

**Başāir-i Qur'an by Maulana Muḥammad Jarjees Karimi, Markazi  
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Başāir-i Qur'an is an important book written by Maulana Muḥammad Jarjees Karimi regarding insights of the Qur'an. This book has been compiled according to the requirements of the contemporary times. Modern world is in need of Qur'anic wisdom which helps to understand the insights revealed in the Qur'an. Being published by the Markazi Maktaba Delhi with an excellent edition in Urdu language. It soupçons the main theme of this book "faith in Allah Almighty" as well as the human responsibilities mentioned in the Holy Qur'an. The basics aim of the book is to make a person successful in this world and in the hereafter through Qur'anic wisdom. This book encompasses adequate material and information about faith and hindrances in the path of faith in an eloquent way by quoting Qur'anic verses in an excellent way.

This book is divided into Eleven chapters, with further division into sub-chapters or sections. In each chapter, human's attention was drawn to various essential sciences and ordeals. Author tried to his best to bring human attention towards core issue of divine obedience and also towards human greed due to which they lost everything for worldly desires and fail to reminiscence Allah and goes away from Him. First chapter has been started with the title the Holy Qur'an and its meaning. Qur'anic characteristic features and its well oriented greatness is discussed in detail. Forty-four names were counted in this chapter, twenty of which were explained by the Qur'anic verses and the hadiths of the Prophet after the opinions of the companions. The style and manner applied helps to understand clear signs and greatness of the Qur'an.

The second chapter was enacted with the importance of Back to the Qur'an. It is worth mentioning, that man seeks Allah's favour, the knowledge of universe and man's own existence so that man can have access to the truth. All these

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thoughts have been explained in different Qur'anic verses with historical significance. In addition, more than three sub-chapters are included, so that man may acquire better knowledge and understanding Creator's creational scheme, the creation of the universe and the reality of human existence. Much emphasis is given on man's purpose of worldly life and existence of universe.

Third chapter has been explained under the title of "Qur'anic Style of Proviso Argument" Its description begins with the statement that; man is basic purpose of the revelation of the Qur'an. Every effort has been made by author to explain that Allah is the Creator and Owner of the universe and His creation is not a useless effort or act. It is also clarified that man is superior to all other creatures, a responsible being to maintain the world order and viable environment. To accomplish the perseverance, one of its objectives was given in the Qur'an so that it would be fully documented on the Day of Resurrection. For this purpose, the author presented forty-two verses and several ahadith to discuss the essence of the Qur'anic wisdom. This chapter was further divided into ten sub-chapters in order to grasp proper Qur'anic insight. He has also discussed different concepts of Prophecy and Prophet-hood to overcome doubts and suspicions. In these sub-chapters, an attempt was made to make humans well acquainted about the Day of Resurrection. Not a single argument will be accepted, that he has no knowledge about the day of resurrection.

The fourth chapter was written under the title of the "Role of intellects in the understanding and implementation of divine guidance. The five senses and the intellect were discussed with an explanation of the blessings of Almighty Allah because humans use five senses in their daily life to understand the vast canopy of the universe and tried to achieve benefits from it. The use of intellect is an unambiguous style of the Qur'an. In the Qur'an, people are being compelled to wake up and think by using words like thinking, research, managing things, rational, in Arabic called *tadabur*, *tafakur*, 'Ulul-al-'Abab, and dividing it into five more sub-chapters so as to make it easily understandable. It was emphasized that man should be saved from worldly troubles as well as punishments of life here after, because common sense can prepare him for the Hereafter and liberate him from hell fire.

Fifth chapter provide glimpses on "Qur'anic Concept of Trial", so that human understands their duty in this world. Trial method is adopted by Allah to enlighten humans with reality and purpose of life as a test. Connotative meaning of words like *Bala* (without) *Imtiḥan* (trial) and *fitnah* was adopted. He also discussed the general meaning of *fitnah* (persecution) and its basic conditions. In

this chapter, an attempt was made to make mankind believe that even pure souls like the Prophets (peace be upon them) had to go through trial.

Trial methodology is very much concerned with human life so as to test the patience of humans. Immediately after this chapter 6 was presented titled "Qur'anic concept of patience" because man has to work patiently during trials in accordance to Qur'anic teaching. This concept has been mentioned in the Qur'an more than a hundred times for the believers. It draws attention to the fact that man is trapped in a mire of selfish desires which is detrimental to his spiritual and worldly life. Therefore, the Qur'an encourages Muslims to be patient at every stage of life. He has declared it to be a divine attribute and has made it the first necessity for the believers. He has tried to explain this concept via various verses of the Qur'an and the views of Islamic scholars, as well as clarified, one has to be patient in odd situations. Author elucidated his best to believe that man has to face these situations from time to time and from place to place by classifying them into fourteen sub-chapters. He emphasised that it is patience only which can bring salvation for human particularly Muslims.

Entitled, with "The Qur'anic concept of welfare", Chapter 7 seeks to clarify that the worldly concept of welfare is not based on reality. Instead, Islamic concept of welfare, is explained in detail in the terms of welfare. All conditions necessary for the welfare of life are elaborated with outmost explanation. In the end, the obstacles in the way of welfare and its disadvantages were briefly introduced and mentioned.

In Chapter 8; "Weakness of Faith: Causes and Remedies" were discussed in detailed. Beginning with Belief in Allah and Attributes and every effort has been made to explain every aspect of it as well as to make it clear that belief in Allah is fundamental concern regarding development of faith and were linked with other components 'prophet-hood, resurrection' of faith as extensions for belief on Allah. In addition, freedom of faith is discussed as legal aspect of faith. Moreover, different causes of weaknesses of faith are explained in detail like motives based on lust, Satanic irritations, enmity, worldliness, impatience in suffering and difficulties, nurturing doubts in heart and mind, considering despair as destiny were explained in full through Qur'anic verses and hadiths of the Prophet Muhammad (peace and blessings of Allaah be upon him). At last remedies to improve faith, requirements for fulfilling faith, uninterrupted remembrance of Allah, love of Allah, remembrance of death continuously, study of the biography of the Prophet for improvement of faith, companions and the history of the nations on which divine punishment descended so that humans may be cleansed from the cruelties of worldly desires and advancement of faith

Ninth chapter discusses the sources of self-improvement in-detail. It has been discussed that self-improvement begins by following the teachings of Islam in general and in particular by creating fear of Allah, remembrance of death and life hereafter. To comprehend concept of self-improvement, good-number of Qur'anic verses and ahadith of the Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) were utilized to develop character and then it was pointed out that the recitation of the Qur'an, the study of the universe, the biography of Prophet Muḥammad, history of Islam and the life of the Salaf-e-Saliheen. The secret gestures of the Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) were discussed so that man could take stock of his shortcomings as well as benefit from the company of righteous people and keep on praying to seek Allah's help.

In tenth chapter author discussed some misunderstandings of humans and the Qur'an. Moreover, he discussed different aspects of human requirements according to modern needs and necessities. It is imperative that the sub-chapters were explained in accordance to modern challenges which humans face at every mode of life. An explicit and detailed guidance was provided from Qur'an and the hadiths to fulfil all necessary requirements. The statement is presented in such a way that it makes every careless person to think and reflect on the Qur'anic injunctions. In this chapter misunderstandings and misconception of Jews and Christians were scholarly besides Muslims. All misguidances propounded by Jews and Christians were cleared through Qur'anic verses so that no human being included Muslims may not be deluded or cuckolded.

Chapter-11 offer useful deliberations about the abolition of obscenity in Muslim society and was entitled with "Measures for controlling obscenity in Muslim Society in the Light of Surah An-Noor". In this surah methodology to curtail vulgarity, selfish and lavish desires are discussed so that Muslim remain away from them. Such acts are considered very dangerous for Muslim society. In this surah obscenity is affirmed as death for Muslim society and can never achieve success. At the end of this chapter, Muslims are advised in the light of Qur'anic teachings not to participate in non-Muslims festivals because festivals of every nation are somewhere connected with their religions. Muslims should not participate in such festivals being mixture of shirk and part of religious culture loaded with anti-Islamic teachings. Parenthetically various Qur'anic verses and the views of Muslim scholars were pen down to explain the vices of such heretic life style.

To sum up, this book can play an important role in informing the Muslim society from modern day blows and its false ideologies, as well as bringing them closer to the Allah as well as the divine system. Major concern of this book is to inculcate

divine features in the life humans and them out of enmity while calling them for righteousness, Allahliness and philanthropy. Study of this book create an outline of the Qur'anic aims and divine ideas in the mind. Invites humans to achieve virtues and liberate oneself from harms of the darkness of selfish desires Furthermore, the Qur'anic concepts are explained in accordance with the modern requirements to fulfil necessities of humanity. Studying the book inculcates ethical and moral values which are fundamental to live as a true human being as true representative of Allah.