaajaan.***

(Ibn Abi Dawud, *Kitab al-Masahif* p.117)

Some Verses were SUBSTITUTED

But Allah said "None of Our Revelations do We abrogate or cause to be forgotten but **We substitute something better or similar**."

(**Sahih al-Bukhari,** Volume 6, Book 61, Number 527)

Some Verses were EATEN BY SHEEP

It was narrated that Aishah said: **“The Verse of stoning and of breastfeeding an adult ten times** was revealed, and the paper was with me under my pillow. When the Messenger of Allah died, we were preoccupied with his death, **and a tame sheep came in and ate it.”**

(Sunan ibn Majah, d. 1277)

SUMMARY

Lost
Disappeared
Forgotten
Cancelled
Missing
Overlooked
Changed
Modified
Substituted
Eaten by Sheep

- Does this sound like a book which was COMPILED Perfectly and Completely?
- Does this not imply intentional human intervention right through its initial compilation?



[3] HISTORICAL ANACHRONISMS

Internal Historical Problems proving Human errors

The Qur'an introduces a Samaritan too early

Surah 20:85-87, 95-97: [Allah] said, "*But indeed, We have tried your people after you [departed], and the **Samiri has led them astray**. So **Moses** returned to his people, angry and grieved…* [Moses] *said, "And what is your case, **O Samiri?"***



- Samaritans did not exist at the time of Moses (1400 BC)…

- **The Samaritans were created after the fall of the Northern Kingdom of Israel by Sargon II** the Assyrian king in **722BC**

And a Mosque too early

Surah 17:1 *"Glorified is He who took His slave for a journey by night from* ***al-Masjid al-Haram*** **[Mecca]** *to* ***al-Masjid al-Aqsa"*** **[Jerusalem] (known as Mi'raj – 621 AD)**

Dome of the Rock = 691 AD?

Masjid al Aqsa = 710 AD?

Mi'raj = 621 AD!



- It cannot even be the Jewish temple of Jerusalem, as it was destroyed in 70 AD!

And Coats of Chain-Mail too early

Surah 34:10-11: *"And We certainly gave David… And We made pliable for him iron,* [Commanding him], ***"Make full coats of mail and calculate [precisely] the links***"



- **David** lived in **1,000 BC**
- Coats of **chain mail** were not invented until **200 BC**
- **800 years later!**

The Qur'an attributes Crucifixions too early



S.7:120-124 [Pharaoh said to sorcerers at the time of Moses = 1400 BC]
"*Indeed, this is a conspiracy which you conspired in the city to expel therefrom its people. But you are going to know. I will surely cut off your hands and your feet on opposite sides; then* ***I will surely crucify you all***."

S.20:71 [Pharaoh said to magicians at the time of Moses = 1400 BC], "*You believed him before I gave you permission. Indeed, he is your leader who has taught you magic. So I will surely cut off your hands and your feet on opposite sides, and* ***I will crucify you*** *on the trunks of palm trees, and you will surely know which of us is more severe in [giving] punishment and more enduring.*"

S.12:41 [Pharaoh to a baker at the time of Joseph = 1800 BC], "*O two companions of the prison! `As for one of you, he will pour out wine for his lord to drink; and as for the other,* ***he will be crucified…***"

- **Moses's pharaoh = 1447 BC; Joseph's pharaoh = 1800 BC**
- **Crucifixions were not even used in Egypt**
- **They were first introduced in 500 BC**
- **Thus, the Qur'an's crucifixions are in the wrong place, and 1,000 – 1,300 years too early!**

Then Denies the Crucifixion of Jesus



The Qur'an in 7th-8th c:

S.4:157 *And [for] their saying, "Indeed, we have killed the Messiah, Jesus, the son of Mary, the messenger of Allah."* ***And they did not kill him, nor did they crucify him****; but [another] was made to resemble him to them. And indeed, those who differ over it are in doubt about it. They have no knowledge of it except the following of assumption. And they did not kill him, for certain"*

The Historical Record:

- **Thallus** Greek (Samaritan hist. 52 AD)
- **Phlegon** Greek (Rome writer 1st c.)
- **Lucian** Greek Satirist (2nd c.)
- **Mara Bar-Serapion's** Letter Pagan (73 AD)
- **Josephus** Jewish (AD 37 to 90)
- **Tacitus** (Roman hist.-110 AD)

- **Greek, Roman, and Jewish Historians** from the **1st – 2nd century ALL agree** that it was **Jesus** who was **on the Cross**

It's got the Wrong Mary

Surah 19:28 = *"O Mary, you have certainly done a thing unprecedented.* ***O sister of Aaron****"*

Surah 66:12 = *"And Maryam, the* ***daughter of Imran****, who guarded her chastity"*

Surah 20:30 = "***Aaron, my*** **[Moses]** ***brother***"



Aaron **Miriam** **Moses**

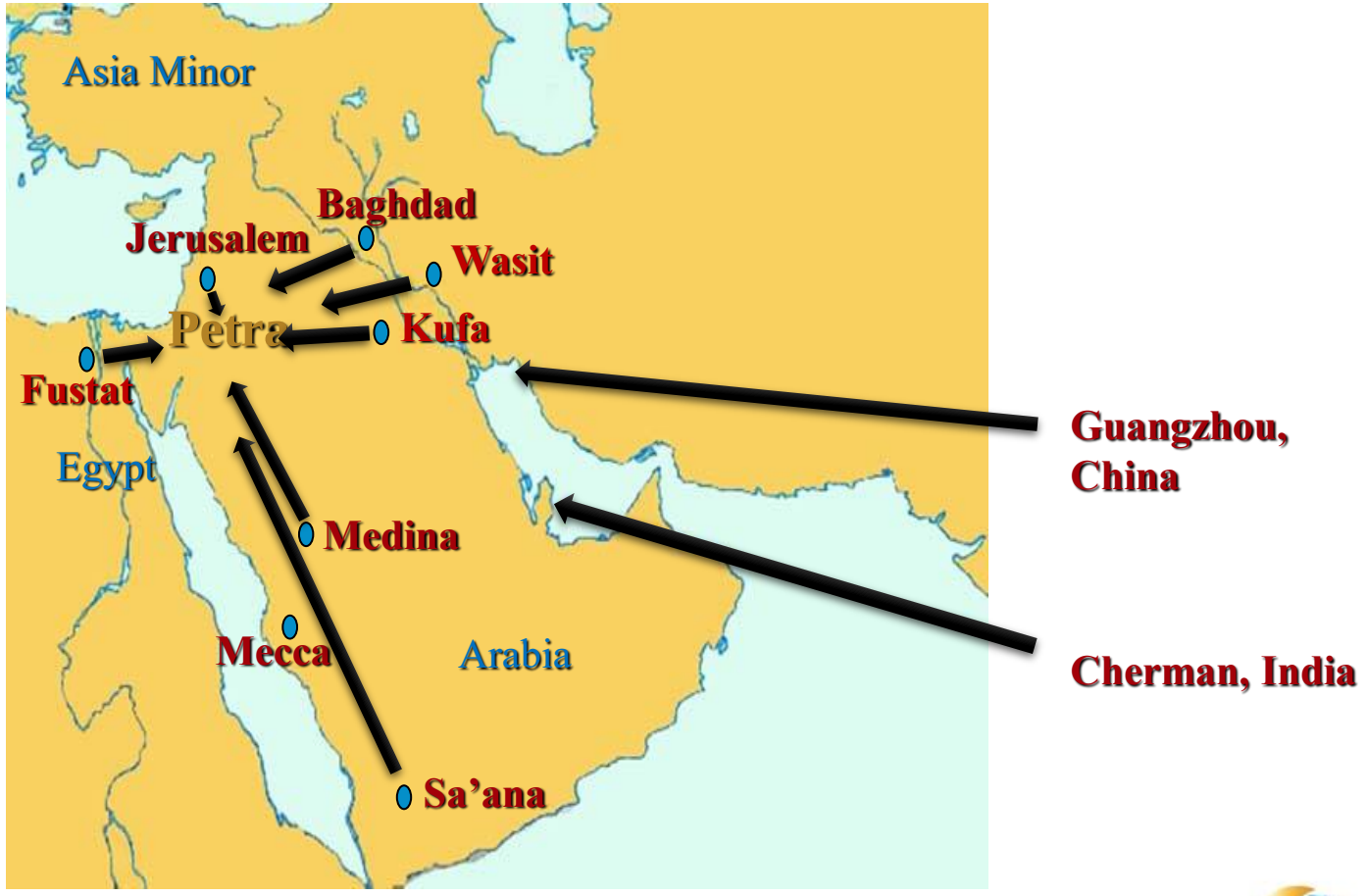
- Miriam is the sister of Aaron and Moses
- All three are the children of Amran (Ex. 6:20)
- In Luke the Father of Mary is not Amran, but Heli (Luke 3:23)
- And she lived 1400 years after Aaron and Moses

It confuses the Qibla

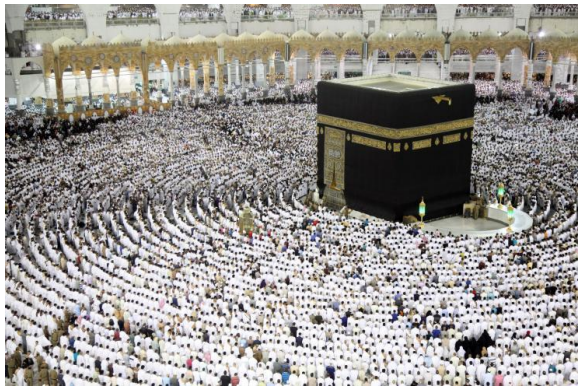
The Qibla

Surahs 2:144, 149-150: From 624 AD all Qiblas should be facing towards Mecca, yet we now find **4 QIBLAS!**

- 624 – 706: All Qiblas are facing Petra (600 miles too far north)
- 727 = The first Qibla facing Mecca
- 706 - 822: 12% = Petra; 50% = Mecca, 38% = Confused
- 822 - 2018: All finally facing Mecca



It confuses the the Ka'aba



The Ka'aba

Surahs 5:97, 2:125, 127, 3:96-97; 14:37; 22:26-27: All assume that Abraham and Ishmael build it…

- However, the historical record has Abraham in Canaan
- Kissing the black stone was a Nabatean worship practice before Muhammad, and 600 miles further north





It confuses Pharaoh, the Tower of Babel, & Haman

Surah 28:38 *"**And Pharaoh said**, "O eminent ones, I have not known you to have a god other than me. **So kindle for me, O <u>Haman</u>, [a fire] upon the clay and make for me a tower"***

Surah 40:36-37 *"And **Pharaoh said, "O <u>Haman</u>, construct for me a tower that I might reach** the ways -The ways into **the heavens** - so that I may look at the deity of Moses; but indeed, I think he is a liar."*

- **Egypt** never built any towers. They built **pyramids** and temples
  Genesis 11:1-9 = tower is in Chaldea (southern Iraq)
- **Haman** was not an Egyptian, but a **Persian**
  Esther 3:1 = Haman was the minister of the Persian king Ahasuerus (Xerxes 1 according to the Greeks) and reigned between 486-465BC

Pharaoh (1500BC) and Haman (510BC) never met each other



It makes Alexander the Great an amazing engineer

Surah 18:96: *"**Bring me <u>sheets of iron</u>" - until, when he had levelled [them] <u>between the two mountain walls</u>, he said, "Blow [with bellows]," until when he had made it [like] fire, he said, "Bring me, that I may pour over it <u>molten copper</u>"*

- He Builds **an <u>iron and copper Wall between 2 mountains</u>!**
- In **330 BC?**
- There's no Record of such a wall in his 3 biographies!
- Such a feat would hardly be possible even today!



It refers to ‘futuristic’ coins (*Dirham*) too early

Surah 12:20 *“a few **dirhams** counted out”* (The coins used to buy Joseph)

- Joseph lived in **1800 BC**
- Coins were created = **600s BC** by the **Lydians**
- **Dirhams** were introduced **post 661 AD**, by the Sufyani family
- Could this be a later **Redaction**?
- vs. **Gen.37:28** = **Shekels** = 0.2 kgs. of silver!



A Sufyani Dirham (post 661 AD)

[4] SOURCE CRITICISM

Borrowings from External Sources

What Muslims Claim

- The Qur'an is the eternal Word of Allah
- Its source comes from eternal tablets, "preserved" in heaven (S.85:22)
- It was revealed to correct the errors of previous revelations
- It is unfettered by human intervention
  - i.e. it does not come from man, but from God!

Cain and Abel

Surah 5:31

Then Allah sent a raven, who scratched the ground, to show him how to hide the shame of his brother. `Woe is me!' said he; `Was I not even able to be as this raven, and to hide the shame of my brother?' Then he became full of regrets.

Surah 5:32:

On that account: We ordained for the Children of Israel that if anyone slew a person -unless it be for murder or for spreading mischief in the land- it would be as if he slew the whole people: and if anyone saved a life, it would be as if he saved the life of the whole people...

Targum of Jonathan ben Uzziah (2nd c.)

Adam and Eve, sitting by the corpse, wept not knowing what to do, for they had as yet no knowledge of burial. A raven came up, took the dead body of its fellow, and having scratched at the earth, buried it thus before their eyes. Adam said, `Let us follow the example of the raven,' so taking up Abel's body, buried it at once

Mishnah Sanhedrin 4:5 (5th c.):

We find it said in the case of Cain who murdered his brother, `the voice of thy brother's blood crieth out' it does not sayeth he hath blood in the singular, but bloods in the plural.'

Thou was created single in order to show that to him who kills a single individual, it should be reckoned that he has slain the whole race. But to him who has preserved the life of a single individual, it is counted that he has preserved the whole race.

Solomon and Sheba

Surah 27:17-44:

(aya 17) And before Solomon were marshalled his hosts-of Jinns and men, and birds, and they were all kept in order and ranks.

(20) And he took a muster of the Birds; and he said: `Why is it I see not the Hoopoe? Or is he among the absentees?

(21) I will certainly punish him with a severe penalty, or execute him, unless he bring me a clear reason (for absence).

(22) But the Hoopoe tarried not far: he (came up and) said: `I have compassed (territory) which thou hast not compassed, and I have come to thee from Saba with tidings true.

(23) I found (there) a woman ruling over them and provided with every requisite; and she has a magnificent throne...

(27) (Solomon) said: `Soon shall we see whether thou hast told the truth or lied!

(28) Go thou, with this letter of mine, and deliver it to them: then draw back from them, and (wait to) see what answer they return."

(29) (The queen) said: "Ye chiefs! Here is-delivered to me-a letter worthy of respect.

(30) It is from Solomon, and is (as follows): `In the name of Allah, most Gracious, Most Merciful: Be ye not arrogant against me, but come to me in submission (to the true Religion).'"

(32) She said: "Ye chiefs! Advise me in (this) my affair: no affair have I decided except in your presence."

(33) They said: "We are endued with strength, and given to vehement war: but the command is with thee; so consider what thou wilt command."

(35) She said..."But I am going to send him a present, and (wait) to see with what (answer) return (my) ambassadors."

(42) So when she arrived

(44) she was asked to enter the lofty Palace: but when she saw it, she thought it was a lake of water, and she (tucked up her skirts), uncovering her legs. He said: "This is but a palace paved smooth with slabs of glass."

II Targum of Esther (2nd c.):

Solomon...gave orders...I will send King and armies against thee...(of) Genii [jinn] beasts of the land the birds of the air.

Just then the Red-cock (a bird), enjoying itself, could not be found; King Solomon said that they should seize it and bring it by force, and indeed he sought to kill it.

But just then, the cock appeared in the presence of the King and said, "I had seen the whole world (and) know the city and kingdom (of Sheba) which is not subject to thee, My Lord King. They are ruled by a woman called the Queen of Sheba. Then I found the fortified city in the Eastlands (Sheba) and around it are stones of gold and silver in the streets." By chance the Queen of Sheba was out in the morning worshipping the sea, the scribes prepared a letter, which was placed under the bird's wing and away it flew and (it) reached the Fort of Sheba. Seeing the letter under its wing (Sheba) opened it and read it.

"King Solomon sends to you his Salaams. Now if it please thee to come and ask after my welfare, I will set thee high above all. But if it please thee not, I will send kings and armies against thee."

The Queen of Sheba heard it, she tore her garments, and sending for her Nobles asked their advice. They knew not Solomon, but advised her to send vessels by the sea, full of beautiful ornaments and gems...also to send a letter to him.

When at last she came, Solomon sent a messenger...to meet her...Solomon, hearing she had come, arose and sat down in the palace of glass. When the Queen of Sheba saw it, she thought the glass floor was water, and so in crossing over lifted up her garments. When Solomon seeing the hair about her legs, (He) cried out to her..."

Jesus and the Palm Tree

Surah 19:22-26:

So she conceived him [Jesus], and she retired with him to a remote place.

And the pains of childbirth drove her to the trunk of a palm tree: She cried (in her anguish): `Ah! would that I had died before this! would that I had been a thing forgotten and out of sight'!

Then [the babe 'Isa (Jesus)] cried unto her from below her, saying: `Grieve not! for thy Lord hath provided a rivulet beneath thee:

And shake towards thyself the trunk of the palm tree; it will let fall fresh ripe dates upon thee.

So eat and drink and cool (thine) eye.

The Lost Books of the Bible (2nd c.):

Now on the third day after Mary was wearied in the desert by the heat, she asked Joseph to rest for a little under the shade of a Palm Tree. Then Mary looking up and seeing its branches laden with fruit (dates) said, `I desire if it were possible to have some fruit.' Just then the child Jesus looked up (from below) with a cheerful smile, and said to the Palm Tree, `Send down some fruit.' Immediately the tree bent itself (toward her) and so they ate. Then Jesus said, `O Palm Tree, arise; be one of my Father's trees in Paradise, but with thy roots open the fountain (rivulet) beneath thee and bring water flowing from that fount.'

Further Borrowed Jewish/Christian Sources

- **S.3:35-37** Mary, Imran, Zechariah = Proto-Evangelion's James Lesser (2nd c.)
- **S.3:49** Creating birds from clay = Thomas gospel of the infancy of Jesus Christ (2nd c.)
- **S.7:171** Raising Mountains= The Abodah Sarah (2nd c.)
- **S.19:29-33** Baby Jesus talking = the First gospel of the infancy of Jesus Christ (2nd c.)
- **S.21:51-71** Abraham destroying idols in the Ka'aba, Mecca = The Mishnah of Rabbah (2nd c.)

Note: these 'borrowings' were written between the 2nd – 5th centuries, thus long after the Bible was canonized, suggesting that **the creators of the Qur'an borrowed the wrong material**!

[5] THE 2 COMPILATIONS OF THE QUR'AN

The Muslim Traditional account

Where do wo go to find out about the Qur'an's Creation?
= Sahih al Bukhari



Sahih Bukhari Vol. 6:509
632-634 AD (Abu Bakr & Umar)

- Abu Bakr & Umar call Zaid Ibn Thabit (Muhammad's secretary) to collect the Qur'an, because of all those killed at Yamama who had memorized it
- He at first refuses, saying the prophet hadn't even done this (i.e. written down the Qur'an), but then relents
- He collects it from palm leaves, white stones, and from men's memories
- One verse (S. 9:128-129) he found with only one man (Abi Khuzaima Al Ansari)
- This first recension is given to Hafsah, Muhammad's wife, and the daughter of Umar, and she put it under her bed for 20 years



Sahih al-Bukhari Vol. VI (509)

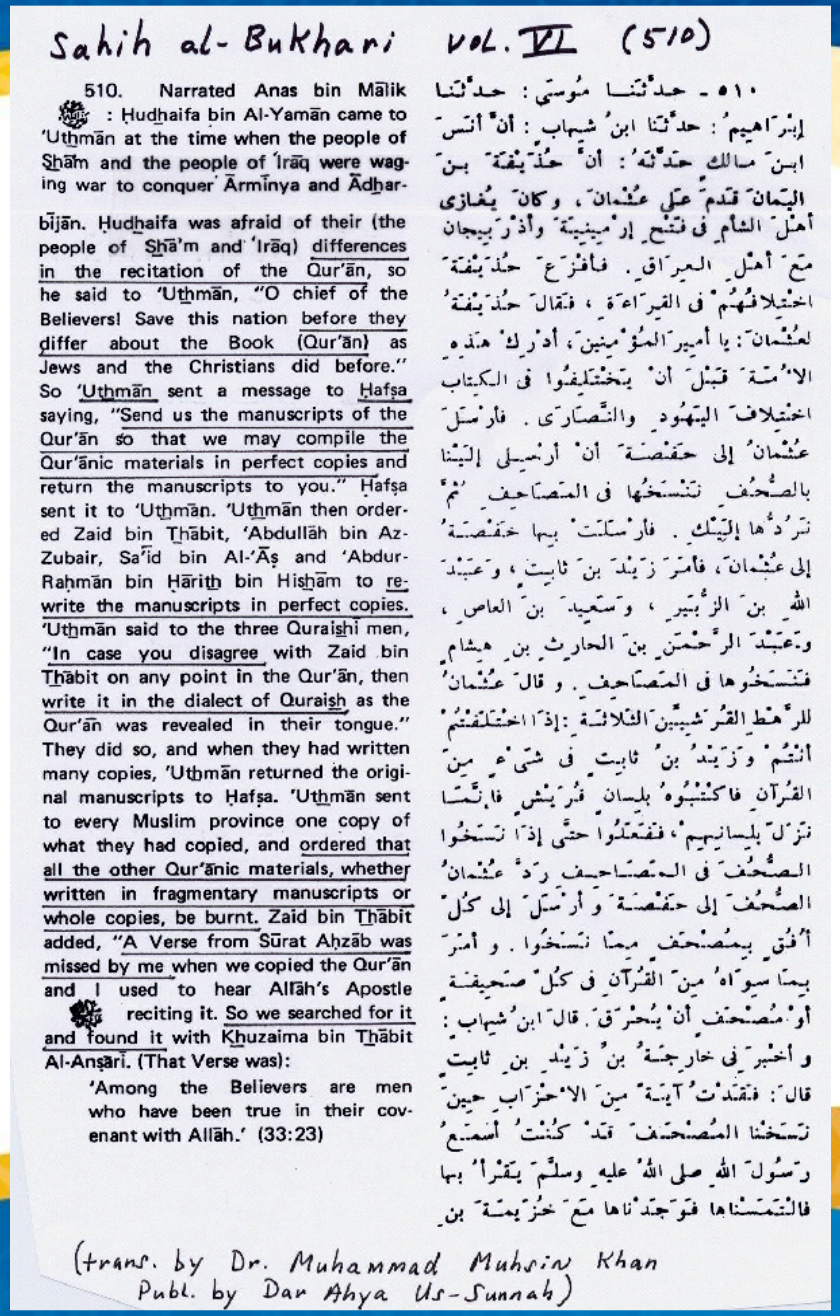
509. Narrated Zaid bin Thābit ﷺ: Abū Bakr Aṣ-Ṣiddīq sent for me when the people of Yamā-ma had been killed (i.e., a number of the Prophet's Companions who fought against Musailama). (I went to him) and found 'Umar bin Al-Khaṭṭāb sitting with him. Abū Bakr ﷺ then said (to me), "Umar has come to me and said: "Casualties were heavy among the Qurrā' of the Qur'ān (i.e. those who knew the Qur'ān by heart) on the day of the Battle of Yamāma, and I am afraid that more heavy casualties may take place among the Qurrā' on other battlefields, whereby a large part of the Qur'ān may be lost. Therefore I suggest, you (Abū Bakr) order that the Qur 'ān be collected." I said to 'Umar, "How can you do something which Allāh's Apostle ﷺ did not do?" 'Umar said, "By Allāh, that is a good project." "Umar kept on urging me to accept his proposal till Allāh opened my chest for it and I began to realise the good in the idea which 'Umar had realised." Then Abū Bakr said (to me). 'You are a wise young man and we do not have any suspicion about you, and you used to write the Divine Inspiration for Allāh's Apostle ﷺ. So you should search for (the fragmentary scripts of) the Qur'ān and collect it (in one book)." By Allāh! If they had ordered me to shift one of the mountains, it would not have been heavier for me than this ordering me to collect the Qur'ān. Then I said to Abū Bakr, "How will you do something which Allāh's Apostle ﷺ did not do?" Abū Bakr replied, "By Allāh, it is a good project." Abū Bakr kept on urging me to accept his idea until Allāh opened my chest for what He had opened the chests of Abū Bakr and 'Umar ﷺ. So I started looking for the Qur'ān and collecting it from (what was written on) palm-leaf stalks, thin white stones and also from the men who knew it by heart, till I found the last Verse of Sūrat At-Tauba (Repentance) with Abī Khuzaima Al-Anṣārī, and I did not find it with anybody other than him. The Verse is:

Verily there has come unto you an Apostle (Muhammad ﷺ) from amongst yourselves. It grieves him that you should receive any injury or difficulty.....(till the end of "Sūrat-Barā'a (At-Tauba) (9:128-129)

Then the complete manuscripts (copy) of the Qur'ān remained with Abū Bakr till he died, then with 'Umar till the end of his life, and then with Hafṣa, the daughter of 'Umar ﷺ.

Sahih Bukhari Vol. 6:510
652 AD (Uthman)

- Uthman calls Zaid ibn Thabit (Muhammad's secretary) to re-write the Qur'an, given to Hafsah; so, a 2nd Qur'anic recension
- He is given three others to help him: Az-Zubair, Al-As, ibn Hisham
- They are to write it only in the 'Quraishi' dialect
- They then send this final copy to every province (9 of them)
- All of the other manuscripts, partial and full, which disagreed, were then burned!
- One verse (S.33:23) was found with one man (Khuzaima bin Thabit al-Ansari)



Sahih al-Bukhari VOL. VI (510)

510. Narrated Anas bin Mālik : Ḥudhaifa bin Al-Yamān came to 'Uthmān at the time when the people of Shām and the people of 'Irāq were waging war to conquer Ārmīnya and Ādharbījān. Ḥudhaifa was afraid of their (the people of Shā'm and 'Irāq) differences in the recitation of the Qur'ān, so he said to 'Uthmān, "O chief of the Believers! Save this nation before they differ about the Book (Qur'ān) as Jews and the Christians did before." So 'Uthmān sent a message to Ḥafṣa saying, "Send us the manuscripts of the Qur'ān so that we may compile the Qur'ānic materials in perfect copies and return the manuscripts to you." Ḥafṣa sent it to 'Uthmān. 'Uthmān then ordered Zaid bin Thābit, 'Abdullāh bin Az-Zubair, Sa'īd bin Al-'Āṣ and 'Abdur-Raḥmān bin Ḥārith bin Hishām to rewrite the manuscripts in perfect copies. 'Uthmān said to the three Quraishi men, "In case you disagree with Zaid bin Thābit on any point in the Qur'ān, then write it in the dialect of Quraish as the Qur'ān was revealed in their tongue." They did so, and when they had written many copies, 'Uthmān returned the original manuscripts to Ḥafṣa. 'Uthmān sent to every Muslim province one copy of what they had copied, and ordered that all the other Qur'ānic materials, whether written in fragmentary manuscripts or whole copies, be burnt. Zaid bin Thābit added, "A Verse from Sūrat Aḥzāb was missed by me when we copied the Qur'ān and I used to hear Allāh's Apostle reciting it. So we searched for it and found it with Khuzaima bin Thābit Al-Anṣārī. (That Verse was):

'Among the Believers are men who have been true in their covenant with Allāh.' (33:23)

٥١٠ - حدثنا موسى : حدثنا إبراهيم : حدثنا ابن شهاب : أن أنس ابن مالك حدثه : أن حذيفة بن اليمان قدم على عثمان ، وكان يغازي أهل الشام في فتح إرمينية وأذربيجان مع أهل العراق . فأفزع حذيفة اختلافهم في القراءة ، فقال حذيفة لعثمان : يا أمير المؤمنين ، أدرك هذه الأمة قبل أن يختلفوا في الكتاب اختلاف اليهود والنصارى . فأرسل عثمان إلى حفصة أن أرسلي إلينا بالصحف ننسخها في المصاحف ثم نردها إليك . فأرسلت بها حفصة إلى عثمان ، فأمر زيد بن ثابت ، وعبد الله بن الزبير ، وسعيد بن العاص ، وعبد الرحمن بن الحارث بن هشام فنسخوها في المصاحف . وقال عثمان للرهط القرشيين الثلاثة : إذا اختلفتم أنتم وزيد بن ثابت في شيء من القرآن فاكتبوه بلسان قريش فإنما نزل بلسانهم ، ففعلوا حتى إذا نسخوا الصحف في المصاحف رد عثمان الصحف إلى حفصة وأرسل إلى كل أفق بمصحف مما نسخوا . وأمر بما سواه من القرآن في كل صحيفة أو مصحف أن يحرق . قال ابن شهاب : وأخبرني خارجة بن زيد بن ثابت قال : فقدت آية من الأحزاب حين نسخنا المصحف قد كنت أسمع رسول الله صلى الله عليه وسلم يقرأ بها فالتمسناها فوجدناها مع خزيمة بن

(trans. by Dr. Muhammad Muhsin Khan
Publ. by Dar Ahya Us-Sunnah)

Compilation Questions - 1

Concerning al Bukhari 6:509 – Abu Bakr's 1st compilation of the Qur'an

1) Why didn't God choose a **language** which could accommodate the Qur'an?

- (i.e. no diacritical marks, nor vowellization until the 8th – 9th centuries)
- Hebrew & Greek already existed, and were previously used…why not use either of them?

2) Why didn't God choose a **man** who could 'read and write'?

- Writing down the Qur'an and preserving it was his primary remit
  - So, why didn't he do either before he died?

Compilation Questions - 2

Concerning al Bukhari 6:509 – Abu Bakr's 1st compilation of the Qur'an

3) Why didn't Muhammad **learn** to read and write (Arabic only has 28 letters)?

- He had 22 years to do so (Note: I learned to read Arabic in 2 weeks!)
- What about Zaid ibn Thabit? He was Muhammad's **secretary**! Isn't that his job?

4) Why didn't Abu Bakr make **copies** and disperse them to the 5-9 provinces in 634 AD, as Uthman did later on?

- The 5 included: Mecca, Medina, Basra, Kufa, and Damascus
- The 9 included: Basra, Kufa, Damascus, Jerusalem, Cairo, Alexandria, Aden, Herat, and Nishapur



Compilation Questions - 3

Concerning al Bukhari 6:509 – Abu Bakr's 1st compilation of the Qur'an

5) Muslims say 1,000s died at Yamama, though the traditions tell us only **70 Hafiz** (those who memorized the Qur'an) **died**

- Doesn't this prove that there were **very few** who actually **knew the Qur'an**?
- Doesn't this also prove that there was **a real crisis** with the Qur'an?
- Doesn't this moreover prove that **memorization wasn't good** enough to preserve the Qur'an, as Muslims constantly claim today?

Compilation Questions - 4

Concerning al Bukhari 6:510 – Uthman's 2nd compilation of the Qur'an

6) How could there be **dialectical differences** in the mid 7th c.?

- Dialects require diacritical marks, and vowellization
- These were not introduced until the 8th century
- And they were not finalized until possibly another century later

Compilation Questions - 5

Concerning al Bukhari 6:510 – Uthman's 2nd compilation of the Qur'an

7) Why did Uthman **burn** all of the other copies?

- Note: You can only burn books, not a recitation, or someone's tongue!
- Doesn't that suggest that the Mushafs didn't agree?
- Wouldn't it be great to have them to compare with today?

8) Muslims claim they were burned because of **differing Dialects**

- First, How could Muhammad have known these northern dialects?
- We know that of the 30 later Qira'ats, 22 came from up north, and 12 from Kufa…how can there be 12 different dialects in one small town?

Compilation Questions - 6

Concerning al Bukhari 6:510 – Uthman's 2nd compilation of the Qur'an

9) The fact that Zaid ibn Thabit came upon **Surah 33:23** with one man (Khuzaima bin Thabit al-Ansari), proves the Qur'an wasn't even complete in 632 AD

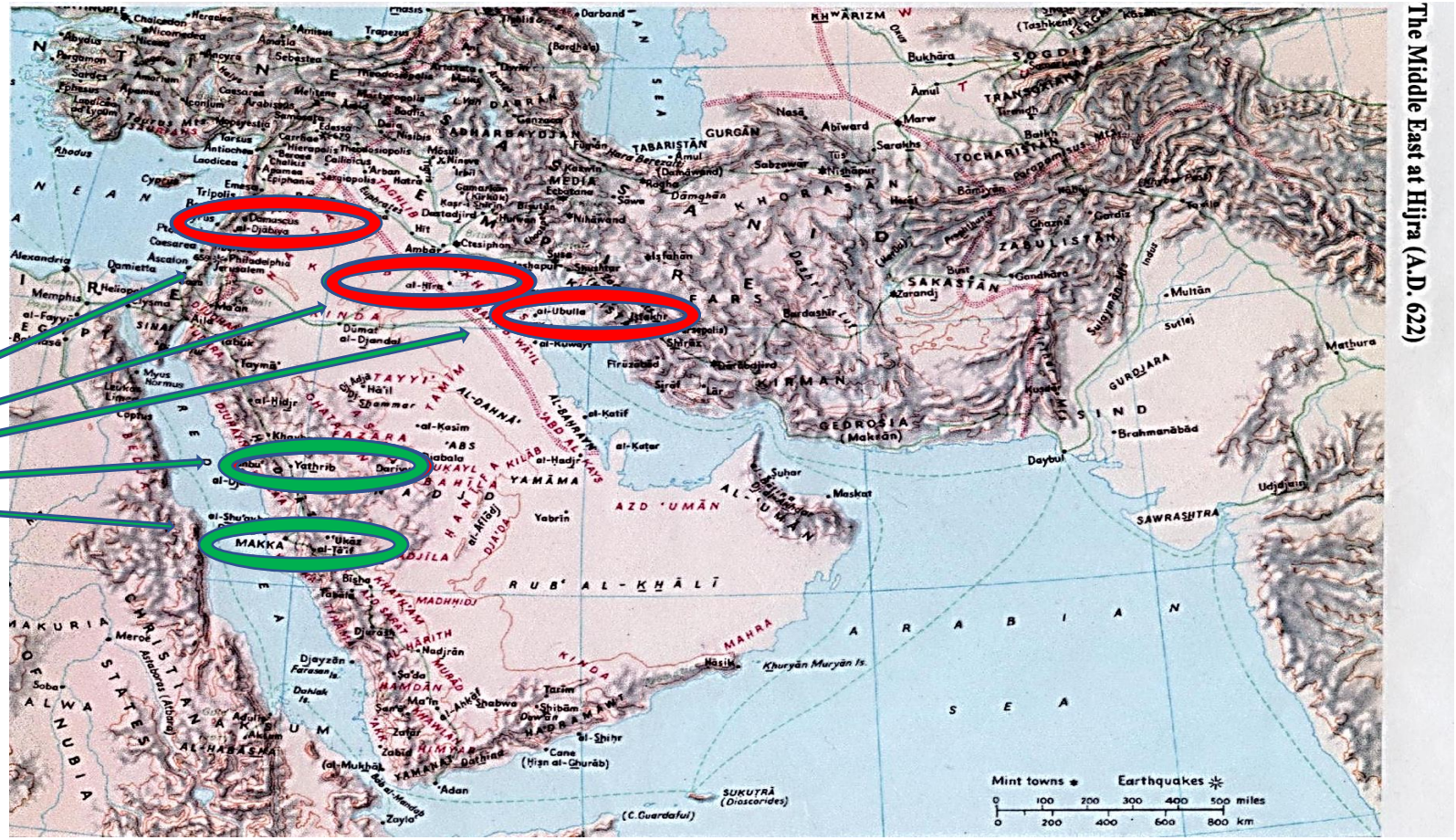
- Could there have been many others Surahs he missed?
- What about the material which was lost with those killed at the battle of Yamama in 632 AD?

10) If there was a 2nd Qur'an in 652 AD, why, now many **different Arabic Qur'ans**?

11) If **5-9 copies** were made for each province…where are they today? Where is there even 1?

7th Century QUR'ANS?

Which cities, and which countries did the earliest Qur'ans come from (according to the Islamic Traditions)?



Muhammad dies 632

5 copies, sent to 5 cities

Uthman's 'Quraishi' Qur'an 652

Ubai Ibn Ka'b = 116

Ibn Mas'ud = 110

Ibn Musa = 114

Zaid Ibn Thabit = 114

632 | 652 | 670 | 690 | 710 | 730 | 750 | 770 | 790 | 810 | 830 | 850 | 870 | 890 | 910 | 930

Note: There were at least 5 Qur'ans in the 7th century, from Medina, Mecca, Basra, Kufa (Iraq), Damascus (Syria).

Conclusion: We don't have even one of them today. But something then happens between the 7th century and the 8th century. The Qira'at Qur'ans begin to be introduced.

Pfander

The Qu'ran's beginning

We begin with 1 Qur'an
Then we go to 7 Qur'ans
And back to 1 Qur'an

Jibril's 7 'readings'?

Muhammad dies 632

Uthman's 'Quraishi' Qur'an 652

So, where did the 30 Qira'at Qur'ans come from?

Why has it become such an issue today?



Pfander

[6] THE 30 DIACRITICAL VARIANTS

(‘Ahruf’ & ‘Qira’at’ Corrections)

26 QUR'ANS AT SPEAKER'S CORNER - 2016



Holding up Hatun's 26 Qur'ans

Muslims trying to grab our hand-outs





Mohammed Hijab calling the Muslims to him, asking them not look at what we were showing, nor listen to what we were saying. It was obvious that he didn't know how to engage with us, and probably went through a 'Crisis of faith' on that day.

What exactly are the Qira'at

A Historical overview of where the Qira'at came from

- The Arabic which is used in the Qur'an today does not come from the Hijaz (i.e. from Mecca and Medina), but from much further north, from Nabataea.
    - The Arabic was 'Nabataean Aramaic'.
    - Today's current Arabic has 28 letters.
- 7th century Nabataean Arabic only had 16 consonantal letters, or 'Rasm'.
- Obviously, this caused a problem in understanding what was being written.
- A single consonantal letter could be pronounced 5-8 different ways, depending on where you put the dots and vowels.
- Thus, in the 8th century dots (*I'jam*) and vowels (*Harakah*) were added to the script to help Muslims read the text.

RASM DEFINED



Samarkand Manuscript



Sana’a Manuscript

6 of 28 Arabic letters are Unique

خ	ح	ج	ث	ت	ب	ا
kha	haa	jiim	thaa	taa	baa	alif
ص	ش	س	ز	ر	ذ	د
saad	shiin	siin	zaay	raa	thaal	daal
ق	ف	غ	ع	ظ	ط	ض
qaaf	faa	ghayn	ayn	thaa	taa	daad
ي	و	ه	ن	م	ل	ك
yaa	waaw	ha	nuun	miim	laam	kaaf

The other 22 letters need dots to distinguish them

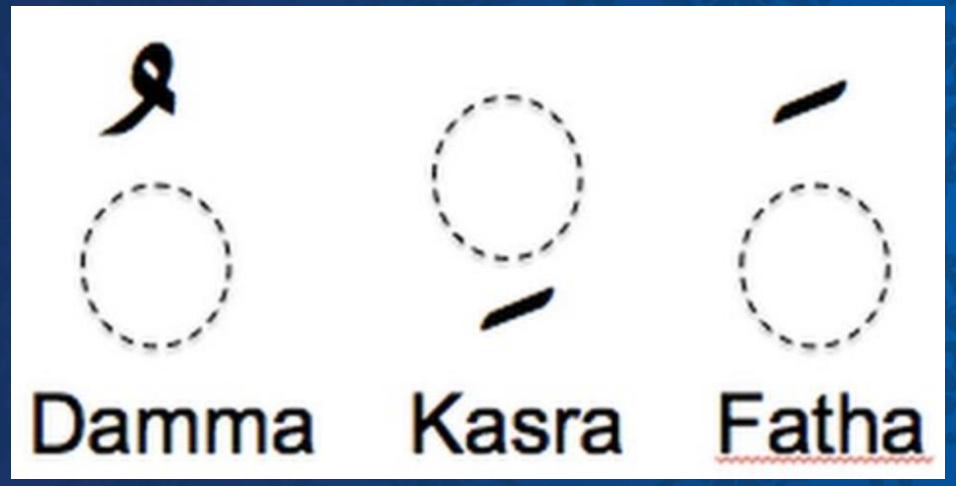
With 5 dots, you can get 5 different letters in Arabic



- One dot above a letter =‘na’
- Two dots above a letter = ‘ta’
- Three dots above a letter = ‘tha’
- One dot below a letter = ‘ba’
- Two dots below a letter = ‘ya’

Thus, you can get five different letters with the same bowl-shaped letter, depending on how many of the five dots you use (and where)!

You need 3 vowels in Arabic, to pronounce the letters



- A circle & tail above a letter = ‘u’ (Damma)
- A slash below a letter = ‘e’ (Kasra)
- A slash above a letter = ‘a’ (Fatha)

Thus, with these three signs (two above and one below), you can write the 3 vowels used in every word in Arabic, to pronounce them correctly.

Note: 3 smiley faces give us 19 different words!

بيت	House	يبثُّ	He spreads/ he broadcast
نَبَتَ	It sprouted	تبثُّ	She spreads/broadcasts
بيَّت	Stayed over	نبثُّ	We spread/broadcast
بِنت	A girl / daughter	ثبَّت	He Fixed / made firm
بَنَت	She built	تَبَّتْ	She destroyed
ثَبَتَ	Stood firm	نتبّ	We destroy
نَبَتَ	Grew	تتبّ	You destroy
نَتُب	We repent	تبّت	It was destroyed
يتُب	He repents	تُبتُ	I repented
تتُب	She repents		

THE 30 ‘OFFICIAL’ VARIANT QUR’ANS

30 official Readers & Transmitters (vs HAFS)

Readers	Transmitters	**93,263 differences!**
1) Nafi' al-Madani (Medina 689-785 AD)	Qalun (835 AD)	Warsh (812 AD)
2) Ibn Kathir al Makki (Mecca 666-738 AD)	Al-Bazzi (d. 864 AD)	Qunbul (d. 904 AD)
3) Abu 'Amr Ibn al-'Ala' (Basra 690-770 AD)	Al-Duri (d. 860 AD)	Al-Susi (d. 874 AD)
4) Ibn Amir ad-Dimashqi (Damascus d. 736 AD)	Hisham (d. 859 AD)	Ibn Dhakwan (d. 857 AD)
5) Aasim ibn Abi al-Najud (Kufa 700-745 AD)	Shu'bah (d. 809 AD)	**Hafs (d. 796 AD)**
6) Hamzah az-Zalyyat (Kufa 696-772 AD)	Khalaf (d. 844 AD)	Khallad (d. 835 AD)
7) Al-Kisa'i (Kufa 737-805 AD)	Al-Layth (d. 854 AD)	Al-Duri (d. 860 AD)
7 Chosen by Ibn Mujahid (d.936)	**14 Chosen by Al-Shatibi (d.1194)**	
8) Abu Ja'far (Medina - d. 748 AD)	'Isa ibn Wardan (d. 777 AD)	Ibn Jummaz (d. 787 AD)
9) Ya'qub al-Yamani (Basra - d. 821 AD)	Ruways (d. 853 AD)	Rawh (d. 849 AD)
10) Khalaf (Kufa - d. 844 AD)	Ishaq (d. 899 AD)	Idris (d. 905 AD)
9 Chosen by al-Jazari (d.1429)		

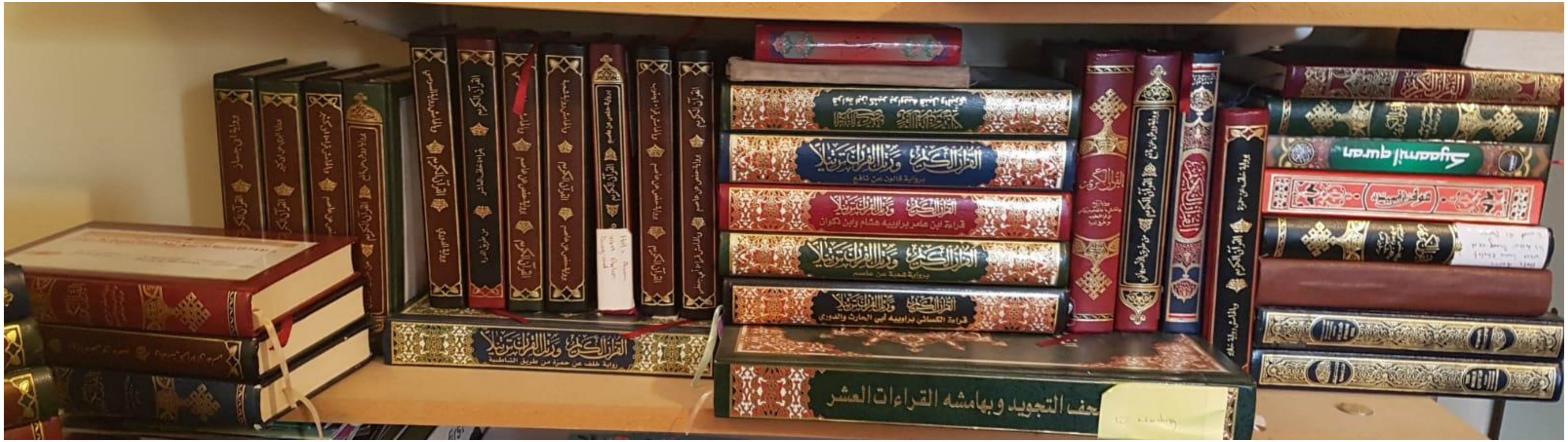
Hatun's 26 Qur'ans (now 37)



Bernie Power's 23 Qira'at Qur'ans



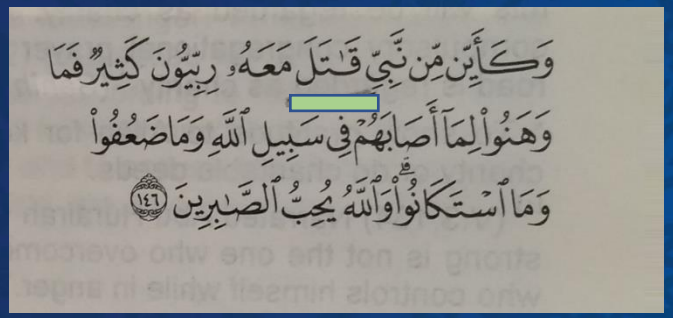
Hatun’s ‘current’ 37 Qira’at Arabic Qur’ans



A LOOK AT SOME VARIANTS

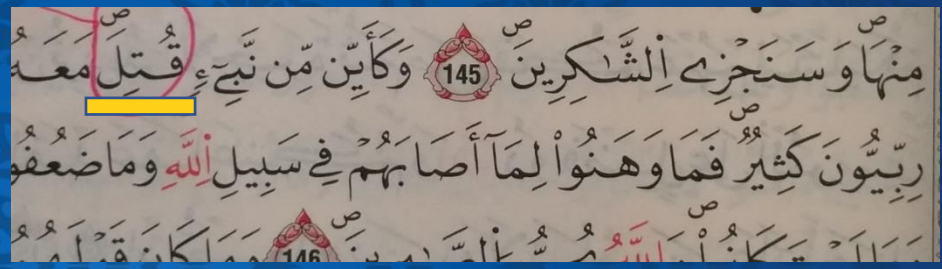
Sura 3:146*

Hafs: Qaatala


وَكَأَيِّن مِّن نَّبِيٍّ قَٰتَلَ مَعَهُۥ رِبِّيُّونَ كَثِيرٌ فَمَا
وَهَنُوا۟ لِمَآ أَصَابَهُمْ فِى سَبِيلِ ٱللَّهِ وَمَا ضَعُفُوا۟
وَمَا ٱسْتَكَانُوا۟ ۗ وَٱللَّهُ يُحِبُّ ٱلصَّٰبِرِينَ ﴿١٤٦﴾

Fought

Warsh: Qutila


مِنْهَا ۖ وَسَنَجْزِى ٱلشَّٰكِرِينَ ﴿145﴾ وَكَأَيِّن مِّن نَّبِيٍّ قُتِلَ مَعَهُۥ
رِبِّيُّونَ كَثِيرٌ ۚ فَمَا وَهَنُوا۟ لِمَآ أَصَابَهُمْ فِى سَبِيلِ ٱللَّهِ وَمَا ضَعُفُوا۟

Were Killed!

Translation: "And how many a prophet fought, with whom were many worshippers of the Lord"

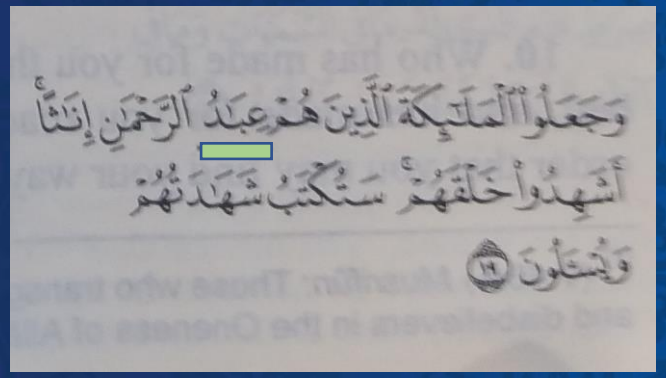
Translation: "And how many prophets were killed, with whom were many worshippers of the Lord"

Significance: Did the Prophets simply FIGHT, or were they KILLED?

*** If I were a prophet, I would rather FIGHT, than be KILLED, as the former survives.**

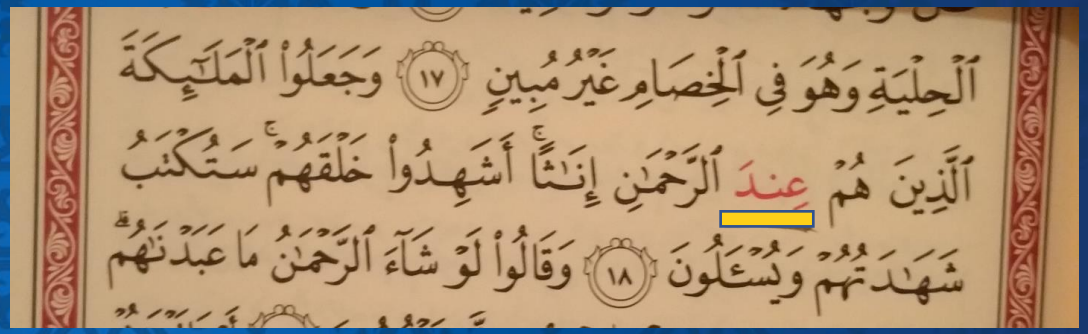
Sura 43:19*

Hafs: ibaadu



slaves?

Rawh: inda



In the presence?

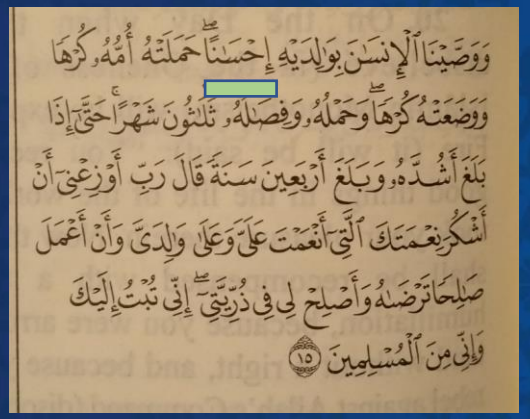
Translation: And they make the angels, who are slaves of the Beneficent, females "

Translation: ". And they make the angels, who are in the presence of the Beneficent, females"

Problem-1: Are the angels slaves of Allah, or simply in the presence of Allah?
Problem-2: Is it the slaves, or those in Allah's presence, who will be made females?
***If I were an angel, I would prefer being in God's presence, than his slave.**
***If I were an angel, I would prefer if only the slaves were made females thank-you.**

Sura 46:15*

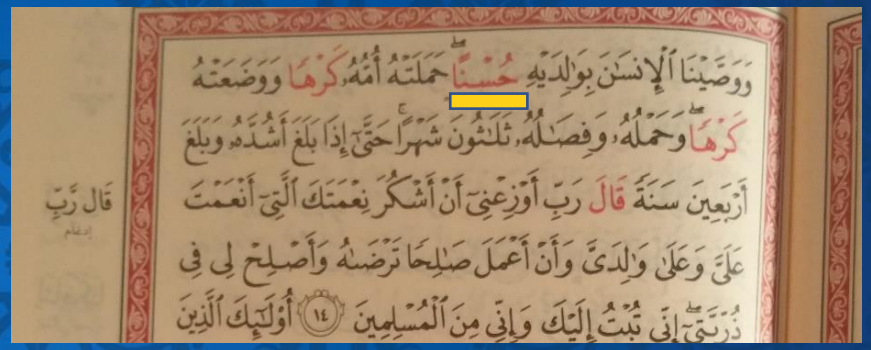
Hafs: ihsaanan


وَوَصَّيْنَا ٱلْإِنسَٰنَ بِوَٰلِدَيْهِ إِحْسَٰنًا ۖ حَمَلَتْهُ أُمُّهُۥ كُرْهًا
وَوَضَعَتْهُ كُرْهًا ۖ وَحَمْلُهُۥ وَفِصَٰلُهُۥ ثَلَٰثُونَ شَهْرًا ۚ حَتَّىٰٓ إِذَا
بَلَغَ أَشُدَّهُۥ وَبَلَغَ أَرْبَعِينَ سَنَةً قَالَ رَبِّ أَوْزِعْنِىٓ أَنْ
أَشْكُرَ نِعْمَتَكَ ٱلَّتِىٓ أَنْعَمْتَ عَلَىَّ وَعَلَىٰ وَٰلِدَىَّ وَأَنْ أَعْمَلَ
صَٰلِحًا تَرْضَىٰهُ وَأَصْلِحْ لِى فِى ذُرِّيَّتِىٓ ۖ إِنِّى تُبْتُ إِلَيْكَ
وَإِنِّى مِنَ ٱلْمُسْلِمِينَ ١٥

Doing good?

Translation: "And We have enjoined on man doing good to his parents "

Al Doori (Abu Amir al-Alaa): husnan


وَوَصَّيْنَا ٱلْإِنسَٰنَ بِوَٰلِدَيْهِ حُسْنًا ۖ حَمَلَتْهُ أُمُّهُۥ كُرْهًا وَوَضَعَتْهُ
كُرْهًا ۖ وَحَمْلُهُۥ وَفِصَٰلُهُۥ ثَلَٰثُونَ شَهْرًا ۚ حَتَّىٰٓ إِذَا بَلَغَ أَشُدَّهُۥ وَبَلَغَ
أَرْبَعِينَ سَنَةً قَالَ رَبِّ أَوْزِعْنِىٓ أَنْ أَشْكُرَ نِعْمَتَكَ ٱلَّتِىٓ أَنْعَمْتَ
عَلَىَّ وَعَلَىٰ وَٰلِدَىَّ وَأَنْ أَعْمَلَ صَٰلِحًا تَرْضَىٰهُ وَأَصْلِحْ لِى فِى
ذُرِّيَّتِىٓ ۖ إِنِّى تُبْتُ إِلَيْكَ وَإِنِّى مِنَ ٱلْمُسْلِمِينَ ١٤ أُو۟لَٰٓئِكَ ٱلَّذِينَ

قال ربّ
إدغام

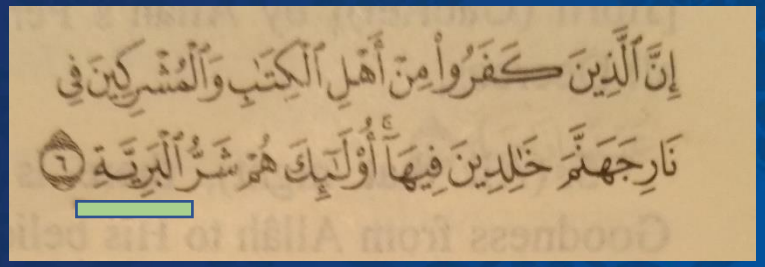
beauty?

Translation: "And We have enjoined on man beauty to his parents."

Problem: Are men supposed to do good, or be beautiful to their parents?
***As a parent, I would prefer my son to be good, rather than be good looking.**

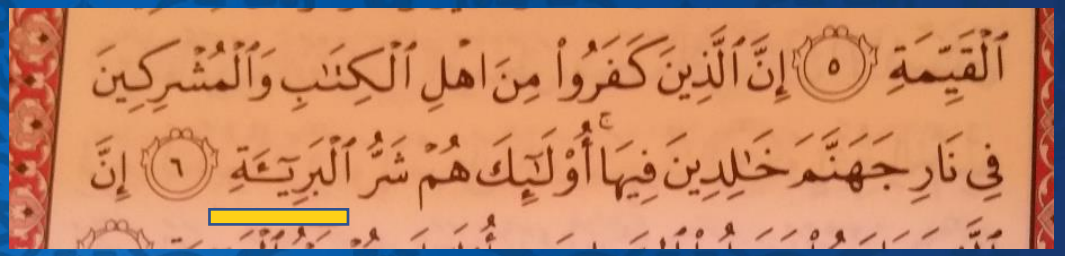
Sura 98:6*

Hafs: al bareiyyati



creatures?

Warsh (Al Asbahaani): al bare'ati



The innocent?

Translation: Indeed, they who disbelieved among the People of the Scripture and the polytheists will be in the fire of Hell, abiding eternally therein. Those are the worst of creatures"

Translation: "Indeed, they who disbelieved among the People of the Scripture and the polytheists will be in the fire of Hell, abiding eternally therein. Those are the worst of the innocent"

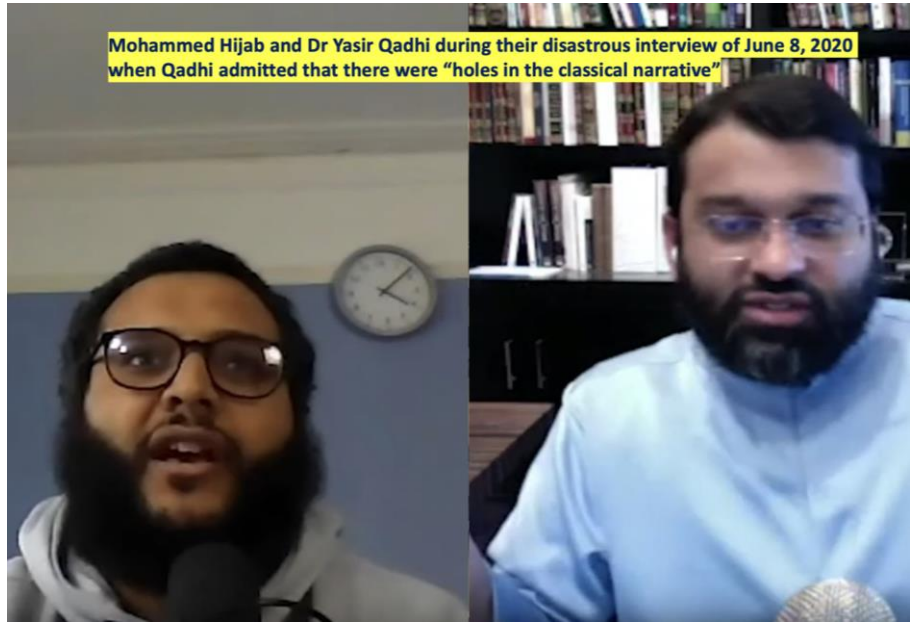
Problem: Are we Christians the worst creatures, or are we innocent?

***What are innocent Christians, Jews, and polytheists doing in hell?**

Mohammed Hijab & Dr Yasir Qadhi

Quotes by Dr Qadhi from the Interview of June 8, 2020:

1) The Ahruf & Qira'at are the most difficult topics for scholars
2) You don't tell the new converts to Islam about the Qira'at
3) Only with the more advanced do you do a "deep dive" on the issue
4) Scholars for the past 1,000 years have not solved the Qira'at problem
5) Muslims have a "respect" for the Qur'an. We put a 'red-line' beyond which we do not go; unlike here in the West, where there are no red lines
6) "The Standard Narrative has Holes in it"
7) Western academics have jumped 'leaps and bounds' on this issue
8) They look at the rest of us like an 'emperor with no clothes'
9) "I've never lectured on this subject, nor ever will, except in my class"
10) This subject should never be brought up in Public
11) Don't ask me to say what should be written on the 'blank Mushaf'
12) Which of the Qira'ats is the Qur'an? They are ALL the Qur'an!



[7] THE 6 EARLIEST QUR'ANIC MANUSCRIPTS

These are the best MSS Islam has…

Topkapi
(Turkey)



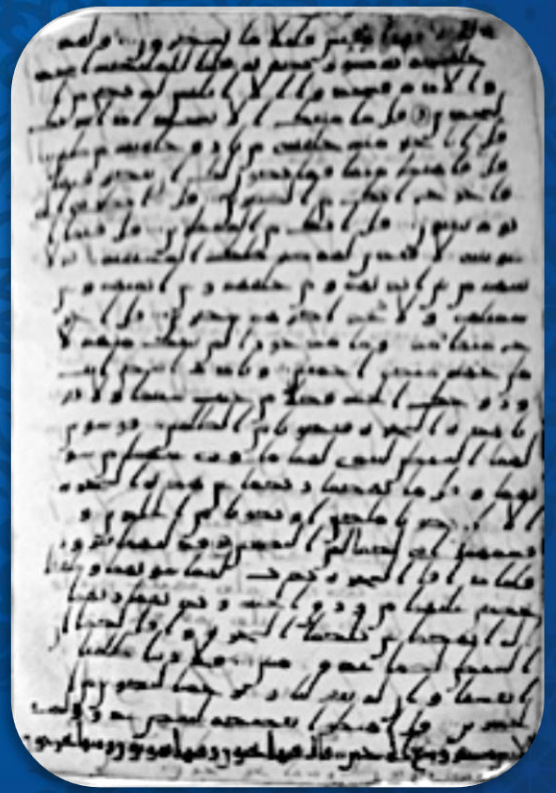
Samarkand
(Uzbekistan)



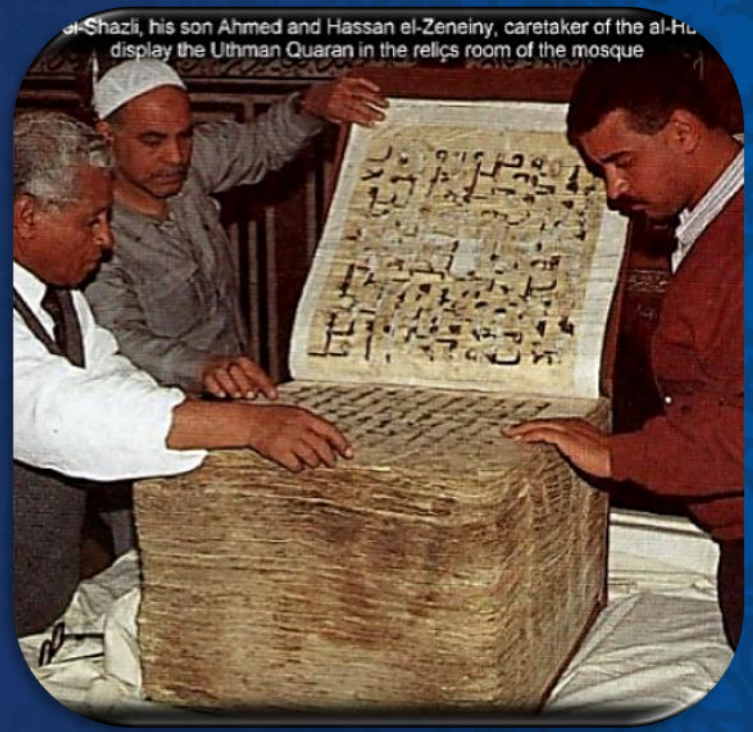
Ma’il
(London, England)



Petropolitanus
(Paris, France)



Al Husseini (Cairo, Egypt)



Sana’a (Yemen)



Summary of the findings

When we look at all 6 early Qur'anic manuscripts, we find that:

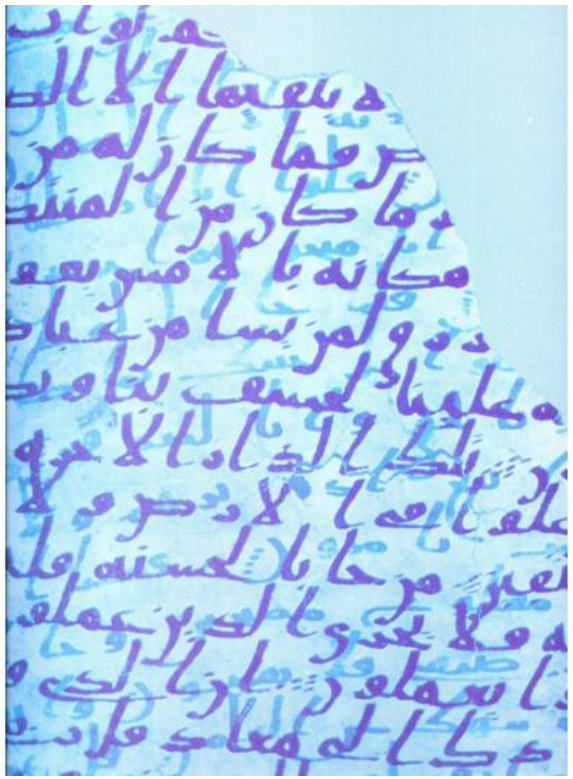
- None of them are from the 7th century
- None of them are complete
- None of them completely agree with each other
- None of them completely agree with the current 1924 'Hafs' text
- All of them have 100s and even 1000s of subsequent 'manuscript variants'
- So, when was there a complete Qur'an?

[8] THE 2 LAYERS OF THE SANA'A PALIMPSEST

Does this suggest an earlier "nascent" Qur'an?

DISCOVERED IN SANA'A, YEMEN (1975)





LOWER TEXT VARIANTS*

63 VERSES, WITH 70 VARIANTS

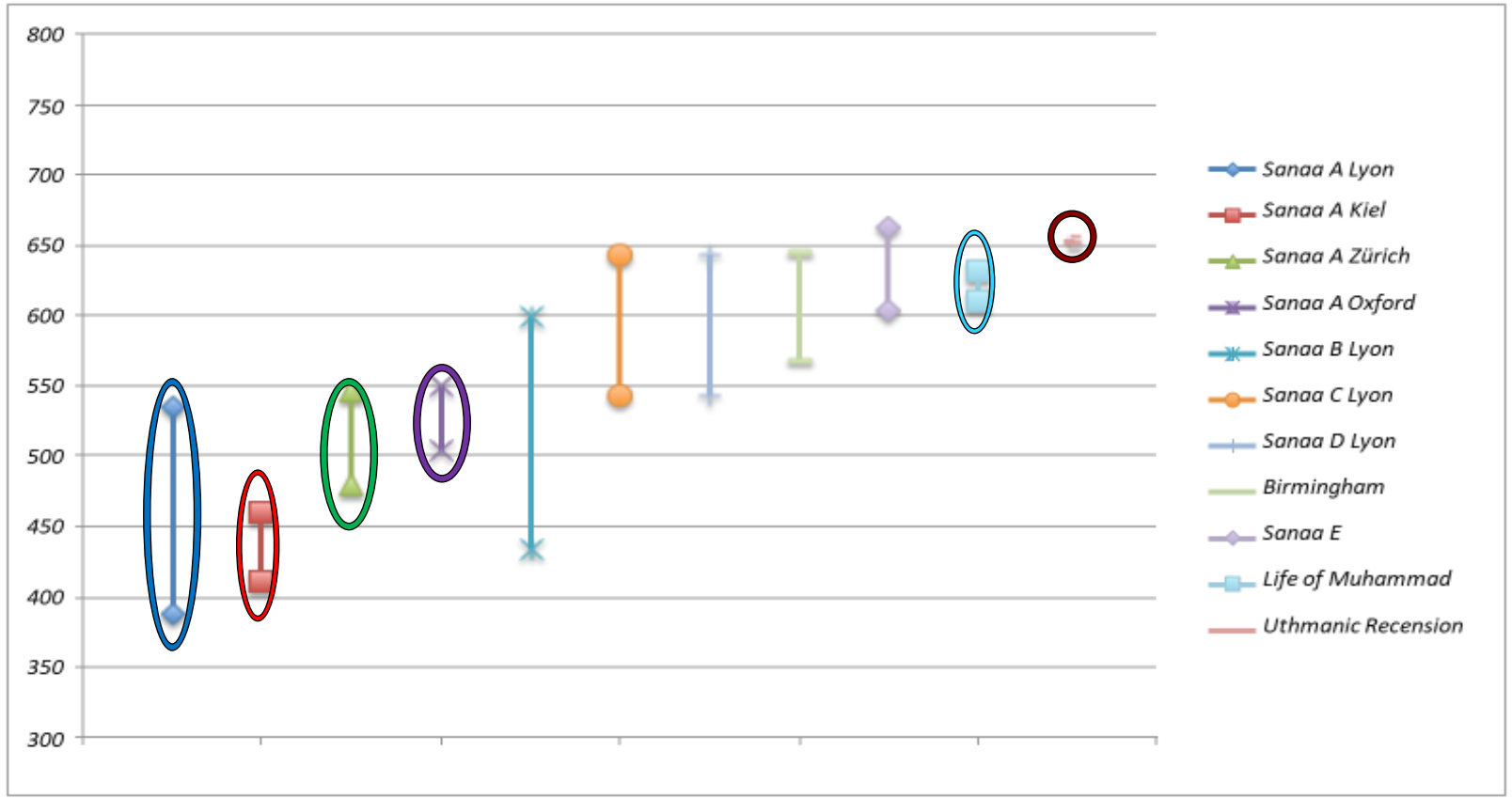
- Verbs, nouns (25 times), Articles, Participles, Conjunctions
- Prepositions, Isolated letters (29 times), and Expressions
- Entire sentences (16 times) [note: some overlap within the same verses]
- This is not a ‘schooled text’ (re: Asma Hilali) because it is too early, and where is the original?
- Dr Elisabeth Puin: This is a nascent Qur’an, with corrections, then washed off, and re-written in 705 AD



[9] THE 4 CARBON DATING LAB REPORTS

RC-14 is not as great as they say it is…

CARBON DATES: LYON, KIEL, ZURICH, OXFORD



- Taken at four European laboratories
- Note: the four **Sana'a A** findings (on the far left)
- **Between 390 – 550 AD**
- Note: the Life of Muhammad's dates (570-632 AD)
  - **80-220** yrs too early
- Note: the Uthmanic Recension dates (652 AD)
  - **102-260** yrs too early

BBC ANNOUNCEMENT! (July 22, 2015)

“Oldest Qur’an fragments found in Birmingham”



Dr. David Thomas (right)
“*The writer of this manuscript could well have known the Prophet Muhammad. He would have seen him probably, he would maybe have heard him preach. He may have known him personally - and that really is quite a thought to conjure with*"





BIRMINGHAM FOLIOS (M157a) Dating: 568 - 645 AD

Includes: parts of S.18-20



- Only 33 verses, out of 6,236 in the Qur'an
- Only 33 verse, out of 343 verses in these 3 chapters
- It's, thus not a full Qur'an at all!

Surah 18:17-31 - The 7 sleepers of Ephesus
Syrian Bishop Jacob of Sarug (**512 AD**)

Surah 19:91-98 = Proto-Evangelium of James (**145 AD**) & The Pseudo Gospel of Matthew (**600 AD**)

Surah 20:1-40 = The story of Moses (**1400 BC**)

Conclusions

- The Ink has not been dated! 568-645 AD only tell us when the animal died
- If the dates are correct, then the classical account is wrong!
- All 3 stories are hundreds to thousands of years earlier. Thus, all before Islam
- This suggests that the 3 stories in the folios were simply borrowed from those accounts, usually simple stories, all written in Arabic, and all earlier than the Qur'an
- Scholars like Rezvan, Platti, Fedelli, Berk, and Cebi do not agree with the early dates
- The 4 laboratory reports on the Sana'a MS are dated between 390-550 AD, so 80 – 220 year too early!
- So, to be consistent, should we accept those dates for the Qur'an?
- The Birmingham folios, consequently, are pre-Islamic, pre-Muhammad, pre Uthmanic, and pre Qur'anic!
- Could they be the stories from which later Qur'anic compilers derived their materials for Surahs 18-20?

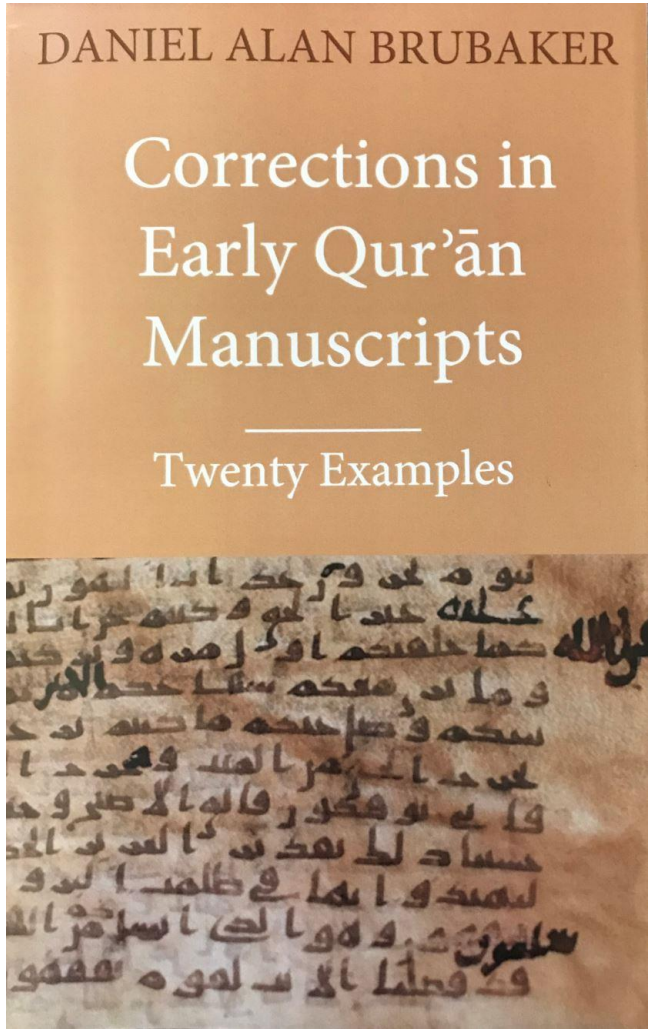
[10] THE 4,000 EARLY CONSONANTAL VARIANTS

(The ‘Rasm’ Corrections)

Dan Brubaker's Book:

Highlighting just 22 out of a total of 4,000 he has now uncovered





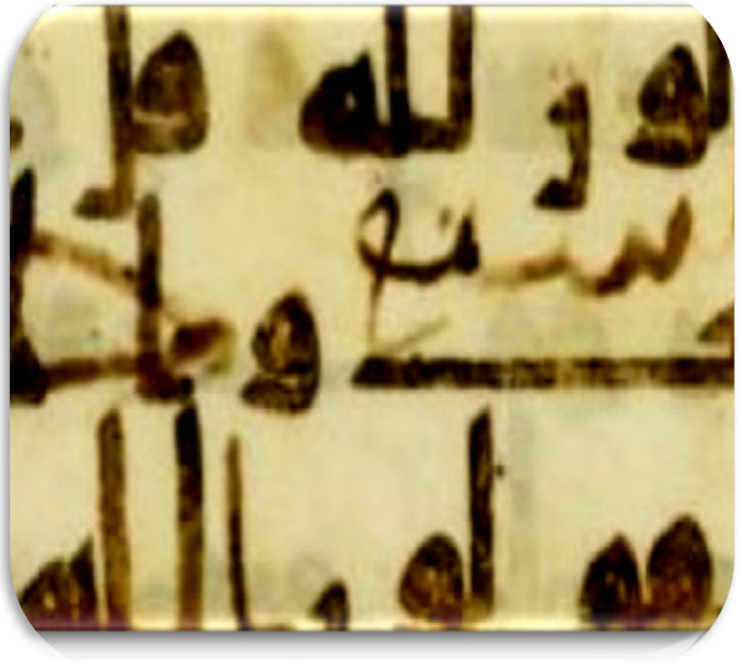
4 Types of Variants

- Insertions
- Erasures (some overwritten)
- Coverings (some overwritten)
- Tapings

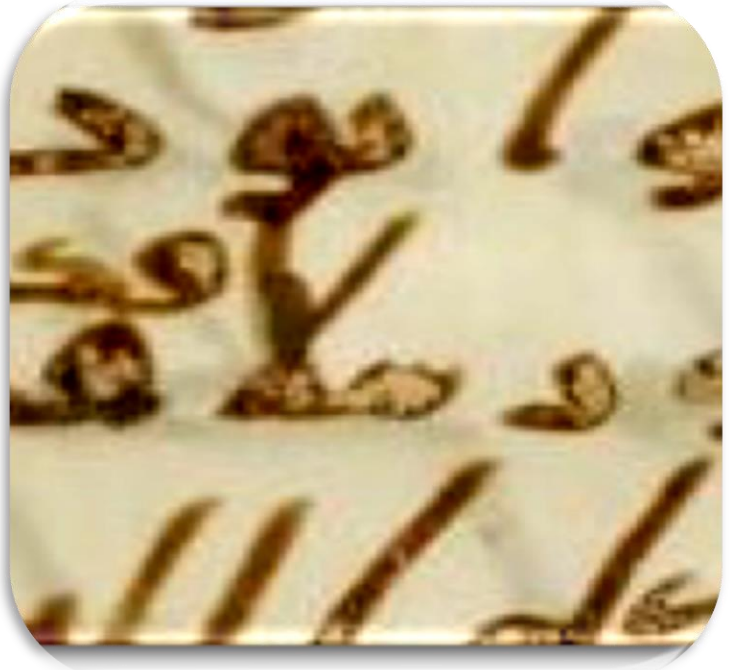
Insertions



Words added



A post-production addition



Erasures



Intentional removal of text



Removal and overwriting



An *alif* removed?

Erasures Overwritten







Different words written overtop

Letters added in new script & ink after the original

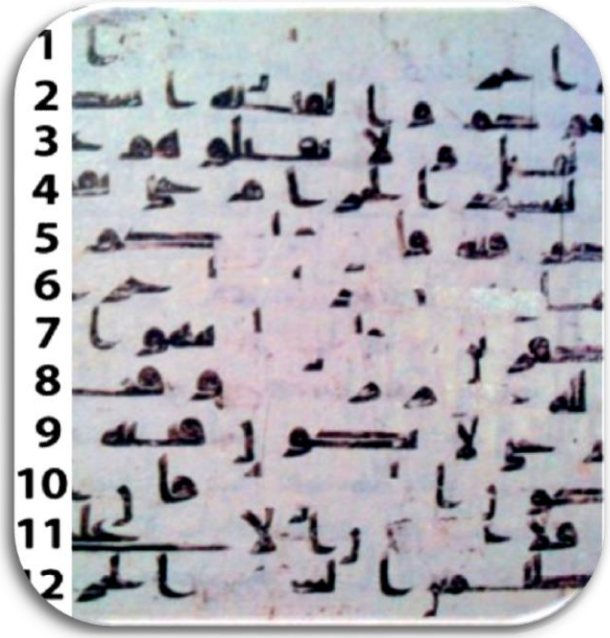
Overwriting without Erasures



Either to restore a portion of text that has faded with time, or change the text entirely

Selective Coverings

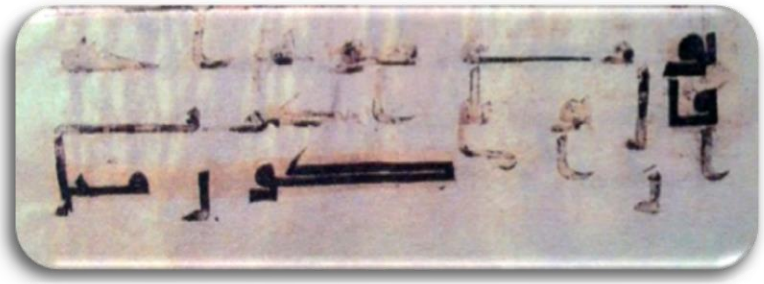






Intentional changes directly over portions of text

Selective Coverings Overwritten







Writing added into the text over the top of tape

Tapings







A patch appears to be serving some other purpose than the repair of the page

[11] THE 63 EARLIEST EXTANT FRAGMENTS

(Claimed to be earlier than 719 AD)

CRITICAL EDITION OF THE QUR'AN

WHAT DO WE HAVE?

*"**When the al-Azhar specialists convened to produce a reliable edition of the Qurʾan** towards 1920, they never thought of looking for the earliest written witnesses, had they known how to identify them, but **used** in the course of their work the specialised literature on the **qirāʾāt** or the orthography which developed in Muslim scholarly circles **from the second/eighth century onwards**"*

(François Déroche, *Qurʾans of the Umayyads: A First Overview*, Leiden/Boston: Brill, 2014, pp. 14-15)

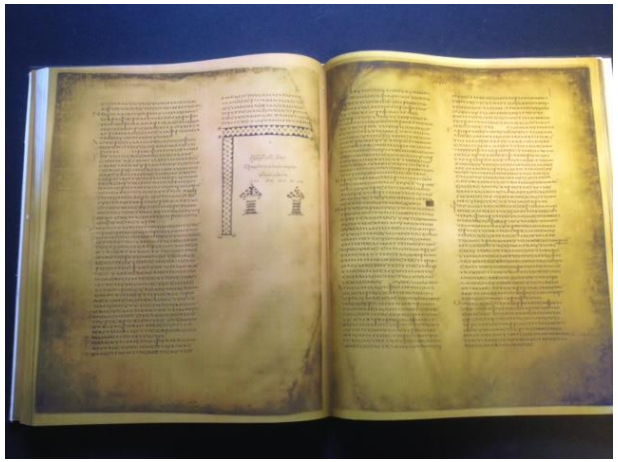
The earliest ‘complete’ Biblical Manuscripts



Codex Vaticanus
300 - 325 AD



Codex Sinaiticus
330 - 360 AD



Codex Alexandrinus
400-440 AD

IS THERE A COMPLETE QUR'ANIC TEXTUAL TRADITION BACK TO UTHMAN?

Mansur Ahmed, during the debate on May 26th, 2019, at Speaker's Corner, claimed:
1) a **continual Textual Tradition of a complete Qur'anic Manuscript back to 652 AD**
2) but he could not name one manuscript from **652 AD**, nor from **699 AD**, nor even from before **721 AD**
3) He claimed that by **721 AD they had only 97% of the Qur'an.**



What did he mean by only **97%?**

How much of the Qur’an existed in the first 100 years?

Cumulative Surahs tabulated by 719 AD

Note that **by 719 AD only 96% of the Qur’an can be found**

That’s nearly 100 years after Muhammad died!

So, **there is no complete Qur’an for almost 100 years after Muhammad!**

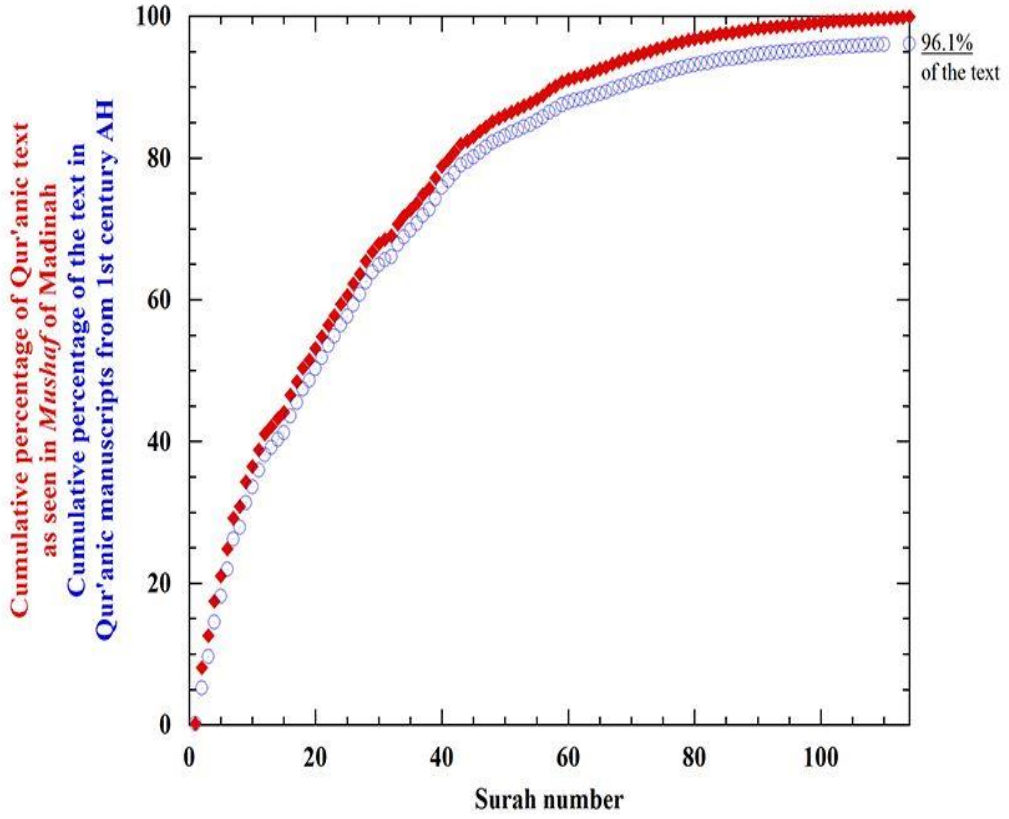


Figure 3: Comparative study of cumulative percentages of the Qur'anic text as found in the widely used Qur'an muṣḥaf printed in Madinah and the equivalent amount of text in the Qur'anic manuscripts from 1st century of hijra.

They were 63 Fragments!

Of the **63 MSS** on the right, according to IA, **ALL of them were dated before 719 AD:**

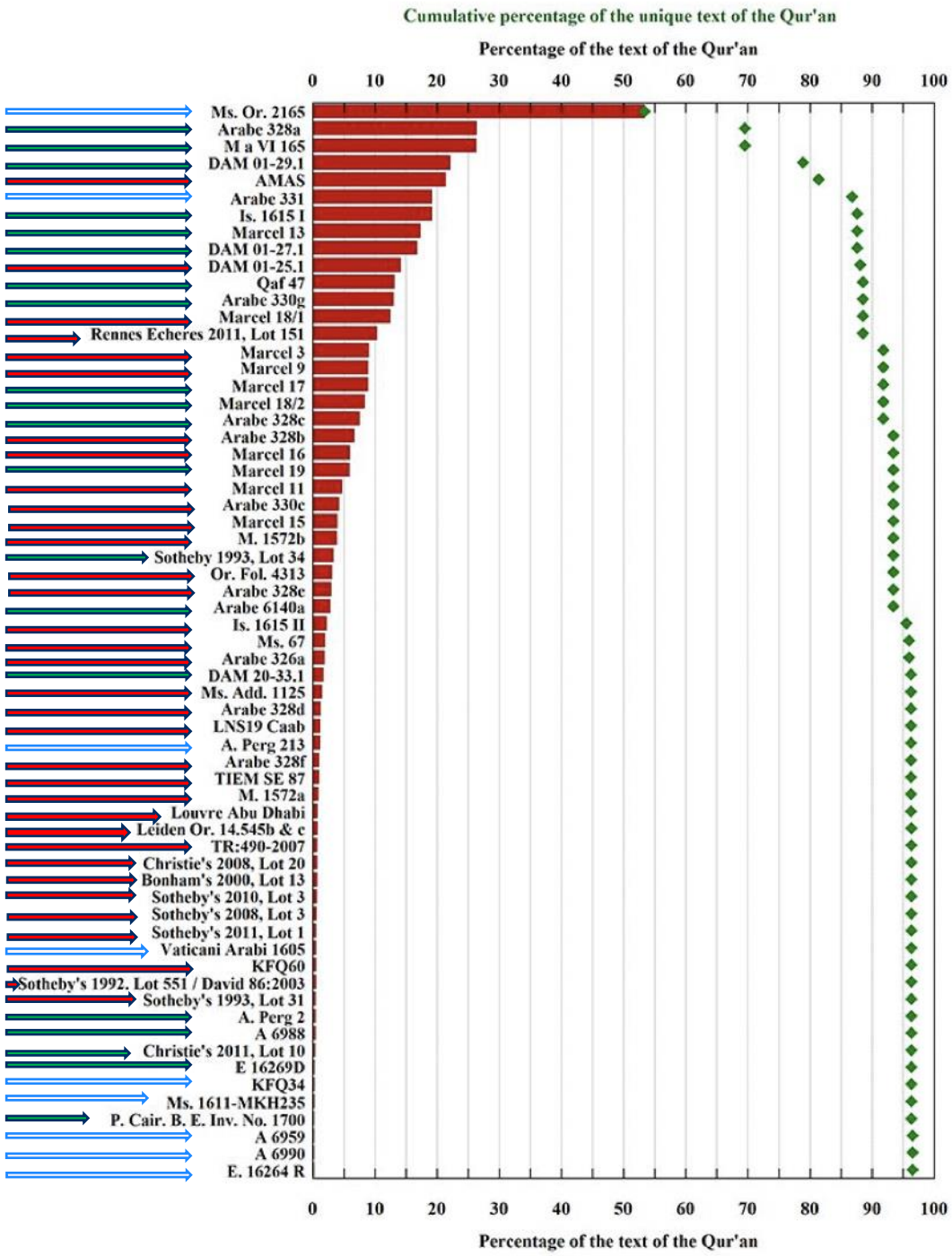
20 = are tentatively dated, with disagreements between scholars (green arrows)

9 = are dated after 719 AD (blue arrows)

34 = In other words, over half of them, we have no way of knowing…thus, it's pure speculation by the Muslims! (red arrows)

Thus, **none of them are really valid!**

Since **all** of them are either **later**, or **tentatively dated**, or have **no supporting evidence**



CONCLUSIONS

There are **no complete Qur'ans** for the first 100 years after Muhammad

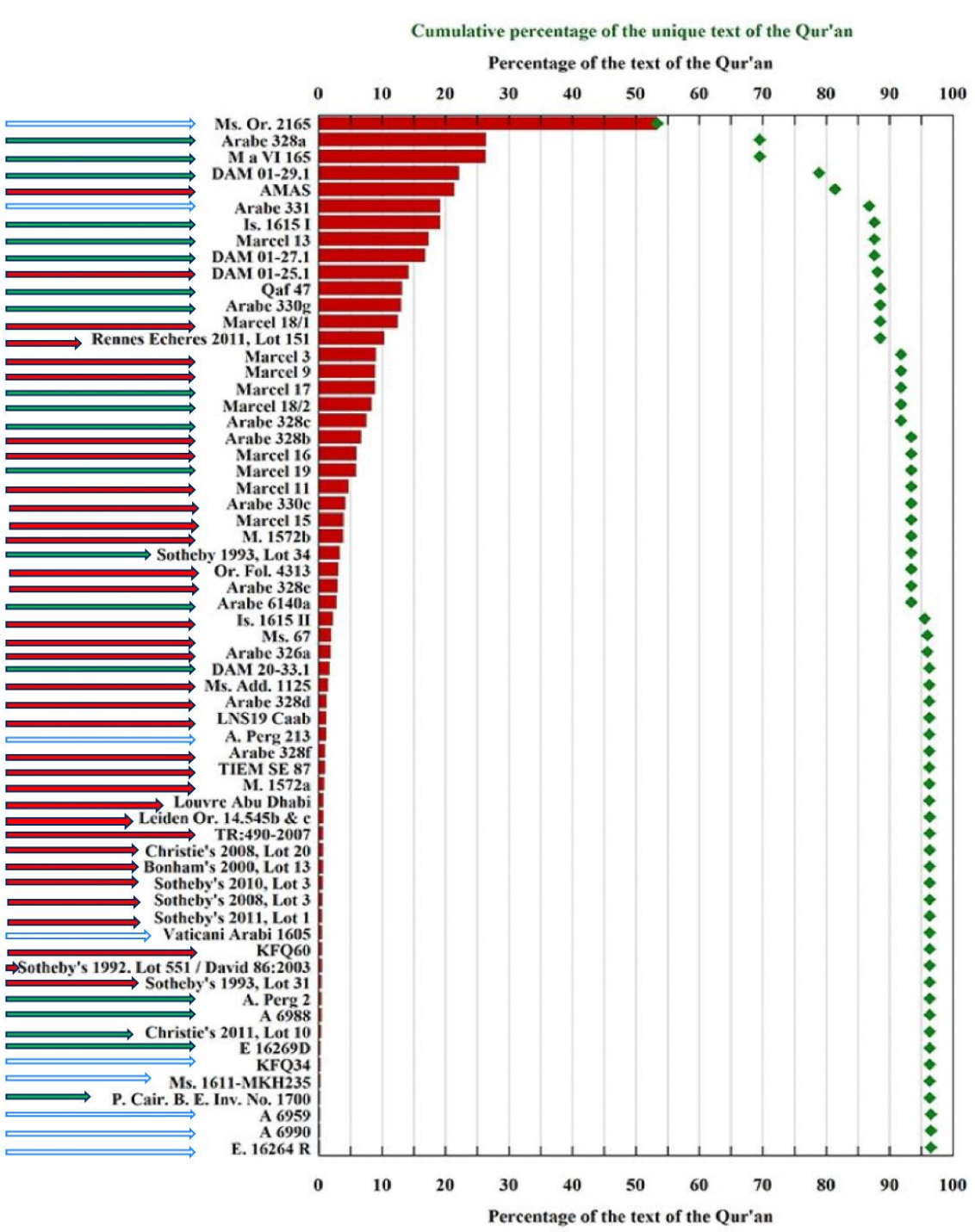
The Muslims have had to collect **63 fragments** of the Qur'an to find even **96% by 719AD**

Yet, almost all of them are **tentative**, or have **no supporting evidence** for early dates

Some of their dates even go into the **9th and 10th centuries**

They have **not studied** any of them to know if they **agree with the current 1924 'Hafs' text**

So, how did we get our **present Qur'an?** Let's find out…



[12] THE 1924 ‘HAFS’ CANONIZED TEXT

So, how was our present Qur’an chosen?

1924 – CAIRO (99 years ago)

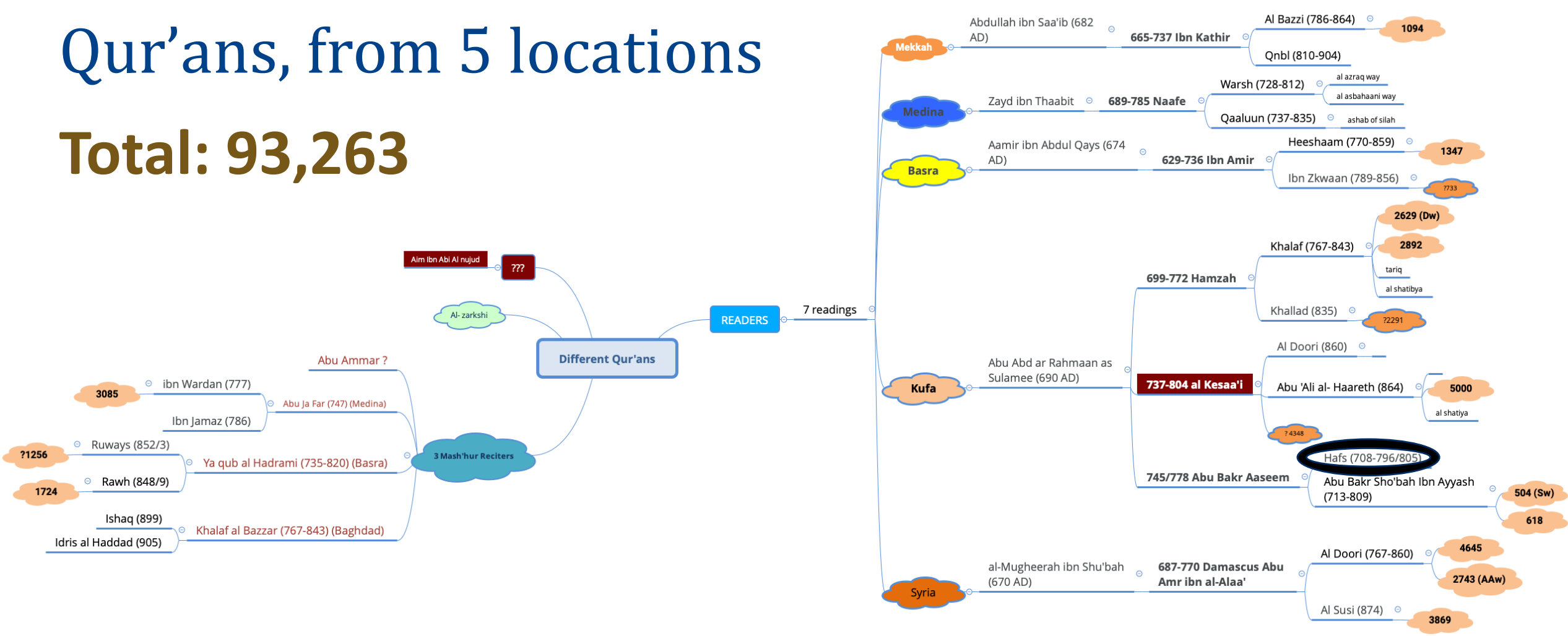
- In 1924, the department of Education in the city of Cairo, Egypt, were having problems with standardized tests, as they were getting conflicting answers with students who were quoting directly from the Qur'an, or rather 30 Qur'ans
- They went to Al Azhar University, and asked *Muhammad b. 'Ali al-Husayni al-Haddad* to choose just one of the 30 as the official Qur'an for their schools
- He chose the 796 AD 'Hafs' Qur'an for all the high schools, but just in **Cairo**
- All the other 29 'variant Qur'ans' they gathered together and threw them into the **Nile River**, and sank them…thinking that would get rid of them…
- Little did they know that you can still buy all of them, even today…

[Reynolds, Gabriel Said (Ed.), *The Qur'an in its historical context*, (London & New York: Routledge, 2008) pgs. Introduction, 2-3]
[Neuwirth, Angelika, & Sinai, Nicholas (Eds.), *The Qur'an in Context*: *Historical and Literary Investigations into the Qur'ānic Milieu,* Leiden/Boston: Brill, 2010, p. 1]

Qur'anic Authors

Counted variants of 34 Qur'ans, from 5 locations

Total: 93,263

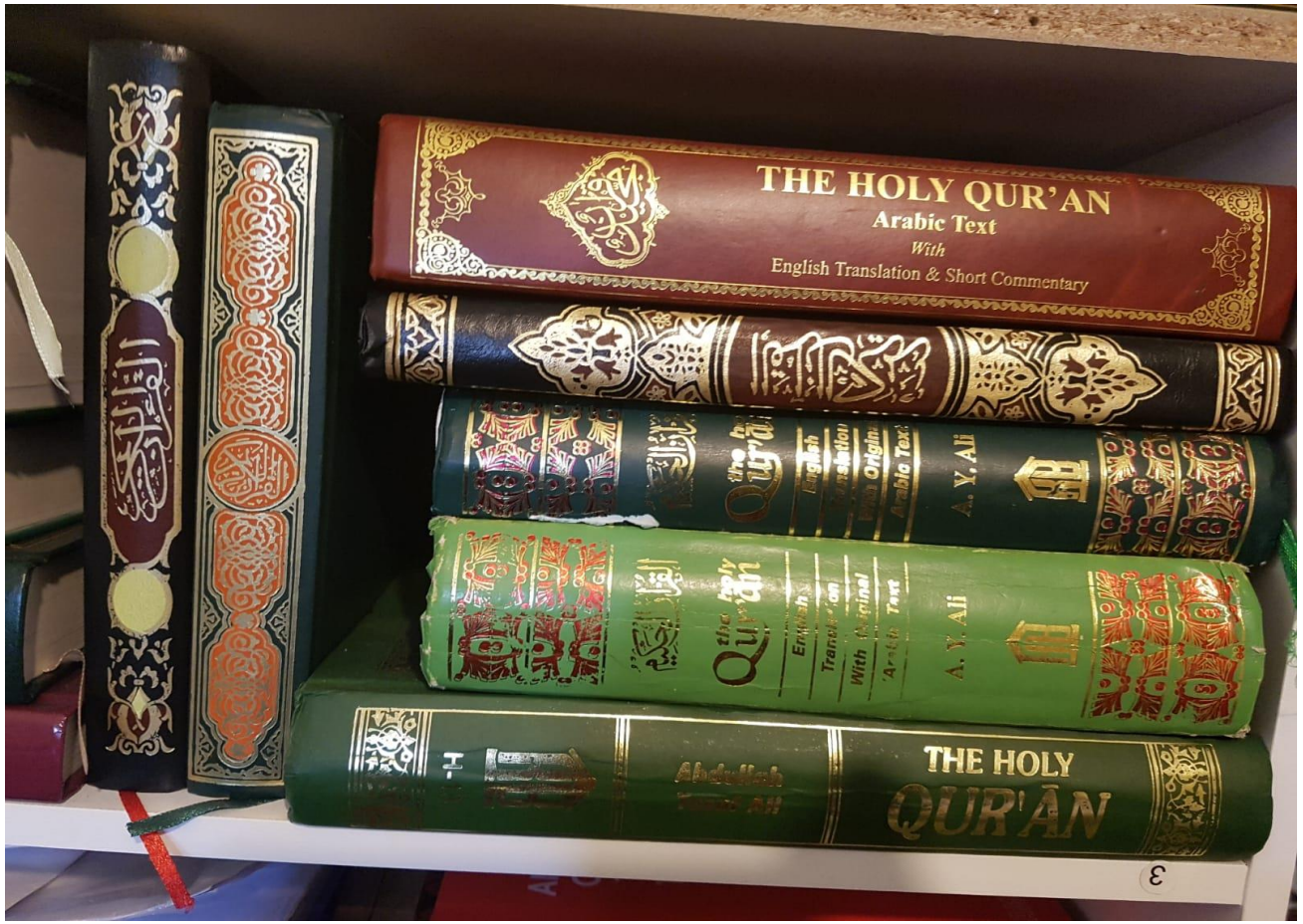


1936 – EGYPT (87 years ago)

- The government of **Egypt** realized how efficient the Cairene model was
- They decided to make the Hafs standard for all Qur'ans in Egyptian schools
- This was known as the **'Faruq Edition',** named after King Faruq, who came to power that year

[Reynolds, Gabriel Said (Ed.), *The Qur'an in its historical context*, (London & New York: Routledge, 2008) pgs. Introduction, 2-3]
[Neuwirth, Angelika, & Sinai, Nicholas (Eds.), *The Qur'an in Context*: *Historical and Literary Investigations into the Qur'ānic Milieu,* Leiden/Boston: Brill, 2010, p. 1]

WHICH HAFS QUR'AN? THERE ARE 7!



1985 – SAUDI ARABIA (38 years ago!)

- The government of **Saudi Arabia** realized how efficient the Egyptian model was
- They decided to make the Hafs standard for all Qur'ans **world wide**
- This was known as the **'Fahd Edition'**, named after King Fahd, who came to power in 1982

[Reynolds, Gabriel Said (Ed.), *The Qur'an in its historical context*, (London & New York: Routledge, 2008) pgs. Introduction, 2-3]
[Neuwirth, Angelika, & Sinai, Nicholas (Eds.), *The Qur'an in Context*: *Historical and Literary Investigations into the Qur'ānic Milieu,* Leiden/Boston: Brill, 2010, p. 1]

[13] AN ARAMAIC ‘PROTO-QUR’AN’

What the Germans have discovered may shock you!

Gunther Luling (d.2014)



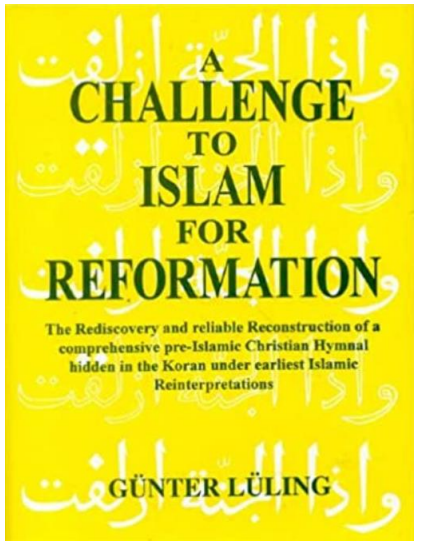
German Historian, Theologian, Philologist, Arabist

German Protestant theologian, philological scholar (Dr. in Arabistics and Islamics) and Pioneer in the study of early Islamic origins.

From 1962 to 1965 he was the Director of the German Goethe-Institut in Aleppo, Syria.

Research:

- Reconstructed a comprehensive pre-Islamic Christian Hymnal hidden in the Qur'an, taken from Syriac 5th-6th century Christian hymns
- His 1970 PhD thesis received '**Eximium Opus**' grade, the highest available in Germany, which should have promoted him to professorship anywhere
- Was kicked out of his University, but for no reason ('He was a crack-pot'), possibly because his research was just too new and explosive (much like tectonic research)
- With the English translation (on the right), his material has finally been rehabilitated

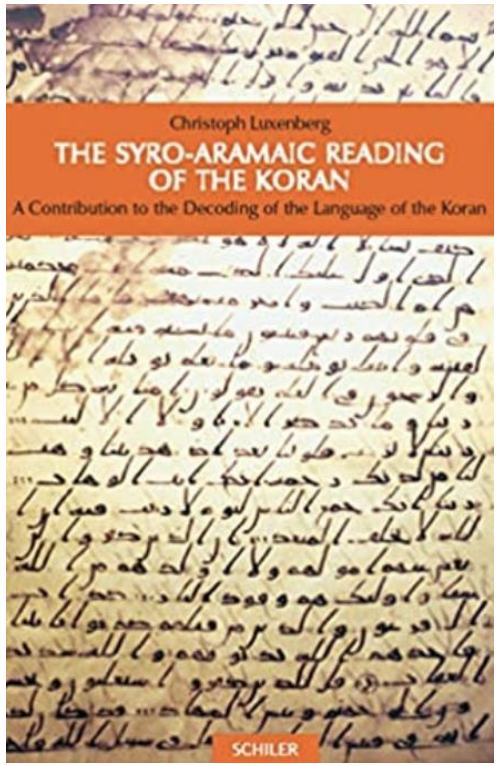


Christoph Luxenberg

X

Published under a Pseudonym

- An Arabist and Syriac scholar, who broke new ground on the Qur'an, discovering that much of it comes from previous Christian Lectionaries, Homilies, and Hymns, written in Syro-Aramiac, and then interposed into Arabic later on
- Like Luling, was ostracized by the German academic community, and so doesn’t show himself publicly



Luxenberg's 7 layered Textual Analysis

1) Check **al Tabari's 10th century Tafsir** (commentary) for Arabic meaning for words
2) Check the **Lisān al-ʿArab** (Tongue of Arabs = Arabic Dictionary) **Ibn Manzur (1290)**
3) Look for **homonymous (synonymous) roots** in Aramaic with a different meaning
4) Try different **diacritics**
5) Check for an **Aramaic root** using **different diacritics**
6) **Re-translate Arabic words into Aramaic** with semantics of the Syro-Aramaic words
7) Try to find lost meanings of Arab words **using 10th century Syro-Aramaic lexicons**

What did Luxenberg find?

Once he took the Arab Qur'an back to its Aramaic roots:

- All the dark passages were Christian Lectionaries, Homilies & Hymns
- Every Lectionary, Homily and Hymn was about **JESUS**!
- It had nothing to do with 'what they found', but 'who they found'

Conclusion

3 periods of **Textual evolution**:

- 7th century = **Aramaic** texts to Arabic
- 8th – 9th centuries = **Arabic mss**
- 8th – 10th centuries = **Qira’at & Ahruf** diacritics (736 – 905 AD)

FINAL CONCLUSIONS

(When all is said-and-done)

13 areas we investigated…

[1] What do modern Muslim Leaders Claim?

[2] What did early Muslim Scholars Say?

[3] Historical Anachronisms

[4] Source Criticism

[5] The 2 compilations of the Qur'an

[6] The 30 late Diacritical Variants (i.e. the different Arabic Qur'ans)

[7] The 6 Earliest Qur'anic Manuscripts

[8] The 2 Layers of the Sana'a Palimpsest

[9] The 4 Carbon Dating Lab Reports

[10] The 4,000 early Consonantal Variants

[11] The 63 Earliest Extant Fragments

[12] The 1924 Hafs canonized text

[13] An Aramaic 'Proto-Qur'an'

CONCLUSIONS

- Our Remit was to investigate both the Mecca, Muhammad, and the Qur'an
- It is obvious that everything Muslims are dependent on for their 'book, man and place' are based on Traditions (SIN) which are 200 – 300 years too late, and 100s of miles too far north
- Mecca proves probably the biggest problem for Muslims
  - The SIN refers to a place with much vegetation, existing since Adam & Eve, & with 300 prophets buried
  - Yet, it's not referred to until 741 AD, and none of the early maps show Mecca at all
  - Patricia Crone debunked Watt's land based 'Trade-Route Theory' going through it back in 1987
  - We debunked the Red Sea Trade via Arabia, proving it was all via Africa, because it had water
  - All of the 7th century Qiblas were facing Petra up to 706 AD, and not Mecca until 729 AD
  - None of the surrounding empires ever heard of the Mecca
  - All of the stages of the Hajj were simply borrowed from other places, mostly Jerusalem



CONCLUSIONS

- The coins prove that the area under “Islam” was either Christian or Zoroastrian until 692 AD
- The Rock inscriptions prove that Islam as we know it didn’t appear until around 730 AD
- The 6 earliest manuscripts prove that men created 6 different Qur’ans between the 7th – 9th centuries
- The Birmingham Folios prove that Muslims borrowed stories created long before the Qur’an
- The 30 Qira’ats which proliferated from the 8th-10th centuries proved the Qur’an was evolving everywhere
- Holding up the 26 Qira’ats in 2016 opened up a whole ‘can of worms’ for Muslim scholars
- The interview of June 8, 2020 created a platform for us to go public with the Qira’at Narrative
- The 29 Qira’at Variants dumped into the Nile in 1924 prove that when Muslims find problems with their Qur’an, they either **burn** them, **wash** them, **erase** them, **cover** them, or **sink** them to destroy the evidence!

CONCLUSIONS

- The 4,000 Consonantal Variants prove that Muslims have accreted, deleted and corrupted their text, before standardizing it in the last century
- The 63 fragments employed to find just 96% of the Qur'an proves they still cannot find a complete Qur'an for over 100 years, as their fragments are tentative, or have no sources
- The Aramaic proto-Qur'an proves that when we go back to the original text we will find Jesus!

Overview: The 7th – 8th century Arabs in order to create their own distinct identity needed a 'book, a man, and a place', which they did with the Qur'an, Muhammad and Mecca; but it didn't take just 22 years as the SIN claims, but centuries, proving that Islam is as man-made as any other religion, unlike Christianity!

- We can use this material today to disprove the Preservation of the Qur'an, Muhammad and Mecca
- It is Islam and not us who are 'arguing from silence', as we have the 7th c. evidence they don't have
- These arguments hit at the very foundations of Islam; yet they are neutral and 'politically correct'

Note…

From what we have researched, and found, we can say that:

- The Qur'an **was not created** by God at all
- The Qur'an **was not sent down** to Muhammad between 610 – 632 AD
- The Qur'an **was not completed** by Uthman in 652 AD
- The Qur'an **was changed** in the last 1300 years
- The Qur'an **was finally compiled** in 1924, and made official in 1985
- Thus, the Qur'an is a mere 96…no wait…**38 years old!**
- Consequently, many of us here are actually older than the Qur'an!

And finally…

Remember, the 4 claims for Qur'anic authority do not fit the Qur'an:

They don't fit our Bible either…but don't we have another 'Word of God'?

The Logos, Jesus Christ Himself? Let's apply these 4 criteria to Him…

- Is Jesus **eternal?**
- Was Jesus **sent down?**
- Is Jesus **completed?**
- Has Jesus ever **changed?**
- Thus, the 4 criteria Muslims are looking for in their Qur'an, their "Primary Revelation", we already have in Jesus Christ!
- Let's "bring them Home" to a much greater and better Revelation, **JESUS CHRIST!**

Yet, by Casting Doubt on the Qur'an

Our Muslim Friends can Consider a Bigger and Better Book that points them to our final revelation, Jesus Christ…

The Bible!