

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ



ALI 270: Methodology and Practice of Qur'anic Tadabbur



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Learning of the Holy Qur'an

Amirul Mu'minin Imam Ali (a):

وتعلموا القرآن فإنه ربيع القلوب، واستشفوا بنوره، فإنه
شفاء الصدور، وأحسنوا تلاوته فإنه أنفع (أحسن)
القصص

Learn the Qur'an for it the spring of the hearts
seek a cure through its light
for it is a cure for the hearts
and recite it well
for it is the most beneficial /best of stories. (*Nahj*)

Qur'an encourages Tadabbur

كِتَابٌ أَنْزَلْنَاهُ إِلَيْكَ مُبَارَكٌ لِيَدَّبَّرُوا آيَاتِهِ
وَلِيَتَذَكَّرَ أُولُو الْأَلْبَابِ

A blessed Book that We have revealed to you

So they may ponder upon its verses so that those who have understood may be mindful. (38:29)

أَفَلَا يَتَدَبَّرُونَ الْقُرْآنَ أَمْ عَلَى قُلُوبٍ أَقْفَالُهَا

Will they not then ponder over the Qur'an
or do they have locks on the hearts (47:24)

Du'a before the Tilawah by Imam al-Sadiq (a)

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ ❖ اللَّهُمَّ صَلِّ عَلَى مُحَمَّدٍ وَآلِ مُحَمَّدٍ *
اللَّهُمَّ إِنِّي أَشْهَدُ أَنَّ هَذَا كِتَابُكَ الْمُنزَّلُ مِنْ عِنْدِكَ، عَلَى رَسُولِكَ
مُحَمَّدِ بْنِ عَبْدِ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَآلِهِ، وَكَلَامُكَ النَّاطِقُ عَلَى
لِسَانِ نَبِيِّكَ، جَعَلْتَهُ هَادِيًا مِنْكَ إِلَى خَلْقِكَ، وَحَبْلًا مُتَّصِلًا فِيمَا
بَيْنَكَ وَبَيْنَ عِبَادِكَ، اللَّهُمَّ فَاجْعَلْ نَظْرِي فِيهِ عِبَادَةً، وَقِرَائَتِي فِيهِ
فِكْرًا، وَفِكْرِي فِيهِ اِعْتِبَارًا، وَاجْعَلْنِي مِمَّنْ اتَّعَظَ بِبَيَانِ مَوَاعِظِكَ فِيهِ،
وَاجْتَنَبَ مَعَاصِيكَ، وَلَا تَطْبَعْ عِنْدَ قِرَائَتِي عَلَى سَمْعِي، وَلَا تَجْعَلْ
عَلَى بَصْرِي غِشَاوَةً، وَلَا تَجْعَلْ قِرَائَتِي قِرَاءَةً لَا تَدُبَّرُ فِيهَا، بَلِ
اجْعَلْنِي اِتْدَبَّرُ آيَاتِهِ وَأَحْكَامَهُ، آخِذًا بِشَرَائِعِ دِينِكَ، وَلَا تَجْعَلْ
نَظْرِي فِيهِ غَفْلَةً، وَلَا قِرَائَتِي هَذَرًا، إِنَّكَ أَنْتَ الرَّؤُوفُ الرَّحِيمُ

(Makārim al-Akhlāq, p. 343)

Translation of the Du'a

In the name of Allah the Beneficent the Merciful. O Allah bless Muhammad and his family. O Allah I bear witness that this is Your Revealed Book from You, to Your messenger Muhammad son of Abdullah - Blessings of Allah be on him and his family. And it is Your Spoken Words, through the tongue of Your Prophet. You have made it a guide from You to Your creation. And a connecting rope between You and Your servants. O Allah I have opened Your Covenant and Your Book. O Allah, *so make my looking at it worship, and my reciting it a pondering, And my pondering over it, a way to derive lessons.* Make me from those who are advised by the narrations of its advices, and to avoid Your disobedience. Do not seal my ears when I'm reciting it, and do not place a curtain over my sight. *Do not make my recitation a recitation with no pondering in it, rather make me from among those who ponder over its verses and its rules,* following the code of Your religion. Do not make me heedless when I'm looking at it, nor make my reciting a waste. Surely You are the Most Gentle, the Most Merciful.

Effect of Tadabbur – story

Jubayr bin Mut‘eem, who was amongst the emirs of Quraysh, describes about his conversion: The Messenger of Allah was reciting surat Tur in maghrib salāt. I happened to be passing by him, and stopped to listen to him. When the Messenger of Allah reached:

(52:35) أَمْ خُلِقُوا مِنْ غَيْرِ شَيْءٍ أَمْ هُمْ الْخَالِقُونَ

my heart was filled with fear and awe, and my body began to shiver. I immediately went to him and accepted Islam.

Tafsir by Agha Puya: The fundamental rule of all sciences that there is no effect if there is no cause. Nothing can come into being out of nothing or by itself.

Now let us define Tadabbur

Rendering by various translators

The phrase in 38:29 - لِيَدَّبَّرُوا آيَاتِهِ

Pickthal: that they may ponder its revelations

Qarai: that they may contemplate its signs

Shaheen: that they might reflect upon its verses

Shakir: that they may ponder over its verses

Yusufali: that they may mediate on its Signs

The Phrase in 47:24 - يَتَدَبَّرُونَ الْقُرْآنَ

Pickthal: meditate on the Qur'an

Qarai: contemplate the Qur'an

Shaheen: reflect upon the Qur'an

Shakir: reflect on the Quran

Yusufali: earnestly seek to understand the Qur'an,

Let us Reflect: Al-Zumar, 39: 18 - 21

الَّذِينَ يَسْتَمِعُونَ الْقَوْلَ فَيَتَّبِعُونَ أَحْسَنَهُ ۗ أُولَٰئِكَ الَّذِينَ هَدَاهُمُ اللَّهُ ۗ وَأُولَٰئِكَ هُمْ ^طأُولُو الْأَلْبَابِ ﴿١٨﴾ أَفَمَنْ حَقَّ عَلَيْهِ كَلِمَةُ الْعَذَابِ أَفَأَنْتَ تُنقِذُ مَنْ فِي النَّارِ ﴿١٩﴾ لَكِنَّ الَّذِينَ اتَّقَوْا رَبَّهُمْ لَهُمْ ^طغُرْفٌ مِّنْ فَوْقِهَا ^طغُرْفٌ مَّبْنِيَّةٌ تَجْرِي مِنْ تَحْتِهَا الْأَنْهَارُ ۗ وَعَدَ اللَّهُ ۗ لَا يُخْلِفُ اللَّهُ الْمِيعَادَ ﴿٢٠﴾ أَلَمْ تَرَ أَنَّ اللَّهَ أَنْزَلَ مِنَ السَّمَاءِ مَاءً فَسَلَكَهُ يَنَابِيعَ فِي الْأَرْضِ ثُمَّ يُخْرِجُ بِهِ زَرْعًا مُّخْتَلِفًا أَلْوَانُهُ ثُمَّ يَهيجُ فَتَرَاهُ مُصْفَرًّا ثُمَّ يَجْعَلُهُ حُطَامًا ۗ إِنَّ فِي ذَٰلِكَ لَذِكْرًا لِأُولِي الْأَلْبَابِ ﴿٢١﴾

Translation passage 39: 18 - 21

Who listen to speech and follow the best of it. Those are the ones Allah has guided, and those are people of understanding. (18) Then, is one who has deserved the decree of punishment [to be guided]? Then, can you save one who is in the Fire? (19) But those who have feared their Lord - for them are chambers, above them chambers built high, beneath which rivers flow. [This is] the promise of Allah. Allah does not fail in [His] promise. (20) Do you not see that Allah sends down rain from the sky and makes it flow as springs [and rivers] in the earth; then He produces thereby crops of varying colors; then they dry and you see them turned yellow; then He makes them [scattered] debris. Indeed in that is a reminder for those of understanding. (21)

Open the Qur'an and Read 39:18 -21

Questions for Reflection

- 1) Read verse No. 18. What is the Word that the people listen to? Divide the verse into three parts. What is the connection between the parts?
- 2) In verse 20, Allah refers to 'those who have feared God,' (الَّذِينَ اتَّقَوْا رَبَّهُمْ). Who are these?
- 3) Verse 21 is also a reminder for a people with understanding. What is the reminder in this verse?

From the Tafsir of the Passage

- Following the Best
- Believers listen to things but use their intelligence to sift out what is wrong.
- They not only follow what is good, but they choose what is best to follow
- Wisdom is the lost property of the believer, so take it from wherever you get it. Imam Ali (a)