

**Toronto Quran Exhibition (TQE) held at Mulla Asghar Research Centre (MARC) in Jaffari Community Centre, Thornhill, ON, from March 22-26, 2024**

*Alhamdu lillāh* this was our third event for the year 2024. TQE also held an exhibit at Ramadan Expo in Mississauga on Feb 17-19, 2024, and at Masumeen Islamic Center in Brampton on March 20-21, 2024.

In the month of Ramadan 1445 AH, we received several requests from mu'minīn to arrange the TQE exhibition at Jaffari Community Centre (JCC), since that month is the season of the Quran. The centre had several programs taking place during the month and did not have the required space. Fortunately, the director of Mulla Asghar Research Centre, Br Shabbir Jaffer, indicated that MARC was available to host the TQE event, despite running *darsa* classes in the evenings and being part of the multi-faith iftar at JCC on March 24, 2024.

The, undersigned, who is the director of the Academy for Learning Islam (ALI) and TQE, prepared a team of volunteers for the event. On Friday March 22, 2024, after the Jumu'ah prayers, exhibits were arranged on six tables in the Seminar Hall in MARC. The input from Br Hasnain Karim was integral. He suggested to leverage the interfaith event's visit to maximize traffic. Because of his experiences in exhibition setup and as a lead of Media at MARC, he arranged all the tables earlier and assisted in setup of exhibits to align with MARC's logical and aesthetic looks and feel. He also suggested to continue the displays for couple more days as a silent walk-through exhibition. A main table was setup to show unique displays, such as, *Mushafs* (copies of original pages of the Quran in Kufic scripts) by Amīrul Mu'minīn Imam Ali bin Abī Tālib and Caliph 'Uthman bib 'Affān. MARC shared with us a large copy of the Holy Quran in calligraphy writing and published by Bharam Saleki of Teheran, Iran.

Br Ali Abbas Nathani worked to display 10 digital copies of different translations of the Quran and 30 articles on the challenges of translating the Quran, on a large television screen. Visitors could simply click an item on display and read.

Because of inclement weather on Friday, March 22, JCC had to close the premises early at 3:30 pm thus limiting the visitors to a few individuals who came after the Friday prayers. On Saturday afternoon and evening, we received a few visitors who were able to check out the differences in the translations of select verses of the Holy Quran. Most were people who had come to the centre for evening programs or iftar.

On Sunday March 24, the Jaffari Community Centre had arranged an annual multi-faith iftar with over 200 guests. The guests were first brought to MARC for orientation before being taken to Zainabiyya Hall to participate in the programs.

During their time at MARC, most of the guests came to see the exhibits and expressed surprise at the many different translations of the Quran in English. They were also intrigued to see the collection of *Mushafs*. Several visitors suggested that TQE should arrange future exhibitions to coincide with the multi-faith iftar.

On Monday afternoon, the undersigned gave a presentation to grade 11 students of As-Sadiq School and their teacher Br Abbasali Walimohamed. The students were unaware that the Quran has been translated so many times into English. They expressed interest in helping with future exhibitions. On Tuesday afternoon and evening we had a limited number of visitors.

A few comments from the TQE Visitors' Book:

- 1) MashaAllah, this is an amazing collection of the Holy Quran. Thank you for sharing it with us and enlightening us with the knowledge of the Holy Qur'an.
- 2) Excellent exhibition. Quran became alive with such an exhibition.
- 3) Thank You! Suzanne, Brian, Ethan & Noah (Facolare Movement)
- 4) So nice to be here. Christine (Focolare Movement)
- 5) MashaAllah! Such amazing efforts to highlight the Quran (Amira Elghawaby - Canada's Special Representative on Combating Islamophobia.
- 6) So happy to be here and learning from you. Linda Urbani
- 7) Very Interesting Collection. Naushad Hirji.
- 8) Such an amazing collection of Qurans to browse through. Always a pleasure to be at JCC and we appreciate their support. Maryam M (Nisa Foundation).

TQE is grateful to the Almighty for instilling the love of the Quran in the hearts of its organizers and volunteers. We appreciate the support and cooperation given by MARC management. Special thanks to Hajj Husein-bhai Kara for letting us borrow some exhibits from him, including *Mushaf* of Uthman from Turkey and *Mushaf* of Imam Ali from Mashhad.

Hasanayn Kassamali, April 2024. [info@TorontoQuranExhibition.com](mailto:info@TorontoQuranExhibition.com)