

## **Introduction - Mafhoom-ul-Quran (MQ) Software**

Islam in the modern times finds its roots in the works of the great Allama Parwez and he is thus proving to be the most influential man in this millennium as well.

### **A LIFE SKETCH OF ALLAMA GHULAM AHMAD PARWEZ**

The Man Behind The Tolu-e-Islam Movement

The founder of the Tolu-e-Islam movement, Allama Ghulam Ahmad Parwez s/o Chaudhary Fazal Din, was born in a Sunni (Hanafi) family of Batala, Dist. Gurdaspur, on the 9th of July, 1903. Batala, a town now in the Punjab Province of India, was at that time a very prominent seat of Islamic learning, philosophy and culture where his grand-father Hakim Maulvi Raheem Bakhsh enjoyed the status of a celebrated scholar and eminent Sufi of the Chishtia Nizamia discipline of mysticism.

Allama Parwez studied the Quran and the classics of Islam under the sole guidance of his grandfather. His other early teachers were Khateeb Jamia Masjid Batala Maulana Mohammad Ibrahim and his younger brother Maulana Zafrul Haq, two celebrities of the time. He completed his high school studies from "A Lady of England" High School Batala in 1921 and graduated from the Punjab University in 1934.

At an early age, he acquired a thorough understanding of the traditions, beliefs and practices of conventional Islam including the once widespread discipline of Tasawwaf (Muslim mysticism) along with its arduous practical course of esoteric meditation and solitary "spiritual" exercises. This thorough grounding in the entire system of ideas which has traditionally passed under the name of religion in the Muslim society, formed the basis of Mr. Parwez's critical study in the all-pervading light of the Holy Quran, of not only the history of Islam and Muslims, of the beliefs and practices of the pre-Islamic religions of humanity but also of the total area of human thought and socio-ideological movements throughout the ages.

He joined the Central Secretariat of the Government of India in 1927 and soon became an important figure in the Home Deptt: (Establishment Division). On the emergence of Pakistan he occupied the same seat in the Central Government and took pre-mature retirement as Assistant Secretary (Class-I gazetted Officer) in 1955 in order to devote his entire time towards his mission.

In "twenties" during his stay in Lahore, he came into close association with Mufakkar-e-Pakistan, the late Allama Iqbal who inspired him and gave his specific guide-lines on the understanding of the Quran. It was the Allama who infused in him the spirit of being a pioneer worker for Pakistan Movement. The Allama also led him to one of the greatest Muslim Scholars of the sub- continent Hafiz Mohammad Aslam Jairajpuri, for higher studies in Arabic literature, in whose company Allama Ghulam Ahmad Parwez stayed and benefited from the vast

knowledge he possessed, till independence in 1947, though close contacts between them were maintained till Hafiz Sahib's death in 1955.

In 1938, at the instance of Allama Mohammad Iqbal and under the instructions of the Quaid-e-Azam Mohammad Ali Jinnah, Allama Parwez started publishing monthly Tolu-e-Islam. Its primary object was to tell the people that according to the Quran, ideology and not geographical boundary, was the basis for the formation of nation, and that a politically independent state was pre-requisite to live in Islam. For this it has to face not only the British and Hindu opposition but also the fanatic nationalism of Muslim individuals and groups such as represented by the Jamiat-ul-Ulema, Ahrar-e-Islam, Jamaat-e-Islami, etc.

After the emergence of Pakistan, the chief objective before Tolu-e-Islam was to propagate the implementation of the principle which had inspired the demand for separate Muslim State that is, to help transform the live force of Islamic Ideology into the Constitution of Pakistan.

During the Pakistan Movement, Allama Parwez had been a gratifying counselor to the Quaid-e-Azam in the matters pertaining to the Quranic values and principles.

He had been a member of the Law Commission formed under the 1956 Constitution of Pakistan. He was the founder Chairman of the Quranic Education Society and the Director of the Quranic Research Center established under his guidance at 25-B Gulberg-2, Lahore.

His lifelong research produced many valuable books on Quranic teachings, the most celebrated of them being Ma'arif-ul-Quran in eight volumes, Lughat-ul-Quran in four volumes, Mafhoom-ul-Quran in three volumes, Tabweeb-ul-Quran in three volumes, Nizam-e-Rabubiyyat, Islam A Challenge to Religion, Insaan Ne Kiya Socha (History of human thought), Tasawwaf Ki Haqiqat, Saleem Ke Naam in three volumes, Tahira Ke Naam, Qurani Faislay in five volumes and Shahkar-e-Risalat (the biography of the second Caliph Hazrat Omar - may God be pleased with him).

Since he owed a gratitude to Allama Mohammad Iqbal for his guiding principles on the understanding of Quran, he delivered many important lectures on Iqbal's viewpoint of implementing the Quranic injunctions, which were later compiled and published as an unequalled presentation on Iqbal's philosophy under the title "IQBAL AUR QURAN". He was among pioneers who started Bazme-Iqbal.

He started weekly lectures on exposition of the Holy Quran at Karachi which feat he continued (even after shifting to Lahore in 1958) till October 1984 when he was taken ill and expired subsequently on 02-24-1985. This was in addition to his innumerable lectures on the Quranic teachings to college and university students, scholars and general public at various occasions.

He organized a country-wide network of spreading the pristine Quranic teachings called Bazm-e-Tolu-e-Islam. Such organizations have now been formed by the followers of the Holy Quran in a number of foreign countries as well.

He left behind a widow and a brother (both now deceased) and a sister. He himself was issue-less in the conventional sense but Idara-Tolu-e-Islam, The Tolu-e-Islam Trust, The Quranic Research Centre, the Quranic Education Society, the Parwez Memorial (Research Scholars) Library and world over spread Bazms and his audio and video Dars-e-Quran are ample means of carrying his name to immortality. (May Allah's blessings be upon him)

Compiled by: Sh. Allah Ditta and Late Mohammad Omar Draz

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## **Mafhoom-ul-Quran (MQ) Software**

In Allama Parwez estimation he had considered Lughat-ul-Quran and Mafhoom-ul-Quran as the final link of this series. But afterwards he considered that without Tabweeb-ul-Quran the series shall remain incomplete.

The main purpose of a PDF or an eBook is to read or print, to take full advantage of Allama Parwez work, retrieval of lot of cross-references are important because they form an integrated network structure of relations existing between different aspects of Quran, such as of Quranic data (Mafhoom-ul-Quran), Quranic dictionary (Lughat-ul-Quran), Quranic encyclopedia (Tabweeb-ul-Quran), assembling of literal, contextual, content and semantic information which are essential to grasp a comprehensive understanding of the Quran.

The reader can appreciate that to manually retrieve the cross-referenced information of Quranic data (Mafhoom-ul-Quran), Quranic dictionary (Lughat-ul-Quran), Quranic encyclopedia (Tabweeb-ul-Quran), would take enormous time, dedication and effort.

Reading in the 21<sup>st</sup> century is not confined to print reading, reading habits are changing. How we read is evolving, reading of online readers is in transition due to Internet surfing, use of desktop and smart phone software applications i.e. non-sequential, interactive and extensive reading. There is a widespread practice to read Quran without understanding its meaning, thus ignoring the substance of Quran, this attitude is changing now a days. Educated youth of the Muslims is returning towards the Quran.

The current situation is becoming urgent to develop and convert the above immovable information into flexible software programs, create Internet portals and smart phone applications, unlike a PDF or an eBook, meaning that it can be manipulated in many ways, to fit the needs of researchers, students and truth seekers who want to study the Quran in the right perspective and to transform our personality according to the Quranic ideals by differentiating the formal meaning to functional meaning, and consequently to get rid of the misunderstanding of the meaning of the Quran.

The purpose of developing Mafhoom-ul-Quran (MQ) software is to integrate data of Mafhoom-ul-Quran, English version of Mafhoom-ul-Quran (Exposition of Quran), Quranic dictionary (Lughat-ul-Quran), and Quranic encyclopedia (Tabweeb-ul-Quran), providing a unifying framework for building and developing MQ related applications.

The Bazm, Tolu Islam Karachi initiated the project of Mafhoom-ul-Quran (MQ) software in mid-2013 and hired a dedicated team of persons for converting the printed data of Mafhoom-ul-Quran and Lughat-ul-Quran into digital data in the first phase, thereafter two passes of proof reading of the entire converted data along with the correction of typographical error was accomplished. A team of software developer for the purpose of developing Mafhoom-ul-Quran

(MQ) software and Internet applications were hired. An initial version (alpha) is available for review and feedback, a website application is also in progress and will be available very soon.

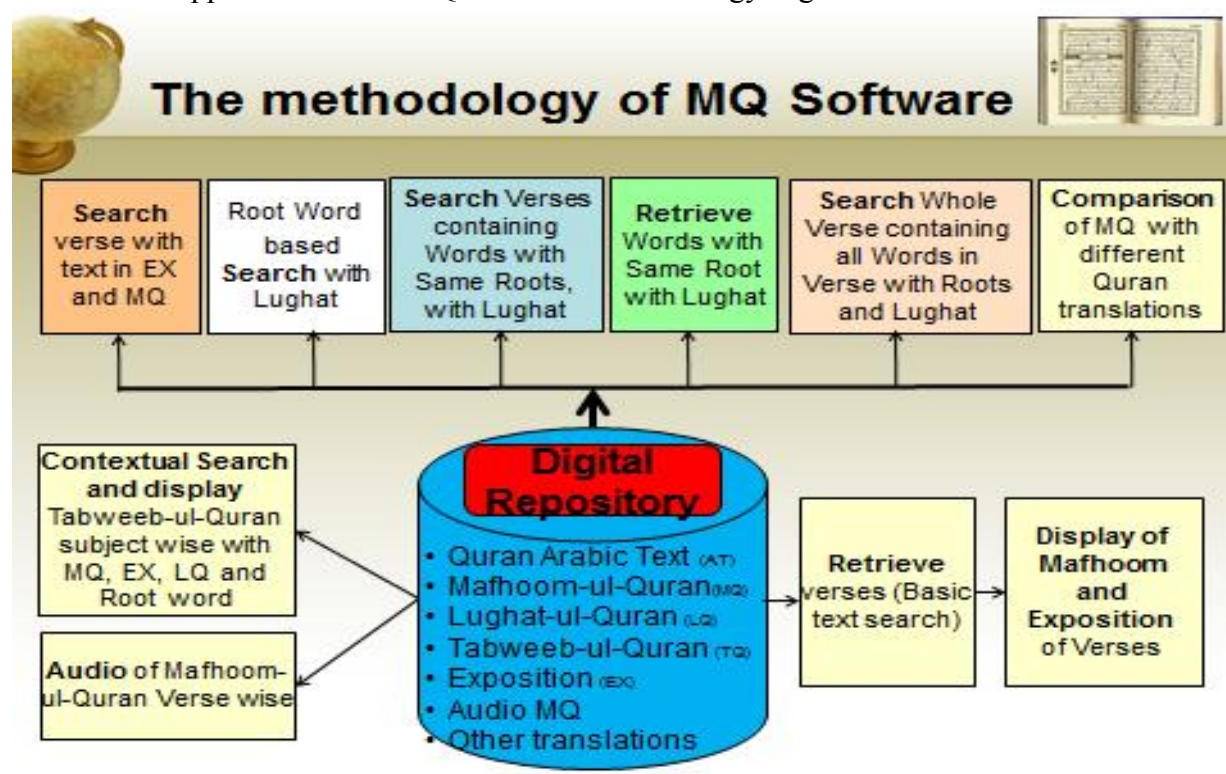
In future a mobile-friendly and usable across multiple platforms, from Android to Windows to attract an even larger audience shall be implemented.

It is most enlightening that some of Allama Perwez's work is translated in up to eleven languages, out of 50 plus books. The importance of the project that may one day help make all content available in multiple languages is exciting, although English is the contemporary language which can also provide tremendous functional and global advantage.

The software to be effectively usable by an international audience, they must be at least provided with Urdu and English language content to making data and information accessible to all people around the world.

So far the softcopy of the translation of Mafhoom-ul-Quran in English (Exposition of Quran) is available and has been integrated in the software, though the printed English translation of Lughat-ul-Quran is available in stores, we are still unable to get hold the softcopy of the same.

Our dedicated team is currently working to integrate the data of Tabweeb-ul-Quran, however if we get the soft data of English version of Lughat-ul-Quran, the same can also be incorporated in the software applications. The MQ Software Methodology is given below:



### **Outline of the salient features of the Mafhoom-ul-Quran (MQ) software:**

1. The Internet, desktop and smart phone applications involves combining data residing in different sources and providing users with a unified view of these data.
2. The interface is laid out in searching, browsing format to a particular topic with minimal clutter so that the work flow is more natural and intuitive. The tabbed search interface lets you pursue several lines of investigation simultaneously, keeping multiple searches open at the same time.
3. Advent of online digital Quran and an increase of online Quran learners worldwide
4. Faster and integrated access to key and integrated information
5. The invention of number of IT applications that ease retrieval of information from Quran
6. Identify the key components and phases while searching the Quran text
7. Integration of Quran word by word with Root Word and Quranic dictionary (Lughat-ul-Quran)
8. Root Word based Search with Quranic dictionary (Lughat-ul-Quran)
9. Retrieval and Display of Mafhoom-ul-Quran and Exposition of Verses (Basic text search)
10. Search Verses containing Words with Same Roots, with Quranic dictionary (Lughat-ul-Quran)
11. Retrieve Words with Same Root with Quranic dictionary (Lughat-ul-Quran)
12. Search Whole Verse containing all Words in Verse with Roots and (Lughat-ul-Quran)
13. A salient feature of application is the ability to retrieve Quranic verses, Mafhoom-ul-Quran and Exposition, Root Word, (Lughat-ul-Quran) using search phrases in languages other than Arabic.
14. Searching by using filters, like in selected Surahs or within some ranges of verse.
15. Search Quran by entering parameters, such as, ayah no., surah name, root word etc.
16. Design and development for all necessary components for searching, reading, annotation, mobile applications and Internet around the central theme of Mafhoom-ul-Quran and Quranic dictionary (Lughat-ul-Quran) – In progress
17. Inter-Language search, you can search in English and Urdu and get the Arabic, Root Word, Mafhoom-ul-Quran, Quranic dictionary (Lughat-ul-Quran), Exposition information for it
18. Development of Web based applications like Quranic portals – Under construction
19. Development of mobile based like Windows & Android applications –Future implementation
20. Capable of fine distinction between formal and functional meanings of Quran, which plays a significant role in achieving better understanding
21. Comparison of Mafhoom-ul-Quran with different translations – Internet based, under construction
22. Search based on Tabweeb-ul-Quran titles and sub-titles with display of related verses of Mafhoom-ul-Quran, integration with Root Word, Quranic dictionary (Lughat-ul-Quran) – In progress.
23. Off-line MQ Software for desktop installation would be available for download form website as well as on CDs
24. Links of available different Lughats (Quranic dictionaries) such as of Lane's and different Quran translations would be available for download.

**For example:** a user making a request through MQ software, searching Quranic encyclopedia (Tabweeb-ul-Quran), like "find Ayats relating to main title: "اجر" and its sub-title" would be accessed within no time, integrated of course with Mafhoom-ul-Quran, Exposition of Quran, Root words and Lughat-ul-Quran.

”اجر - ایمان و تقویٰ کا اجر“

”اجر - ایمان و اعمال صالح (یا مومنین ) کا اجر“

”اجر - کسی کا اجر ضائع نہیں ہوتا“

” اجر - انبیائے کرام اجر نہیں مانگتے تھے“

”اجر - متفرق“

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Shahab Aftab

Team Leader

Software Development Project

Bazm, Tolu Islam, Karachi