The Arabic language is highly respected by Muslims around the world because it is the language in which God revealed His message to Prophet Muhammad. The Qur'an is translated from Arabic into many languages. Muslims, however, do not consider translations to be the Qur'an itself because the original form and meaning always get slightly altered in translations. Muslims are encouraged to learn Arabic so that they can fully appreciate the beauty and meaning of the Qur'an. When the religion of Islam spread beyond Arabia and across many cultures after the 7th century, Arabic was widely used by Muslims and non-Muslims alike, as it became the language of scholarship and learning.