

## Difficult Passages in the Koran

The following passages are taken from the Koran, translated by N. J. Dawood, Penquin Classics ©1974. Only a few passages from each subject are given.

SUBJECT	QUOTE	LOCATION
Sky	He holds the sky from falling down ...	Pilgrimage 22:65
Creation time	... created the earth in two days?	Revelations Well Expounded 41:9
Four or eight kinds of cattle	He has given you four different pairs of cattle.	Hordes 39:5
	He has given you eight kinds of livestock.	Cattle 6:143
Life from water	We made every living thing of water?	Prophets 21:30
Man's creation	... Allah ... has made you in gradual stages?	Noah 71:8–20
	Does man forget that We created him out of the void	Mary 19:67
	Did We not create you from from an unworthy fluid, ...	Those That Are Sent Forth 77:8–27
	... created you from dust, from a little germ, ...	The Cave 18:35–39
	... unbelievers ... Of course clay We created them.	Ranks 37:1–18
	He [Allah] who created man from water and	Al-Furqan 25:53–55
	We first created man from an essence of clay: then placed him, a living germ, in a safe enclosure. The germ we made a clot of blood and the clot a lump of flesh. This We fashioned into bones, then clothed the bones with flesh, thus bring forth another creation.	The Believers 23:1–16
We created man from dry clay, from black moulded loam, ...	Al-Hijr 15:21–31	
Noah's sons	... Noah's son was drowned.	Houd 11:43
	"Noah prayed to Us and his prayers were graciously answered. We delivered him and all his tribe, ..."	The Ranks 37:70–80
Suicide	If any one thinks that Allah will not give victory to His apostle in this world and in the world to come, let him tie a rope to the ceiling of his house and hang himself.	Pilgrimage 22:11–16
Violence	Those who avenge themselves when wronged incur no guilt.	Counsel 42:42–43
	When you meet the unbelievers in the battlefield strike off their heads. ...	Mohammed 47:3–5
	... retaliation is decreed for you in bloodshed:	The Cow 2:178
	Fighting is obligatory for you,	The Cow 2:216
	As for the man or woman who is guilty of theft, cut off their hands to punish them for their crimes.	The Table 5:37–39
Polgamy	... restrain their carnal desires save with their wives and slave girls ... for these are lawful to them: ...	The Ladders 70:20–29 The Believers 23:1–6
	... We have made lawful to you the wives to whom you have granted dowries and the slave-girls whom Allah has given you as booty: the daughter of your paternal and maternal uncles and of your paternal and maternal aunts who fled with you; and the other women who gave themselves to you and who you wish to take in marriage.	The Confederate Tribes 33:49–50
	If a man divorce his wife, he cannot remarry her until she has wedded another man and been divorces by him: ...	The Cow 2:230
	If you fear that you cannot treat orphans with fairness, then you may marry other women who seem good to you: two, three, or four of them.	Women 4:2–4
	You are also forbidden to take in marriage married women, except captives who you own as slaves.	Woman 4:24

SUBJECT	QUOTE	LOCATION
Prostitution	You shall not force your slave-girls into prostitution ... if they wish to preserve their chastity.	Light 24:33–34
Women	As for those whom you fear disobedience, admonish them and send them to beds apart and beat them.	Women 4:34
	You may put off any of your wives you please and take to your bed any of them you please. Nor is it unlawful for you to receive any of those whom you have temporarily put aside ... It shall be unlawful for you to take more wives or to change your present wives for other women, though their beauty please you except where slave-girls are concerned.	The Confederate Tribes 33:51–52
Miscellaneous	We changed them (men who were wrongdoers) into detested apes.	The Heights 7:164–166
	... transforming them into apes and swine.	The Table 5:57–61
	He alone has knowledge of what is hidden: ... He sends down guardians who walk before them and behind them, that He may know if they have indeed delivered His messages.	The Jinn 72:25–28
Islam enemy of Christianity	The unbelievers among the People of the Book [Jews and Christians] and the pagans shall burn forever in the fire of Hell. They are the vilest of all creatures.	The Proof 98:6–7
	Those who say: ‘The Lord of Mercy has begotten a son,’ preach a monstrous falsehood. ...	Mary 19:88
	Jesus was no more than a mortal whom we favored and made an example of the Israelites. ...	Ornaments of Gold 43:1–11
	Make war on them [Christians and Jews] until idolatry is no more and Allah’s religion reigns supreme.	The Spoils 8:37–41
	When the sacred months are over slay the idolaters (Christians and Jews) wherever you find them. Arrest them, besiege them, and lie in ambush everywhere for them.	Repentance 9:4–7
	Believers, make war on the infidels (Christians and Jews) who dwell among you.	Repentance 9:122–125
	Unbelievers are those who declare Allah is the Messiah, the Son of Mary.	The Table 5:17
	Believers, take neither Jews nor Christians for your friends... whosoever of you seeks their friendship shall become one of their number.	The Table 5:50–51
	Make war ...	Repentance 9:14
Physical concept versus spiritual	This is the Paradise which the righteous have been promised. There shall flow in it rivers of unpolluted water, the rivers of milk forever fresh; rivers of delectable wine and rivers of clearest honey. They shall eat therein of every fruit and receive forgiveness from their Lord. Is this like the lot of those who shall abide in Hell forever and drink scalding water which will tear their bowels.	Mohammed 47:15
	As for the true servants of Allah, a generous provisions shall be made for them: they shall feast on fruit and be honored in the gardens of delight. Reclining face to face upon soft couches, they shall be served with a goblet filled at a gushing fountain. Their drink shall neither dull their senses nor befuddle them. And by their side shall sit bashful, dark-eyed virgins as chaste as the sheltered eggs of ostriches. They will put questions to each other. ...	The Ranks 37:40–56