

# Know Your God

**Preface**

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## Preface

While driving I used to listen to recitation from the holy Quran. By the time I completed translation by Pickthall, I felt that there were great treasures of sciences, as divine revelation to mankind. I noted that there were many misconceptions, besides lack of knowledge, about God, divinity, spirituality, materiality, natural phenomena, historiography, natural history, sciences, etc. I completed about a dozen different audio translations. Everytime there were new spiritual experiences, and sciences peeling off truth, layer by layer.

I did not start with *tafsir*. Many of them are thickly painted in specific school of thought, and even claimed as such. However, after reading some plain translations, old and new, I compared interpretations, *tafsir*, and dictionaries. Then, I collected some material on sciences in the Quran, given in this book, with references.

Many verses of the holy Quran end with some combination of the Most Beautiful Best Names and Attributes of God, relating to the facts mentioned in the verse, section or surah. I have listed these, and tried to find and collate their context, and explore meanings in the light of available resources and sciences on the relevant subjects.

The aim of this humble exercise, started in 1995, is no more than inviting attention for consideration, deliberation, thinking and reasoning, into facts and phenomena mentioned in the Quran and increasing evidence provided by sciences including natural history.

By the Grace of Allah, the Ever-All Gracious, the Ever All-Merciful, I sent this compilation, titled '*Know your God*', to Prof Shaikh Muhammad Yusuf, Principal Cadet College, Larkana, for review in February 2008, and finally to Mr Noor Ahmed Memon for publishing and printing on 10.3.2008. There can be gaps, different interpretations, and even deficiencies in collating data pertaining to various sciences referred in the Quran. It will be a great service, to point these out for correction and improvement. I may also suggest to take up projects for research in the facts, phenomena and sciences, mentioned in the Quran.

Some of the material could be presented more precisely, yet some of it has been reproduced, because of following considerations:

- (i) importance of statements and references,
- (ii) special position and stature of the authors,
- (iii) degree of authenticity,
- (iv) subtle variations and opinions,
- (v) argument, expression and articulation,
- (vi) my own deficiencies in various fields of sciences.

The notes do not provide close ended answers, but encourage inquisitive mind and increase quest for observation, exploration, reflection and reasoning.

There may appear to be repetitions of some explanations and verses. Generally one verse contains more than one subject or argument and there are many verses on the same subject, drawing different angles of argument. Therefore, an attempt has been made to present different approaches and perspectives, e.g. of philosophy, logic, science, history, etc. On the other hand, many issues need to be explained or elaborated in detail, in more volumes. Any how, material on different issues or subjects has been compiled or written in such a manner that each can be expanded into a separate article or even a book.

Different statements and views of various authors and scholars have been reproduced and arranged so that they present a sort of interconnected discourse or discussion on the subject.

In the notes at the selected verses, translations of holy verses have been given from different translators.

In the beginning *extracts* of opinions of renowned scientists and scholars have been given very briefly. Volume-I basically deals with theological, philosophical, historical and scientific dialectics. Volume-II lists the Most Beautiful Best Names of God, as given in the Quran, which highlight His Attributes. Volume-III lists those Most Beautiful Best Names, as given in the Quran, which explain Ever All-Omiscience-Power of God. Volume-IV lists the Most Beautiful Best Names mentioned in the Quran, the Traditions, and selections by various scholars. Some stanzas have also been selected from Neyyar Ehsan Rashid's book of calligraphic paintings and poetry, '*To God Belong The Names Most Beautiful*'.

*The Roundtable On Issues and Perspectives - Quote, Unquote, (the cut-piece, that became available during the course of compilation of the main book, Know your God), is an effort, as a separate book, to provide clarity on certain related current issues.*

Parts of the verses ending with the Most Beautiful Best Names have been given with verse number, along with numbers of verses and sections bearing context. Wherever, it needs full text, in order to avoid ambiguity, full verse(s) has (have ) been given.

Bibliography, is given at the end of the book.

**Shahzad Shaikh**

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