

[ Praising al-Quran al-Azim ]

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Assalam alaikum wa rahmatullah wa barakatuh !

① Introduction

Many years ago I obtained the tapes of Quran Recital recorded by some famous Egyptian reciter. The whole tapes were made up of 31 cassettes. I made it my rule to listen to one cassette a day. I had a happy and joyful time to sit at desk and listen to the tapes, after midnight when I was not annoyed by a harsh noise. One month later I was listening to the last cassette, which began with the first Aya of the Sura Asshams (the 91st chapter). The solemn and beautiful recital came eventually to the Sura Annas (the 114th chapter). The first Aya started : "Bismillahi rrahmani rrahim. Qûl' audû birabbi nnas,..... At last the sixth Aya ! "Minaljinnati wannas." When I finished hearing the last sound of the last Aya of the last Sura, I was moved to tears. I said to myself, " Congratulations Ya Adam ! Just now you have finished all ! " But when I stretched out my hand to switch off the tape recorder, just then, to my surprise, I heard a sound : "Bismillahi rrahmani,....." I listened to it attentively. "Alhamdulillah rabbilalamin, arrahmani rrahim, maliki yaumiddin, iyyaka naubudu wa iyyaka nasutain,...." The Sura Alfatiha (the first chapter) was being recited ! I was extremely astonished.

Then I realized that the 114th chapter was not the last one. I recognized that the first chapter was not the first

one. Indeed, I knew well that the chapters in al-Quran were not arranged in chronological order. It was a bookish knowledge. There is neither the first chapter nor the last one in al-Quran. That is to say, there is neither beginning nor end in al-Quran.

## ② Image of al-Quran al-Azim

There is no beginning or end in al-Quran. The Suras are rotated eternally and limitlessly. They are recited by muslims in endless repetition. Neither beginning nor end in recital. The thing which is rotated in such a way and recited in such a way ought to be the perfect.

③ Non-muslims may say : "It is true al-Quran is interesting for you muslims, but we doubt if it can withstand to be recited in endless repetition. Because however interesting it may be, you will be bored with that recital someday. We muslims say : "It can withstand to be recited in endless repetition. Al-Quran is composed of a great many Suras which imply that the whole universe including human beings was created by Allah, and His creation is worthy of praise, worthy of admiration. So, whenever we muslims recite al-Quran, we are just happy. We will never be bored with the recital. How is it possible for us to be bored by what makes us happy ?

## ④ Arabesque

The Suras praising the creation of Allah are repeated in al-Quran to compose it as an arabesque, as it were. A melody of praising The Creation is repeated to compose itself as an arabesque music. A design of praising The Creation is repeated to compose itself as an arabesque pattern.

⑤ Arabesque of Creation

The Creation of Allah is ever-fresh ! "Yabda'u al-khalq -a thumma yu'iduhu." This important expression is repeated six times in the whole Quran (Sura10,Aya4; Sura10,Aya34{35, in Flugel edition}twice; Sura27,Aya64{65}; Sura30,Aya11{10} ; Sura30,Aya27{26}). Verily, The Creation of Allah is arabesque !

⑥ A day of muslims

One day is repeated for us muslims. It is true a day is repeated, but it is never old. A day of muslims, day after day, is ever-fresh. Day by day, we muslims are ever-fresh prayers. Each day we are ever-fresh reciters of al-Quran. A day is repeated to compose itself as an arabesque history.

Assalam alaikum wa Shuqurian !