

The Koran: A Very Short Introduction

By Michael A. Cook

Questions for Thought and Discussion

- What does the Koran have in common with other scriptures?
- What things are unique about the Koran in comparison with other scriptures?
- In what ways do the attitudes of Muslims to the Koran resemble those of members of other religions to their scriptures?
- In what ways do the attitudes of Muslims to the Koran differ from those of members of other religions to their scriptures?
- In what ways have Muslim attitudes to the Koran changed as a result of modern conditions?
- What aspects of the Koran reflect the particular environment in which it took shape?
- What aspects of the Koran reflect the wider traditions of religion in the Near East?
- What aspects of the Koran are timeless?
- How does the Koran see earlier religions?
- How does the Koran see religions contemporary with it?
- What features of the Koran are advantageous in the modern world?
- What features of the Koran are disadvantageous in the modern world?
- How homogeneous are the contents of the Koran?
- What accounts for the main inhomogeneities in the contents of the Koran?
- What things do you personally respond positively to in the Koran?
- What things do you personally respond negatively to in the Koran?
- Do you believe the Koran to be the word of God? If not, what would it take for you to believe it to be so?

Other books by Michael A. Cook

A brief history of the human race, (W.W. Norton, 2003; Granta, 2004)

Forbidding wrong in Islam: an introduction, (Cambridge University Press, 2003)

Further Reading

François Déroche, *Le Coran* (in the *Que sais-je* series), (Presses Universitaires de France, 2005)

Jane Dammen McAuliffe (ed.), *The Cambridge companion to the Qur'ān* (Cambridge University Press, 2006)

Encyclopaedia of the Qur'ān, (Brill, 2001-6)