

Notes to the Reader

Hadith, and Fiqh. Quran is the holy book of Muslims. Hadith is the teachings of Prophet Mohammad and his companions. Fiqh is the interpretation of Quran and Hadith. People who study Fiqh are called Faqeeh.

But in the real world what we know about Islam is one hundred percent based on the interpretation of a small number of Islamic scholars about Islam. These interpretations have been happening since the dawn of Islam and have been accumulating on top of each other for 14 centuries. These thoughts of small numbers of people have turned from some guesses and suggestions to solid beliefs and facts that are politically, culturally and personally motivated.

What we know about Quran is what we have been told about Quran by Islamic scholars and not what we have read and understood from Quran. What we know about teachings of Mohammad is what we are told by the same people and based on some undocumented words of mouth. The current Islam is nothing but the opinion of a small group of people about Islam, the opinion that rejecting it can bring you a harsh punishment.

In this book, we have tried to put the interpretation of Islamic scholars away and try to understand Islam based on Quran and only Quran. When you read Quran with this approach you will see that the large number of current issues in Islam are not according to Quran, controversial issues such as hijab, prohibition of alcohol, definition of halaal foods, abortion law, contraception, long beard for men, avoiding certain animals like dogs, avoiding music, avoiding dance, injustice toward women, marriage and divorce laws, polygamy, circumcision, death sentence for homosexuality, and the list goes on and on and on. Interestingly, the very existence of the current Fiqh, which is the interpretation of Quran by certain people, is not according to Quran, because Quran repeatedly encourages everyone to read and to understand Quran on their own. The word Faqeeh is not mentioned within Quran, nor is an interpreter.

Based on Quran, we common people are able to read and understand Quran on our own. We don't need other people to understand Quran for us. In this book we will try to read about, discuss and understand Quran, together and without any dictation from anyone.

We are all ordinary people who want to know the truth and the lies about Islam.