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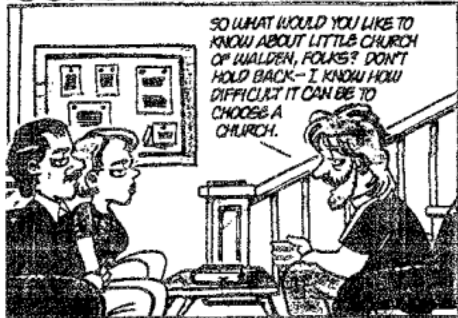
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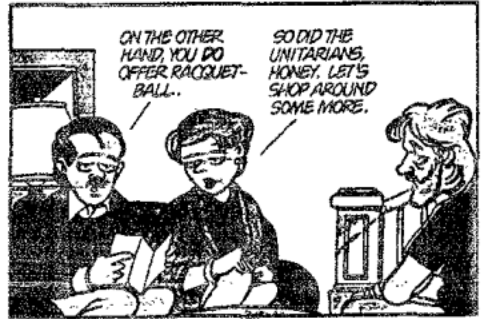
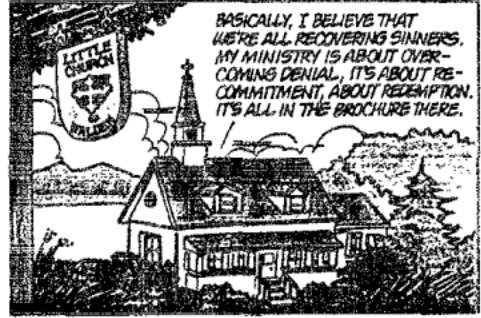
When Religion Becomes a Business ...

You shall disregard those who take their religion in vain, as if it is a social function, and are totally absorbed in this worldly life.... [6:70]

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In the name of God, Most Gracious, Most Merciful

Submitters Perspective

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Sovereignty and Perfect Happiness From God

Even though we are on parole on earth, God in His infinite grace and mercy, has blessed submitters immensely with sovereignty and perfect happiness even in this tinsel life. However, we do know that this awesome blessing from God comes only when we continuously fulfill God's commandments and after we have passed our admission tests (3:186, 29:2-3). God tells us in verses 4:78-79 and 42:30 that while everything comes from God, anything bad that happens to us is a consequence of our own deeds, and He overlooks many of our sins. In 64:11 we are told that nothing happens to us except in accordance with God's will. There are many other verses such as 87:7, 81:29, 59:2,3-6.

We know from verse 10:61 that not even an atom's weight is out of God's control, be it in the heavens or the earth. Everything, even smaller than an atom, is in a profound record. Further, from verses 57:22, 34:3 and others, we learn that God has recorded the future of everything, even before creation. We also know that shifts of angels are with each one of us and they guard us in accordance with God's commandments (13:11). We also know that God is the only One who chooses—no one else does any choosing (28:68), God is the only One who makes us rich or poor (53:43), laugh or cry (53:48). God is closer to us than our hearts (8:24).

In many verses of the Quran, God promises us perfect happiness in this world and

in the Hereafter. The following verses exemplify this promise:

Absolutely, God's allies have nothing to fear, nor will they grieve. They are those who believe and lead a righteous life. For them joy and happiness in this world, as well as in the Hereafter. This is God's unchangeable law. Such is the greatest triumph. Do not be saddened by their utterances. All power belongs to God. He is the Hearer, Omniscient. [10:62-65]

God promises those who believe and lead a righteous life, that He will make them sovereigns on earth, as He did for those before them, and will establish for them the religion He has chosen for them, and will substitute peace and security for them in place of fear. All this because they worship Me alone; they never set up any idols beside Me. Those who disbelieve after this are the truly wicked. [24:55]

We know that God bestows sovereignty and happiness not just on individuals, but in a broad sense also on nations. For example, when the people of Jonah believed, God relieved the humiliating retribution they had been suffering in this world, and made them prosperous (10:98).

We know that we have chosen to be Satan's constituents in his temporary

kingdom earth. Nevertheless, perfect happiness and God's infinite protection in accordance with God's plan are still available to us. We must repent and do our best at all times to fulfill the redemption plan bestowed upon us in God's infinite mercy.

Striving for God's approval and mercy

We should be thankful to God as much as we can for blessing us infinitely with His perfect guidance and commandments. We know that God conveys these to us by sending us a scripture, through a messenger or inspiration (42:51). God's guidance and blessings are better than any of the material things people hoard in this life.

Because of the distractions in our daily lives, we sometimes fail to be appreciative of God's blessings. We do not remember God enough times, and forget that He is running everything. We should implore God for His forgiveness for all our sins as often as we can, particularly at dawn, and repent to Him. We should also repent for not having our priorities straight. We must sincerely pledge to God that we would not repeat our sinning, and implore Him for His infinite help to improve ourselves.

continued on the next page

Sovereignty *continued*

We should meditate on God daily, particularly during the night, and reflect on all the events where we did not fulfill God's commandments in the best possible manner. We should review, reflect upon, and appreciate God's beautiful names and attributes. God commands us to magnify Him constantly (17:111). We should try to appreciate and magnify even a very small facet of God's creations. While we try to do this, we must realize that our finite minds cannot fully comprehend God's infinite greatness in all the dimensions He chooses to create.

God repeatedly conveys to us in the Quran that He is the Initiator of the heavens and the earth: to have anything done, or to carry out any command, He simply says to it, "Be," and it is. We know that the awesome mathematical coding of the Quran guards every minute aspect of God's message thereof. We also know that the discoveries of the mathematical coding of the Quran will continue to grow. Yet we know that the knowledge given to us is minute (17:85). This again is integrated with relevant information of historical and future events predestined to occur, personal and impersonal names, "memory bells" to facilitate memorization of the Quran, and the evolution of sounds, meanings, letters, words and grammar in the Arabic language. We know that all these events and the fate of all God's creations, even on earth, is pre-determined as far as God is concerned. All these events and the fate of all God's creatures are based in accordance with God's perfect justice system, His Laws for this universe as well as His most beautiful attributes. The perfect synchronization of these too are among the things that God willed to occur by saying to them "Be." We should stretch our thinking even to reflect on all of these.

Further, we know that none of the words and statements of the Quran could be randomly constructed. All these had to provide perfect guidance in terms of God's Laws for those destined to be redeemed. The Quranic verses also provide exit points for those whom God knew would decide to deviate beyond redemption in terms of the free will provided to each of the billions of souls of humans and jinns. Had God willed, all the people on earth would have believed (10:99).

We must be reverently conscious of God in all our religious duties (23:2, 57, 60). We should regularly implore God for His blessings and approval. We should remember that to God belongs everything in the heavens and on earth. In reality we own absolutely nothing—even the material from which our souls are made belongs to God.

We must appreciate God's perfect creations in and around us and run back to implore God for forgiveness and repent, the moment we perceive that the perfectly balanced situations and environment of sovereignty for us are slipping in any manner.

We must remind ourselves of the purpose of our creation and try to reflect that we may not have many days of our lives left to redeem ourselves.

We must try and prostrate to God mentally and physically as often as we can, and implore Him to make us pass on from this world as the elite of the elite (56:10). There are many beautiful verses in the Quran which we can use to implore God.

We should also reflect on the beautiful ways in which God has been fixing everything for us and for all the submitters, and in the world around us—in accordance with His perfect plan. We must set the best example and be the best community (3:110).

Conclusion

We know that there are uncountable reasons for us to be appreciative of God's blessings around ourselves, within ourselves, from the heavens and on earth. The Quran, which contains the guidance for our salvation, is a gift from God. Even our religious duties are awesome gifts from Him. Owing to this, on the Day of Judgment we will have no excuses for throwing away the sovereignty that God promises us on earth and the perfect happiness in the Hereafter. In fact, God tells us many times in the Quran to give Him a loan of righteousness and goodness to be repaid to us many fold (2:245, 5:12, 57:11, 64:17, 73:20). We must absolutely trust in God for our own sovereignty and perfect happiness.

Ahmed Currim / India

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**Quran's Mathematical Structure:
A Look at the Number of Verses in Each Chapter**

Abdullah Arik

The Quran consists of 114 *suras* (chapters). These *suras* contain a total of 6346 verses. The number 6346 includes 112 unnumbered *Basmalahs* which occur at the beginning of the *suras*. (Note that the first *sura* has a numbered *Basmalah*, and *Sura 9* has no *Basmalah*. Without the unnumbered *Basmalahs*, the number of verses in the Quran is 6234.)

Review of Some Facts

In addition to its content and literary excellency, the Quran's *suras* and verses are arranged into a superhuman structure that is purely mathematical. This structure is there for anyone to verify—anyone who can count and add. You do not have to be a mathematician or know Arabic to appreciate the structure of the Quran. Here are some examples:

1. There are 114 chapters in the Quran. This number is a multiple of 19:
 $114 = 19 \times 6$.
2. The total number of verses of the Quran including the *Basmalahs* is 6346. This number is a multiple of 19:
 $6346 = 19 \times 334$.
3. The digits of 6346 add up to 19:
 $6 + 3 + 4 + 6 = 19$.
4. When we add the numbers of all *suras*, plus the number of verses in every *sura*, plus the sum of verse numbers, the grand total for the whole Quran comes to 346199, or $19 \times 19 \times 959$.

[Example: For *Sura 1* with 7 verses, add $1 + 7 + 28$ where 28 is obtained by adding $1 + 2 + 3 + 4 + 5 + 6 + 7$. Repeat this procedure for each *sura* and add the totals.]
5. If we consider only the 29 initialed *suras*, the above procedure gives a total of 190133, or 19×10007 . From this it follows that if we consider only the 85 un-initialed *suras*, the above procedure gives a total of 156066, or 19×8214 .
6. Adding up the digits of the Quran's *suras* and verses produces a total of 1881, or 19×99 .

[Example: For *Sura 2* with 286 verses, add $2 + 2 + 8 + 6$. Repeat this procedure for each *sura* and add the totals.]

As can be seen from the few examples above—which is only a tip of the iceberg—the Quran's mathematical structure is extremely vast, incredibly intricate and totally comprehensive. Yet, it is simple to understand.

A New Fact

Here is another example in Table 1 on the right. The first column in this table represents the *sura* numbers. (It is a mathematical property that the total of these 114 numbers is a multiple of 19.) The second column represents the number of verses in these *suras* including the unnumbered *Basmalahs*. The total of this column is 6346, a multiple of 19, as discussed earlier. The numbers in the third column are obtained by concatenating (putting together) the numbers in the first and the second columns. The total of this column is 737086, also a multiple of 19.

The Almighty God, with His ultimate wisdom and mercy, has thus structured the Quran mathematically beyond any creature's ability to imitate. This mathematical structure based on the number 19 serves a number of purposes as explained in verse 74:31. It also functions to expose the people who would try to tamper with God's message. It is this structure of the Quran which makes the total number of *suras*, 114, and the total number of verses, 6346, undeniable facts. Praise be to God.

Table 1.
The Mathematical Structure of the Quran Based on Sura Numbers and the Number of Verses.

(1) Sura No.	(2) No. of Verses (With Basmalah)	(1) and (2) Concatenated
1	7	17
2	287	2287
3	201	3201
4	177	4177
5	121	5121
6	166	6166
7	207	7207
8	77	877
9	127	9127
10	110	10110
11	124	11124
12	112	12112
13	44	1344
14	53	1453
15	100	15100
16	129	16129
17	112	17112
18	111	18111
19	99	1999
.	.	.
.	.	.
.	.	.
.	.	.
96	20	9620
97	6	976
98	9	989
99	9	999
100	12	10012
101	12	10112
102	9	1029
103	4	1034
104	10	10410
105	6	1056
106	5	1065
107	8	1078
108	4	1084
109	7	1097
110	4	1104
111	6	1116
112	5	1125
113	6	1136
114	7	1147
6555	6346	737086
(19x345)	(19x334)	(19x38794)