

## A research on “rhythm & music” in the Qur’an

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Received: March 4, 2013 Accepted: March 26, 2013 Published: June 1, 2013

doi: 10.5296/ijl.v5i3.xxx URL: <http://dx.doi.org/10.5296/ijl.v5i3.xxx>

### Abstract

In this research some aspects of the language, style, music, and sounds of the holy Qur’an will be analyzed in order to prove that it is a miracle. The word “miracle” expresses an event that is beyond the capacity of the men or the society. So greater the impossibility, greater the miracle will be (Taslaman, ۲۰۰۶).

This research focuses on the subtleties of the Qur’an and its beauties. The Qur’an contains literary gems in every Ayah, Passage and sura and this is one of its miraculous sign. It surpassed the high level of classical Arabic eloquence and has its own style, unique layout, features and a uniquely powerful message which inspire men to change their whole lifestyle and entirely guide them.

The miraculous aspects of the Qur’an can be: specific word choice, word order, emphasis, sounds and visuals produced within the text.

The Qur’an was sent for a specific goal and reason, so everything within it, including every sounds, letters, words, sentence structures, different chapters and sections are selected and put together meaningfully and consciously to convey its regarded meaning and benefit.

**Keywords:** The Qur’an, Miracle, Rhymed prose, Music, Style

## 1. Introduction

The Qur'an is a holy book which is unique in all aspects. It was sent over ۲۳ years, but has no contradictions in it. This living book is preserved over ۱۴۰۰ years in terms of language and contents. It continues to inspire people of all religions and help them change their ways of thinking and living. Its poetic contents and rhythmic recitation are pleasing to the ear of each listener, even unaccustomed and non-Arabic persons.

In the ۷<sup>th</sup> century, when the Qur'an was revealed, Arab society had many superstitions and groundless beliefs where scientific issues were concerned (Al Ghazal, ۲۰۰۴). All miracles are signs and the Qur'an is the miracle of the holy prophet who asked the unbelievers to refer to the Qur'an itself to find their answers and believe this book.

Like every miracles, the Qur'an was a miracle which was proper for the situation of Arab society. The matchless style of the Qur'an, its superior wisdom and the miraculous attributes are definite evidences proving that the Qur'an is the word of Allah.

The Qur'an is a masterpiece and set its own standards and unique style. It possesses an inimitable and astounding style from the literary perspective. It also addresses all human beings and its clear and comprehensible language makes it attractive to every reader or hearer.

## ۲. Review of Literature

In this part, some of the researches on the Qur'an issues will be studied. Jarrar (۱۹۹۸) describes the holy Qur'an from a numerical perspective to reveal the numerical and mathematical miracles in the Qur'an. He chooses this perspective because he believes the world of mathematics and numbers is the world of provable facts, and math can be the language of physical and social sciences. Yahya (۲۰۰۱) analyzes, the scientific Miracle of the Quran, including some information about the coming and expansion of the universe into existence, and also information about the human body. He also explains the information which the Qur'an gives about the future and also the historical miracle of it. Yahya (۲۰۰۲) studies the miracle of creation in plants through associated sura in the Qur'an. In facts he wants to prove the miracle of Qur'an by setting out the proofs of creation. And also to open up an important road that will guide man to his lord.

Yahya (۲۰۰۵) believes that Quran is the book of guidance and wisdom, and the perfection of its literary language, the features of its style and the superior wisdom contained within it, like the remarkable number of scientific truths and technological advancement of the ۲<sup>th</sup> & ۲۱<sup>th</sup> centuries, are some of the proofs that Quran is a Miracle represents the words of our lord.

Aziz (۲۰۰۶) determines the number of times the words “man, woman, day, month and prayer” occur in the Qur'an to demonstrate the absurdity of these claims that there is some special significance underlying the number of times these words occur in the Qur'an, and to prove that this book is a miracle. Taslaman (۲۰۰۶) believes the Qur'an as an unchallengeable miracle which gives information from the depth of space to beneath the sea, from development in our mother's wombs to the end of universe. He analyses these facts and also

the mathematical code system of the Qur'an to prove its miracles never end and everyday a new miracle is revealed.

Yahya (٢٠٠٧) reveals the life of honeybees and the methods of their communication and so on explained in the Qur'an. His aim is to show the fact of creation and that every feature possessed by living things is a manifestation of God infinite wisdom and might. He analyses all these facts to prove the Qur'an is a Miracle.

Deedut (٢٠١٠) explains the meanings and the definitions of the miracle. He also takes a look at some of the scientific facts mentioned in the Quran which modern scientists, Muslim and non-Muslim alike, affirm as true

Islam (٢٠١٢) Analysis some aspects of prophet Muhammad miracles during his ministry and compares them with the miracles of other prophets. He believes the Qur'an is the Miracle of Allah, but argues that Qur'an does not support the belief that Prophet Muhammad performed any miracles. He believes that Quran was the only sign given to Prophet Muhammad but it's not his miracle.

## ٢. Language and Style of the Qur'an

The Qur'an has audible beauty that hearing of it, the listener will feel the hypnotic emotional and beautiful effects of it, even if he doesn't understand its language. The music of Qur'an is a magic which can change extremely the people hearts and emotions.

Alikhan (٢٠٠٨) believes although Arabic language is an eloquent and flowing language, has sometimes the traits of harsh sounds like "kh", "Ha", "Qaf", etc. However, when the Qur'an recited throughout, it flows smoothly and has praised characteristics in comparison to other Arabic texts.

Another difference between the Qur'an and Arabic rhetoric or poetry is the consistency and frequency of literary within each Ayah. And also Qur'an style and content never defeated in competition by any poets. So one never gets bored by reading the Qur'an and this book will never become old.

### . *Proofs the Qur'an Miraculous Language in the Qur'an*

As it is mentioned before the Qur'an is able to express specific meanings and images by using delicate sounds and this fact is part of an inimitable and outstanding style of the Qur'an.

• «وَلَقَدْ يَسَّرْنَا الْقُرْآنَ لِلذِّكْرِ فَهَلْ مِنْ مُدَكِّرٍ» (Qur'an, ٥٤: ٢٢).

(We have made the Qur'an easy to understand)

The Qur'an has an easy and comprehensible language and style to help all human beings make communication with it. However, it is the Qur'an miraculous feature that is inimitable. In the Qur'an there are some verses which emphasis this fact. Such as follows:

• «وَإِنْ كُنْتُمْ فِي رَيْبٍ مِمَّا نَزَّلْنَا عَلَىٰ عَبْدِنَا فَأْتُوا بِسُورَةٍ مِثْلِهِ وَادْعُوا شُهَدَاءَكُمْ مِنْ دُونِ اللَّهِ إِنْ كُنْتُمْ صَادِقِينَ» (Qur'an, ٥٤: ٢٣).

(If you have any doubts about what we have sent down to Him, our servant, create a sura equal to it, and call your witnesses, except Allah, if you are truth full)

﴿أَمْ يَقُولُونَ افْتَرَاهُ فَلْيَقْرَأْ بِسُورَةٍ مِثْلِهِ وَادْعُوا مَنِ اسْتَلَطَعْتُمْ مِنْ دُونِ اللَّهِ إِنْ كُنْتُمْ صَادِقِينَ﴾•

(Do they (unbelievers) say, Muhammad has himself invented the Qur'an, say create a sura equal to it and call on anyone to help you except Allah, if you are truthful?(Qur'an, 10: 38).

So as it is clearly mentioned in the Qur'an, the effective, elegant and unique style of the Qur'an cannot be imitated by anyone to the end of the world.

#### 4. The Rhyming System in the Qur'an

The rhyming system in the Qur'an is known as "rhymed prose" and linguists describe the use of this rhyme in the Qur'an as a miracle (Yahya, 2005).

In other words, the form and the rhyme used in the Qur'an are special and unique in a way that can't be found in Arabic literature.

In the Qur'an 29 suras begin with one or more symbolic letters which are known as "Muqatta'ah – letters". 14 of 29 letters in Arabic comprise these initial letters: Qaf, sad, Ta, Ha, Ya, Sin, Alif, Lam, Mim, kaf, 'Ayn, Nun, Ra, Ha.

Analyzing the rhyming system in the Qur'an shows that there is rhyme with the letter "Nun" in 88.8% of the verses. 84.6% of sura ash-shu'ara', 90.32% of sura an-Naml and 92.05% of sura al-Qasas. When applying these studies to the whole Qur'an, 90.8% is rhymed with the letter "Nun". In no literary work of comparable length has it been possible to rhyme with a single sound in more than half the text (Yahya, 2005).

Examining the rhyme scheme in the Qur'an shows that 80% of the rhymes consist of just 3 sounds (n, m, a) consist of just 3 sounds (n, m, a) consisting of the letters Alif, Mim, Ya and Nun. So 90.8% of the verses are rhymed with "Nun" and 30% of them are rhymed with "Mim", "Alif" or "Ya".

This analysis shows that the rhymed prose in the Qur'an is formed of just two or three sounds; this proves that the Qur'an is a miraculous masterpiece with an outstanding literary characteristics.

#### 5. An Introduction to the Arabic Language

Arabic is an ancient Semitic language, believed to be over 2000 years old.

In Semitic Languages, words may be formed by modifying the root itself internally (Katamba, 2000, p. 163) The prosodic template for turning the tri consonantal verb root to a noun in Arabic is either cvcvc or ccvc and the vocalic melody is literal and also the suffix /-un / and prefix / ma- / (The same, p.175).

In Arabic each letter has its own "power" and sound effect within a word which enhances the meaning portrayed through the letter. This meaning depends in the way the word articulate (Taslaman, 2006, p.22).

So as it is mentioned before, often the letters of a word have qualities that reflect the letter pronunciation and meanings.

If the letters are intense, the meanings may have an aspect of intensity to it for intense.

Here's a list of Arabic letters with their qualities of being light or heavy according to (the same, p.۲۱).

- The letters (Fa / ف , Ha / ح , Tha / ث , Shiin / ش , ha / ه , kha / خ , sad / ص , siin / س , kaf / ك , ta / ت) Pronounce weakly and with a flowing breath.
- The letters (Alif / أ - hamza, jiim / ج , dal / د , Qaf / ق , Taa / ط , ba / ب , kaf / ك , ta / ت) Pronounced while the other letters are softer.
- The letters (kha / خ , Sad / ص , Dad / ض , Ghayn / غ , Ta / ط , Qaf / ق , Dha / ظ) are the heaviest letters of Arabic; they have fat, thick and full- mouth letters.
- The letters (sad / ص , Dad / ض , Ta / ط , Dha / ظ) are full letters and the tongue rises to the top of the mouth during their pronunciations.
- The letters (Fa / ف , Ra / ر , Miim / م , Nun / ن , Lam / ل , Ba / ب) are articulated very easily, quickly, swiftly, and with minimal effort.
- The letters (Qaf / ق , Ta / ط , Ba / ب , jiim / ج , dal / د) are pronounced with somewhat of an echo, without vowels.
- The letters (zaa / ز , siin / س , sad / ص) create a slight whistle when articulated.
- The letter (shiin / ش) vibrates in the mouth when pronounced.
- The letter (Ral / ر) causes a vibration and shiver of the tongue.
- The letters (waw / و and Ya / ي) have the capacity to be extended and flow very nicely.

So each letter has its own power and sound effect which connected to meaning within a word. And classical Arabic language is powerful tool in conveying subtle meanings and dramatic scenes.

## ۶. The Correspondence of Delicate Sounds with Meanings and Images They Expressing the Qur'an

A) «وَاللَّيْلِ إِذَا سَجَى» (And by the night when it is still) [Qur'an, ۹۳:۲]

The word «sajaa: سَجَى» made of smooth sounds and produces a tranquil tone.

As the type of sound related directly to the Meaning it conveys, this word conveys the meanings of "stillness and serenity" within this phrase.

B) «وَأَنْزَلْنَا مِنَ الْمُعْصِرَاتِ مَاءً ثَجَّاجًا»

(And sent down, from the rain clouds, pouring water) [Qur'an, ۷۸:۱۴]

The word «thajjaaja: ثَجَّاجًا» indicates the scene and image of raining because the series of its

vowels emit the sound of splattering and scattering.

So the Qur'an often uses the words that imitate the sounds they denote. This rhetorical device called "onomatopoeia" which is widely used throughout the Qur'an discourse.

C) «فَالْمُورِيَّتِ قَدْحًا» (And the producers of sparks striking) [Qur'an, ١٠٠: ٢]

The word «Qad-han: قَدْحًا» emits the sounds which support developing the sense of the image, this verse indicating. The Arabic letters "Qa"-striking the letters "da" and rebounding the letters "ha" to convey the sounds of striking and provoke the meaning of "horses galloping and their hooves striking rocks to produce sparks".

D) «فَإِذَا جَاءَتِ الصَّاعِقَةُ» (when there comes the deafening blast) [Qur'an, ٨٠: ٣٣]

The word «alssaakhah: الصَّاعِقَةُ» means deafening noise, so there is a direct connection between the sounds of the Arabic letters "kha" connected with "ta" emanating the harsh sounds and the meaning of the text.

E) «فَوَسْوَسَ إِلَيْهِ الشَّيْطَانُ...» (so Satan whispered to him ...) [Qur'an, ٢٠: ١٢٠]

The word «wasswassa: وَسْوَسَ» means the repeated whispering. The word is repeated twice [wass-wassa] to show that there is a repetition both in letters and in meaning (Taslaman, ٢٠٠٦).

As it is shown through these instances, sounds in the Qur'an are employed to increase the effect of meanings and messages. The Qur'an selects and arranges the words to create sounds to conform to the scene and image this holy book conveys. Selecting the right words and arranging them in a specific way, help developing sounds and rhythms.

## ٧. Conclusion

١. Fourteen centuries ago, Allah sent the Qur'an to human being as a book of guidance. He called upon people to be guided to the truth. The Qur'an is the last divine book to the Day of Judgment, and will remain the sole guide, faith and a methodology of life for humanity.

٢. Qur'an is not a scientific book, and its principle goal is to form a righteous man and establish a virtuous community.

٣. In Arabic Language all the letters have a distinct sound which has an effect on the meaning of the word. A thick sounding letter or word will have a deep meaning and a lightly pronounced letter or word will carry a light meaning.

٤. The usage of sounds in the Qur'an plays a rhetorical role and this holy book has an inimitable symphony through which sounds employed to affect meanings and convey messages.

٥. The Holy Qur'an is a huge miracle which can be studied from innumerable points of views and there is no end to this research.

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