



بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

# Qur'ān-Matters

## The `Uthmānī Script/ *ar-Rasm al-`Uthmānī*

### Part-Two

As mentioned in the previous note, the `Uthmānī Script is **not specific to the print of the Qur'ān produced in Saudi Arabia**, as some may believe. It is **not in relation to a particular font or handwriting style**. The prints of the Qur'ān, produced all over the world, must comply with this same standard. It is all about preserving the choices made by those select scribes under `Uthmān's directives ﷺ in the 30<sup>th</sup> year after the *Hijrah*.

An example of this is how they chose to write the word *Ṣalāh*. We would spell it with an *Alif* after the *Lām* but they wrote it with a *Wāw* - الصَّلَاة. This is indicative of the origin of the word, to confirm its root letters (ص ل و) and to save it from potential ambiguity. With a basic Arabic background, one notes the brilliance of this choice for it is not to be confused with a similar word that has a *Yā'* as its third root letter (ص ل ي). In both cases, for this form of the word, an *Alif* would have replaced the *Wāw* and *Yā'* and one may easily have confused its meaning. The same goes for the word *Zakāh*. Check its spelling in every print and note how it is written, keeping in mind that it was originally void of any dots and vowels.

These words being written with a *Wāw* does not affect its recitation as the letters simply form a skeleton that serves as a mere guide for the reciter. The reciter's primary reference is the sound of the word which is gained from a qualified teacher. This is an important point for all who are interested to also reflect upon.

This is a basic example of the *Rasm al-`Uthmānī* i.e., the specific choices made by the companions when producing the master copies of the Qur'ān during the 30<sup>th</sup> year *Hijrī*. It has since been preserved. And as we have entered the new *Hijrī* year, 1444, we realise that it has been preserved in this manner for well over one thousand four hundred years. All praise be to Allah for His continued guidance. And He surely knows best...