

Can Quran Misguide People Too?

إِنَّ اللَّهَ لَا يَسْتَحْيِي أَنْ يَضْرِبَ مَثَلًا مَّا بَعُوضَةً فَمَا فَوْقَهَا فَأَمَّا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا فَيَعْلَمُونَ أَنَّهُ الْحَقُّ مِنْ رَبِّهِمْ وَأَمَّا الَّذِينَ كَفَرُوا فَيَقُولُونَ مَاذَا أَرَادَ اللَّهُ بِهَذَا مَثَلًا يُضِلُّ بِهِ كَثِيرًا وَيَهْدِي بِهِ كَثِيرًا وَمَا يُضِلُّ بِهِ إِلَّا الْفَاسِقِينَ

Allah does not hesitate/ or feels shame to use the similitude of a mosquito or an even more insignificant creature. Those who believe, know that it is the truth from their Rabb; as for the unbelievers, they will say “What does Allah mean by such a similitude?” By such a similitude, Allah confounds /misleads many and enlightens / guides many. He Misguides none except the transgressors: [Q2/26]

This Aya is mostly quoted that people should not read Quran directly (only read/understand under the direct supervision on an Islamic Aalim or scholar) because Quran can misguide / misleads to many and guides to many. First of all who propagates this idea, does not translate correctly the meaning of Aya, secondly they have taken this portion of Aya out of context and thirdly they do not quote the full Aya.

First of all we have to decide that this book of Allah, The Quran is a book of guidance or misguidance? Answer is definitely it is a Book of guidance

شَهْرُ رَمَضَانَ الَّذِي أُنزِلَ فِيهِ الْقُرْآنُ هُدًى لِّلنَّاسِ وَبَيِّنَاتٍ مِّنَ الْهُدَىٰ وَالْفُرْقَانِ فَمَن
شَهِدَ مِنْكُمُ الشَّهْرَ فَلْيَصُمْهُ وَمَن كَانَ مَرِيضًا أَوْ عَلَىٰ سَفَرٍ فَعِدَّةٌ مِّنْ أَيَّامٍ أُخَرَ يُرِيدُ اللَّهُ
بِكُمُ الْيُسْرَ وَلَا يُرِيدُ بِكُمُ الْعُسْرَ وَلِتُكْمِلُوا الْعِدَّةَ وَلِتُكَبِّرُوا اللَّهَ عَلَىٰ مَا هَدَاكُم وَلَعَلَّكُمْ
تَشْكُرُونَ

-----In which the Quran was sent down; this book is a perfect guidance for mankind and consists of clear teachings which show the right way and are a criterion of truth and false hood----
[Q 2/185]

So if this is a book of Guidance, then it can't be book of misguidance at the same time, if it is a book of guidance then it will never misguide anybody period. If you read the full meaning of the whole Aya with its context, it is clearly said that people who do not want to believe in Quran are misguided by this and who believes in Quran are never misguided.

The context of this Aya is that, at the time of Prophethood of Muhammad (ﷺ), one of the criticisms and objection by unbelievers about revelation of the Quran (in addition to many others) was its style of giving examples from small insects, animals etc, like Mosquito, Ante, spider or cow (Even some names of Quranic Surah's are based on these animals and insects). They were of the opinion that If Allah is such great entity, it is not befitting for Him to cite examples in His Book of these insignificant creatures. In reply to their criticism Allah (SWT) replied that He uses these examples to teach people in simplistic way and Allah doesn't care to show off His infinite knowledge by giving complicated and intellectualistic examples. To get admonition/remembrance /guidance and understanding, Allah has made this is the easiest Book.

To get Admonition, guidance and success of hereafter life, is a need of everybody; either he is a cart pusher, shoe repairer, an Engineer, Doctor, a scholar or an ignorant person. Therefore the datum level guidance of Quran should be so simple and easy that everybody can benefit it by just reading Quran (or it's

Translation in his native language). He or She doesn't need to find a scholar to know these fundamental dos or don'ts from Quran.

Now let's analyze this Aya: Allah is saying that people who do not believe in Quran will be misguided, not the believers, because they know it is the truth from their Rabb. So Quran will not misguide people, but unbeliever of Quran will be misguided. It is just like Allah sent Prophet Muhammad and thus two groups of people came into existence, one group believed in him and become believer, the other refused to believe and become non believer, believer will go to Jannah the other will go to Hell fire, now you can't say because of Prophet People are going to Hellfire. Actually Prophet is trying his best to save people from Hellfire, but non believer by not believing in him choose that way, similarly Quran is not misguiding, but people who do not believe , that Quran is Allah's word are being misguided leading to Hellfire, it is not Quran's fault. So Allah is sarcastically replying to their objection that because of these examples, He is misguiding some who do not believe in Quran and guiding some who believe Quran as Allah's word. In the end of the Ayat Allah also said "He misguides none other than the transgressor", People skip this part of aya and just quote that part which says Quran can misguides some and guides some. Ultimate result from this Aya is that believer of Quran will be guided and non believer in it will be misguided, not what they interpret from this Aya that reading Quran direct without scholars supervision will misguide people.

There is also a supportive Hadith on this

"Quran will be witness either in your favor or against on the Day of Judgment"
Muslim #534.

وَقَالَ الرَّسُولُ يَا رَبِّ إِنَّ قَوْمِي اتَّخَذُوا هَذَا الْقُرْآنَ مَهْجُورًا

The Prophet will say: O my Rabb! Surely, my people deserted this Quran (neither learned, nor acted upon its guidance) [Q25/30].

Other Points to be noted:

1) If any non Muslim asks you, he wants to learn Islam, what book you will give him? Answer will be Quran. Now would you tell him that read at your own risk, you may be guided or misguided? His reply will be Sorry keep this book yourself. Or if you say read under the supervision of a scholar, where he will find the scholar? And also each sect things there scholar is right others are misguided. How a non Muslim will find such a scholar on which all sects would agree?

2) If a non Muslim tells you do not read Quran directly, we would definitely say, he is stopping us because he is non Muslim and wants us not to be guided, but unfortunately some of our so called ulema/scholars tells us do not read Quran directly, just read under a supervision of an scholar, nobody says anything and actually people buy this logic.

3) Most people who do not know Arabic, when they read a translation of Quran in their native language then in fact they are reading a scholars written translation. In other words they are reading or understanding Quran under the guidance of a scholar. So this logic of not read Quran directly, only under the guidance of a scholars already failed here.

After 9/11 hundreds of people accepted Islam just by reading its translation in their native languages. While there is no comprehensive, global statistical data that specifically tracks how many people have accepted Islam solely by reading translations of the Quran in their native languages, there are several anecdotal reports and localized studies that highlight this phenomenon.

1. **Personal Stories and Testimonials:** Many Islamic organizations and websites feature testimonials from individuals who embraced Islam after reading the Quran in translation. These stories often emphasize the impact of the Quran's message and the clarity provided by translations in making the faith accessible.

2. **Da'wah Organizations:** Various da'wah (Islamic outreach) organizations report on their activities and often mention the number of people who revert to Islam. While these reports might not break down conversions by the method of introduction, some do highlight the role of Quran translations in the process. For example, organizations like the Islamic Education and Research Academy (iERA) and GainPeace distribute translated copies of the Quran and report significant interest and conversions as a result.
3. **Localized Surveys and Reports:** In specific regions, there might be surveys or reports that indicate the influence of Quran translations. For instance, some surveys conducted by Islamic centers in non-Muslim majority countries have noted that reading the Quran in translation was a significant factor in many conversions.
4. **Academic Studies:** Some academic studies on religious conversion might mention the role of religious texts. For instance, studies on conversion to Islam in Western countries sometimes note that the availability of the Quran in English and other languages plays a crucial role in attracting new converts.

For a more precise and statistically significant understanding, it would be ideal to look into detailed research studies or surveys conducted by academic institutions or major Islamic organizations that systematically track and analyze the reasons behind conversions, specifically focusing on the influence of reading Quran translations. However, such detailed data might be scarce or fragmented.

So if thousands of people revert to Islam by just reading translation of Quran (not Tafseer and proper Quranic education), we can see the

power of Allah's word, so why not take Quran in our hands, its translation which most audience are familiar with it and give talk from it rather reading from books of old scholars, who were not even familiar with the modern day challenges our new generation is facing

Now let's see what Quran itself say about getting guidance from it:

إِنَّ الدِّينَ عِنْدَ اللَّهِ الْإِسْلَامُ وَمَا اخْتَلَفَ الَّذِينَ أُوتُوا الْكِتَابَ إِلَّا مِنْ بَعْدِ مَا جَاءَهُمُ الْعِلْمُ بَغْيًا بَيْنَهُمْ وَمَنْ يَكْفُرْ بِآيَاتِ اللَّهِ فَإِنَّ اللَّهَ سَرِيعُ الْحِسَابِ

Surely the only Deen (true religion and right way of life) in the sight of Allah is Islam. Those to Whom the Book was given did not differ except out of envy among themselves, and after true knowledge had come to them. They should know that Allah is swift in calling to account those who deny His revelations [Q3/19]

وَإِذَا مَا أَنْزَلْنَا سُورَةً فَمِنْهُمْ مَنْ يَقُولُ أَيُّكُمْ زَادَتْهُ هَذِهِ إِيمَانًا فَأَمَّا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا فَزَادَتْهُمْ إِيمَانًا وَهُمْ يَسْتَبْشِرُونَ

Whenever a Surah is revealed, some of them ask them: 'Whose faith from among you has increased by this?' Certainly the faith of the believers is increased and they do rejoice. [9/124]

نَحْنُ أَعْلَمُ بِمَا يَقُولُونَ وَمَا أَنْتَ عَلَيْهِمْ بِجَبَّارٍ فَذَكَرْ بِالْقُرْآنِ مَنْ يَخَافُ وَعِيدِ
You {Muhammad (ﷺ)} are not there to compel them to believe, so admonish/advice/guide them with this Quran every such person who fears my warning. [Q50/45]

إِنَّا نَحْنُ نَزَّلْنَا الذِّكْرَ وَإِنَّا لَهُ لَحَافِظُونَ

As for Admonition/guidance, indeed it is We Who have revealed it and it is indeed We Who are its guardian/protector [15/9]

[The reason Allah is protecting Quran Himself, so people get guidance from it without any iota of doubt]

وَلَقَدْ يَسَّرْنَا الْقُرْآنَ لِلذِّكْرِ فَهَلْ مِنْ مُدَكِّرٍ

We have made this Quran an easy means of admonition/guidance/understand/remember/advice. Then, is there any who would take admonition/guidance/advice? [Q54/17]

فَبِأَيِّ حَدِيثٍ بَعْدَهُ يُؤْمِنُونَ

Now what message can there be after this Quran in which they will believe? [Q 77/50]

أَفَلَا يَتَدَبَّرُونَ الْقُرْآنَ أَمْ عَلَى قُلُوبٍ أَقْفَالُهَا
كِتَابٌ أَنْزَلْنَاهُ إِلَيْكَ مُبَارَكٌ لِيَدَّبَّرُوا آيَاتِهِ وَلِيَتَذَكَّرَ أُولُوا الْأَلْبَابِ

This Book (Al Quran) Which We have sent down to you (O Muhammad (SAW) is highly blessed, so that they may ponder upon its verses and the men of understanding may learn a lesson from it, [Q39/29]

إِنْ هُوَ إِلَّا ذِكْرٌ لِلْعَالَمِينَ

This Quran is nothing but a reminder to all the Worlds. [Q39/87]

Based on above Ayats of Quran it is crystal clear that Quran can never misguide people, People who use the Aya [Q2/26] to suggest Quran can also misguide , are totally wrong and they themselves are misguided in this regard. May Allah guide them about true understanding of Quran and its message. [Ameen]

Difference between Allah's Mercy and His Love:

Allah's Mercy is for every living being regardless he believes in Allah or not, Without His Mercy no living being can survive even for a second in this world, but Allah's Love is only for people who Obey Him. We need Allah's Love; His Mercy is always there regardless.