

How many Ayas are there in the Holy Qur'an?

There is a difference of opinion with respect to the number of Āyās in the Holy Qur'ān. Imām Qurtubī, lists the different opinions in the first volume of his tafsīr al-Jāmi li aḥkām al-Qur'ān. Below are quoted the different opinions of the scholars of the past

Opinion of the scholars of Madīna

Muḥammad ibn Īsa says 6000 āyās. Abū Amar says this is the opinion of the scholars of Kūfa who quote the scholars of Madīna. Ismā'īl ibn Jāfar says 6214 āyās.

Opinion of the scholars of Makka

al-Faḍl states that the opinion of the scholars of Makka is 6219.

Opinion of the scholars of Kūfa

Muḥammad ibn Īsa states that the opinion of the scholars of Kūfa is 6236. Imām Muslim records this from al-Kassa'ī from Hamza, and al-Kassa'ī links it to 'Alī.

Opinion of the scholars of Baṣra

Muḥammad states that the opinion of the scholars of Baṣra is 6204. Their previous and present scholars have agreed upon this number.

Opinion of the scholars of Shām (Syria/Jordan/Palestine area)

Yahya ibn al-Hārith al-Zamāra says 6226, and in another narration 6225, he reduces the total by one. Ibn Zakwān says, "I think that Yahya did not count '*Bismillahir Rahmaanir Rahim*'" (This would be the basmala before Sūra Fātiḥa).

Abū Amar concludes by the following statement, "So these are the numbers that the scholars give superiority in their literary works. All the world, past and present, calculate and accept these values."

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