



بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

# Qur'ān-Matters

## Translation of its meanings

The Qur'ān was revealed in the Arabic language and students of this beautiful language appreciate its richness and depth. The translation of any text from one language to another is a mere attempt to convey its content to speakers of the variant language. However, the true essence of the content, in the original language, with all its nuanced beauty, can never be encapsulated in a translation. This is more so with the Qur'ān, the final divine revelation.

No two languages are the same. There may indeed exist translations for individual words used for the same items or situations, but each language has a feel of its own. Each language also has some parts of its vocabulary and rhetorical style that are untranslatable. They have to be defined or explained and not only translated. And even after that, the true impact of the specific word or rhetorical style will not completely be realised.

With the Qur'ān, there is one more thing to remember. In verse 7 of chapter 3, the Almighty clearly states that there is Quranic content that is multi-dimensional, unspecific and elusive. This content requires additional reflection as it incorporates more than one message and benefit. This miraculous classification of content is not only achieved by the unique Arabic rhetoric but also by use of specific words in specific contexts. A translation of this type of content can never do justice to the original text and will always require commentary and explanation. This is but another way through which the Almighty draws us to reflect more on His word and to spend some quality time with it.

It is for this reason that translations of the Qur'ān are mere attempts to convey of its meanings and no singular book can ever claim to represent a complete translation. The Qur'ān is inimitable, unlike any other texts and far superior in all ways and forms. To this, Prophet Muḥammad ﷺ said: 'The superiority of the word of Allah over all other forms of speech is as the superiority of Allah over His creation.' (*at-Tirmidhī*) And, Allah knows best.