

Review of *Quranic Reflections Book III*

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Islam is a complete program of how a person should conduct all of his affairs, be they spiritual, social, economic, legal or political. This program is laid out in the holy Qur'an and is elaborated upon by the traditions of the Ahlul Bayt (as). Many Muslims recite the Qur'an to earn *thawāb* but it is imperative that they should also appreciate the glory and mercy of Allah (swt) and understand the message that He wishes to communicate. Allah (swt) thus places great emphasis on reflection of the Qur'anic ayaat so readers can internalize that message and then apply it in their daily lives.

Many Muslims don't know the Arabic language, so the **Academy for Learning Islam** has embarked on an on-going noble initiative to help them glean Allah (swt)'s message. This book, the third in the series, contains thirty reflections on selected ayaat on Principles of Islamic Beliefs. These are "bite size" reflections covered in a couple of pages, beautifully written in straight forward English to be read each day of the month and repeated thereafter to refresh the message in one's minds.

The series adopts a comprehensive and consistent approach, so the reader knows what to expect from one reflection to another. It begins with part of an ayah that focuses on a specific message together with its English translation. Next, the key Arabic words in the ayah and the context, the circumstances under which it was revealed, are explained. This is followed by a comprehensive analysis of the meaning of the ayah supplemented by other Qur'anic ayaat and/or the traditions to provide deeper insights. Finally, tips are offered on how to apply the message to lead a moral, upright life.

Compared with standard translations of the Qur'an, this series offers two additional advantages. One, it is "portable" so it can be carried away from home to be read at any place at any time. Two, the in-depth explanation of the ayah is all in one place, not compressed in footnotes that often spill over the following pages. This makes the series well worth the investment of time and money.

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