

with the gift of life. This is a Day whose advent is beyond any doubt.

[3:189-190, 9:32-33, 17:111, 43:84, 82:18-19. 'Deen' = System of Life = The Ultimate Just Outcome]

1:4 (Realizing these facts), we affirm to obey Your Commands and ask You to help us as we do that.

1:5 Guide us to the Straight Path - (by providing us with the faculty to listen and not just hear, to observe and not just see, and to analyze and not just blindly follow 17:36).

1:6 The Path of those upon whom You bestowed the blissful benefits deriving from conscious obedience to Your Commands. (2:47, 31:20).

1:7 Not of those who earned the bitter consequences of rejecting Your Commands, nor of those who deviated from the road. (2:61, 7:152, 29:69, 37:69-71, 45:23, 61:5).

## **Surah 2 – Al-Baqarah– The Cow**

[Author's Note] This is the 2nd Surah of the Qur'an. It has 286 verses. The cow is merely one of the many quadrupeds made useful and subservient to mankind. The title of a Chapter or Surah of the Qur'an is important mainly for reference purposes. Therefore, we find most Surahs imparting to us a bouquet of concepts without getting bound to their titles. Only in the last and the 30th section of the Qur'an, which has very brief Surahs, does the title become the center of discussion through all the verses of the Surah.

Proper understanding of this most detailed Surah Baqarah will enable the reader to become familiar with the basic concepts and the true meanings of the Qur'anic terminology according to the language of its Revelation (the Quraish dialect). Therefore, my rendition of this Surah, while close to the literal translation, is also a free understanding. I have taken special care to explain every verse from within the Qur'an itself, and provided references from TASREEF (the process whereby the Qur'an lets us look at the same concepts in various ways). As we move along to the later Surahs, we will come closer and closer to the linguistic translation, once again letting the Qur'an explain itself.

About the use of parentheses: Whenever the reader finds a sentence that is not seen in the original Arabic verse, it will be representing another verse found elsewhere in the Qur'an and the proper reference will be given right there. In order to keep the flow, a conscious effort will be made to keep the parentheses [] AFTER the verse whenever appropriately possible. Historical notes, author's comments and linguistic explanations will also be given within parentheses.

**BISMILLAHIR RAHMANIR RAHIM**

With the Glorious Name of Allah, the Eternal Source of all Beneficence and Mercy Who embraces the entire Universe in His fold, nourishing and taking care of all things for what they are meant to be, just as a mother's womb nourishes the embryo without any returns.

2:1 A.L.M. Alif. Laam. Mim. Allah, Aleem - the Knower, Latif - the Unfathomable, Majeed - the Magnificent, knows your prayer and understands your emotional and physical needs.

2:2 Here it is - the Book you asked for! There is absolutely no doubt concerning its authority and authenticity. This Divine Writ, Al-Qur'an, is a Monograph that finds its own way from your mind to your heart. And you will

soon notice, as you proceed, that this Scripture leaves no lingering doubts in a sincere, seeking heart or mind. If you remember that this is a Book of Guidance, and hence, consult with it as such, the glittering reality will dawn upon you that this is a Beacon of Light! It is a Guide for all those who wish to journey through life in true honor and security.

[Recorded on parchment by honorable scribes appointed by the noble Messenger. The Almighty Himself guarantees the Truth of this Revelation, its explanation and its preservation. And you will find it free of contradictions. (4:82, 10:37, 15:9, 29:49, 32:2, 52:2-3, 75:17-19, 80:13-16). ‘Al-Qur’an’ = The Lecture or Monograph that finds its own way to sincere hearts, becoming ‘Az-Zikr’ = The Reminder]

2:3 Those who wish to journey through life in true honor and security are the ones who believe in the Law of Cause and Effect, though the stages of action and reaction might be hidden from their senses. Those who understand this simple Universal Law look for ways to establish the Divine System - a noble society in which Permanent Moral Values rule the hearts and minds of men and women. There are neither masters nor subjects in such a system, since therein prevails the Rule of Law. Inhabitants of such a society will keep open the natural and social wealth and resources that We have provided them, for the benefit of the whole society.

[2:177, 22:41, 94:77. ‘Al-Ghayeb’ = The Unseen: The likeness of a seed that is beneath the soil hidden from a farmer’s view. Yet the farmer believes that given proper environment and care the seed will sprout]

2:4 Hence, such men and women whole-heartedly believe in what has been revealed to you (O Messenger) and in the Divine Origin of what was revealed before your times. And they have conviction in the Law of Cause and Effect, and, therefore, in the life to come.

[Similar were the blessed people who believed in and followed the previous Scriptures. Men and women of understanding use their faculty of reasoning and understand that human intellect is not boundless. It can tell mankind what is – but it cannot tell what ought to be. Furthermore, direct Revelation of Knowledge from the Creator economizes human effort and saves them time on trial and error. They also realize that life is no vain sport. It has a sublime purpose and keeps evolving like everything else in the Cosmos. So, the death of the human body is only a transition to a higher form of life for the human personality or ‘Self’. Thus, they have conviction in the Hereafter. This can be likened to the birth of a baby who leaves the mother’s womb and moves on to a new and higher level of existence. Anyone failing to understand the eternity of “Self” (commonly termed 'soul'), bars himself from seeing life in its totality and, hence, toils through this life without a higher moral objective. 2:185, 6:72, 7:52-53, 7:157-158, 10:4, 21:10, 21:24, 40:11, 45:52, 67:2]

2:5 It is they who walk on a Path lighted by their Lord, and they are the ones who will truly prosper.

[The Lord’s Light is this Qur’an unto which one must turn with an open mind. Those who approach it without clearing their minds of pre-conceived notions will fail to “touch” this Book. For, that frame of mind defies reason and logic. 4:88, 5:15, 23:1-11, 24:35, 31:2-5, 42:52, 56:79.]

2:6 Behold, as for those who have chosen denial in advance – it is all one to them whether you apprise them of the consequences of their deeds or do not apprise them. They will refuse to acknowledge the Truth. (2:89-109, 6:26,