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### The eternal existence of the Qur'an

The Qur'ān is the word of Allāh. It is the final revelation, sent down at a point in time when man was in need of guidance. Its greatness is seen in the fact that its message was not confined to those living in that period only but is relevant for all times and places. It guided them and will continue to be the only true form of guidance for all, until the last day.

Allāh si is the All-knowing. There is nothing that escapes His knowledge. His knowledge did not improve or increase over time. He has knowledge of all that was, all that is, all that will be and all that was not. He knows had they been how they would be.

As the knowledge of Allāh is one of His eternal qualities, so is His speech. The speech of Allāh cannot be compared to that of man. It did not improve nor did His vocabulary increase over time, as the speech of a human does. It is only that at certain points in time, in the right place and situation, man was ready to receive the word of Allāh. The word of Allāh itself, however, always existed.

Thus, we arrive at the obvious conclusion: the Qur'ān is eternal. This is so because, the Qur'ān is the speech of Allāh and the speech of Allāh is one of the eternal qualities of Allāh, as is knowledge, the ability to do all things, etc.

He (Allāh) is the first and the last..." (Sūrah al-Ḥadīd ch.57 v.3) – هو الأول والأخر

It is our belief that the Qur'ān is not a creation of Allāh. It was not created by Allāh over a certain period of time or at a particular point in time. Rather, it always existed. (*Tahdhīb Sharḥ as-Sunnūsiyyah p.55-60/ Manāhil vol.1* p.18)

This is proclaimed in Arabic with the words 'Al-Qur'ān ghair makhlūq' which literally means 'the Qur'ān is not created'.

The Qur'ān is our constitution. It is an oral text that has been documented in book form and is defined by the scholars as:

"كلامُ الله المعجِزُ، المُنسَزَّلُ على خاتم الأنبياء والمرسلين، بواسطة الأمينِ جبريلِ الطَّيْنِيَّ، المكتوب في المصاحف، المنقول إلينا بالتواتر، السمُتعَبَّدُ بتلاوته، السمَبْدُوْءُ بسورة الفاقحة، السمُختَّتُمُ بسورة الناس" "The miraculous speech of Allāh, revealed to the seal of all prophets and messengers, through the medium of the trustworthy angel Gabriel. It is documented in book form and has been transferred to us in succession. Its mere recital is a form of worship. It starts with Sūrah al-Fātiḥah and concludes with Sūrah an-Nās." (At-Tibyān p.8)

Remember that only by implementing the teachings of this eternal book will we obtain everlasting success.

# Article taken from the Book, THE NOBLE QUR'ĀN- ITS HISTORY AND PRESERVATION by SHAIKH ISMAIL LONDT

# 13<sup>TH</sup> Century Koran fetches record price at auction

Tue Oct 23, 6:19 PM ET

The 13<sup>th</sup> century Koran was sold on Tuesday October 23 for a world record price of 1,140,500 pounds (\$2,320,917, 1,632,055 euros), auction house Christie's said.

The Islamic holy book, which had been expected to fetch between 250,000 and 300,000 pounds, was sold as part of an auction of art from the Islamic and Indian world that brought in a total of 5.9 million pounds.

Dated to 1203 and written entirely in gold, with marginal notes in silver, it is the earliest known complete, dated Koran, written in gold in the world, and broke the record for a Koran, and the record for any Islamic manuscript, sold at an auction.

Also sold on Tuesday was a nearly complete 10<sup>th</sup> century Kufic Koran, which is thought to originate from North Africa or the Middle East, which fetched 916,500 pounds, compared to its pre-sale estimate of up to 600,000 pounds.

"Today's extraordinary sale total is one of the highest ever for Islamic Art at Christie's, reflecting the depth of demand and very strong prices realised throughout the filed of classical Islamic Art," said William Robinson, director of Islamic Art and Carpet and Head of sale at Christie's.

"Fiercely competitive bidding on the telephone, in the room and on the Internet led to a particularly lively salesroom."

## Al-Imām al-Shātbī Raḥimahullāh continued

<u>Testimonies of people regarding his</u> piety, excellent character and worship

Abū 'Abdullāh Muḥammad ibn 'Umar ibn Ḥusain says: "When I performed Ḥaj in the year 580, I heard some people saying, 'Whoever wishes to perform Ṣalāh behind such a person who did not disobey Allāh, neither in his childhood nor in his old age, should perform Ṣalāh behind Abū al-Qāsim al-Shātbī."

Al-Sakhāwī has mentioned: "When he (al-Shāṭbī) used to sit to teach the people, he would always be in the state of purity. He would perform the Zuhr Ṣalāh with the Wudū' of Fajr..."

Abu al-Ma'āli ibn 'Ayn al-Fuḍalā' says that al-Imām al-Shāṭbī mentioned: "I saw Nabī so for ten consecutive nights (in a dream) and I recited the Qur'ān to him. Nabī so prayed for me saying, 'May Allāh protect you from doubts."

Al-Tāj ibn al-Subkī says: "Al-Shāṭbī was from amongst the God-fearing scholars, sincere servants of Allāh, and successful friends of Allāh. He was abstinent, devoted in worship and pious."

Much more has been said and written about the piety of al-Imām al-Shāṭbī Raḥimahullāh, but for the sake of brevity we will suffice on this much.

Setting the record straight: The previous issue was Volume 1, Number 6 and not Number 7

#### Understanding the Qur'an- Translation of Ayah al-Kursī

In the name of Allāh, the Beneficent, the Merciful

Allāh, there is no deity besides Him, the Ever-Living the Eternal, neither slumber nor sleep overtakes Him, all that is in the heavens and the earth belongs to Him, who can intercede by Him but by His permission,? He knows all that lies in front of them (the creation) and behind them, whereas they cannot attain anything of His knowledge save as He wills, His throne extends over the heavens and the earth, which He can preserve effortlessly, He is the Most High, the Greatest

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