



The Celestial Life of the Qur'an

Based on the lectures of Hujjat al-Islam wal-Muslimin Haj Shaykh
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Abstract

The term “ḥayy” (living) stands in contrast to “mayyit” (dead) and, in its technical sense, denotes perception and ability. But what does this term mean when attributed to the Qur'an? Throughout history, many books have remained enduring and continue to be useful; in common parlance, they are *alive* and they still communicate with their readers. However, is the life of the Qur'an of the same kind? What distinguishes the *life of the Qur'an* from that of other books, such that humankind will never be independent of it until the Day of Resurrection and it will never become outdated? In the narrations of the Ahl al-Bayt (peace be upon them), the Qur'an is explicitly described as *alive*—that is, at every moment, it provides guidance and solutions suited to the needs and challenges of past, present, and future peoples alike.

The central question of this paper is: What is meant by the celestial (malakūtī) life of the Qur'an, and what are its indicators?

The research method employed in this study is descriptive-analytical with a narrative approach, based on evidence from Qur'anic verses and narrations of the Ahl al-Bayt (peace be upon them).

In addressing this question, the paper first examines the lexical and technical meanings of *life (ḥayāh)*, and then explains what is meant by the *life of the Qur'an*—namely, that the Qur'an is perceptive and active in relation to the celestial realm (malakūt) and in constant interaction with its audience. Every word and letter of the Qur'an possesses life and spirit, and this spirit is a celestial spirit.

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