

Number of Verses of the Qurān (Index and Argument)

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Abstract

It is considered that the total number of verses of the Qurān is 6666. Let the readers note that it is absolutely incorrect that the total number of verses of the Qurān is 6666. According to our research the Quranic Text consists of 6238 verses. Anjuman-e-Himayat-e-Islam Lahore, in the Qurān published by it in the year 1935 divides the Quranic Text into 6236 verses. (Government of Pakistan vide Act No. LIV of 1973 dated 30-7-1973 has adopted this copy as the 'Standard Copy' of the Qurān.) Arguments of the Committee which recommended the acceptance of Anjuman-e-Himayat-e-Islam's published Qurān as the 'Standard Copy' are not available to the author, so no comments can be given on the decision taken by the concerned Committee. However it becomes clear that total number of verses of the Qurān could never be 6666. It would be important that someone tries to trace how this misconception entered into Muslim thought.

Index of Surahs and Verses

| Sr. | Name | Verses | Sr. | Name | Verses |
|---------------------------------------|------------|--------|-----|-------------------|--------|
| 1. | Al-Fātiḥa | 7 | 56. | Al-Wāqī'ah | 96 |
| 2. | Al-Baqara | 286 | 57. | Al-Ḥadīd | 29 |
| 3. | Āl-e Imrān | 200 | 58. | Al-Mujādilah | 22 |
| 4. | AnNisā' | 177 | 59. | Al-Ḥashr | 24 |
| Total Verses of Manzil I 670 | | | 60. | Mumtaḥinah | 13 |
| 5. | Al-Māidah | 120 | 61. | Aṣ-Ṣaff | 14 |
| 6. | Al-Anām | 166 | 62. | Al-Juū'ah | 11 |
| 7. | Al-A'rāf | 206 | 63. | Al-Munāfiqūn | 11 |
| 8. | Al-Anfāl | 75 | 64. | At-Taghābun | 18 |
| 9. | At-Tauba | 129 | 65. | At-Talāq | 12 |
| Total Verses of Manzil II 696 | | | 66. | At-Tahrīm | 12 |
| 10. | Yūnus | 109 | 67. | Al-Mulk | 30 |
| 11. | Hūd | 123 | 68. | Al-Qalam | 52 |
| 12. | Yūsuf | 111 | 69. | Al-Ḥāqqah | 52 |
| 13. | Ar-Ra'd | 43 | 70. | Al-M'arij | 44 |
| 14. | Ibrahīm | 52 | 71. | Nūh | 28 |
| 15. | Al-Ḥijir | 99 | 72. | Al-Jinn | 28 |
| 16. | An-Naḥl | 128 | 73. | Al-Muzzammil | 20 |
| Total Verses of Manzil III 665 | | | 74. | Al-Muddaththir | 56 |
| 17. | Al-Asrā | 111 | 75. | Al-Qiyāmah | 40 |
| 18. | Al-Kahf | 110 | 76. | Al-Insān(Ad-Dahr) | 31 |
| 19. | Maryam | 98 | 77. | Al-Mursalāt | 50 |

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|---------------------------------------|-----|---|----|
| 20. TāHā | 135 | 78. An-Naba' | 40 |
| 21. Al-Anbiya' | 112 | 79. An-Nāzi'āt | 46 |
| 22. Al-Ḥajj | 78 | 80. 'Abasa | 42 |
| 23. Al-Muminūn | 118 | 81. At-Takwīr | 29 |
| 24. An-Nūr | 64 | 82. Al-Infiṭār | 19 |
| 25. Al-Furqān | 77 | 83. Al-Muṭaffifīn | 36 |
| Total Verses of Manzil IV 903 | | 84. Al-Inshiqāq | 25 |
| 26. Ash-Shu'rā | 227 | 85. Al-Burūj | 22 |
| 27. An-Naml | 93 | 86. Aṭ-Ṭāriq | 17 |
| 28. Al-Qaṣaṣ | 88 | 87. Al-A'lā | 19 |
| 29. Al-Ankabūt | 69 | 88. Al-Ghāshiyah | 26 |
| 30. Ar-Rūm | 60 | 89. Al-Fajr | 30 |
| 31. Luqmān | 34 | 90. Al-Balad | 20 |
| 32. As-Sajdah | 30 | 91. Ash-Shams | 15 |
| 33. Al-Aḥzāb | 73 | 92. Al-Layl | 21 |
| 34. Saba' | 54 | 93. Aḍ-Ḍuḥā | 11 |
| 35. Fāṭir | 45 | 94. AlamNashrah | 8 |
| 36. YāSīn | 83 | 95. At-Tīn | 8 |
| Total Verses of Manzil V 856 | | 96. Al-'Alaq | 19 |
| 37. Aṣ-Ṣafāt | 182 | 97. Al-Qadr | 5 |
| 38. Ṣād | 88 | 98. Al-Bayyinah | 8 |
| 39. Az-Zumar | 75 | 99. Az-Zalzalah | 8 |
| 40. Ghāfir (Momin) | 85 | 100. Al-'Ādiyāt | 11 |
| 41. Fuṣṣilat(ḤāMī m as-Sajda) | 54 | 101. Al-Qāriah | 11 |
| 42. As-Shurā | 53 | 102. At- Takāthur | 8 |
| 43. Az-Zukhruf | 89 | 103. Al- 'Aṣr | 3 |
| 44. Ad-Dukhān | 59 | 104. Al- Hamazah | 9 |
| 45. Al-Jathiyah | 37 | 105. Al-Fil | 5 |
| 46. Al-Aḥqāf | 35 | 106. Quraysh | 4 |
| 47. Muḥammad | 38 | 107. Al-Mā'ūn | 7 |
| 48. Al-Fataḥ | 29 | 108. Al-Kauthar | 3 |
| 49. Al-Ḥujurāt | 18 | 109. Al-Kāfirūn | 6 |
| Total Verses of Manzil VI 842 | | 110. An-Naṣr | 3 |
| 50. Qāf | 45 | 111. Al-Masad (Lahb) | 5 |
| 51. Aḍh-Dhāriyāt | 60 | 112. Al-Ikhlāṣ | 4 |
| 52. Aṭ-Ṭūr | 49 | 113. Al-Falaq | 5 |
| 53. An-Najm | 62 | 114. An-Nās | 6 |
| 54. Al-Qamar | 55 | Total Verses of Manzil VII1606 | |
| 55. Ar-Raḥmān | 78 | | |
| Total Verses of the Qurān 6238 | | | |

According to our research the total number of verses of the Qurān is 6238 whereas in the Qurān published in 1935 by Anjuman-e-Himayat-e-Islam, Lahore and declared as 'Standard Copy' by the Government of Pakistan vide Act No. LIV of 1973 dated 30-7-1973, these are given as 6236.

According to our research the total number of verses of Surah An-Nisā' of the Qurān is 177 whereas it is 176 according to the 'Standard Copy' referred to above. According to our research verse no. 173 of Surah An-Nisā' starts from *فَيَعِدُّهُمْ عَذَاباً أَلِيماً* and ends at *وَلَا يَجِدُونَ* and starts the next verse no. 174 which ends at *وَلَا نَصِيرًا*. But the 'Standard Copy' of the Qurān counts this whole text as one verse.

Similarly according to our research the total number of verses of Surah Al-An'ām of the Qurān is 166 whereas it is 165 according to the 'Standard Copy'. According to our research verse no. 73 of surah Al-An'ām consists of the following text: *وَهُوَ الَّذِي خَلَقَ السَّمَاوَاتِ وَالْأَرْضَ بِالْحَقِّ وَيَوْمَ يَقُولُ كُنْ فَيَكُونُ*; and from *كُنْ فَيَكُونُ* starts the verse no. 74 which ends at *وَهُوَ الْحَكِيمُ الْخَبِيرُ*. But the 'Standard Copy' counts this whole text as one verse. The following evidence is offered to help readers reach the right conclusion.

- The phrase *عَذَاباً أَلِيماً* occurs 14 times in the Qurān. Wherever the statement concludes at *عَذَاباً أَلِيماً*, the verse ends. At 12 places including verse no. 173 of surah An-Nisā', the verses end at *عَذَاباً أَلِيماً*.¹ This fact is accepted and observed in many copies of the Qurān published by different companies at different times but the 'Standard Copy' does not observe it and counts the above mentioned text of An-Nisā' as one verse. Similarly the phrase *كُنْ فَيَكُونُ* occurs 8 times in the Qurān. All the Qurān publishing companies accept and observe that all the seven places other than 06:73 the verses end at *كُنْ فَيَكُونُ*. There is absolutely no justification for denying this to the verse 06:73. This is the evidence from within the Qurān.
- Following copies of the Qurān published by different companies with translations of scholarly persons highly esteemed by different sects agree with the author at above points:
 - (1) Copies of the Qurān published by Taj Company before its coming under the control of Administrator appointed by the Lahore High Court which also include the following: i) Translation into Persian by Shah Wali Allah, ii) Translation into English by Marmaduke Pikhall and in Urdu by Mawlana Fateh Muhammad, Model No. 358/5; (2) Translation into Urdu by Hazrat Ahmad Raza Khan (Model 22-F). (3) Tafseer-e Rifāi published by Deeni Kutab Khana; (4) Copy of the Qurān containing Urdu translation by Shaikhul Hind Maulana Mahmud ul Hasan and tafseer by Shaikhul Islam Maulana Shabbir Ahmed Usmani, published by Anjuman-e Asha'ate Qurān-e Azeem. (5) Tafseer Ziaul Qurān by Hazrat Pīr Mhammad Karam Shah al-Azheri.
- Even Anjuman-e-Himayat-e-Islam does not claim any finality or originality in declaring that the total number of verses of the Qurān is 6236. Professor Zafar Iqbal of Anjuman-e-Himayat-e-Islam in the foreword simply says that they "have followed Kufi way of counting the verses instead of non-Kufi way and in preparing their copy they have followed the copy of the Qurān published by the [then] Government of Egypt."²
- Allah states in the Qurān at 15:87 that He has revealed seven oft-repeated verses³ and all agree that the verses referred to here are the verses of surah Al-Fātiḥa. Hence all agree that Surah Al-Fātiḥa consists of seven verses. But they disagree as to whether the formula *بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ* is included in Al-Fātiḥa as the first verse, or the surah has seven verses other than *بِسْمِ اللَّهِ*. We agree with those who do not consider *بِسْمِ اللَّهِ* as a verse of Al-Fātiḥa. In the light of Allah's Injunction at 15:87 we consider surah Al-Fātiḥa consisting of seven verses without *بِسْمِ اللَّهِ*. In accordance with the auspicious way taught by the Prophet (pbuh) we believe that *بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ* is written and recited before all the surahs of the Qurān except surah At-Tauba, but not as part of any surah. *بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ* occurs in the text of surah An-Naml (27) as part of verse 30 and only there it is included in the Qurān. The editor/s of the 'Standard Copy' count *بِسْمِ اللَّهِ* as verse no. 1 of surah Al-Fātiḥa to make it consist of seven verses but they do not include *بِسْمِ اللَّهِ*, as part of the surah, in other 112 surahs. There is no uniformity, consistency or justification in their decision.
- As Qurān says at 74:30-31 that Allah has appointed nineteen angels as wardens of Hell Fire. Allah says that He has made number 19 a stumbling block for those who disbelieve. Mentioning of this number in the Qurān may lend certainty to the people who were given scripture in the past and it increases the faith of the believers.⁴ In this perspective it has been found that number 19 has a very special significance in the Qurānic system. For example, the formula *بِسْمِ اللَّهِ* which is recited before we recite the Holy Qurān, consists of 19 letters. It consists of four words: *Ism* (اسم-Name), Allah, Ar-Rahmān, Ar-Rahīm. Total number of each one of these words occurring in the Qurān is a multiple of number 19.⁵ Special significance of this number in the Qurānic system renders much justification to the view that the total number of verses of the Qurān must be a multiple of a number 19. The figure 6238 as total number of the verses of the Qurān is a multiple of number 19.

- There is another very important point to be discussed in this respect. The Verse 24 of Surah Yūsuf starts as follows: **وَلَقَدْ هَمَّتْ بِهِ وَهَمَّ بِهَا لَوْلَا أَنْ رَأَى بُرْهَانَ رَبِّهِ**. She (the wife of Egyptian Minister) verily desired him (Yūsufa.s.). And verily he (Yūsufa.s.) would have desired her had he not observed the *Burhān* of his Lord. Muslims agree that it is utmost necessary to observe a stop (وقف) while reciting the Qurān so that the two statements, both part of the Qurān but one stating something about the righteous or righteousness and the other about the vile or evil, may not intermingle. But it is very strange and irreverent that Muslims have continuously been ignoring to place a **قف** after **وَلَقَدْ هَمَّتْ بِهِ**. The editor/s of the ‘Standard Copy’ do not even recognize the anomaly which arises from it. They only discuss whether there should be a **وقف** of **ج** after **وَهَمَّ بِهَا** or not.⁶ We believe that there is no need that any **وقف** of **ج** is placed after **وَهَمَّ بِهَا** but it is most required that a *waqaf* (قف) or *waqafmutliq* (ط) be placed between **وَلَقَدْ هَمَّتْ بِهِ** and **وَهَمَّ بِهَا لَوْلَا أَنْ رَأَى بُرْهَانَ رَبِّهِ**.

The readers may please note that since Government of Pakistan has declared the copy of the Qurān published by Anjuman-e-Himayat-e-Islam as ‘Standard Copy’ therefore the publishers must follow the format approved by the Government.

Notes

* The article is a revised form of the content authored by me and annexed without notes and references, with Tafseer-e Fāzli, vol. 2, English Translation, Lahore: Fāzli Foundation, 2006.

¹Al-Qurn, 9:39 and 9:84 are the places where the statements do not conclude at phrase **عَذَابًا أَلِيمًا**.

²Professor Zafar Iqbal, “Foreword”, *The Qurān*, (published by Anjuman-e-Himayat-e-Islam), reprint of the copy published in 1935

³And We have bestowed upon thee the Seven Oft-repeated (verses) and the Grand Qur'an. (15:87) **وَلَقَدْ آتَيْنَاكَ سَبْعًا مِنَ الْمَثَانِي وَالْقُرْآنَ الْعَظِيمَ**

⁴Over it are Nineteen. (74:30) **عَلَيْهَا تِسْعَةَ عَشَرَ** And We have set none but angels as Guardians of the Fire; and We have fixed their number only as a trial for Unbelievers,- in order that the People of the Book may arrive at certainty, and the Believers may increase in Faith,... (74:31) **وَمَا جَعَلْنَا أَصْحَابَ النَّارِ إِلَّا مَلَائِكَةً وَمَا جَعَلْنَا عِدَّتَهُمْ إِلَّا فِتْنَةً لِلَّذِينَ كَفَرُوا لِيَسْتَيْقِنَ الَّذِينَ أُوتُوا الْكِتَابَ وَيزداد الذين آمنوا إيماناً**

⁵ Twenty-nine Surahs of the Qurān start with separate-letters (*Hurūf-e-Muq'atiāt*). Fourteen letters out of twenty-eight alphabets of Arabic Language occur as *Muq'atiāt* in 14 different sets. Thus 29+14+14=57 which is a multiple of number 19. Total number of occurring of each one of these 14 sets of *Huruf-e-Muq'atiāt* (according to a chart worked out by one Lt. Colonel (ret.) Mahmood Ali Akhtar), independently or part of any word, in above mentioned twenty-nine surahs is a multiple of number 19.

⁶*The Qurān*, (published by Anjuman-e-Himayat-e-Islam), reprint of the copy published in 1935, p.7.