

## Importance of Learning Quranic Arabic

*Alhamdu lillah* many Muslims are realizing the importance of learning the language of the Quran. Books and courses have been compiled to teach Muslims the Arabic language of the Quran. The genre of this literature is popularly known as the Quranic Arabic. It differs from learning the Arabic language. Quranic Arabic is primarily focused on teaching Quranic vocabulary, grammar, structure and style of the language found in the holy Book.

By the Grace of the Almighty, the **Academy for Learning Islam (A.L.I.)** has focused on teaching the language of the Quran for over two decades. Since 2005, it has offered numerous courses in-person and online. The slides and recordings of some of these courses can be accessed at <https://academyofislam.com/quranic-arabic/>

Here are the quotes from a few scholars on the importance of learning Quranic Arabic:

**Dr Shaykh Murtaza Alidina:**

The Quran declares: *إِنَّا جَعَلْنَاهُ قُرْءَانًا عَرَبِيًّا لَّعَلَّكُمْ تَعْقِلُونَ*

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

6th Holy Imam 'alayhis-salam has said:

*تعلموا العربى فإنها كلام الله الذى تكلم به خلقه*

*Learn Arabic, for it is the word of God, which He spoke to His creation.*

The sixth Imam (a) trained Aban b. Taghlib to become an expert in Arabic grammar. In another Hadith [we read that]: *beauty of Arabic is it explains but can't be explained*

The teachers [of Madrasah] can be asked to ponder: If the Quran was revealed for reflection (*tadabbur*), Q 38:29 and if no translation captures the full miracle, beauty, and subtle guidance of the Arabic Quran. So, teachers who are role models, if they value Arabic, so will the students! Basically, if we want children to love and live the Quran, then we must lead by example.

In fact, *tadabbur* is almost a religious duty—but it requires understanding Quranic Arabic. We need regular reciting and reflective understanding of the Quran directly because it fosters *taqwā*, love of God, humility, confidence. Though translations are available, they are a type of interpretation & so without Arabic, the teacher is one step removed from the divine message.

Enthusiasm is contagious so if a teacher shows interest, students will catch it! For e.g. [learning] one word/day [will result in learning] 365 words/year.

Helpful Example to consider: Reading the Quran in translation is like looking at a picture but behind a glass frame—you see the image but can't touch it. However, Reading the Qur'an in Arabic is like holding a mirror—you see yourself reflected in it as it speaks directly to your soul.

Teacher gets transformed through a deeper connection to Allah,

- Builds confidence to answer Quran students' questions
- Gains inspiration for lifelong learning
- Becomes a role model of faith-in-action

*Raḥqana wa iyyaakum noor al-Quran*: May Allah grant you and us the opportunity to benefit from the Light of the Quran.

### **Shaykh Jaffer H. Jaffer:**

For those dedicated to guiding young learners through the wisdom of the Quran, consider the profound impact of understanding its original language. Delving into Quranic Arabic unlocks layers of meaning, enriching both personal connection with the sacred text and the ability to impart its teachings with greater clarity and depth. By embracing this linguistic journey, educators can empower their students to forge a more direct and meaningful relationship with the Holy Book.

### **Shaykh Abbas Jaffer:**

Quranic Arabic is the language of God's revelation. Learning it allows a grasp of the meaning of the Divine text that is not possible by relying solely on translations, no matter how good they are.

Knowledge of the terms and phrases the Quran uses will allow the reader to gain a deeper understanding of its verses, recognize the beautiful nuances of the text, and better appreciate the linguistic miracle of God's word.

In time, it will also allow engagement with classical tafsīr and hadith texts.

By starting to learn Qur'anic Arabic, the student will embark on a lifelong journey from recitation to understanding and thereby deepen their faith.

It is not very difficult to do, requiring some time every week, and dedication to the task. Within a few short months, your recitation of the Qur'an will be a much richer experience. I would highly recommend it for all Madrasah teachers.

### **Sayyid Kamil Reza Kazmi:**

The Holy Quran serves as the primary source of guidance for humanity.

Complementing this divine text are the Ahlul Bayt (AS), who are regarded as those who have profoundly understood the Quran and provide explanations to elucidate its guidance. In some contexts, the Holy Quran—being the Word of Allah—is referred to as *Thiqḥ Akbar*, the greater of the two weighty things the Holy Prophet ﷺ left behind for the Ummah to follow, with the Ahl al-Bayt being the *Thiqḥ Asghar*.

For anyone seeking guidance from the Holy Quran, it is essential to strive, to the best of their ability, to learn the meanings of its words directly. Engaging with the Quran through its original text, rather than relying solely on translations, creates a more direct connection with its message. Translations often fail to capture the full depth and nuance of the meanings intended in each verse (*Āyat*). By understanding the words of the Quran themselves, individuals establish a more immediate and profound link to its divine guidance, which holds immense significance.

To illustrate this point, consider the following translations:

In the first verse of Surah As-Saaf and Surah Al-Jumu'ah, two different Arabic words are used: "*sabbaha*" in one and "*yusabbihū*" in the other. Both are commonly translated as "glorifies," but each carries its own distinct nuance. Even a basic understanding of Arabic is sufficient to appreciate the subtle difference between the two terms.

This becomes especially important for teachers and role models who aim to set a standard for their students. They should endeavor to connect with the Holy Quran at this level, demonstrating through example how to engage deeply with its teachings. By doing so, they inspire a community that remains steadfastly connected to the Quran, truly capable of deriving assistance and wisdom from it. Such an approach not only strengthens individual faith but also fosters a collective commitment to living by its guidance.