

of the Holy Quran whose preservation and protection Allah has taken upon Himself: "Surely, We have sent down this Message, and surely We will preserve it." (15:9); "Falsehood cannot come at it from before it or behind it. (It is) a Revelation from the Wise, the Owner of Praise." (41:42); "And recite that which hath been revealed unto thee of the Scripture of thy Lord. There is none who can change His words, and thou wilt find no refuge besides Him." (18: 28).

We end this article with the grave warning given by the Quran to people like Khalifa and Deedat.

"THEY THINK TO BEGUILLE ALLAH AND THOSE WHO BELIEVE, AND THEY BEGUILLE NONE SAVE THEMSELVES, BUT THEY PERCEIVE NOT." (2:9)

Dr. Rashad Khalifa, the originator of the theory of No. 19, has once again, like a cobra, raised his head — but this time to attack the very foundation of Allah's Word.



بقیہ: 'حکمتِ اقبال'

افعال آشکار ہوتے ہیں بالکل اسی طرح سے ذاتِ حق ایک ہے لیکن کائنات کی کثرت میں اس کا ظہور ہوا ہے پھر وہ مخفی ہے لیکن کائنات کی تخلیق نے اُسے آشکار بنا دیا ہے گویا انسانی انا کی فطرت خدا کی فطرت کی طرف راہ نمائی کرنے والی ہے۔

گنجد بدل عاشق با ایں ہمہ نہانی

یختائی و بسیاری نہانی و پیدائی

اقبال

ایں پستی و بالائی ایں گنبدِ مینائی

اسرارِ ازل جوئی بر خود نظر سے دکن

AL-ARSH: This word appears in the Quran no less than 22 times and not 19 or 20 times as claimed by Khalifa.

Obviously Dr. Khalifa's computer needs to brush up its arithmetic!

We consider it instructive to give below Surah and verse numbers for the readers to check for themselves: 7:45; 9:129; 10:3; 12:100; 13:2; 17:42; 20:5; 21:22; 23:86; 23:116; 25:59; 27:23; 32:4; 39:75; 40:7; 40:15; 43:82; 57:4; 69:17; 81:20 and 85:15. (It may interest readers to know that we have not included this word which appears in a slightly different form in several more places).

Readers can easily check the numbers for themselves and find out how they have been deceived!

(EDITORIAL NOTE: From the very beginning when this Bhai theory of 19 was first propounded by Dr. Rashad Khalifa, AL-BALAAGH had fought it tooth and nail. Our simple logic was that Allah's Word does NOT need a mathematical buttressing and bolstering. If non-Muslims wish to accept Islam and believe in the Quran, then they must do so on the impregnable integrity, awe-inspiring beauty and compelling appeal of the Quran per se... and NOT because of some spurious mathematical computation revolving around the number 19!

The computer-crazy, mixed-up "whiz-kid"-scholars have to this day, not answered this question posed by us in 1981!!

IGNORANCE

In passing, we would like to expose Khalifa's ignorance of even an ordinary historical fact. In his MUSLIM PERSPECTIVE (April 1985) he says: "... Omar was an intimate friend of the Prophet from early Islam, a son-in-law of the Prophet, the second Khalifa. ..." It is very strange that Mr. Deedat's "great servant of Islam" is not even aware of the fact that Hazrat Umar (R) was the FATHER-IN-LAW of the Prophet (S), and NOT his "son-in-law". And yet this "great servant of Islam" has the temerity and the audacity to question the integrity

CONCORDANCE

It seems that everybody has been overawed by the mention of computers. It never occurred to anyone to look into a concordance of the Holy Quran and just count the number of times a certain word, e.g. RAHMAN, occurs.

Without using any computer — for we do not need any — but with the aid of the concordance of the Quran, we shall check the number of times the words AL-LAH, RAHMAN, RAHEEM and ARSH occur in the Quran.

Khalifa, is not aware of the fact that BISMILLAHIR RAHMAANIR RAHEEM is not only sacrosanct beginning and mark of distinction between different surahs, but is also an important constituent and integral part of Surah Fatihah and all other Surahs of the Quran!

Ibn Abbaas is on record to have said that whenever a new Surah was revealed to the Holy Prophet (S), "BISMILLAAHIR RAHMAANIR RAHEEM" was the FIRST verse to be revealed. Our computer obsessed scholars have very conveniently ignored. "Bismillah" appearing at the beginning of the 112 Surahs, but have merely taken into account only the one at the beginning of Surah Fatihah, when they counted the words ALLAH, RAHMAN and RAHEEM. Are the BISMILLAHS at the beginning of the 112 Surahs not part of the Quranic text? By ignoring the 112 BISMILLAHS, Khalifa and Deedat are guilty of TAMPERING with the Quranic text!

EVIDENCE

We shall now examine the evidence with the aid of an English concordance by Hanna E. Kassis and an Arabic concordance by Muhammad Fu'ad Abdul Baqi.

ALLAH: The number of times the word ALLAH appears is not 2698 (as Khalifa previously said) or 2699 (as Khalifa has now come up with), but 2811!

RAHEEM: The word RAHEEM does not occur 114 or 115 times, as we are led to believe, but no less than 227 times!

RAHMAN does not appear 57 times as stated by Khalifa but 169 times!

"Nine violations of the Quran's mathematical code were discovered by the time the review of data was completed. ALL NINE VIOLATIONS HAVE BEEN FOUND IN THE LAST TWO VERSES OF SURAH 9. (See the Table at the end of this article)."

The table referred to in the above quotation is hereunder:

| VIOLATIONS OF THE QUR'AN's MATHEMATICAL MIRACLE | | | |
|---|------------|--|---|
| VIOLATED WORD | | Frequency in Qur'an Without Removal of 9:128 and 129 | Frequency in Qur'an After Removal of 9:128 and 129 |
| Messenger | رَسُول | 115 | 114 (19x6) |
| (your) selves | أَنْفُس | 153 | 152 (19x8) |
| Merciful | رَحِيم | 115 | 114 (19x6) |
| Turn away | تَوَلَّوْا | 20 | 19 (19x1) |
| God | اَللّٰه | 2699 | 2698 (19x142) |
| god | اَللّٰه | 96 | 95 (19x5) |
| Trust | | 58 | 57 (19x3) |
| Lord | رَب | 970 | 969 (19x51) |
| Throne | اَلْعَرْش | 20 | 19 (19x1) |

The discrepancies are apparent from the figures given in the two columns. How is it that such simple figures could not be worked out, with the aid of a computer, in seventeen long years? Was his computer fed inaccurately in the first place? Was his computer out of order then, or is it out of order NOW? Will Dr. Khalifa's errant computer discover some more "tampering" with the Quran after another 17 years? The truth, however, is that: "This is the sickness of man, that when he fails to account for any happening, he invents a word through which he bluffs himself that he has answered the problem. He takes refuge behind a word!" ("AL-QURAN- THE ULTIMATE MIRACLE" by Ahmad Deedat, 1985 U.K. edition, p. 27; 1979 ed., p. 31)

That, indeed, is the sickness of Mr. Deedat's "great servant of Islam" — Rashad Khalifa. When he failed to account, through deliberate concealment, for the last two verses of Surah Taubah, he invented a lie (that he used computers) through which he tried to bluff others that he had answered the problem of the authenticity of the Holy Quran.

In his translation of the Quran, Khalifa writes: "The Quran's miraculous numerical code is so intricate that it leaves no doubt that the Quran is the Word of God, and that it has been perfectly protected from the slightest distortion, addition or loss." (QURAN: THE FINAL SCRIPTURE, Tucson, 1981, p. 1).

That is only one side. The other side is revealed in Khalifa's bulletin, MUSLIM PERSPECTIVE (March 1985). Unashamedly he reneges thus: "COMPUTER EXPOSES AN HISTORICAL CRIME TAMPERING WITH THE WORD OF GOD; TWO FALSE VERSES UNVEILED IN QURAN".

Rashad Khalifa stands exposed and condemned by his own writings. Mr. Deedat likewise! They are proved fabricators and prevaricators by their own contradictory statements. Another example of contradiction is contained in the March issue of his MUSLIM PERSPECTIVE where he affirms the result of his findings: "During the last 17 years (1968-1985), intensive research into the Quran with the use of computers has produced startling results, and an overwhelming proof of authenticity."

Again: "What concerns us in this Bulletin is the prominent physical fact that the opening verse of the Quran (BISMILLAH) consists of 19 letters, and every word in it is mentioned throughout Quran a number of times which is CONSISTENTLY A MULTIPLE OF 19. Thus, the first word (Ism = Name) is found in Quran exactly 19 times; the second word (Allah = God) is mentioned 2698 times (19×142); the third word (Rahman = Gracious) is mentioned 57 times (19×3); and the last word (Raheem = Merciful) is mentioned 114 times (19×6), plus one time that refers specifically to the Prophet and is not an attribute of God."

But for some inexplicable reason, Rashad Khalifa feels the necessity of revising his seventeen years of hard labour: "During the last three years, an extensive study was undertaken to examine the mathematical miracle of the Quran at the word for word level. The objective was to confirm that the computers did not err, and that the results do conform to the Quran as it was originally recorded during the Prophet's lifetime. . . ."

In this "revision" he discovers not one but NINE errors! He tells us: "It is the result of this vast review of the computer data that unveiled the shocking crime of tampering with the Quran."

Mr. Arafque Malik has also mentioned Mr. Ahmad Deedat as an ardent supporter of Rashad Khalifa. And no doubt, like many sincere, devout and orthodox Muslims, he has slavishly echoed Khalifa's ideas. I have, however, taken the liberty of omitting those lines from the article as Mr. Ahmad Deedat is generally held in high esteem in Islamic circles on account of his tremendous Da'wah activity and, in particular, his struggle to counter the onslaught of Christian missionaries against Islam. I pray that he may become aware of the nefarious designs of Rashad Khalifa and renounce his theory forthwith. A highly scholarly and informative study written by Maulana Abdul Quddus Hashmi on the theory of Number 19 in respect of the Quran is being reproduced elsewhere in this issue to further enlighten our readers on the subject. May Allah (S. W. T) save us all from the evil promptings of Satan and his acolytes! Amen.

Absar Ahmad

Rashad Khalifa, inventor of the spurious theory of Number 19, cleverly camouflaged his hypocrisy and sinister designs by wearing the mask of a sincere Muslim. Having beguiled the Muslim community into believing in his new-fangled theory of 19, he is now gradually unmasking himself and revealing his true identity.

The first glimpse of Khalifa's hypocrisy came to light when he declared in his bulletin, MUSLIM PERSPECTIVE, of March 1985, that: "THE COMPUTER EXPOSES AN HISTORICAL CRIME; TAMPERING WITH THE WORD OF GOD; TWO FALSE VERSES UNVEILED IN QURAN; AN INVITATION TO ALL MUSLIMS TO EXAMINE THE EVIDENCE BEFORE REMOVING THE FALSEHOOD."

In the April 1985 issue of MUSLIM PERSPECTIVE, a bold sub-heading tells the Muslim world: "MORE EVIDENCE CONFIRMS THE FALSEHOOD OF THE LAST TWO VERSES OF SURAH 9".

VOLTE-FACE

Let us now see what Khalifa has been saying about the integrity of the Quran, before reneging upon it and making a complete volte-face. Rashad Khalifa, on the cover of his booklet, MIRACLE OF THE QURAN, says that the Quran "comes to us perfectly preserved". He further adds on Page 1 of the same booklet: "It has been protected throughout the times from the slightest distortion, addition or loss".

THE GREAT BRAIN ROBBERY

Theory of 19-a great hoax

by: Arfaque Mialk

EDITORIAL NOTE

The following article by Mr. Arfaque Malik is being published through the courtesy of Brother Suhaib Hassan of London. He was kind enough to send me a copy of August/Sept.'86 issue of "Al-Balagh", a magazine published from Johannesburg, with the noble aim of expounding and preaching Islam in its pristine purity. This article first appeared in that magazine. I believe that the contents of this should be widely circulated in order to dispel the dangerous influence of the false theory of Number 19 with regard to the Holy Quran as first propounded by Dr. Rashad Khalifa of Tuscon, Arizona (USA). A few years ago I myself had an opportunity to meet Dr. Khalifa in Algiers (Algeria) in an International Conference on Islamic thought held there annually. I vividly remember that at that time he appeared to me a sincere and believing Muslim, though rather obsessed with his theory of the Number 19 which he presented as a most revolutionary discovery of this century. Educated in science (his Ph.D. is in Chemistry!), he turned to Islamic Studies and in particular to the Quran. As he was born in Egypt and received his early education there, he has the privilege of knowing Arabic as his mother language. At that time he worked as a full-time Director and Imam of Tuscon Islamic Centre/Mosque. But as things turned out later, perhaps his over-eagerness and ambition for recognition and authorship has clearly led him off the track. Now he has gone to the extent of questioning the verbal integrity of the Holy Quran which he himself vehemently held and championed during the early phase of his computer-based Quranic research project. This by itself is an internal incoherence in his thought and provides an adequate ground for repudiating the entire theory.