

Hurūful Abjad

Where does 786 / 92 / 110 come from?

Abjad is the name given to a numerical arrangement of the °Arabic alphabet. Each letter is given a numerical value ranging from one to one thousand.

أ ب ج د ه و ز ح ط	ص ف ع س ن م ل ك ي	غ ظ ض ذ خ ث ت ش ر ق
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9	10 20 30 40 50 60 70 80 90	100 200 300 400 500 600 700 800 900 1000

The values are remembered in the following rhyme.

أَبْجَدُ هَوَزٌ حُطِّي كَلِمَنْ سَعْفَصُ قَرَشَتْ تُخَذُ ضَطُّ

Notice how the values have been given. They go from 1, 2, 3 ... 9, then 10, 20, 30 ... 90 and finally 100, 200, 300 ... 1000.

Today, Hurūful Abjad has limited usage. It is used in certain °Arabic documents for numbering paragraphs or headings, the way we use a, b, c or i, ii, iii etc.

However, a lot of people use the Abjad numerical values for certain words or phrases without realising how these values came about.

For example, the numerical value of the phrase below is 786.

بِسْمِ اللّٰهِ الرَّحْمٰنِ الرَّحِیْمِ

ب س م ا ل ل ه ا ل ر ح م ن ا ل ر ح ي م
40 10 8 200 30 1 50 40 8 200 30 1 5 30 30 1 40 60 2
Total 786

The name مُحَمَّدٌ adds up to 92 and the name عَلِيٌّ adds up to 110.

د ح م م	ع ل ي
4 40 8 40	10 30 70
Total 92	Total 110

That is why Muslims frequently use the number 786 for blessing. The Shi'ah add the number 110 and sometimes 92, as well.