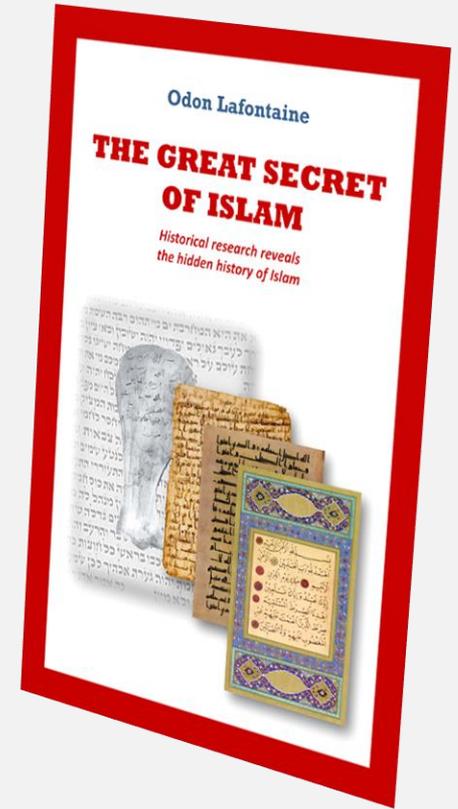


A Nazarene reading of the Quran

Making sense of the people described by the Quran



Odon Lafontaine (Olaf), author of **The Great Secret of Islam**

www.thegreatsecretofislam.com

1 - Who does the Quran speak of?

The Quran tells us about its **writers** and hence **the preacher or preachers** whose preaching seems to be the basis of the Quranic text: their language, their ethnicity, their community, their cultural environment, their religious training, their knowledge, their objectives and motivation...

Examples:

- Gehenna - *ġahannama* ("Valley of Hinnom", in Jerusalem)
= synonymous with Hell and punishment in the Jewish and Christian tradition
= synonymous with Hell in the Muslim tradition (76 occurrences in the Quran: Q2,206; Q3,12; Q3,162; Q3,197; Q4,55; Q4,93; Q4,97; Q4,115; Q4,121; Q4,140; Q4,169; Q7,18; Q7,41; Q7,179; etc.).)
- Mother of God = Holy Spirit (Q5,116)
- Etc.

1 - Who does the Quran speak of?

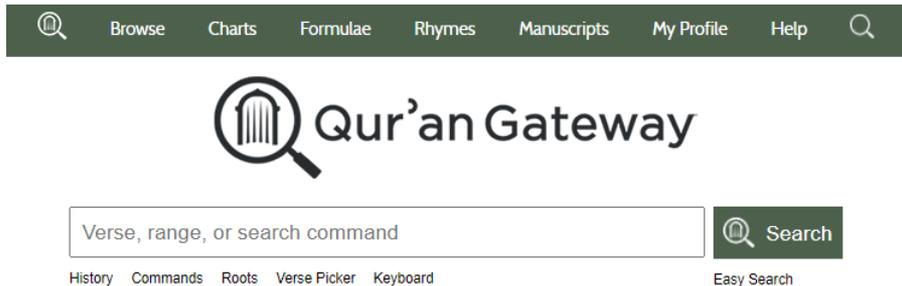
The Quran also tells us about **the audience** of the preacher (or preachers): according to what the preacher decides to tell them and not to tell them (which tells us what they already know), according to what needs to be explained and taught to them, according to what comes from their remarks, their objections or their assent

1 - Who does the Quran speak of?

Specifically, the Quran names **categories of people**. Understanding their definition is essential to understand what the Quran is about.

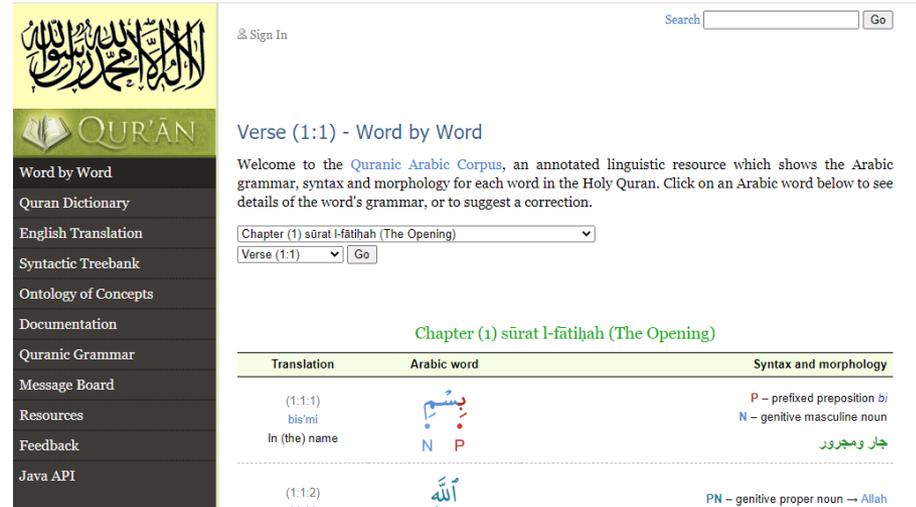
Two very useful websites to get the gist of the Quranic text:

<https://web.quranguateway.org/home.php>



The screenshot shows the top navigation bar of the Qur'an Gateway website with links for Browse, Charts, Formulae, Rhymes, Manuscripts, My Profile, and Help. Below the navigation bar is the site logo, a search input field with the placeholder text "Verse, range, or search command", and a "Search" button. At the bottom of the search area, there are links for History, Commands, Roots, Verse Picker, and Keyboard, along with the text "Easy Search".

<https://corpus.quran.com/>



The screenshot shows the Quranic Arabic Corpus website interface. It features a search bar at the top right, a "Sign In" link, and a navigation menu on the left with options like "Word by Word", "Quran Dictionary", "English Translation", "Syntactic Treebank", "Ontology of Concepts", "Documentation", "Quranic Grammar", "Message Board", "Resources", "Feedback", and "Java API". The main content area displays "Verse (1:1) - Word by Word" and a welcome message. Below this, there is a dropdown menu for "Chapter (1) sūrat I-fātiḥah (The Opening)" and a "Verse (1:1)" dropdown with a "Go" button. A table below shows the translation and morphology for the first two verses of the opening chapter.

Translation	Arabic word	Syntax and morphology
(1:1:1) bis'mi In (the) name		P – prefixed preposition bi N – genitive masculine noun جار ومجرور
(1:1:2)		PN – genitive proper noun → Allah

1 - Who does the Quran speak of?

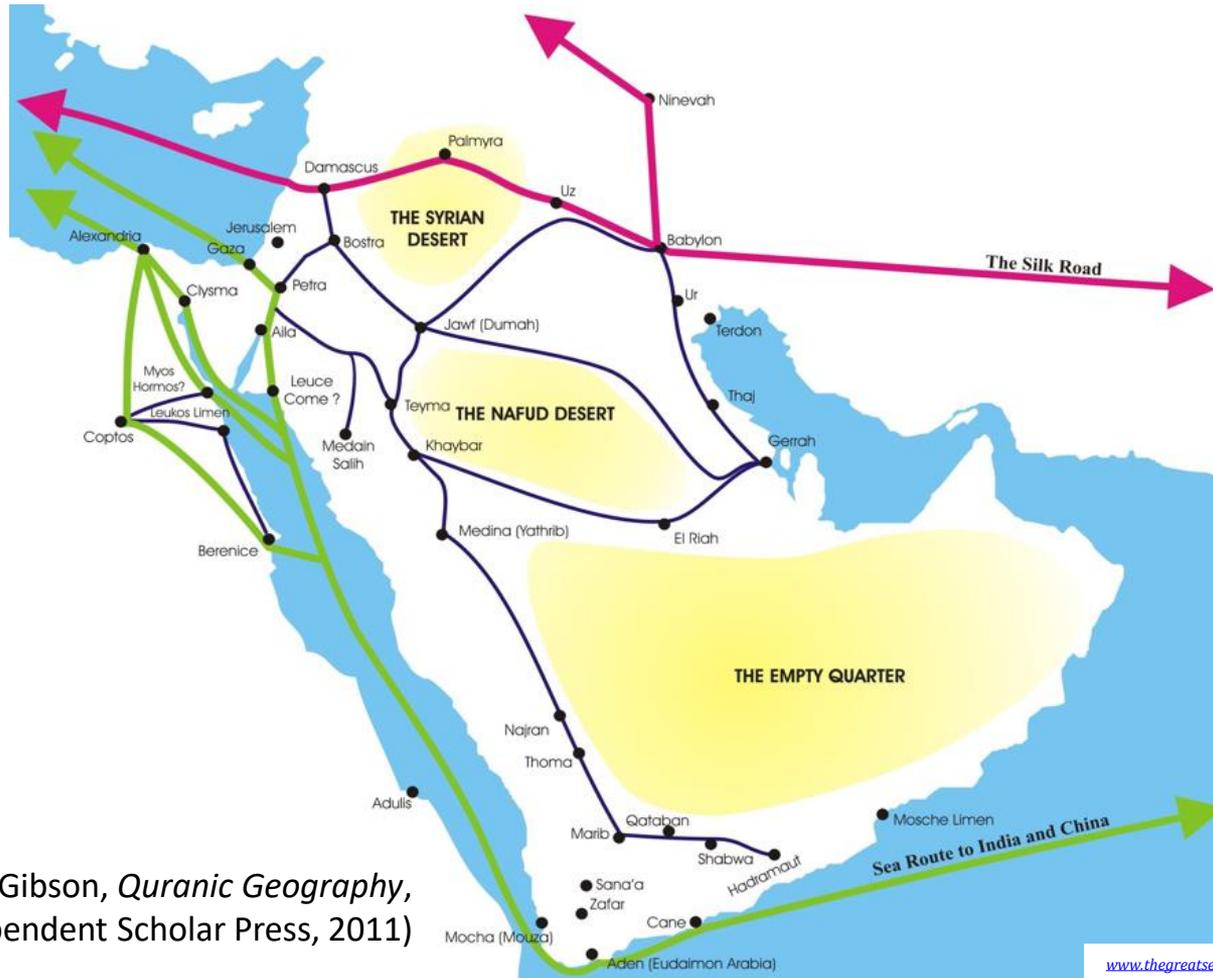
- **KFR** root (as in *kuffar*: "coverers"): **491 occurrences**
- Believers (*Muminun* – **AMN** root): **202 occurrences** + many occurrences of the *āmana* verb
- **SRK** root (as in *mushrikun*: "associationists"): **165 occurrences**
- **KTB** root (as in *ahl al-kitab*: "people of the book"): **78 occurrences**
- Submitters (*Muslimun* – **SLM** root): **39 occurrences** + few others
- Judeans (*Yahud*), *Hud* and people of *Hud* (**HWD** root)
 - *Yahūd*: **9 occurrences**
 - HWD root / *Hud*: **13 occurrences** to denote Jews, **2** for the people of *Hud* (also Jews)
 - Sons of Israel: **11 occurrences**
- Nazarenes (*Nasara* - **NSR** root): **15 occurrences**
- People of Pharaoh: **13 occurrences**
- Arabs (*a'rāb*): **10 occurrences**
- People of the Gospel: **1 occurrence** (Q5,47)
- No mention of "etymologically correct" Arab Christians (*masihi*)
- And also Romans, Sabeans, hypocrites, those who became Judaized, the people of Noah, the people of the Aad, the people of the Tamuds, the people of Abraham, the people of Madyan, and the people of the overthrown cities (Q9,70), the people of the Cave and of *ar-Raquim* (Q18), the people of the Ark, the people of Yahtrib, the people of Ukhdud, the people of the Elephant, etc.

2 - Who were “the Arabs” in the 7th cent.?

- Saracens: those who live under tents
- Tayyayes (Aramaic): people from the Mesopotamian nomadic tribe of Tayy (*Banu Tayy*)
- Hagarenes: sons of Hagar; the *Muhajirun*?
 - Hagráyé / Mhaggráyé (Aramaic)
- Ishmaelites
- *Muhajirun*: the emigrants, those who made the *hijr* (26 occurrences of HJR root in the Quran pointing to an “emigration”)
- Arabs (Arab nomads: Bedouins)
 - Only one pre-abbasid source (Anastasius of Sinai) to cite them as a nation



2 - Main trade routes of the Nabateans

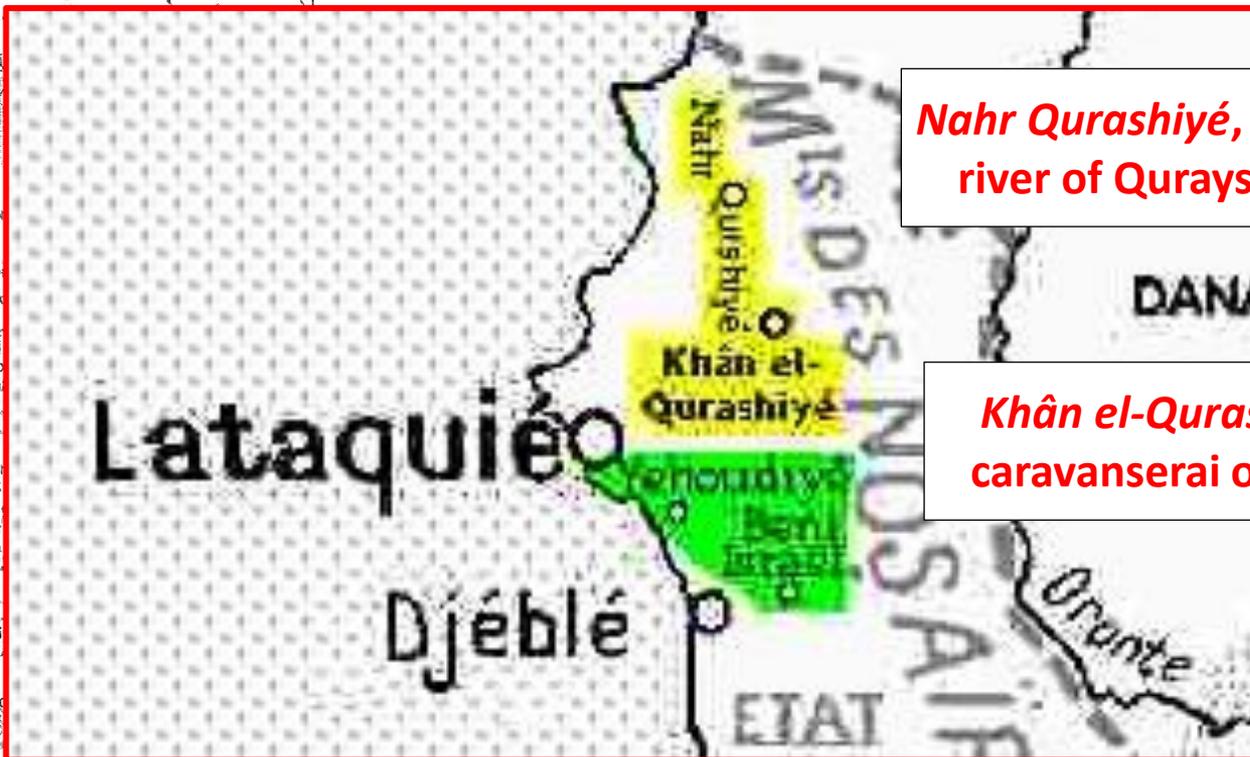
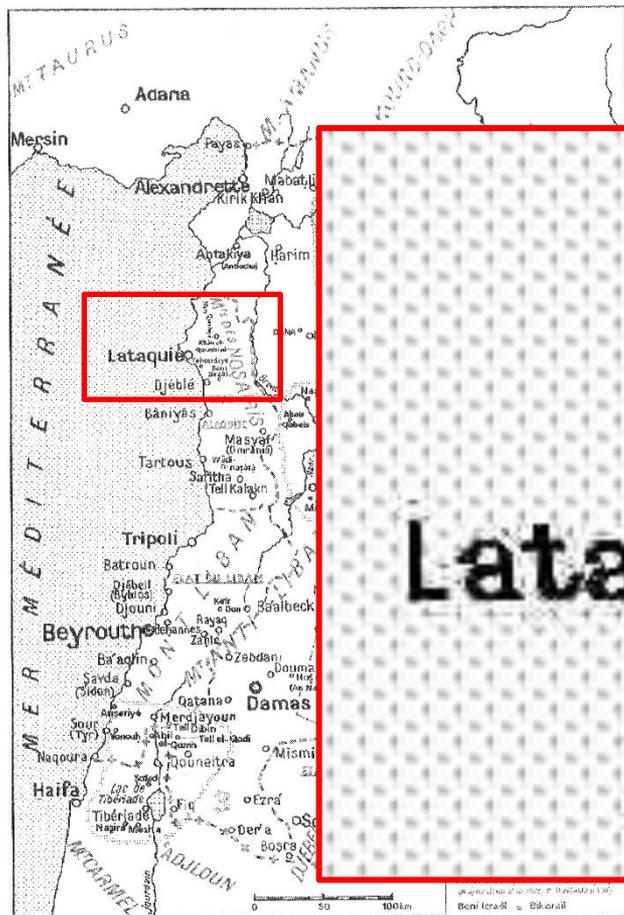


(Dan Gibson, *Quranic Geography*,
Independent Scholar Press, 2011)

2 – Traces of the Quraysh tribe (1/3)

3.3 Axes nouveaux de la recherche : le fait syrien

René Dussaud, *Topographie de la Syrie antique et médiévale*, Paris, Geuthner, 1927 & Édouard-Marie Gallez, *Le Messie et son Prophète*, Paris, Ed. De Paris, 2005-2010

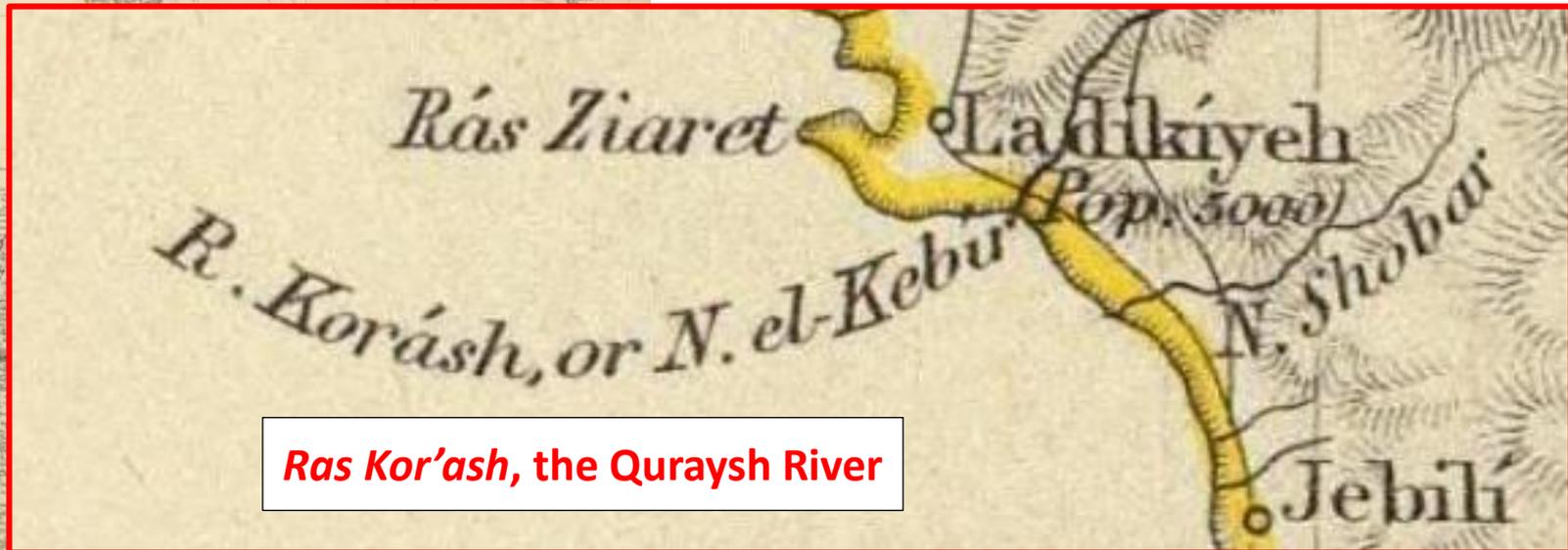


Nahr Qurashiyé, the river of Quraysh

Khân el-Qurashiyé, the caravanseraï of Quraysh

2 – Traces of the Quraysh tribe (2/3)

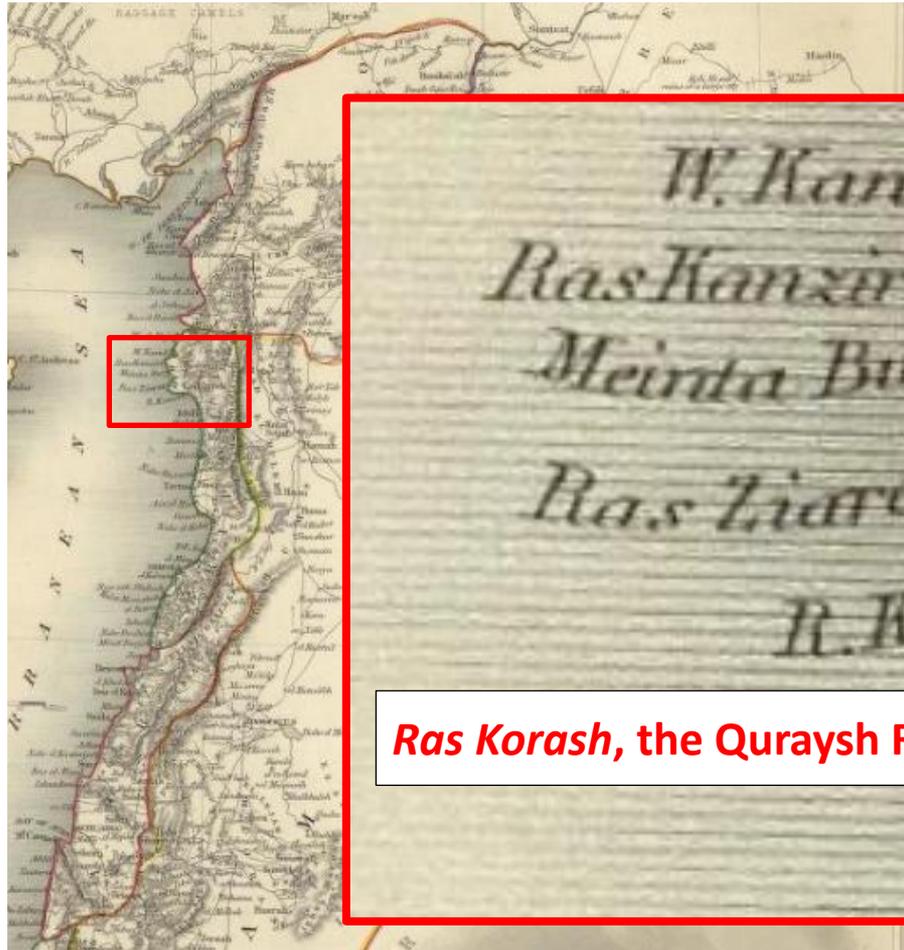
Chapman and Hall, *Syria to Sinai*, Society for the Diffusion of Useful Knowledge, Great Britain, 1843



Ras Kor'ash, the Quraysh River

2 – Traces of the Quraysh tribe (3/3)

R.M. Martin, J. & F. Tallis, *Syria*, New York, 1851



Ras Korash, the Quraysh River

3 - Who are the *kuffar*?

The "coverers", "those who cover" - *kâfir-kuffar* (KFR root)

- **27 occurrences** of the word *kâfir*
- **464 other occurrences** of the different forms of the KFR root in the sense of covering, disbelieving, denying, rejecting, and also forgiving (total of 525 occurrences of the KFR root in the Quranic text)

**MISBELIEVERS ACCORDING TO
THE STANDARD ISLAMIC NARRATIVE**

3 - Who are the *kuffar*? - etymology

- Islamic tradition: infidel, misbeliever, non-muslim (insult)
- Hebrew and Aramaic meaning of the KFR root = to cover
 - Noah "*kafars*" the Ark (the *bitumen covering* - Gn6,4)
 - Derived meanings:
 - to cover [the fault] = to forgive, to make atonement
 - to cover [something] = to keep silent, to pass over in silence, to conceal, to deny, to apostatize
 - Cover, lid, pitch, bowl
- Similar meanings in Arabic
 - To cover → to mask, to shield → to forgive
 - To cover → to deny → to disbelieve → to be an infidel
 - Q47,1a: Those who "*kafar*" and obstruct the path of God
 - Q47,2d: He "*kaffars*" their wrong deeds and reforms their thinking
 - Q66,7: O ye the "*kafarers*"!... You will only be paid for what you did.
 - Q66,8: O ye who believe! Perhaps your Lord will "*kaffar*" your evil deeds

4 - Who are the *mushrikun*?

The "associationists", "those who associate", those who commit *shirk* - *mushrikun* (**SRK** root)

- **44 occurrences** of the past participle of the verb in the 4th form *mushrik* (having given associates)
- **71 occurrences** of the verb in the 4th form *mushrik* (to give associates)
- **168 occurrences** of the SRK root, 165 of which concern associationism

**POLYTHEISTS ACCORDING TO
THE STANDARD ISLAMIC NARRATIVE**

4 - Who are the *mushrikun*? - etymology

- "Polytheists" according to the Muslim tradition
 - SRK root
 - Sha'rik*: partner
 - Shi'rk*: associationism
 - Ashraka*: associating, giving partners
 - Past participle active form: *mushrikun*, etymologically: those who have *associated*, the associationists
 - Giving God a partner or partners
- Basically, an attack on the Christian faith in the incarnation of God in Jesus and the Trinity
- As a figure of speech: idolatry
- Even more figurative meaning: polytheistic (but meaning ≠ from any Arabic etymology! And a very awkward meaning from the point of view of logic and history).

mushrikun = CHRISTIANS, in all logic

(trinitarian Christians)

- Hypothesis : the Quranic preacher(s) and the audience consider themselves as the true *masihi* – genuine disciples of the *masih*, Jesus

5 - Who are the people of the book?

The "people of the book" - *ahl al kitab* (**KTB** root)

- **32 occurrences** as *ahl al kitab*
- **46 other occurrences** (at least) in which the word *kitab* is used to define a community, a group of people according to their use of the *kitab*.
- Total of 260 occurrences of the word *kitab*

**JEWS AND/OR CHRISTIANS AND/OR MUSLIMS
ACCORDING TO THE STANDARD ISLAMIC NARRATIVE**

5 - Who are the people of the book? - etymology

- Traditional interpretation in Islam: "*it is mainly Jews and Christians, and in general all those who claim to possess a revealed book*" [also muslims, then] (*The Holy Quran*, Albouraq, note 2, p.34, French edition)
- *kitab*: etymologically, not exactly a book (*mushaf*) but **what has been put in writing, what has been prescribed, what has been ordained**
 - The "Law" (in the sense of the Torah) → The "revealed book"

Cf. Biblical Hebrew *tōrāḥ*, "instruction, teaching, doctrine; law, the Law of Moses (the Pentateuch)", verbal name of *hōrāḥ*, "show, indicate; direct, teach, instruct", hiphil form (causative) of *yārāḥ*, "throw".
- How come could this expression also designate Christians (what then of the "People of the Gospel" of Q5,47)? Could it refer only to Jews?

The people of the book in the Quran (32 occurrences of the expression)

- Q2,105** Not those who cover among the **people of the book**, nor the Associates, appreciate that a blessing from your Lord should be brought down upon you, whereas God reserves His Mercy for whomever He wills.
- Q2,109** Many from the **people in the book** would appreciate, out of jealousy on their part, being able to make you collectors after you have believed.
- Q3,69** Some of the **people in the book** would have liked to lead you astray. But they only lead astray themselves, and they are not aware of it.
- Q3,70** O **people of the book**, why do you not believe in the verses of God, while you are witnesses?
- Q3,72** Thus says one part of the **people of the book**: "Believe at the beginning of the day what has been brought down on those who believe, and be unbelieving at the end of the day! Perhaps these people will come back [from their error]."
- Q3,110** If the **people of the book** believed, it would be better for them, there are some who have faith, but most of them are perverts.
- Q3,71** O **people of the book**, why do you mix the false with the true and knowingly hide the truth?
- Q3,64** "O **people of the book**, come to a common word between us and you: that we worship only God, without associating anything with Him, and that we do not take one another as lords apart from God". Then, if they turn their backs, say: "Be witnesses that we are submissive".
- Q3,75** And there are some among the **people of the book** who, if you entrust a qintar to him, give it back to you. But there are also some who, if you entrust him with a dinar, will only give it back to you if you force him to do so. All this because they say: "Those (Arabs) who have no book have no way of compelling us." They speak lies against God when they know.
- Q3,98** "O **people of the book**, why do you not believe in the verses of God, when God is witness of what you are doing?"
- Q3,99** O **people of the book**, why do you obstruct the way of God to him who has faith, and why do you want to make that way crooked, when you are witnesses of the truth?
- Q3,65** O **people of the book**, why do you dispute about Abraham, when the Torah and the Gospel did not come down until after him? Do you not reason then? 3,67. Abraham was neither a Jew nor a Nazarene. He was entirely subject to God. And he was not one of the Associates.
- Q3,113** But they are not all the same. Among the **people of the book**, there is an upright community that recites the verses of God in the hours of the night, prostrating itself.
- Q3,199** Certainly there are among the **people of the book those** who believe in God and in what has been brought down to you and in what has been brought down to them. They are humble towards God, and do not sell the verses of God at a low price.
- Q4,123** This depends neither on your desires nor on the **people of the book**.
- Q4,159** There will be no one among the **people of the book who** will not have faith in him [Jesus] before his death. And on the Day of Resurrection he will be a witness against them.
- Q4,171** O **people of the book**, do not exaggerate in your religion, and say of God only the truth.
- Q4,153** The **people of the book** ask you to bring down a Book from heaven.
- Q5,15** O **people of the book!** Our Messenger has certainly come to you, exposing to you much of what you have been hiding from the book.
- Q5,19** O **people of the book!** Our Messenger has come to enlighten you after an interruption of the messengers, so that you may not say: "There has come to us neither forewarner nor warner".
- Q5,59** Say: "O **people of the book!** Do you reproach us for anything other than believing in God, in what has been brought down to us [Gospel] and in what has been brought down before [Torah]? But most of you are perverted."
- Q5,68** Say: "O **people of the book**, you can stand on nothing, until you conform to the Torah and the Gospel and to what has been sent down to you from your Lord". And certainly what has been sent down to you from your Lord will increase many of them in rebellion and disbelief. Therefore, do not torment yourself for the people who cover up.
- Q5,65** If the **people of the book** believed and practised piety, We would certainly cover their misdeeds and certainly introduce them into the Gardens of Delight.
- Q5,77** O **people of the book**, do not exaggerate in your religion, opposing the truth. Do not follow the passions of people who have gone astray before, who have led many astray and who have gone astray from the straight path.
- Q5,5** You are allowed to eat the food of **the people of the book**.
- Q29,46** And discuss only in the best way with the **people of the book**, except with those who are unjust.
- Q33,26** And He brought down from their strongholds those of the **people of the book** who had supported them, and He cast fear into their hearts; and a company of them ye slew, and a company ye took prisoner.
- Q57,29** So that the **people of the book may** know that they have no access to God's grace and that grace is in God's hand; He gives it to whomever He wills, and God is the Holder of immense grace.
- Q59,11** Have you not seen the hypocrites saying to their brethren who have covered among the **people of the book**
- Q59,2** He it is He who expelled from their homes those of the **people of the book who did** not believe at the time of the first exodus.
- Q98,1** The collectors among the **people of the book**, as well as the Associates, will not cease to disbelieve until they are given clear evidence
- Q98,6** The Collectors among the **people of the book and** the Associates will go into the fire of Hell, to dwell there for ever.

46 other occurrences of the word *kitab* ("Book") in the Quran in which it characterises a community, depending on the use it makes of it (excluding the "people of the book")

- Q2,78** And there are among them [the people of Moses] clans that know of the book only their own claims, and they only make conjecture.
- Q2,79** Woe, then, to those who with their own hands write a **book and** then present it as coming from God in order to make a vile profit out of it!
- Q2,85** Do you therefore **believe in** one part of the book and reject the rest?
- Q2,101** And when a messenger came to them from God confirming what was already with them, some to whom the book **had been** given, threw the book **of** God behind their backs as if they did not know!
- Q2,121** Those to whom We have given the book, **and** who recite it as it should be, believe in it.
- Q2,144** Behold, those to whom the book has been given know that this is the truth from their Lord. And God is not unmindful of what they do.
- Q2,145** True, if you were to bring all the evidence to those to whom the book was given, they would not follow your tradition (qibla)!
- Q2,146** Those to whom we have given the book recognise it as they recognise their children. But some of them hide the truth, even though they know it!
- Q2,174** Those who hide what God has brought down from the book and sell it at a low price, they fill their bellies with nothing but Fire.
- Q2,213** People (originally) formed one (believing) community. Then God sent prophets as heralds and warners, and He sent down with them the book **of** Truth to settle their differences among the people. But those to whom it had been brought began to dispute over it, after the evidence had come to them, in a spirit of rivalry. Then God, by His Grace, guided those who believed to this Truth over which others disputed.
- Q3,19** Those to whom the book was brought did not quarrel, out of aggressiveness among themselves, until after they had received the science .
- Q3,20** And say to those to whom the book has been given, and to the illiterate [the Goyim]: "Have you embraced Islam [have you submitted]?"
- Q3,23** Have you not seen how those who have received a part of the book, and who are now invited to the book of God to settle their differences, act, how a group of them turn their backs and dodge?
- Q3,78** And there are some among them who roll up their tongues when they read the book to make you believe that this is from the book, **when** it is not from the book; and they say, "This is from God", when it is not from God. They knowingly speak lies against God
- Q3,79** It would not be fitting for a human being to whom God has given the book, the Understanding and the Prophecy, to say to people afterwards: "Be my worshippers, to the exclusion of God"; but on the contrary, [he should say]: "Become learned, obedient to the Lord, since you teach the book and study it".
- Q3,100** Ó the believers! If you obey a group of those to whom the book has been given, He will make you recoverers after you have had faith.
- Q3,119** You love them, even though they love you not; and you have faith in the whole **Book**.
- Q3,186** You will hear many unpleasant words from those to whom the book was given before you, and from the Associates.
- Q3,186** God took this commitment from those to whom the book was given: "Expose it, certainly, to the people and do not hide it". But they threw it behind their backs and sold it at a low price.
- Q4,44** Have you not seen those who have received part of the book buy straying and seek you to go astray from the [right] path?
- Q4,47** O ye who have been given the book, believe in what We have sent down, confirming what ye have already prophesied.
- Q4,51** Have you not seen those to whom part of the book has been given, putting faith in magic and taghout, and saying in favour of those who do not believe: "These are better guided (on the way) than those who have believed"?
- Q4,131** This is what We have enjoined on those to whom before you the book was given, as well as on yourselves. And if you do not believe (this does not harm God, for) verily to God alone belongs all that is in the heavens and on earth.
- Q4,140** In the book he has already revealed this to you: when you hear that people deny God's verses and make fun of them, do not sit down with them until they begin another conversation.
- Q5,5** You are permitted) virtuous women of the believers, and virtuous women of the people who received the book before you.
- Q5,44** We have sent down the Torah, in which there is guidance and light. It is on its basis that the prophets who submitted themselves to God, as well as the rabbis and teachers judge the affairs of the Jews. For they have been entrusted with the custody of the book **of** God, and they are the witnesses of it. Fear not therefore the people, but fear Me. And do not sell My teachings at a low price. And those who do not judge by the things which God hath brought down, these are the collectors.
- Q5,57** Don't adopt as allies those who mock and play your religion, among those to whom the book was given before you and among the collectors.
- Q6,20** Those to whom We have given the book recognize as they recognize their own children.
- Q6,89** To them have We brought the book, wisdom and prophecy. If these others do not believe in them, at least We have entrusted these things to people who do not deny them.
- Q6,114** Those to whom We have given the book know that it came down with the truth from thy Lord.
- Q7,169** Then followed them the successors who inherited the book, but who preferred what life on earth offers, saying, "We shall have forgiveness".
- Q7,170** And those who abide by the book and perform Salat, We do not let the reward of those who amend be lost.
- Q9,29** Combat to death those who believe neither in God nor in the Last Day, who do not forbid what God and His messenger have forbidden and who do not profess the religion of truth, among those who have received the book.
- Q10,94** And if you are in doubt as to what We have sent down to you, then ask those who read the book revealed before you.
- Q13,36** And those to whom We have already given the book rejoice at the fact that We have sent down to you. But some factions reject some of it (the deniers).
- Q13,43** And those who do not believe [the collectors] say, "You are not a messenger". Say: "God is sufficient as a witness between you and me, and those who have knowledge of the book".
- Q21,7** So ask the scholars of the book, if you don't know.
- Q23,62** We impose on no one but according to his ability. And with us is a **Book** that speaks the truth, and they shall not be wronged.
- Q29,47** Those to whom We have given the book believe in it. And among them are some who believe in it. And who rejects Our Verses but the coverers?
- Q35,29** Those who recite the book of God, and perform Salat, and spend in secret and in public of what We have bestowed on them, hope thus to make a trade that will never perish.
- Q42,14** Those to whom the book was given as an inheritance after them [the associates?] are truly in troubling doubt about it.
- Q57,16** Has not the time come for those who have believed, that their hearts may humble themselves at the mention of God and at what has come down from the truth? And not to be like those who received the book before them. And they found time long enough and their hearts hardened, and many of them are disobedient.
- Q62,2** He it is He who has sent to the **unlearned**, a Messenger from them, who recites to them His verses, purifies them and teaches them the book and Wisdom, though they were before in evident error,
- Q62,5** Those who have been entrusted with the Torah but have not applied it are like the donkey carrying **books**.
- Q74,31** We have not assigned as guardians of the Fire but the Angels. But We have not appointed the number of them except to test the Collectors, and also that those to whom the book has been brought may be convinced, and that the faith of those who believe may grow, and that those to whom the book has been brought and those who believe may have no doubt, and that those who have some disease in their hearts and the Collectors may say, "What then has God willed by this parable?"
- Q98,4** And those to whom the book was given were not divided until after the proof had come to them.

6 - Who are the Quranic "Nazarenes"?

The "Nazarenes" – **15 occurrences** as *nasara / nasrani*

- a very odd word : NSR root pertains to "help", "support", "protection"
 - 45 other occurrences of the NSR root as *ansar* (*helper, protector, ally, auxiliary*)
 - *nasara* in the Quran does not fit the "helper" meaning but some *ansar* occurrences could refer to the nasara (Q9,100 ; Q9,117)

CHRISTIANS ACCORDING TO THE STANDARD ISLAMIC NARRATIVE
(but even Muslims acknowledge that it does not fit every mention of *nasara* in the Quran)

6 - What does "Nazarene" mean?

According to linguists, *nasara* is a direct transliteration of the Aramaic word ***natsraya*** (Hebrew : **notsri** / nōṣrī) into Arabic

- ***nâtsrâyâ*** is a very complex word with many meanings ; the Aramaic NṢR root (=NTsR ≠NZR) means to "keep", "watch with care", "protect", "preserve" or "conserve" ; it has many derived meanings ; it is very different from the NSR Arabic root ("to help")
- The "branch" as in Isaiah 11,1: And there shall come forth a rod out of the stem of Jesse and a branch (***netser***) shall grow out of his roots
- Derived : the branch is the royal blood of David – the ***netser*** is the prince, descendant of David, with a claim to the crown
- Derived : the prince is the messiah – the ***natsraya*** are the messianic people (before the coming of the messiah) – Nazareth (Aramaic : Natsrath) is the city of the messianic people
- Derived : the messiah is Jesus – the ***natsraya*** are the first (jewish) disciples of Jesus ; every Jew who recognized Jesus as messiah is then called ***notsri*** by the Jews who did not
- Derived : the Christians adopted the "Christian" denomination, meaning "disciples of the messiah", "messianic" (***m'shyhayé***) and so those who kept the ***natsraya*** denomination are the Jewish disciples of Jesus who were not Christians (except for some Aramaic Christians, such as the Nasrani from India)
- Up until the 5th. c. : sources about "Nazarenes" being of Jewish descent and accepting Jesus as Israel's Messiah "in such a way that they do not cease to observe the old Law." (Jerome)

The Nazarenes in the Quran (15 occurrences)

- Q2,62** Surely those who believe, and those who judaized, and **the Nazarenes**, and the Sabians, whoever believes in God and the Last day and does good, they shall have their reward from their Lord, and there is no fear for them, nor shall they grieve
- Q2,111** None shall enter the garden (or paradise) except he who is a Jew or **a Nazarene** [*hūdan aw naṣārā*]
- Q2,113** And the Jews [yahūdu] say: **the Nazarenes** rely on nothing and **the Nazarenes** say: the Jews rely on nothing while they recite the book. Like unto their word is what those say who know not; but God will judge between them in their quarrel on the Day of Judgment.
- Q2,120** And the Jews will not be pleased with you, nor **the Nazarenes** until you follow their religion
- Q2,135** Be Jews or **Nazarenes** [*hūdan aw naṣārā*], you will be on the right course. Say: Nay! (we follow) the religion of Ibrahim, the Hanif, and he was not one of the Christians [*mushrikīna*]
- Q2,140** Do you say that Ibrahim and Ismail and Yaquob and the tribes were Jews or Jews or **Nazarenes** [*hūdan aw naṣārā*]?
- Q3,67** Ibrahim was not a Jew [yahūd] nor **a Nazarene** [naṣrāniyyan] but he was completely subject to God [ḥanīfan musliman], and he was not one of the associationists
- Q5,14** And with those who say, we are **Nazarenes**, we made a covenant, but they neglected a portion of what they were reminded of, therefore we excited among them enmity and hatred to the day of resurrection; and God will inform them of what they did
- Q5,18** And the Jews and **the Nazarenes** [*yahūdu wa-l-naṣārā*] say: We are the sons of God and His beloved ones.
- Q5,51** O you who believe! do not take the Jews and **the Nazarenes** [*yahūdu wa-l-naṣārā*] for friends; they are friends of each other; and whoever amongst you takes them for a friend, then surely, he is one of them; surely God does not guide the unjust people.
- Q5,69** Surely those who believe and those who judaized and the Sabians and **the Nazarenes**, whoever believes in God and the last day and does good - they shall have no fear nor shall they grieve.
- Q5,82** Certainly you will find that the most violent of people in enmity to the believers are the Jews and the Christians [Iadhīna ashrakū]. Certainly you will find that the closest of them in affection to the believers are those who say, 'We are **Nazarenes**.' That is because (there are) priests and monks among them, and because they are not arrogant.
- Q9,30** The Jews say, 'Ezra is the son of God,' and **the Nazarene** say, 'The Messiah is the son of God.' That is their saying with their mouths. They imitate the saying of those who covered [KFR] before (them). (May) God fight them. How are they (so) deluded?
- Q22,17** Surely those who believe and those who judaized and the Sabeans and **the Nazarenes** and the Magians and those who associate - surely God will decide between them on the day of resurrection

6 - Who are the Quranic "Nazarenes"?

The “Quranic Nazarenes“ were a small Jewish group that believed in Jesus as a political messiah and kept on Moses Law. Thus, they opposed both the Christians and the other Jews (mostly rabbinical or Talmudic Jews).

They formed an alliance with some Christian Arabs (the Quranic “Believers”) and taught them their creed and their expectations that Jesus would come back on earth and lead their armies to establish God’s reign.

This Jewish-Arab alliance took Jerusalem at the end of the 630’s, rebuilt its Temple but the messiah did not come back, leading to the breaking of the alliance

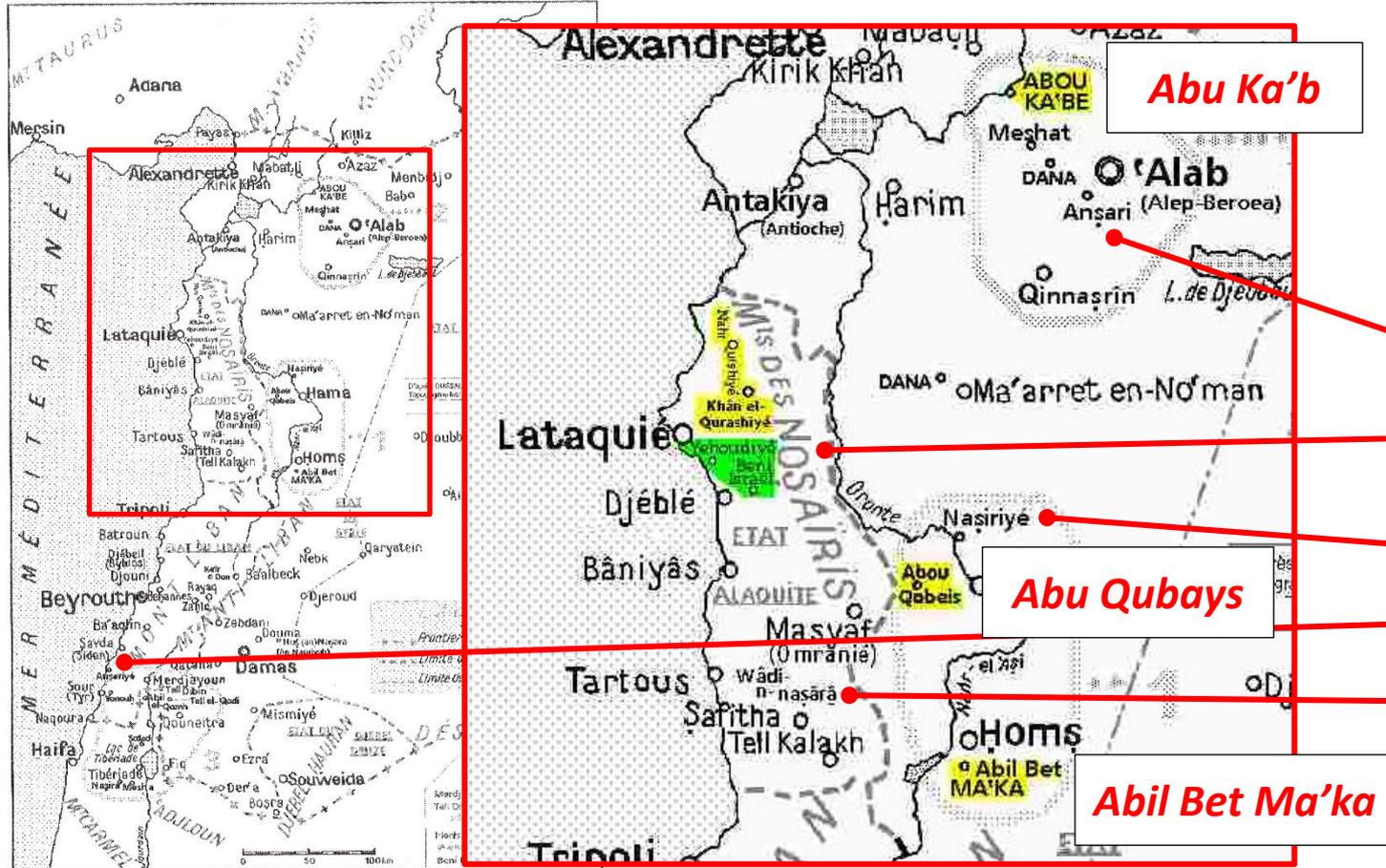
6 – Traces of the Quranic "Nazarenes" / Judaeo-Nazarenes (1/2)

According to Epiphanius of Salamis' *Panarion* (4th cent.), Nazoreans (Nazarenes?) were part of the first Judaeo-Christian community of Jerusalem who fled before 70 because of its siege by the Roman, and then parted from the community. They fled to **Pella** (Tabaqat Fahil) and **Peraea**. Eventually they spread outwards to **Beroea** (Aleppo, Syria), **Batanea** (al-Bathaniya, Nuqrah) and **Basanititis** (Transjordan), where they permanently settled



6 – Traces of the Quranic "Nazarenes" / Judaeo-Nazarenes (2/2)

3.3 Axes nouveaux de la recherche : le fait syrien



René Dussaud,
Topographie de la Syrie antique et médiévale,
 Paris, Geuthner, 1927 &
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Le Messie et son Prophète, Paris, Ed. De
 Paris, 2005-2010

- Ansari
- MOUNTS OF THE NOSAIRIS
- Nasiriye
- Ansariye
- Wadi an Nasara

Abu Ka'be

Abu Qubays

Abil Bet Ma'ka

Making sense of the people described by the Quran

