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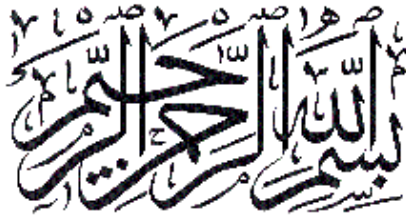
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BISMILLAH HIR RAHMAN NIR RAHEEM

(In the Name of Allah, Most Gracious, Most Merciful)

All praise is for Allah. Darood (Blessings) and Salaam (Peace) on Muhammad, his Family, and his Companions.



YA - THE ARABIC LETTER

The Arabic letter Ya  is equivalent to the letter 'Y' in the English alphabet.

It is the last letter in the Arabic character set. Its position is 28.

Ya in Arabic numerology which is known as Abjad, has the value of 10.

This article is about the spiritual meaning of the letter Ya.

INTRODUCTION

- The letter Ya is the 18th letter in the verse Bismillah (shown at the top of this page).
- There is no Arabic letter after Ya.
- The letter Ya completes the Arabic letter set.
- It is the 28th and final letter. In the Abjad format, the letter Ya is given the value 10.


THE LETTER YA

The letter Ya is one of the letters of *Muqattaat*. That is, it is used in the opening verses of certain chapters in the Quran. Since there are only 19 letters in the verse Bismillah, the position of the letter Ya had to be placed sensibly in the verse Bismillah. The letter Ya is the 28th letter in the normal Arabic letter set.

- In the Abjad format, it is 10th letter with the numerical value of 10.
- The position of the letter Ya in the verse Bismillah is 18.
- This is arrived at by subtracting the Abjad position from the normal position: $28 - 10 = 18$ giving the position in the verse Bismillah. The letter Ya represents knowledge.

HOW DOES YA REPRESENT KNOWLEDGE ?

We start learning the Arabic letters from Alif, Ba, Ta .. Etc. We complete this learning stage when we get to the letter Ya. At this stage we have learnt to recognise the physical

appearance of all the Arabic letters in their different shapes. For example,  all four characters represent the same letter Ya in different shapes. Therefore, after having learnt to recognise the letters in their different forms, we can now start learning the words. Since all the words in the Quran are formed by the combination of the Arabic letters. The Arabic words will only be recognised by a person who has first learnt to recognise the Arabic letters.

Having learnt all the Arabic letters, from Alif  to Ya  represents knowledge.



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Hence the letter Ya represents completion of knowledge of the Arabic letters.

WHAT COMES AFTER THE LETTER YA ?

- When we get to the last letter in the Arabic character set, we have only learned to recognise the letters.
- To use the letters we must wrap round back to the first letter which is Alif ا.
- We need to start again.
- That is exactly what happens when we finish reading the last Chapter 114 An Nas of the Quran we start again from the beginning, Chapter 1 -Al Fatihah.
- Or, if reciting in Salah, Chapter 1 (Al Fatihah) has a special place.
- It is always recited first in every Rakah of the Salah.
- After Al Fatihah we recite any part of the Quran in the first Rakah.
- In the subsequent Rakahs, after Al Fatihah, we can either recite the same portion from the Quran, or we must recite a portion that is placed after the portion that was recited in the previous Rakah of the same Salah.
- If for example we recited Chapter 112 & 113 (Al Ikhlas and Al Falaq) in the first Rakah, in the second Rakah, we can either recite the same chapters again, OR, in the second Rakah we can recite Chapter 114 (An Nas) followed by a few verses from Chapter 2 - Al Baqara, starting at Alif Laam Meem. What we have effectively done is come full circle.

This is normally obvious in the Taraweeh Salah in the month of Ramadan. The Imam finishes the recitation of the whole Quran in the Taraweeh during the month of Ramadan. At the completion after reciting Chapter 114, the Imam recites a few lines from Chapter 2 Al Baqara starting at verse 1. He goes back to the start, or the beginning.

The letter that comes after the letter Ya ي is Alif ا. We start again from the beginning. Except, this time round we have become a little wiser in recognizing the letters. How can the letter Alif follow the letter Ya?

DOES YA LEAD BACK TO ALIF ?

- Of course it does! When we gain some wisdom, we realise that there is One Supreme Being who creates and governs our lives.
- We, the Muslims call Him Allah. { The Ya plus Alif Showing we must go thru Ya-Seen to get to Alif} Then we are taught to call on Him in times of need and distress.
- We call on Him with the words YA ا ALLAH, YA ا RABBI.
- Essentially, we CALL Him with the word YA ا to attract His attention, followed by His Name, ALLAH, or His Attribute Rabb. With YA ا we have reached the end and we have started again at the beginning.
- Where Ya ي is the end and Alif ا is the beginning.
- What we are doing is calling on Allah (ا) with the knowledge (ي) that He Exists. He Listens. He Sees. He Gives. He Helps.

To put it another way:

156 "We belong to Allah and we will return to Him."
[Quran: Al Baqara Chapter 2]

We start from Alif (ا). We conduct our lives in this world gaining knowledge - Ya (ي) and then we return back to Alif (ا).

The interesting thing about the translation of the Quran into English is that all the translators always substitute YA (ا) with 'O'. Why is that? Is it because they are copying the YE OLDE ENGLISH? The letter 'O' is also found in the latest modern English translations.

Is that done subconsciously? The letter O is a circle. It wraps round endlessly. Likewise, so is

YA ا, a never ending circle. The letters wrap from start to end and back to the beginning.

Ya (ي) leads back to Alif (ا). Just like Allah's Attributes, *Hu wal Awwalu* اول *wa Hu wal*

Akhiru اخر (He is the First and He is the Last).

The numerical values of Awwal and Akhir are good examples to demonstrate this visually:

$$1 (ا) + 6 (و) + 30 (ل) = 37 = 3 + 7 = 1 \text{ FIRST}$$

$$1 (ا) + 600 (ح) + 200 (ر) = 801 = 8 + 0 + 1 = 9 \text{ LAST}$$

Start at the First number '1', reach the highest or Last number '9'. After the Last number '9'

we get '10' (ي) which leads us back to '1' (1 + 0 = 1 = ا).

THE CALLER AND THE ONE CALLED

- The numerical value of Ya (ي) is 10.
- Ya is the 'point' where the '1' and the '0' meet.
- It is not a physical meeting. It is a spiritual meeting.
- It is the point where the created one becomes aware of the Creator. It is the point where the created one has knowledge of his Creator.
- This is a point of awareness.
- When a person calls *Ya Allah*, both the caller and One Called are present at that very moment in time, at that very same place.
- The only difference is that one is visible and the Other is hidden.

If Allah did not create us, we would not know of His existence. If Allah did not create us, we would not be here. Allah is aware of Himself. We are only aware of Allah if He brings us into existence.

THE LETTER YA AS HUROOF MUQATTAAT

The letter Ya is also one of the 14 *Huroof Muqattaat* which are used as the opening letters of certain chapters in the Quran. The letter Ya is used as a *Muqattaat* letter in two chapters of the Quran. The first usage of the letter Ya is shown here:

كَهَيْعَصَ ﴿١﴾ ذِكْرُ رَحْمَتِ رَبِّكَ عَبْدَهُ زَكَرِيَّا ﴿٢﴾

1 *Kaaf Ha Ya Ayn Saad.*

2 *A recital of the mercy of your Rabb (Lord) on His servant Zakariya.*

[Quran: Maryam Chapter 19]

In Chapter 19 verse 2 we are told A recital of the mercy of the Rabb (Lord) on His servant Zakariya. What is the recital of the mercy? Is it the five letters of *Muqattaat* which are mentioned in verse 1? Otherwise, why mention them in the first place? Is the order of the five letters in verse 1 when recited or written, recognised as mercy from Rabb?

The name Zakariya ends with the letters YA " يا . In verse 7 of the same chapter we are told:

7 *(It was said to him): Ya Zakariya! We give you good news of a son whose name shall be Yahya; We have not given the same name to any one before (him).*

[Quran: Maryam Chapter 19]

- YAHYA (ي) THE MESSENGER OF ALLAH
- Allah told Zakariya (ي) to name his son يحيى Yahya (ي) whose name starts with the letter Ya and ends with the letter Ya.
- There is small Alif (ا or fatha or zabar) on top of the last Ya.
- Notice the last letter Ya leads back to Alif.
- That is exactly what the Messengers (ي) of Allah came into this world to do. To lead the people back to Allah. If we look at the numerical value of the name Yahya:

$$\text{Ya (ي = 10) + Ha (ح = 8) + Ya (ي = 10) = 28}$$

- The name Yahya has a numerical value of 28, which is equal to the number of letters in the Arabic character set.
- And the position of the letter Ya in the Arabic character set is 28. But, what does that mean?

- It means that Yahya (يحيى) was given the wisdom of the letters. He was given knowledge (حكمة). Although in his case, it would have been the Hebrew characters and language. Since we are not familiar with Hebrew, we are shown by Allah, that this is the case by using the Arabic characters and language. And Allah is the Wise.

12 (To his son came the command): "Ya Yahya! take hold of the Book with might": and We gave him wisdom even as a youth.
[Quran: Maryam Chapter 19]

What is this wisdom?

THE WISDOM

If we look at the verse number which is equivalent to the numerical value of the letter Ya we arrive at:

10 He said: My Rabb (Lord)! Give me a sign. He said: Your sign is that you, although not dumb, shall not speak to anyone for three nights.

[Quran: Maryam Chapter 19]

The word Speak or *Kalaam* starts with the letter Kaaf (ك). Where have we seen that before? In verse 1. Next we are told three nights. Now if we look at verse 1 again:

- 1 Kaaf (ك) = 20
- 2 Ha (ه) = 5
- 3 Ya (ي) = 10
- 4 Ayn (ع) = 70
- 5 Saad (ص) = 90

The third letter is Ya. Before the letter Ya we have:

Kaaf (= 20) + Ha (= 5) = 25 = 2 + 5 = 7.

After the letter Ya we have:

Ayn (= 70) + Saad (= 90) = 160 = 1 + 6 + 0 = 7.

- The third letter in chapter 19 verse 1 is Ya, which is the knowledge.
- This letter of knowledge is placed in the centre.
- To bring this knowledge out, we are pointed to the number 7.
- We have already looked at verse 7 of chapter 19 where Allah tells Zakariya,

7 ...We give you good news of a son whose name shall be Yahya..

- A son whose name will be Yahya (يحيى). The name starts and ends with the letter Ya (ي) with the letter Ha (ح) in between.
- There must also be something else connected with the number 7!

CHAPTER 19 CALLED MARYAM

- Chapter 19 of the Quran is called Maryam.
- First of all, out of all the 114 Chapters in the Quran, there are some chapters named after Specific names of the Messengers (رسل) of Allah. These are listed below:

1 Chapter 10 Surah Yunus

2 Chapter 11 Surah Hud

3 Chapter 12 Surah Yusuf

4 Chapter 14 Surah Ibraheem

5 Chapter 31 Surah Luqman

6 Chapter 47 Surah Muhammad

- Chapter 19, Surah Maryam, is the odd one out.
- Maryam (مريم) was not a Messenger of Allah, because only men were given the mission as the Messengers of Allah.
- You could say that Chapter 19 is one of 7 chapters to be named after the proper name of a person.
- If chapter 19 was going to be named after a Messenger of Allah, it could have been

named Zakariya, or Yahya or Isa.

- But Allah had a purpose in naming that chapter with the name Maryam to draw our attention to it.
- Why did Allah name chapter 19 with the name Maryam? There must be a reason!

IS MARYAM (مَرْيَمَ) THE SAME AS MARY (مَرْيَا) ?

- Mary am = مَرْيَمَ
- We write the name up to the letter of Knowledge, which is Ya or 'y' and include a space before we write Meem or 'am'.
- Another hint is the sign of three nights.
- What we have done is that we have written the first three letters from the name Maryam and then separated the fourth letter from the first three letters.
- Effectively, we have the name Mary and initial Meem (م) or initial 'Am' or 'M'.
- Therefore the name Maryam in the Quran is basically Mary with initial 'M' for Magdalene.
- Allah did not just tell us about the noble lady Mary (مَرْيَمَ) but also gave us her initial so that we may know that Mary__am in the Quran is the same person as Mary M(magdalene) in the Bible.
- Using the knowledge (ي) and Meem as the Guiding letter we have shown the different names in the Quran and the Bible to be the same name.
- Only, our minds did not allow us to look at them with the Knowledge (ي) bestowed by Allah.
- Going back to the number 7 which was mentioned in the section The Wisdom, The name Mary has the numerical value of:
 - Meem (= 40) + Ra (= 200) + Ya (= 10) = 250 = 2 + 5 + 0 = 7.
 - Remember? *Alif Laam Meem. The Book in which there is no doubt* (Quran: Chapter 2).
 - All the Walee Allah (saints) tell us that: We have to unlearn everything we have learned.
 - It means we have to go back to basics and start learning again.
 - Too much structured knowledge places veils on our eyes and minds.
 - Our minds become used to analysing things in a predefined way.

Instead, we should learn to apply an 'open minded' approach starting from the basics, without any preconceived starting point.

THE HIDDEN KNOWLEDGE, YA (ي)

It is important to remember two points when dealing with the Arabic letters:

- 1 The letter Meem is always the Veil. *Hijaab* (Veil), *Mahjub* (Veiled)
- 2 The letter Meem is also the Guide. *Murshad* (Guide)

How can that be true? How can Meem place a veil and also guide?

- The letter Meem by itself is the veil.
- The analogy of the veil and the guide is:
 - If we open up the letter Meem م and write it as pronounced, we get Meem مَرْيَمَ .
 - The knowledge, Ya (ي) becomes manifest when we start to open up the letter Meem.
 - Whereas previously it was hidden.
 - The core, or the kernel, is the letter Ya ي which is the knowledge.
 - The knowledge (ي) is surrounded by the letter Meem (م).
 - Therefore, the first letter Meem (م) hides or veils the knowledge (ي) and the second letter Meem (م) makes it manifest.

THE SECOND OCCURRENCE OF THE LETTER YA (ي)

The second occurrence of the letter Ya as a *Muqattaat* letter is shown here:

يس وَالْقُرْآنُ الْحَكِيمُ

1 Ya Seen

2 By the wise Quran.

[Quran: Ya Seen Chapter 36]

What is the wisdom? The chapter Ya Seen is called the Heart of the Quran.

Ya-Seen is Name of Sayedena Muhammad age 63

Surah Ya-Seen is Heart of Quran 36

Rasul was described as Walking Quran

So Heart of Sayedena Muhammad is Surah Ya-Seen...

MORE WISDOM

Ya Seen is the Wisdom of the Quran. The wisdom of the Quran only opens with the words **Bismillah Hir Rahman Nir Raheem.** { see Secrets of Bismi}

Now let us look at the letters Ya (ي) and Seen (س).

- The letter Ya is the second letter from the end of the verse Bismillah in position 18.
- The letter Seen is the second letter from the start of verse Bismillah.
- Just like the word YA ^{يا} , in Ya Seen the later letter (Seen - in Bismillah) is mentioned first and the earlier letter (Ya - in Bismillah) is mentioned last.
- Again we are made to look at the endless circle.
- Chapter 36 could have started with the letters Seen Ya, but then the circular concept would have eluded us.
- The circular concept can also be understood from the verses of Ya Seen, chapter 36 in the Quran.

First, Allah creates us. Then Allah gives us the faculties of learning to read, write and understand. Then Allah tells us the difference between right and wrong. Allah sent His

Messengers to the communities. The Messengers (ر) of Allah came and taught their communities the correct path to Allah. The communities that rebelled, were destroyed by Allah. Allah then placed other communities in their place. The circle of re-creation of communities.

Next, there are examples of giving life to the dead earth. Followed by water flowing from the earth. Producing vegetation from the soil to feed the creation. The cycle of night and day which are again concepts of circles. Followed by the mention of orbits of the sun and moon. The moon has further stages in its orbit, whereas the sun is always seen as circular ball. Then there is the human life which is for a purpose. The human is created from nothing and this life is followed by death. A second creation takes place at the end of time to start another life which will be endless. And how does Allah do all this? He commands "Be" and it is!

NUMERICAL ANALYSIS OF YA SEEN

From the circular concept we have just been dealing with, we can go one stage further.

- If we transpose, as in rotate cyclically, the 18th position of the letter Ya in the verse Bismillah we get 81.
- The transposed position of the letter Seen in the verse Bismillah is still 2.
- Add 81 to 2 = 83.
- The total number of the verses in chapter 36 Ya Seen is 83.
- If we now reduce the total number of verses we get $8 + 3 = 11$ { 11th name of Rasul is

Ya-Seen} which is the same as the word YA ^{يا} {Ya= 10 + Alif= 1= 11} which we say to get someone's attention.

- Reduce this number to single digit $1 + 1 = 2$ which is the letter Ba (ب).
- The knowledge (ي) is given to the creature who has been created from a drop or dot.
- This knowledge is guidance from Allah to us.
- This knowledge is our inheritance from Allah through the Prophet Muhammad ﷺ in the form of the Quran.
- If we add the position of letter Ya and letter Seen in the verse Bismillah we get $18 + 2 = 20$.
- If we subtract the position of letter Seen from the position of letter Ya in the verse Bismillah we get $18 - 2 = 16$.
- Now adding the above two results, $20 + 16 = 36$ leads us back the Chapter 36 which is Ya Seen.

WHY IS CHAPTER 36 HEART OF THE QURAN ?

- Again we have to look at the number 36 and arrive at the last number ($3 + 6 = 9$).
- The number 9 is the last number after which we wrap back to the first number 1 ($10 = 1 + 0 = 1$).
- The two chapters that have the letter Ya as one of the initials in the opening verse of the Quran are 19 and 36. If we add the number of the chapters we still arrive at the numerical value of letter Ya: $19 + 36 = 55 = 5 + 5 = 10 = \text{ي}$
- In chapter 19 the letter Ya was placed in the core or the centre of the five letters of *Muqattaat*.
- We could say, the letter Ya was surrounded by other letters, two on each side.
- In chapter 36, the letter Ya is placed as the first letter to make it manifest.
- Ya Seen, chapter 36 is the heart of the Quran.
- If we divide the chapter number (36) with the total number of chapters in the Quran (114), 36 divided by $114 = 0.3$ approximately.
- Or to put it another way it is approximately one third ($1/3$). If we look at the human body as one unit, the heart of a human being is also placed approximately one third of the way down from the head.
- That is the physical aspect of the chapter Ya Seen being the heart of the Quran.
- The spiritual aspect is the content or the message of chapter 36.
- The message about creation, resurrection, (re-creation on the day of judgment).
- The cycles of vegetation.
- The mention of the four elements fire, air, water and soil.
- The orbits of the sun and moon. The different stages of the moon which can be interpreted as the different stages of human life.
- Overall, everything mentioned in the chapter has an effect on the human life. We can only experience these things if we have been created. Just like the human life can only be experienced as long as the heart is beating. As soon as it stops, all these experiences cease and the reality of our deeds dawns on us.

Alternatively, in the Abjad numerical system,

- the position of the letter Ya is 10th out of 28. Again 10 divided by $28 = 0.3$ approximately.
- We could say that the letter Ya is the heart of the Abjad numerical system.
- In the previous section we have seen how Ya Seen leads us to the verse Bismillah.
- And from the verse Bismillah, we are led back to Ya Seen.
- The analogy would be like the heart pumping blood to the body, and the body returning the blood back to the heart.
- Where Ya Seen is the heart and Bismillah is the body.
- The entire Quran is represented by and contained within the one verse which is Bismillah Hir Rahman Nir Raheem.

THE ARABIC LETTERS

- There are 28 letters in the Arabic character set.
- The total Abjad numerical value of all 28 letters equals 5995.
- The reduced number we get is $5 + 9 + 9 + 5 = 28$ That is total number of Arabic letters.
- Reducing this further, we get $2 + 8 = 10$ which is the numerical value of the letter Ya (ي). Reducing this number one more time, we get $1 + 0 = 1$ for Alif (ا).
- The knowledge that leads us to the One whose Name is Allah.
- And Allah's Name starts with Alif (ا).

Then we have the 14 letters of *Muqattaat* which are:

$\text{ا} = 1, \text{هـ} = 5, \text{ح} = 8, \text{ط} = 9, \text{ي} = 10, \text{ك} = 20, \text{ل} = 30,$
 $\text{م} = 40, \text{ن} = 50, \text{س} = 60, \text{ع} = 70, \text{ص} = 90, \text{ق} = 100, \text{ر} = 200$

- The numerical value of the letters of *Muqattaat* = 693.
- The reduced numerical value of the letters of *Muqattaat* is: $6 + 9 + 3 = 18$.
- We know from our earlier book on the letter Ba (ب),
- *Bismillah* is the Key to Paradise.

- The 18th letter in the verse Bismillah points us to the letter Ya.
- Now reducing the number 18 further, leads us to $1 + 8 = 9$.
- That is the highest number.
- There is no other number higher than the number 9.

If we add this number (9) to the 1 we obtained from 5995 at the start for the total of all the 28 letters, we are back to the number $(1 + 9 =) 10$ which is the numerical value of the letter

Ya (**ي**). Whichever way we look at the letters and numbers, we are shown that Allah has placed the knowledge in the letters of Quran. To prove it one more time:

If we subtract the numerical value of the letters of *Muqattaat* from the total numerical value of all 28 letters we get:

$$5995 - 693 = 5302.$$

Reducing this number we get $5 + 3 + 0 + 2 = 10$.

We come back to the numerical value of the letter Ya (**ي**) which is connected with Knowledge.

114 High above all is Allah the True King! Be not in haste with the Quran before its revelation to you is completed but say "My Rabb (Lord)! Advance me in knowledge."
[Quran: Ta Ha Chapter 20]

YA DOES INDEED GO BACK TO ALIF

There are 114 chapters in the Quran. Out of the 114 chapters, 41 chapters start with the letter Alif. No other letter is used 41 times as the first letter of the chapters. Out of 114 chapters, 14 chapters start with Ya. No other letter is used 14 times as the first letter of a chapter. Ya (used 14 times as the first letter) does wrap back to Alif (used 41 times as the first letter). The one (14 or 41) is the mirror image of the other (41 or 14). Depends from which side we are observing.

Only Allah Knows Best.

7 January 1999

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19 Ramadan 1419

Darood (Blessings) and Salaam (Peace) on Muhammad, His Family, and His Companions
Khalid M. Malik Ghouri

NAMES OF ALLAH STARTING WITH THE LETTER YA

BISMILLAH HIR RAHMAN NIR RAHEEM

Yubdiu, Yueed

Darood (Blessings) and Salaam (Peace) on Muhammad, his Family, and his Companions.

BACK