

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ ^{Naskh}

Necessity of Qur'an Tilawa during Ramadan

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The Qur'an & the month of Ramadan

- Allah in the Qur'an 2:185: شَهْرُ رَمَضَانَ الَّذِي أُنزِلَ فِيهِ الْقُرْآنُ
- *Month of Ramadan is in which the Qur'an was revealed*
- The Qur'an was revealed on the 23rd of Ramadan
- Al-Sadiq (a) was asked: The Qur'an was revealed over a period of 20 years, so how come the Qur'an says it was revealed in Ramadan? Imam responded: It was revealed as one document (*jumlatan wahidatan*) on Baytul Ma'amur, then it was sent down over a period of 20 years.

Ramadan is season of revelation

- In a Hadith from Holy Prophet (s) found in *al-Kafi: Subuf Ibrahim* (a) was revealed on the first night of Ramadan, Torah was revealed after passing of 6 (nights) in Ramadan, and Injeel was revealed on the 13th night of Ramadan, and Zabur was revealed on the 18th of Ramadan and the Qur'an was revealed on the 23rd of Ramadan (6th I: on night of Qadr)
- The month is so holy that all scriptures get sent out in it- it is the season of revelation.

Recitation of the Qur'an in Ramadan highly encouraged

- In the famous sermon of Prophet (s) welcoming the Holy Month he says: *So ask Allah, your Lord, with truthful intentions & pure hearts that He gives you tawfeeq to fast in it and do tilawa of His book.*
- Later, in the sermon he says: *one who does tilawa in it an ayat from the Qur'an will have a reward of completing the (recitation of the) entire Qur'an in other months.*
- Can we say that the strength/intensity of recitation in this month is over 6,000 times!!!

We pray for recitation of the Qur'an

- Du'a for 2nd Day of Ramadan: *O Allah, on this day take me closer to Your pleasure, and distance me in it from your wrath & punishment, and give me tawfeeq to recite Your verses; with Your mercy, O the Most Merciful of the merciful.*
- Du'a for 20th Day of Ramadan: *O Allah, on this day open for me the doors of the heavens and lock for me the doors of Hell in it; and give me tawfeeq to recite the Qur'an in it. O the who sends tranquility into the hearts of believers.*

Recitation of the Qur'an

- Most Muslims know the necessity of *tilaawa* reciting Qur'an regularly
- The Prophet (s) advised us to enlighten our houses through its recitation
- He also said that the rust that gathers on our hearts can be moved by its recitation
- Imam Ja'far Al-Sadiq (a) has said that nothing upsets our sworn enemies (Iblis and his army) like the recitation of Qur'an

Is keeping the Arabic important?

- Despite understanding the importance of the Qur'an many argue that its recital in Arabic is not necessary. They present following arguments:
 - The Qur'an was revealed in Arabic because that was the language of Prophet Muhammad and those living around him
 - Today the vast majority of Muslims do not speak Arabic and therefore read the Qur'an in Arabic without any understanding of the meaning
 - The 5 most populated Muslim countries are all non-Arab and do use Arabic as their national language. (Indonesia, India, Pakistan, Bangladesh and Nigeria)

Why recite it in Arabic?

- There are many reasons why the recitation of Qur'an should be in Arabic, such as:
 - Meaning of *tilaawa* in Islamic literature
 - Preservation of the Divine message
 - Deriving lessons from the original message
 - The miraculous impact of the Arabic recitation
 - Easy to memorize
 - Encourages Muslims to learn Arabic
 - Unity of Muslims

Meaning of *tilawa* in Islamic literature

- Whenever the Qur'an or the Hadith instruct Muslims to do *tilawa* (تِلَاوَةٌ) it refers to the recitation in Arabic, because the Arabic original is the actual word of Allah
- Translations of the Qur'an do not carry the sacredness or label of Divine words because they are a human interpretation and understanding of Allah's words
- Thus, the rule of only being able to touch with wudhu apply solely to the Arabic text of the Qur'an and not to any translation

Preservation of the Divine message

- It is important that the Allah's last message is not changed as were the previous scriptures:
 - *Do you then hope that they would believe in you, and a party from among them indeed used to hear the Word of Allah, then altered it after they had understood it? (2:75)*
 - *Woe, then, to those who write the book with their hands and then say: This is from Allah, so that they may take for it a small price; therefore woe to them for what their hands have written and woe to them for what they earn (Qur'an 2:79).*
- In order to safeguard the Qur'an from change the original Arabic must be kept

Deriving lessons from the original message

- Over time and distance many messages lose their original message. This happens as people from different generations and environments interpret and understand documents in their own way
- However, by keeping the original document of the Qur'an with us and reading it regularly Muslims have access to the same message which was revealed to Prophet Muhammad ﷺ.

The miraculous impact of the Arabic recitation

- Over centuries, millions of Muslims have felt the miraculous impact of reciting the Qur'an in its original form of Arabic, even those who do not understand it
- Many feel as if God is directly talking to them when they recite the Qur'an, and their worries and problems suddenly seem insignificant
- There are many stories of enemies so amazed by the recitation of the Qur'an that they would secretly sit outside and listen to the beautiful *tilaawa* of the Holy Prophet during the night time

Easy to memorize

وَلَقَدْ يَسَّرْنَا الْقُرْآنَ لِلذِّكْرِ فَهَلْ مِنْ مُدَكِّرٍ

And We have indeed made the Qur'an easy to understand and remember: then is there any that will receive admonition (54: 17/22/32/40)

- Many Muslims have found the Qur'an much easier to memorize than other passages even those who are non Arabs. Muhammad Marmaduke Pickthall says:
 - It is a fact that the Koran is marvelously easy for believers to commit to memory. Thousands of people in the East know the whole Book by heart. The translator, who finds great difficulty in remembering well-known English quotations accurately, can remember page after page of the Koran in Arabic with perfect accuracy

Encourages Muslims to learn Arabic

- The learning of a new language has many advantages i.e. understanding a foreign culture
- Because of the Qur'an, ahaadith and many other books and scholars whose resources are only available in Arabic, Arabic is the most important language for Muslims
- Due to this many Muslims are encouraged to learn Arabic, as learning this helps them in their understandings of Islam

Unity of Muslims thru Qur'an

- There 1.5 Billion Muslims in the world today
- All of them irrespective of ethnicity, background, language, profession, believe in one Qur'an, which is the original Arabic version of the Qur'an
- This is unique to Muslims, as even other Muslim scriptures have variances
- Despite huge differences in culture, ethnicity, language, distance, education, political stance, all Muslims read the same Holy Qur'an regualry

Qur'anic ayat on Tilawa

- 35:29 - إِنَّ الَّذِينَ يَتْلُونَ كِتَابَ اللَّهِ وَأَقَامُوا الصَّلَاةَ وَأَنْفَقُوا مِمَّا رَزَقْنَاهُمْ سِرًّا وَعَلَانِيَةً يَرْجُونَ تِجَارَةً لَّنْ تَبُورَ
- Surely they who recite the Book of Allah and keep up prayer and spend out of what We have given them secretly and openly, hope for a gain which will not perish
- 10:61 When Allah says that He is a witness to our actions, one of the action mentioned is reciting the Qur'an

Tilawa increases faith

• إِنَّمَا الْمُؤْمِنُونَ الَّذِينَ إِذَا ذُكِرَ اللَّهُ وَجِلَتْ قُلُوبُهُمْ وَإِذَا تُلِيَتْ عَلَيْهِمْ آيَاتُهُ زَادَتْهُمْ إِيمَانًا وَعَلَىٰ رَبِّهِمْ يَتَوَكَّلُونَ الَّذِينَ يُقِيمُونَ الصَّلَاةَ وَمِمَّا رَزَقْنَاهُمْ يُنْفِقُونَ

- **8:2** The faithful are those whose hearts tremble [with awe] when Allah is mentioned, and when His signs are recited to them, they increase their faith, and put their trust in their Lord. **8:3** maintain the prayer and spend (benevolently) out of what We have provided them.

Excellence of the Qur'an

- And know that this Qur'an is an adviser who never deceives, a leader who never misleads and a narrator who never speaks a lie. No one will sit beside this Qur'an but that when he/she rises, achieves one increase and one decrease - increase in his guidance or decrease in his (spiritual) blindness. You should also know that no one will need anything after (guidance from) the Qur'an and no one will be free from want before (guidance from) the Qur'an. Therefore, seek cure from it for your ailments and seek its assistance in your distresses. It contains a cure for the biggest diseases, namely unbelief, hypocrisy, revolt and misguidance.

Benefits of reading the Qur'an

- قَالَ النَّبِيُّ (ص) : نَوَّروا بُيُوتَكُمْ بِتِلَاوَةِ الْقُرْآنِ وَلَا تَتَّخِذُوهَا قُبُورًا كَمَا فَعَلَتِ الْيَهُودُ وَالنَّصَارَى صَلُّوا فِي الْكِنَائِسِ وَالْبَيْعِ وَعَطِلُوا بُيُوتَهُمْ فَإِنَّ الْبَيْتَ إِذَا كَثُرَ فِيهِ تِلَاوَةُ الْقُرْآنِ كَثُرَ خَيْرُهُ وَاتَّسَعَ أَهْلُهُ وَأَضَاءَ لِأَهْلِ السَّمَاءِ كَمَا تُضِيءُ بُحُومُ السَّمَاءِ لِأَهْلِ الدُّنْيَا

Translation of Prophetic Hadith

- Illuminate your homes through the recitation of the Qur'an and do not turn them into graves, similar to what the Jews and Christians did. They prayed in churches and synagogues and ignored their houses. That house in which a lot of Qur'ân is recited, its good things are increased and family is enriched. It is illuminate for the dwellers of the heavens the way stars illuminate earth dwellers.

Read the Qur'an Regularly

- قَالَ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ (ص) فِي وَصَايَاهُ لِعَلِيِّ (ع): يَا عَلِيُّ عَلَيْكَ بِتِلَاوَةِ الْقُرْآنِ فِي كُلِّ حَالٍ
- O Ali, I advice you to recite the Qur'an in all conditions/state/circumstances
- The Messenger (s): surely this heart gathers rust the way iron does. He was asked what can we do to remove the dust. He said: تِلَاوَةُ الْقُرْآنِ – recite the Qur'an

Ayat on benefits of reading

- وَإِذَا قَرَأْتَ الْقُرْآنَ جَعَلْنَا بَيْنَكَ وَبَيْنَ الَّذِينَ لَا يُؤْمِنُونَ بِالْآخِرَةِ حِجَابًا مَّسْتُورًا
- **17:45** When thou dost recite the Qur'an, We put, between thee and those who believe not in the Hereafter, a veil invisible
- Can you comment on this verse?

Hadith on Benefits of reciting

- Look at the marvels of the Creator: The Qur'an is the trust/pledge (*'abad*) of Allah to His creation; therefore it necessary for a Muslim to look at His trust and recite (at least) 50 verses (*āyāt*) everyday. (*Usūl ul Kāfī* v. 2, p. 609)
- Imam as-Sādiq (a): Reciting the Qur'an by referring to the pages (of the Holy Book) lightens the punishment of one's parents, if they were disbelievers. (*Usūlul Kāfī*, v.2, p. 613 quoted in *Noble Qur'an 40 Abadith* H. 3)