



## The Qur'an

The Islamic-Muslim Qur'an (Koran) is the only widely-acknowledged scripture of the Islamic faith. It consists of some 114 chapters or suras written in rhymed Arabic.

While the Christian Bible was written by many different authors, in various styles, over a considerable period of time, the Qur'an was revealed to Mohammad over a relatively brief period of time, and written down by his followers. The name Qur'an means recitation, and Mohammad is considered by Muslims to be the most recent and last prophet in a line of prophet's who have received God's recitations or revelations.

The central tenet of Islam and the Qur'an is that there is only one God. In Arabic the word for God is Allah. But the one God of Islam is the same as the one God of Christianity and the one God of other faiths. There is only one God. It really doesn't matter what language one uses to refer to God. The Qur'an also teaches Islam, literally "submission" to God. This is also not unique to the Muslim faith.

The Qur'an refers to prophets Abraham, Moses, Jesus, and Mohammad, as being God's messengers to various peoples. While Mohammad is referred to as the last prophet, it has been (wrongly) interpreted as if there will be no more prophets, while in fact God speaks through many souls, in many ways, and continues to do so. Islam glorifies Mohammad, as Christians glorify Jesus. But it is not the prophet or teacher that really matters. What really matters is the teaching. Understanding God and God's creation. Understanding the human being and the role of the human being in God's plan.

The Qur'an requires certain daily prayers. Character is important. Thus the real import of the Qur'an is to encourage evolution in consciousness, through character-building, humility, and submission to the God within. The Qur'an and the Islamic faith have inspired many millions of people to become more spiritually-focused. And like Christianity, there are both fundamentalists who interpret their faith narrowly and rigidly, and more spiritually-inspired

adherents who embrace the real teachings of their faith, in humility, benevolence, character, and consciousness.

The Qur'an is a holy book that deals with man's relationship to God. It provides a legitimate and meaningful spiritual path for many. It leads to jihad (the struggle between the lower nature and the higher self). And ultimately it leads to Islamic mysticism, and the mystical core of Islam, which is the mystical core of all the world's faiths.

