

Different Words, Different Meanings



Big picture: Different versions of the Quran have differences between them causing a change in meaning and in some cases practice

1. There are many differences between the known texts of the Quran

After the time of Muhammad, the Quran was compiled and distributed around the Muslim world in the time of Uthman. As a standard vowelisation was not yet developed in the Arabic language, different readings of the Quran were developed resulting in variations in its text. Here are a number of examples how the differences result in different meanings and in some cases practice.



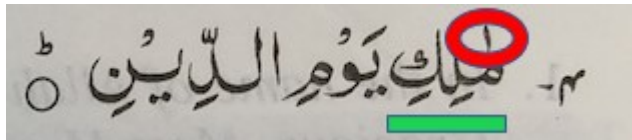
2. Key differences between Hafs and Warsh

The examples below show some key differences the Hafs and Warsh readings of the Quran. Hafs was one of the primary transmitters of one of the seven canonical methods of Quran's recitation (qira'at) which has become the most popular method across the majority of the Muslim world. The use of the Warsh recitation is widespread in North Africa.

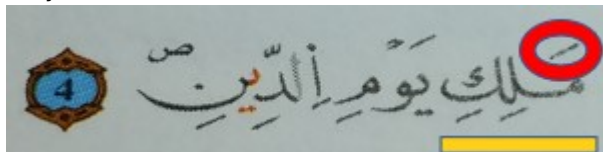
Quran 1:4

Hafs: Maaliki

Warsh: Maliki



Only owner



King

Transliteration: Maaliki Yawmi aldeeni

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Translation: The only Owner of the Day of Recompense

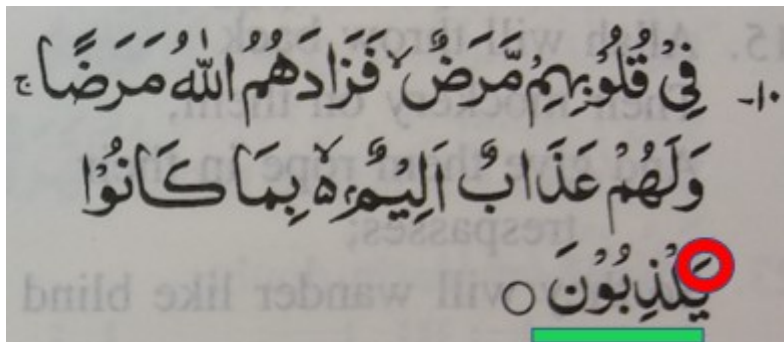
Translation: The King of the Day of Recompense

Significance: Is Allah the only owner, or is he the king of the day of Recompense? To be fair, he could be both, and that is why Muslims like to use this example.

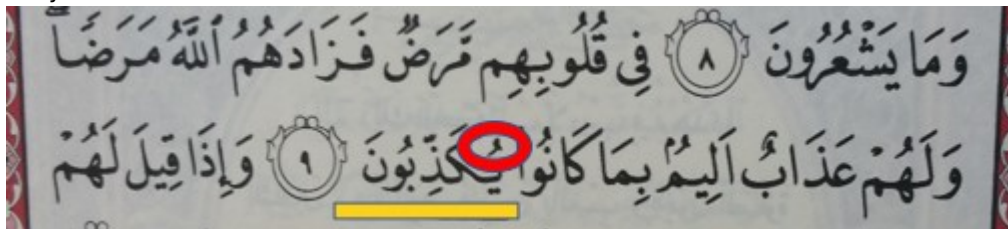
Quran 2:10

Hafs: Yakzibuuna

Warsh: Yukazzibuuna



They lie



They accuse others of lying

Translation: In their hearts is a disease, and Allah increaseth their disease. A painful doom is theirs because they lie

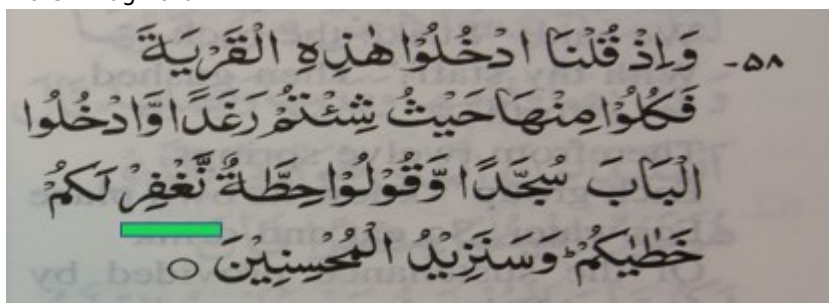
Translation: In their heart is a disease, and Allah increaseth their disease. A painful doom is theirs because they accuse (others) of lying

Significance: Are they doomed because they lie, or because they accuse others of lying? Warsh's accusing others of lying doesn't fit the context of this passage.

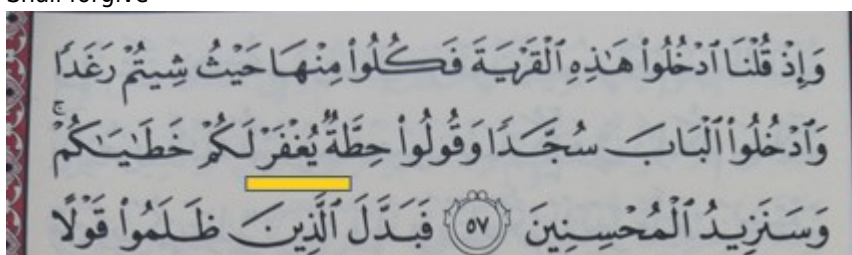
Quran 2:58

Hafs: Naghfiru

Warsh: Yughfaru



Shall forgive



Shall be forgiven

Translation: And [remember] when We said, 'Enter this town and eat bountifully...and say: 'Forgive us,' and We shall forgive you your sins...

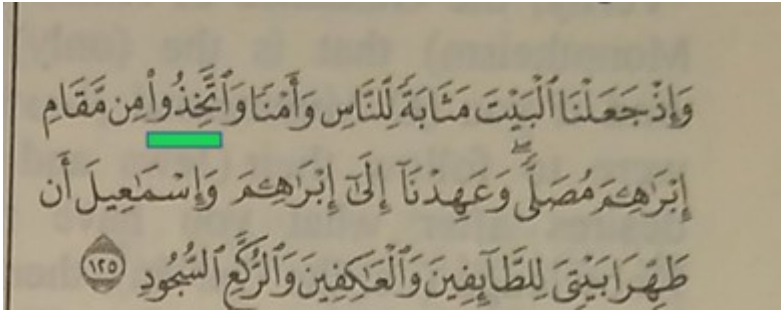
Translation: And [remember] when We said, 'Enter this town and eat bountifully...and say: 'Forgive us,' and It (m) shall be forgiven you your sins...

Significance: Who forgives sin? * Is it 'we' [god?], or are they arbitrarily forgiven?

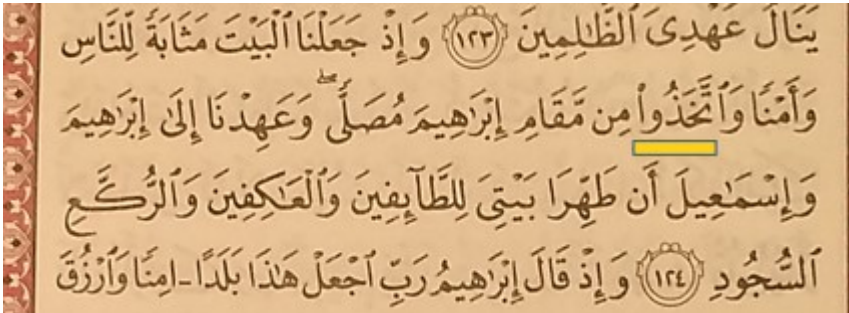
Quran 2:125

Hafs: Attakhizuu

Warsh: Al Asbahaani: Attakhazuu



Take you



they took; have taken

Translation: And when We made the House a place of resort for mankind and a place for safety. And take you the place of Ibrahim as a place of prayer...

Translation: And when We made the House a place of resort for mankind and a place for safety. And they took/have taken from the place of Ibrahim as a place of prayer...

Significance: Do they take this place now, or has it already been taken? Hafs 'take' is addressing a plural form which fits the context better than Warsh.