

Allah SWT says in Ayah 7 in Surah Al Imran:

وَإِنِّي أَنزَلْتُ عَلَيْكَ الْكِتَابَ مِنْهُ آيَاتٌ مُّحْكَمَاتٌ هُنَّ أُمُّ الْكِتَابِ وَأُخَرُ مُتَشَابِهَاتٌ فَأَمَّا الَّذِينَ فِي قُلُوبِهِمْ زَيْغٌ فَيَتَّبِعُونَ مَا تَشَابَهَ مِنْهُ ابْتِغَاءَ الْفِتْنَةِ وَالَّذِي أَنزَلَ عَلَيْكَ الْكِتَابَ وَمَا يُعَلِّمُ تَأْوِيلَهُ إِلَّا اللَّهُ وَالرَّاسِخُونَ فِي الْعِلْمِ يَقُولُونَ آمَنَّا بِهِ كُلٌّ مِّنْ عِنْدِ رَبِّنَا وَمَا يَذَّكَّرُ إِلَّا أُولُو الْأَلْبَابِ

It is He who has sent down to you, [O Muhammad], the Book; in it are verses [that are] precise - they are the foundation of the Book - and others unspecific. As for those in whose hearts is deviation [from truth], they will follow that of it which is unspecific, seeking discord and seeking an interpretation [suitable to them]. And no one knows its [true] interpretation except Allah . But those firm in knowledge say, "We believe in it. All [of it] is from our Lord." And no one will be reminded except those of understanding.

What is meant by the Ayahs that are clear and specific (محكمات) and the ayahs that are unspecific (متشابهات). Give one example of each.

It was interesting reading all the responses Masha'Allah. InshaAllah this gives us the opportunity to reflect on the Ayat of the Quran as we read and think about their meanings.

The Ayat that Muhkamat (المحكمات) are those that are clear and carry only one interpretation and does not require another ayah or Hadith to explain it. Those ayat are considered the core of the book, in them is the law that fits any time and place. For example. Allah says in the Quran (واللهم اله واحد) your lord is one. This is clear and good for anytime and place. We will never say or believe in anything other than our lord is one. This is An Ayah Muhkam (هذه آية محكمة).

The Mutashabeh (المتشابهات) or the unclear ayahs are those that can carry more than one meaning and require interpretation. The Mutashabihat must be interpreted utilizing the Ayat Al Muhkamat. For example, Allah SWT says in the Quran (و أقيموا الصلاة) And Establish the Prayer. We don't know how to establish the prayer from just looking at this ayah, so we have to interpret this Ayah by reflecting on the ayah that explains it. Allah Says in Surah Al Ma'eda. يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا إِذَا قُمْتُمْ إِلَى الصَّلَاةِ فَاغْسِلُوا وُجُوهَكُمْ وَأَيْدِيَكُمْ إِلَى الْمَرَافِقِ وَامْسَحُوا بِرُءُوسِكُمْ وَأَرْجُلَكُمْ إِلَى الْكَعْبَيْنِ

O you who have believed, when you rise to [perform] prayer, wash your faces and your forearms to the elbows and wipe over your heads and wash your feet to the ankles. So, we interpret the Quran by the Quran.

Allah Also says in Surah Al Nahl:

وَأَنزَلْنَا إِلَيْكَ الذِّكْرَ لِتُبَيِّنَ لِلنَّاسِ مَا نُزِّلَ إِلَيْهِمْ وَلَعَلَّهُمْ يَتَفَكَّرُونَ

And We revealed to you the message that you may make clear to the people what was sent down to them and that they might give thought.

This is an indication that Rasul Allah PBUH will interpret the Quran for us using the Hadith which is also a revelation from Allah SWT.

Allah SWT says:

وَمَا يَنْطِقُ عَنِ الْهَوَىٰ، إِنْ هُوَ إِلَّا وَحْيٌ يُوحَىٰ

The Prophet PBUH does not speak out of his own, rather by inspiration from Allah SWT.