

The Qur'an

Lesson 1:

Introduction



The Qur'an as Revelation

Revelation: Wahy, وحى

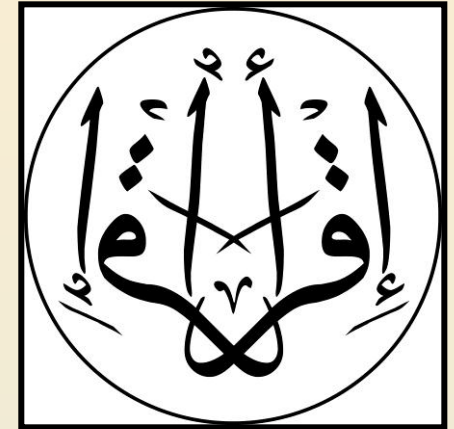
Qur'an is something sent down:

tanzil: تنزيل

Verbal vs. Non-verbal propositions:

Verbal: Moses (first 5 books), Muhammad

Non-Verbal: Isaiah



The Qur'an is Self-Referential

Qur'an is the most self-declarative holy text in the history of world religions

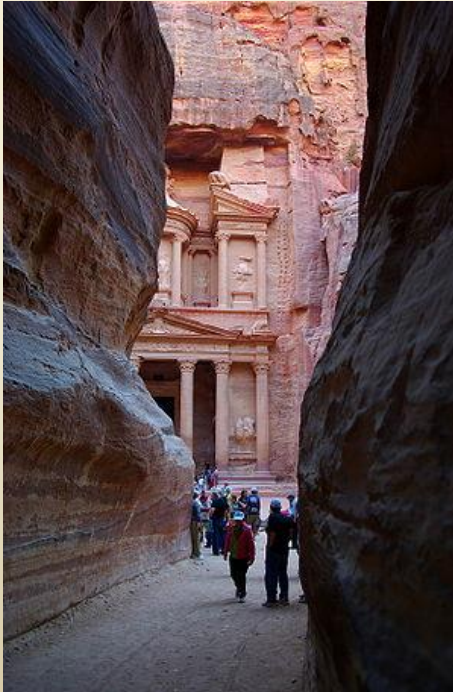
**261 appearances of the word "kitab"
كتاب + many more of its cognates**

Kitab? قرأ



The Arabic Script

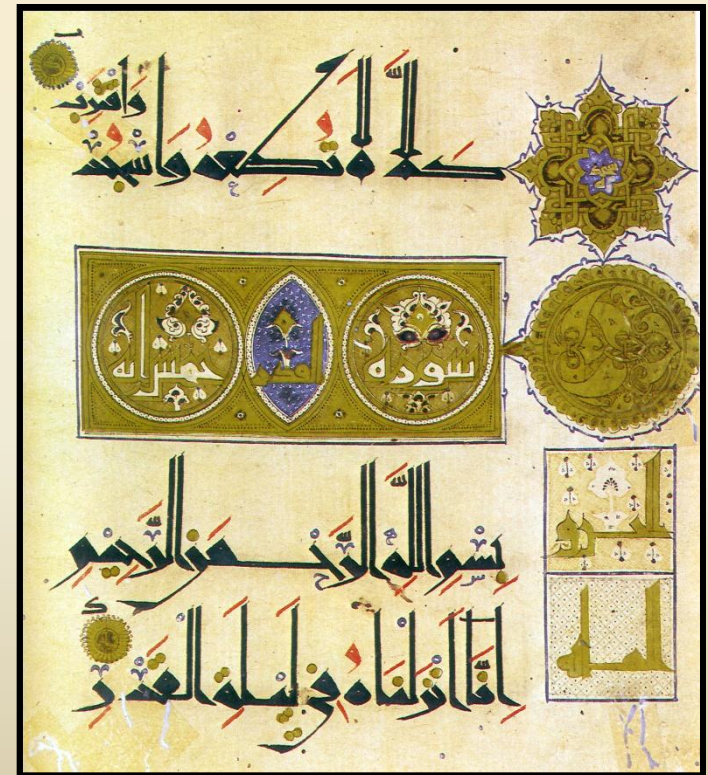
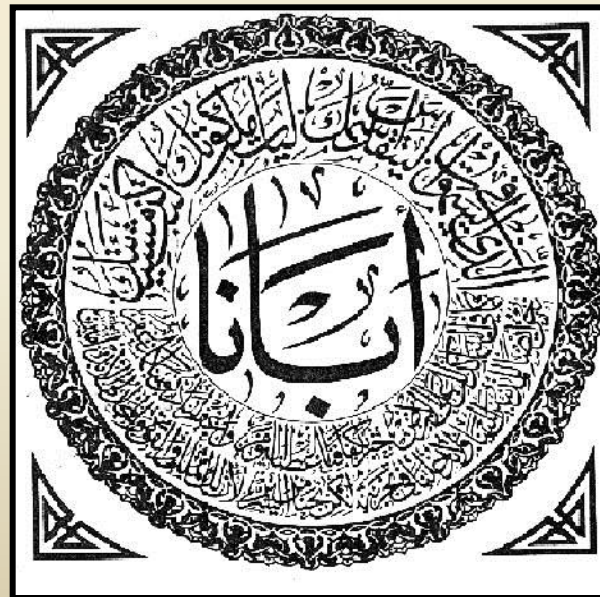
- developed from the *Nabataean* script, itself derived from the Aramaic script.
- appeared in early 5th Century.
- The revelation had impact on development



Funerary inscription from an-Namara (AD 328), speaking of the famous pre-Islamic poet Imru l-Qays.

Qur'an as Scripture:

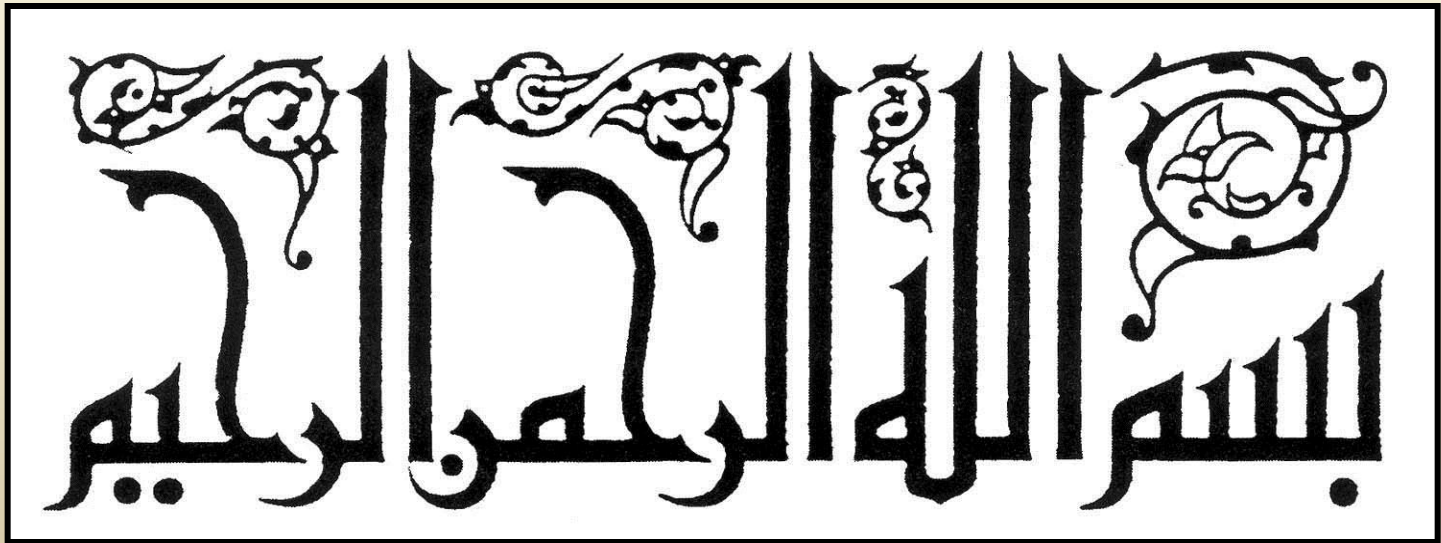
- Text: nass = نصّ
- Codex: Mushaf = مصحف
- Diff between revelation and scripture?



الخط الكوفي

What do we expect scripture/the Qur'an to contain?

- Moral ethical guidelines
- explanation of origins (*cosmogony*)
- stories of past events (sacred history: factual or symbolic?)



خَطُّ النَّسْخِ

What do people expect to get from scripture/ The Qur'an?

- consolation
- understanding
- enlightenment
- blessing/grace (baraka = بركة): understanding-based approach to Qur'an vs. blessing-based approach

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ