

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

ALI 551 :How to Study the Quran



Session 1:

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Holy Quran revealed to be understood

إِنَّا أَنْزَلْنَاهُ قُرْآنًا عَرَبِيًّا لَعَلَّكُمْ تَعْقِلُونَ

12:2 *Indeed, We have sent it down as an Arabic Quran that you might understand*

Ta'qilun: Qarai – exercise reason; Yusufali – may learn wisdom

إِنَّا جَعَلْنَاهُ قُرْآنًا عَرَبِيًّا لَعَلَّكُمْ تَعْقِلُونَ

43:3 *Indeed, We have made it an Arabic Quran that you might understand.*

Nasr: it should be clear to the Arabs, who then have no excuse for rejecting it

أَفَلَا يَتَدَبَّرُونَ الْقُرْآنَ ۚ وَلَوْ كَانَ مِنْ عِنْدِ غَيْرِ اللَّهِ لَوَجَدُوا فِيهِ اخْتِلَافًا كَثِيرًا

4:82 *Do they not then meditate on the Quran? And if it were from any other than Allah, they would have found in it many a discrepancy.*

Tadabbur: ponder (Pickthall), contemplate (Qarai), earnestly seek to understand (Yusufali)

Mir Ali/Puya: By using reason, objective observation and independent contemplation every intelligent person concludes that the Quran is a book from Allah, free from all human conjectures and discrepancies.

Nasr: this verse refers to the Divine origin of the Quran

أَفَلَا يَتَدَبَّرُونَ الْقُرْآنَ أَمْ عَلَى قُلُوبٍ أَقْفَالُهَا

47:24 *Do they not then reflect on the Quran? or are there locks on their hearts?*

Nasr: Although recitation of the Quran is enjoined in several passages, it is also noted that one must contemplate, understand, and implement the Quran's teachings to the best of one's ability. Imam, Ali Zayn al-Ābidīn (a) has said: *The verses of the Quran are stores of treasure. So whenever you open one of them, you must see what lies inside.*



Allah 'azza
wajall invites
us to ponder
over the Quran

There are many reasons why the recitation of Quran should be in Arabic.

Here a few reasons:

- Meaning of *tilāwah* in Islamic literature
- Preservation of the Divine message
- Deriving lessons from the original message
- The miraculous impact of the Arabic recitation
- 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)

Muhammad Marmaduke Pickthall: 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
- Unity of Muslims
- The Quran in Arabic is sacred. Know that 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



Why do
tilāwah when
the objective is
to understand
the Quran?



Before we suggest tips on studying the Quran get a study partner/s

When it comes to ‘ibādat (acts of worship) we prefer to do it alone as it is a relation between yourself and the Almighty Allah ‘azza wajall; for He Knows well our intentions, needs, and shortcomings. So we open with Allah and layout our problems.

In Surat al-Fatiha, we have been asked to address Allah such:

إِيَّاكَ نَعْبُدُ وَإِيَّاكَ نَسْتَعِينُ

To You alone we worship and from You alone we seek Help

- We use a plural form either to say prayers in Jamaat or consider family and friends; also seek help together
- Studying Quran is not Tahajjud salat that is done in privacy
- Similarly many Du’as in the Quran uses the word *Rabbana* (Our Lord and Provider) instead of Rabbi.
- As we venture into studying the Quran let us do with fellow Muslim or Muslims (i.e. in a group of two or three people). This helps, inshāAllah, achieving success.



First 10 tips on studying the Holy Quran

1. Learn the Quran tilāwah such that you feel confident in reciting in the presence of your study group or other Muslims
2. Memorize at least 20 short suras that you can recite in prayers
3. Memorize 30- 40 verses that are often recited or quoted
4. Learn the meanings of all surahs & verses you have memorized
5. Learn the titles of the surahs & way to quickly locate a verse
6. Read thoroughly lessons on *Quranic Study* on our website
7. Get copy with Arabic Text of Quran with English translation
8. Read text with translation of surahs you recite often, e.g. Suras Yasin, Mulk, al-Waqi'ah, al-Jumu'ah, al-Fajr, al-A'la, al-Shams. Mark '?' along those verses you cannot comprehend.
9. Read verses marked '?' in other translations. If you still do not understand then talk to someone who knows about Quran
10. Read Surat Yusuf with translation and try to derive lessons; compare it with your peer



Suggestions on English translations

M H Shakir, *Holy Quran, English Translation*

Aqa Mirza Mahdi Puya & S. V. Mir Ahmad Ali: *The Holy Quran - Text, Translation and Commentary*

Ali Quli Qarai: *The Qur'an: With a Phrase-by-Phrase English Translation*

Tarif Khalid: *The Qur'an, a New Translation*

- The first two translations available online at www.al-islam.org/quran
- Printed copy of the second & third items available at Jaffari Bookstore at Jaffari Community Center in Toronto
- Ali Quli Qarai's translation available online at www.tanzil.net
- Tarif Khalid's translation is available on amazon.com