

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

ALI 551 :How to Study the Quran



Session 2:

Dhul Hijjah 3, 1441/July 24, 2020

From 12:00 noon – 1:00 pm



Holy Quran revealed as a Book of Guidance

الم * ذَلِكِ الْكِتَابُ لَا رَيْبَ فِيهِ ۚ هُدًى لِّلْمُتَّقِينَ

2:1&2 *This Book, there is no doubt in it, is a guide to those who guard (against evil).*

إِنَّ هَذَا الْقُرْآنَ يَهْدِي لِلَّتِي هِيَ أَقْوَمُ

17:9 *Surely this Quran guides to that which is most upright*

قُلْ فَأْتُوا بِكِتَابٍ مِّنْ عِنْدِ اللَّهِ هُوَ أَهْدَىٰ مِنْهُمَا أَتَّبِعُهُ إِن كُنتُمْ صَادِقِينَ

28:49 *Say: Then bring some (other) book from Allah which is a better guide of the two (that) I may follow it, if you are truthful.*

الَّذِي أَنْزَلَ إِلَيْكَ مِنَ رَبِّكَ هُوَ الْحَقُّ وَيَهْدِي إِلَىٰ صِرَاطٍ الْعَزِيزِ الْحَمِيدِ

34:6 *that which has been revealed to you from your Lord, is the truth, and it guides into the path of the Mighty, the Praised.*

يَا قَوْمَنَا إِنَّا سَمِعْنَا كِتَابًا أُنزِلَ مِنْ بَعْدِ مُوسَىٰ مُصَدِّقًا لِّمَا بَيْنَ يَدَيْهِ يَهْدِي إِلَى الْحَقِّ وَإِلَىٰ طَرِيقٍ مُّسْتَقِيمٍ

46:30 *O our community (of Jinn)! we have listened to a Book revealed after Musa verifying that which is before it, guiding to the truth and to a right path*

إِنَّا سَمِعْنَا قُرْآنًا عَجَبًا * يَهْدِي إِلَى الرُّشْدِ فَآمَنَّا بِهِ ۗ

72:1& 2 *Surely, we [the Jinn] have heard a wonderful Quran, * Guiding to the right way, so we believe in*

Reflection (tadabbur) on the verses on guidance

2:2 *Huda* (هُدًى) = a guide or a guidance, for the *mutaqqīn*. HQ guides all, but the *mutaqqīn* benefit from different layers of the meaning.

The word *yahdi* (يَهْدِي) appears in four verses (17:9, 34:6, 46:30, 72:2) indicating that the act of guidance is continuously present. Every time a person listens or recites the Quran s/he presents him/herself to Divine guidance.

17:9 HQ guides to that which is *aqwam* = most upright (Nasr, Quli Qarai & Shakir), most right and stable (Yusufali).

46:30 & 72:2 Even the Jinn found guidance in the Quran.

For us to benefit from the Divine Guidance we need to understand to do both the *tilāwah* and understand the Quran. Some Muslims only do the *tilāwah* and some Muslims and non-Muslims try to only read translations and commentaries of the Quran.

Question: Is it necessary to learn Arabic to study the Quran? We will *inshāAllāh* discuss it later in the session.

Quick revision on what we covered in the last session

Two verses (Q 12:2 and Q 43:3) were discussed to show that the Quran was revealed in Arabic for the immediate audience to understand

Two verses (Q 4:82 & 47:24) were covered wherein Allah (swt) instructs us to do tadabbur over the contents of the Quran

Why do Tilāwah in Arabic when the objective is understanding the Message of the Quran in your own language.

To Study Quran successfully we need to work in groups of 2 – 3 people

First 10 Tips on How to Study the Quran?

English Translations of the Quran: four suggested translations

Benefits of Studying the Quran.

عنه (ص): يا معاذ، إن أردت عيش السعداء، وميتة الشهداء، والنجاة يوم الحشر، والأمن يوم الخوف، والنور يوم الظلمات، والظل يوم الحرور، والرّيّ يوم العطش، والوزن يوم الخفة، والهدى يوم الضلالة، فادرس القرآن، فإنه ذكر الرحمن وحرز من الشيطان ورجحان في الميزان.

Prophet Muhammad (s): O Ma'adh, if you desire :

Life of the fortunate and those with felicitations,

The death of the Martyrs,

Salvation on the Day of Judgment,

Security on the Day of Fear,

Light on the Day of Darkness

Shade on the Day of Scorching Heat

Quenching on the Day of Thirst

Weighing [down of good deeds) on the Day of Light (weight of scales)

*Guidance at the occasion of going astray **then study of the Quran.** This is because the Quran is the word of Allah, instrumental in saving you from Shaytān and helpful in increasing the weight of your good deeds.*

(Mīzān-ul-Hikmah, H. 16,156 taken from Kanẓul- 'Ummāl, H. 2439)

Why emphasis on Quran tilāwah?

إِنَّ الَّذِينَ يَتْلُونَ كِتَابَ اللَّهِ وَأَقَامُوا الصَّلَاةَ وَأَنْفَقُوا مِمَّا رَزَقْنَاهُمْ سِرًّا وَعَلَانِيَةً يَرْجُونَ تِجَارَةً لَّن تَبُورَ

35:29 Surely those who recite the Book of Allah and maintain the prayer and spend from what We have provided them – secretly and openly, expect a trade that will never fail/imperishable gain.

Prophet Muhammad (s): (1) Illuminate your homes through the recitation of the Quran and do not turn them into graves, like what the Jews and Christians did. They prayed in churches and synagogues and ignored their houses. That house in which a lot of Quran is recited, its good things are increased, and family is enriched. It is an illumination for the dwellers of the heavens the way stars illuminate earth dwellers (2) O Ali, I advice you to recite the Quran in all conditions/ circumstances - يَا عَلِيُّ عَلَيْكَ بِتِلَاوَةِ الْقُرْآنِ فِي كُلِّ حَالٍ (3) hearts gather rusts; polish it through tilāwah.

Imam Ali (a): Islam has seven fundamentals . . . the third is proper recitation of the Quran (Tuhaf, p. 196)

Imam Ja'far Al-Sadiq (a) has said that nothing upsets our sworn enemies like the recitation of Quran

Question: How much and how often should we do tilāwah?



Du'a before reciting the Quran taught by Imam al-Sadiq (a)

اللَّهُمَّ إِنِّي نَشَرْتُ عَهْدَكَ وَكِتَابَكَ، اللَّهُمَّ فَاجْعَلْ نَظْرِي فِيهِ عِبَادَةً، وَ قِرَائَتِي فِيهِ فِكْرًا، وَ فِكْرِي فِيهِ
اعْتِبَارًا، وَاجْعَلْنِي مِمَّنْ اتَّعَظَ بِبَيَانِ مَوَاعِظِكَ فِيهِ، وَ اجْتَنَبَ مَعَاصِيكَ، وَ لَا تَطْبَعُ عِنْدَ قِرَائَتِي عَلَى سَمْعِي، وَ لَا
تَجْعَلَ عَلَيَّ بَصْرِي غِشَاوَةً، وَ لَا تَجْعَلَ قِرَائَتِي قِرَاءَةً لَا تَدُبُّرَ فِيهَا، بَلْ اجْعَلْنِي اتَّذَبُّرُ آيَاتِهِ وَ أَحْكَامَهُ، آخِذًا
بِشَرَائِعِ دِينِكَ، وَ لَا تَجْعَلَ نَظْرِي فِيهِ غَفْلَةً، وَ لَا قِرَائَتِي هَذَرًا،

O Allah I have opened Your Covenant and Your Book.

O Allah, so make my looking at it an act of worship and my reciting it a pondering, and my pondering over it, a way to derive lessons.

And include me from those who are advised by the narrations of its advices, and who avoid Your disobedience.

And do not seal my ears when I am reciting it

And do not place a curtain over my sight,

nor make my recitation a recitation with no pondering in it, rather make me from among those who ponder, over its verses and its rules, deriving the code of Your religion, and do not make me heedless when I am looking at it, do not make my reciting a waste.

Next Five Tips on Studying the Quran

11. Get a good Index of Quranic Concepts, Names, Subjects and Terms. This will help you approach **Thematic Approach** to the Quran (Ali Quli Qarai has 64 pages of Index at the end of his translation)
12. Get a good teacher/instructor who is willing to give your group time to teach you *tilāwah* with **tajwīd** and correct and good recitation
13. Begin your family and social gathering with **Reflection on Quranic verses and concepts**.
14. Decide on using your limited time either studying Quranic Tafsir or Quranic Arabic. Of course if you can do both, it is best.
15. Begin teaching Quran *tilāwah* to your family, friends and neighbors. Holy Prophet (s): *The best among you are those who learn the Quran and (then) teach it (to others)*.

Is learning Arabic essential for studying the Quran?

If you had asked me this question about 30 years ago, I would say you must learn Arabic to Study the Quran. Today when we have a lot of material on the Holy Quran in English then one can study, appreciate and benefit from the Holy Quran without knowing Arabic.

Check the slides on various works of Tafāsīr available in English.

However, if you have: (i) time, (ii) mental capacity, (iii) good teachers, (iv) right textbooks and lessons (v) congenial environment then learning Arabic will assist you appreciate the beauty of Divine words. Know that every translation, however good or accurate it may, is a human interpretation of Allah's words.

Available Tafsir
of Quranic
Suras in
English
online & in print
69 complete suras
in ALI library

Al-Fātiha to Al-A‘rāf (#1 – 7). *Al-Mīzān – An Exegesis of the Qur’an*, Vols 1 – 16, ‘Allamah Syd. Muhammad Husayn at-Tabātabā’ī

Al-Israa to Al-Naml (#17 to 27): *Al-Mīzān – An Exegesis of the Qur’an*, Vols 25 - 30, ‘Allamah Syd. Muhammad Husayn at-Tabātabā’ī

Isrā’/Bani Isra’il (#17). *The Source of Islamic Spirituality*, Āyatullāh Syd. Fadhel Hosseini Milani
TāHā (#20), *Secrets of Happiness*, Shaykh Mohammed al-Hilli

Yāsīn (#36). *Heart of Qur’an*– Āyatullāh Syd. Dastghaib Shirazi

<https://www.al-islam.org/heart-quran-commentary-sura-al-yasin-sayyid-abdul-husayn-dastghaib-shirazi>

Yāsīn (#36): *The Core (The Soul) of the Qur’an*, Muallim Muhammed Husein Kermali

Al-Hujurāt (#49): *The Islamic Moral System*, Āyatullāh Ja’far Subhānī

<https://www.al-islam.org/islamic-moral-system-commentary-surah-al-hujurat-jafar-subhani>

*Al-Jinn (#71): *Sūratul Jinn*, Āyatullāh Nasir Makārim Shirazi (Ed.)

<https://www.al-islam.org/commentary-suratul-jinn-naser-makarem-shirazi>

*Al-Mulk to al-Mursalāt (#67 - 77): *Exegesis of the Qur’an*, Āyatullāh Nasir Makārim Shirazi (Ed.)

*Al-Dahr (#76), Al-Qadr (#97) & al-Kawthar (#108): *Fountain of Paradise*, Āyatullāh Nasir Makarim Shirazi (Ed.)

Al-Naba’ – al-Nas (#78 – 114): *The Illuminating Lantern, A Commentary of the 30th Part of the Holy Quran*, Sh Habib al-Kadhmi, Sun Behind the Cloud, 2020.

*taken from *Tafsir Namūneh* compiled by a group of scholars under the guidance of Āyatullāh Nasir Makārim
Academy for Learning Islam



Complete Tafāsīr of the Quran in English

Al-Mīzān fī Tafsīr al-Qur'ān: An Abridged Version, 'Allamah Syd. Muhammad Husayn at-Tabātabā'ī : (Tr. Salam Judy)

An Enlightening Commentary into the Light of the Quran, Syd. Kamal Faqih Imani, Vols 1 – 20

<https://www.al-islam.org/enlightening-commentary-light-holy-quran-vol-x> (add vol. number in lieu of x)

The Holy Qur'an: Text, Translation and Commentary, Agha Mirza Mahdi Pooya Yazdi and S. V. Mir Ahmed Ali

How to Study the Quran, part 2

If you liked and benefited from our course, then please register for **ALI 564: How to Study the Holy Quran, Part 2**. Schedule: 2 Fridays, on Aug 7 & 14, 2020 from 9-10am Vancouver, 12-1 pm NY/Toronto, 7-8 pm East Africa and Karachi 9-10 pm.

InshāAllah we plan to cover: Methodology of Tadabbur in the Quran, How often and how much tilāwah we need to do, Difference between Sectional (juz'i) and Thematic Tafsir (mawdhu'i), Simple tafsir and detailed tafsir, Available lectures on tafsir, Useful material on 'Ulum al-Quran (Quranic Sciences), etc.