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## SH MOHAMMAD ELSHINAWY: WHY AN ARABIC QURAN?

إِنَّا أَنْزَلْنَاهُ قُرْآنًا عَرَبِيًّا  
لَعَلَّكُمْ تَعْقِلُونَ

"Indeed, We have sent it down as an Arabic Qur'an that you might understand"

Surah Yusuf 12:2

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*The article below is an excerpt of Sh Mohammad Elshinawy's reflections on Surah Yusuf #YusufTaughtMe, which are published on his Facebook page and Quranreflect.com.*

*"We have sent it down as an Arabic Quran so that you may understand."*

Isn't it fascinating how a Book that is universal in its message is Arabic in its language? Doesn't it strike you as interesting how the All-Knowing elected Arabic as the means to understand the Quran, while knowing that a large sector of humanity does not understand Arabic? To appreciate the divine wisdom of this choice, realize that humanity does not have a universal language that they all understand, which leaves us with three options to consider:

- The Qur'an descending in a language other than Arabic. This would not solve the "problem" of it always being less understandable to some than others.

- \*The Qur'an descending in all languages. This would only further exacerbate the problem of some not understanding. Since every language has its own distinct connotations, this would deem innumerable conflicting "understandings" of the Qur'an inevitable, with no authoritative mechanism to referee between them. Surely, that would not be wise for a Book intended as definitive guidance.
- \*The Qur'an descending in Arabic, due to Allah's perfect knowledge and wisdom. He knew that the overall messages of this Book, those sufficient to bring people to faith, could be conveyed to all people in translation. And He knew that Arabic was the most qualified prism through which to deepen our perception of God and guidance, due to its unmatched potential to both offer conceptual clarity and stimulate healthy emotions. "Allah knows best where to place His message." [6:124] (Inspired by Dr Hatem al-Haj)

*"We have sent it down as an Arabic Quran so that you may understand."*

The mention of the Quran being in Arabic is an alert to those who read it in other languages. This preempts for them the natural failures of translation they will find, but also prevents any re-packaging of the Quran from ever being considered an acceptable equivalent. This second wisdom shined many times during recent centuries, when tyrannical regimes and colonialists attempted to outlaw the Arabic language, or dissuade the masses from using it. While the lands of the Muslims were conquerable, the love of the Quran in their hearts was not. And so every time they opened the immortal Book, even the translated passages about the Quran being in Arabic sounded the alarms within them: Do not be deceived by me; I am but the inferior substitute. (Inspired by Sh 'Abdullah al-'Alami)

*"We have sent it down as an Arabic Quran so that you may understand."*

Studying Arabic to better understand the Qur'an is paramount. Great scholars like Imam ash-Shafi'i (Allah bestow mercy on him) even championed that exerting an effort to learn Arabic is a religious duty on every Muslim. Arabic literacy also has profound political and social significance. It is the subtle commonality which Allah used as the cementing force between the joints of this vast Ummah; the thread by which He weaved together the fraternity of this beautiful global community.

## VIDEO: DR SALAH AL-SAWY: TAFSIR AND FATAWA

Dr Salah Al-Sawy has been continuing with his almost daily lectures online focused on tafseer and other relevant issues. **Below are the videos for this week's fatawa session and the tafseer of Surah Al Zumar.** In addition, please visit his [Youtube channel](#) to view all the other lectures he has done in the past week.



فتاوى على الهواء مباشرة - الدكتور صلاح الصاوي



محاضرة التفسير للدكتور صلاح الصاوي - سورة الزمر ٤٦ - ٤٨

## ARE YOU REACHING YOUR QURAN GOALS?

The Quran is the greatest gift we have - a manual

for our whole life and a source of guidance and healing.

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