

## **Supplement: Sources, The Qur'an**

### **Allocating verses to chapters, naming and numbering chapters and verses**

As groups of verses were revealed, Muhammad was informed by God into which chapter of the Qur'an they should be placed. There are 114 chapters (*suras*) in total. They were given names, by which most Muslims know them, and later numbered. These names might be derived from a particular topic covered in the *sura* (4: Women or 22: The Pilgrimage), or a central character (12: Joseph or 14: Abraham or 19: Mary), or an unusual incident (2: The Cow or 27: The Ant). At a later period, the verses (*ayat*) in each chapter were given numbers for ease of reference. The chapters vary greatly in length from three to 286 verses. About eighty-six *suras* were revealed in Makka (610-622). The remaining twenty-eight were revealed in Madina (622-632).