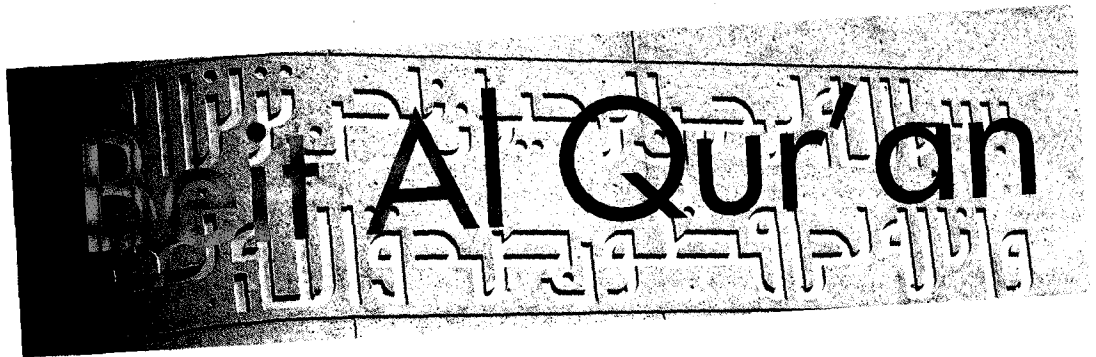


Beit Al Qur'an





PUSTAKA PERDANA



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Preface



It was a day of great pride and celebration not only for me personally, but for all those who had worked so tirelessly for over 10 years to bring Beit Al Qur'an into reality, when his Highness the Amir, Sheikh Isa Bin Salman Al Khalifa inaugurated this unique Islamic centre on the 15th of Sha'aban 1410 Hijra, 12th March 1990. It was a day of achievement for the many who contributed whether, heads of state or school children, each in their private capacity, to see this great centre open to the public to spread the message of Islam and the Holy Qur'an.

To achieve this task was not easy. Raising money through public donations for an idea such as Beit Al Qur'an was an enormous undertaking fraught with uncertainties and a new experience for the people in our area. What made it possible is the immense desire by all Muslims to serve the Holy Qur'an and its message. This eternal and unbreakable bond between the Holy Qur'an and the Muslim people and the timely contribution by many people of good will has seen us through some difficult times during the construction period of the project, and we eventually succeeded, all of us together, in making Beit Al Qur'an a beacon for culture and heritage in Bahrain.

Beit Al Qur'an has already accomplished a great deal during a short period. We have a permanent exhibition of magnificent Holy Quranic manuscripts in our Al Hayat Museum where visitors can see the best in Quranic calligraphy from the different eras and many areas of the Islamic world, we have a splendid lending library which is open to the public free of charge and a mosque which is open for prayer 'Salat' at all times. We have also staged exhibitions of Islamic art and culture and sponsored lectures on a variety of subjects by prominent scholars and religious leaders from different countries, we have published books on Islamic heritage and religion and celebrated the Holy month of

Ramadan with lectures, seminars and daily recitations of the Holy Qur'an by outstanding readers. In addition, we have committed ourselves to continue our work for Islam and the Holy Qur'an by expanding our services at the centre and initiate programmes of study and scholarship aimed at the deeper understanding of Islam and the Holy Qur'an and bringing the Quranic message to all, young and old.

A cornerstone of Beit Al Qur'an's policy is to welcome at the centre all people in our area, from whatever cultures or backgrounds, for the Holy Qur'an has a message for all humanity. This book presents the various functions and services of Beit Al Qur'an and gives to non Muslims an introduction to the Holy Qur'an and the history of its calligraphy. The book explains the calligraphic styles and relates them to many of the exhibits on display at the Al Hayat Museum. We hope through this to open to our visitors a small window of vision at the glory of Islam, the Holy Qur'an and Islamic heritage. The success of our efforts shall be measured by the degree of pleasure our visitors shall gain during their visit to Beit Al Qur'an.

Dr. Abdul Latif Jassim Kanoo