

Surah 68. Al-Qalam

Asad: for, behold, thou keepest indeed to a sublime way of life;⁴

Malik: You are of the highest noble character.

Pickthall: And lo! thou art of a tremendous nature.

Yusuf Ali: And thou (standest) on an exalted standard of character.

Transliteration: Wainnaka laAAala khuluqin AAatheemin

Khatab:

And you are truly ?a man? of outstanding character.

Author Comments

4 - The term khuluq, rendered by me as "way of life", describes a person's "character", "innate disposition" or "nature" in the widest sense of these concepts, as well as "habitual behaviour" which becomes, as it were, one's "second nature" (Taj al-'Arus). My identification of khuluq with "way of life" is based on the explanation of the above verse by 'Abd Allah ibn 'Abbas (as quoted by Tabari), stating that this term is here synonymous with din: and we must remember that one of the primary significances of the latter term is "a way [or "manner"] of behaviour" or "of acting" (Qamus). Moreover, we have several well-authenticated Traditions according to which Muhammad's widow 'A'ishah, speaking of the Prophet many years after his death, repeatedly stressed that "his way of life (khuluq) was the Qur'an" (Muslim, Tabari and Hakim, on the authority of Sa'id ibn Hisham; Ibn Hanbal, Abu Da'ud and Nasa'i, on the authority of Al-Hasan al-Basri; Tabari, on the authority of Qatadah and Jubayr ibn Nufayl; and several other compilations).

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