

'ZALIKAL - KITAB' **ITS MEANING AND PHILOSOPHY**

The words 'Zalikal- Kitab' have been used in the second verse of the Sura 'Al-Baqarah' in the Holy Quran. 'Zalika' is synonymous to 'that' and is a demonstrative pronoun referring to the remote object but sometimes the same is used for the object close at hand in reverence and respect indicating the lofty status of the object referred to. This Holy Book as the most comprehensive and complete word of God, in the sphere of revelation, is the most sublime and most revered one.

To have a proper understanding of 'Al-Kitab' (i.e. the Book) which is referred to in many places in the Qur'an, the following points to be considered:

- A. The Holy Book has been called 'Qur'an' and is derived from the Arabic word 'Qra'ta' which means to recite or recitation and collection. The term 'Qur'an' has been applied to this book in both respects of recitation as well as a comprehensive summary or the synthesis of the revealed books.
- B. 'FURQAN' i.e. Distinction i.e. the distinctive means, on account of its containing the principles of good and evil, the conditions of reward and punishment, the character of the righteous and the wicked ones. It is also called 'FURQAN' with regard to its gradual delivery, part by part.
- C. 'ZIKR' i.e Remembrance or reminder.
- D. 'KITAB-E-HAKIM' i.e. well established Book of Divine Wisdom etc..
- E. 'KITAB-E-AZIZ' i.e. Book Unique in its Natural Beauty.
- F. 'KITAB-E HAMEED' i.e Book worthy of All Praise.
- G. 'KITAB-E MAJEED' i.e Book Glorious.
- H. 'QURAN-E-KAREEM' i.e. Book Most Bounteous and Well-Honoured.
- I. 'KITABE-E-MUBEEN' i.e Book Well-Expressive.
- J. 'UMMUL-KITAB' i.e. The Mother-Book. It should be remembered that the application of the title to the Qur'an is with regard to some of its parts i.e. the well-established parts of universal nature which are beyond all ambiguity the 'Ayate-Muhkamat' are termed as mother-book in the light of which the rest of the book is to be explained and the ambiguity is to be removed.

There are many other titles of this Holy Book mentioned in the various verses but all substitute expressions of the titles referred to above viz: 'NOOR' (i.e. the Light), 'HIDAYAT' (i.e. the Guidance), 'HAQ' (i.e The Truth), 'TIBYAN' (i.e. The Clear Presentation), 'BAYAN' (i.e The Narration of the Explanation).

(Extract from the Holy Qur'an by Mir Ahmed Ali)s