

In Muslim communities it is a well-known fact that the reading of Surah 18 *The Cave, (Al-Kahf)* is highly recommended on Fridays, from Thursday nights. I knew this first from my mother. She always recommended it to her children. She explained that anyone reading this Surah on a Friday would be shaded by the Throne of the Divine on the day of the resurrection, a day when none shall be protected from the sun. She passed this recommendation on from her father.

Many *hadiths* are quoted in support of this recommendation. It comes from the Prophet Muhammed (peace be upon Him). Some *hadiths* say that the reading of the first 10 verses brings light, others that reading the entire Surah offers protection until the following Friday and others that it contains topics for study.

It is this last justification that motivates me to read Surah 18 every Friday.

I really like the stories contained in this Surah; they often make me laugh, particularly the tale of the Prophet Moses/Musa. In my view, Moses/Musa is something of an anti-hero, rather unsure of himself but very willing.

I have been reading Quranic Arabic since my childhood, however, my knowledge of present day Arabic is too rudimentary to read it for the purposes of study so I read in French or in English.

Carrying the whole Quran, even in paperback, plus a novel on public transport was becoming rather inconvenient. And so I decided to create a book with just this one Surah, that could be taken anywhere.

In this age of e-books, one would doubtless advise me to download a Quran app, but I prefer paper books so I can