

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

ALI 564 :How to Study the Quran, Part 2



Session 1:

Dhul Hijjah 17, 1441/August 7, 2020

What was covered earlier:

Two verses (Q 12:2 and Q 43:3) on Quran was revealed in Arabic for people to understand

In two verses (Q 4:82 & 47:24) Allah instructs us to do tadabbur of the Quran
Why do Tilawah in Arabic when the objective is understanding the Message of the Quran in our own language?

To Study Quran successfully work in groups

Suggested 15 Tips on

How to Study the Quran?

Four English Translations of the Quran

Benefits of Studying the Quran :Prophet

Guidance is a major function of the Quran.

Lots of emphasis in Quran (35:29)

and Hadith on Tilawah

Du'a before tilawah clearly calls for the study of the Quran

Allah ﷻ has
promised
success to
those who
struggle

وَأَنْ لَّيْسَ لِلْإِنْسَانِ إِلَّا مَا سَعَى {39} وَأَنَّ سَعْيَهُ سَوْفَ يُرَى {40} ثُمَّ يُجْزَاهُ الْجَزَاءَ الْأَوْفَى {41}

Q 53: 39 - 41 *And that man shall have nothing but what he strives for * And that his striving shall soon be seen* Then shall he be rewarded for it with the fullest reward.*

The efforts of all of you for studying the Quran will surely pay off, the fruits will be seen and there is a great reward from Allah swt.

As for Studying the Quran the Hadith say:

يَنْبَغِي لِلْمُؤْمِنِ أَنْ لَا يَمُوتَ حَتَّى يَتَعَلَّمَ الْقُرْآنَ أَوْ يَكُونَ فِي تَعْلِيمِهِ

al-Sadiq عليه السلام: *It is necessary that a believer should not die except after having studied the Quran, or s/he should be in the process of learning it. (al-Kafi, 2:607)*

خَيْرُكُمْ مَنْ تَعَلَّمَ الْقُرْآنَ وَعَلَّمَهُ | خَيْرُكُمْ مَنْ قَرَأَ الْقُرْآنَ وَأَقْرَأَهُ

Holy Prophet صلى الله عليه وآله: *the best among you is s/he who learns the Quran and teaches it (to others). The best among you is s/he who recites the Quran and makes other recite.*

تَعَلَّمُوا الْعَرَبِيَّةَ فَإِنَّهَا كَلَامُ اللَّهِ الَّذِي تَكَلَّمَ بِهِ خَلْقَهُ

Imam al-Sadiq عليه السلام: *Learn the Arabic, for it is the language of the word of Allah through which its Creator talks. (Bihar, 1:258; Wasā'il, H 5989)*



First 15 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
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
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 both is better.
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).*

How often and how much tilāwah should we do?

The Prophet (s): *One who recites 10 verses (every) night will not be counted amongst the heedless (ghāfilīn), and if he recites 50 verses, he is counted amongst those who remember Allah (regularly) (dhākirīn); and one who recite 100 verses is considered amongst the obedient servants of Allah (qānitīn)*

The Prophet (s): *I urge you to recite the Quran and remember Allah frequently, for verily it [will result in] a remembrance for you in the heavens and a light for you in the earth. (Mīzān al-Hikmah, H. 3420)*

Imam Ali (a): *The conception of faith is [achieved through] the recitation of the Quran (Ghurar, H 831). Excel in your recitation of the Quran, for it is indeed the most beneficial (or the best) of stories, and seek cure from it, for it is the cure for [what is in] the breasts (Ghurar, H. 8158). One who feels at ease with the recitation of the Quran does not become lonely by the separation of his brothers (Ghurar, H. 8174).*

When you cannot recite it or are tired then at listen to the Quran.

قَارِئِ الْقُرْآنِ وَالْمُسْتَمِعُ إِلَيْهِ فِي الْأَجْرِ سَوَاءٌ

Holy Prophet (s): *The reciter of the Quran and the listener of it share equally in the reward*

Additional Three Tips on Studying the Quran

16. Put a lot of efforts in studying the Quran. Know that your aim is to **understand and appreciate the Divine Message**. You would like to have an experience that Allah is talking to you directly.
17. Allocate certain time in your life dedicated for Studying the Quran; **nothing will come between you and the Study of the Quran**.
18. Be in the company of *ahl-Quran* - people who regularly Study the Quran and live by the Quran. (Note many non-Muslims study the Quran for academic purposes)

Learning the language of the Quran

وَإِذَا قُرِئَ الْقُرْآنُ فَاسْتَمِعُوا لَهُ وَأَنْصِتُوا لَعَلَّكُمْ تُرْحَمُونَ

Q 7:204 *And when the Quran is recited, then listen to it and remain silent, that mercy may be shown to you*

If you wish to study Arabic to comprehend the original message from Allah ‘azza wajall then you have three options: (i) Learn Quranic Arabic, (ii) study Arabic language, or (iii) live in Arabic environment. The first option is easier and practical for most of us. The second option is better because you will access to Quran, Hadith, and read primary sources on Islam. The third option will give you the ability to converse in Arabic. A few resources on Quranic Arabic:

AbdulWahid Hamid, *Access to Qur’anic Arabic*, MELS Publication, 1998

Alan Jones, *Arabic Through the Qur’an*, Islamic Texts Society, 2005

Mortaza Shoja’ee, *The Keys of Understanding Quran*, in 16 parts

S Muhammad Mahdi Tabatabā’i, *Understanding the Quran for Everyone*, in 3 volumes

S M Rizvi, *Keys to Qur’anic Arabic* <https://al-m.ca/keys-to-quranic-arabic/>

Learn Qur’anic Arabic online, <https://www.arabiq.online/>

AlQuran – 80% Quranic Words, Arabic – English

http://www.quranpda.com/Dict_Grammar_PC/80_Percent_Quranic_Words_English.pdf

Academy for Learning Islam



Why is tadabbur of the Quran essential?

كِتَابٌ أَنْزَلْنَاهُ إِلَيْكَ مُبَارَكٌ لِيَدَّبَّرُوا آيَاتِهِ وَلِيَتَذَكَّرَ أُولُو الْأَلْبَابِ

Q38:29 *A Blessed Book that We have sent to you that they may ponder over its verses and those with intellect may understand/pay heed.*

Blessed book because it contains good for worldly and religious affairs; it has lessons for the lay person and for the learned.

Why do tadabbur? 1) Allah – the Almighty is *the* author, 2) it is full of wisdom, 3) it is the Final message 4) it requires appropriate response from the reciter and the learner, & 5) it is profound and vast.

قُلْ لِّئِنْ اجْتَمَعَتِ الْإِنْسُ وَالْجِنُّ عَلَى أَنْ يَأْتُوا بِمِثْلِ هَذَا الْقُرْآنِ لَا يَأْتُونَ بِمِثْلِهِ وَلَوْ كَانَ بَعْضُهُمْ لِبَعْضٍ ظَهِيرًا

Q 17:88 *Say: Surely if mankind and jinn got together to bring the like of this Quran, they would not bring the like thereof, even if they supported each other.*

Consider the Quran as a huge ocean: Some collect pebbles and shells from its shores without going diving into it. Others get pearls and jewels from it. If we dive into the Quran, we will surely find treasures of Divine wisdom that will give *hidayah* (guidance) and appreciation of Divine signs.

How to do tadabbur of Quranic verses?

First Step: Examine the verse

- a) Read it closely to comprehend it
- b) Divide it into parts
- c) Write down the lessons you derive from it
- d) Read it again to ensure you have not missed out some points

Second Step: Dig deeper into the verse

- a) Write questions about the verse?
- b) Link it to other verses, Hadith, stories, lessons.
- c) Link points within a verse and to Divine attributes (at the end)

Third Step: Make it a part of yourself

- a) Write it down (in your list of verses, Quran Journal, Personal diary)
- b) Think of it at relevant times and apply it to your situations
- c) Use it in your talks, writings, WhatsApp messages.
- d) Ensure that it has impact on you and your lifestyle.

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 Isrā’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
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Collection of Tafāsīr at ALI office



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

For further
reading

Tilāwah: <http://en.wikishia.net/view/Tilawa>