

The Respect of the Holy Qur'an and the Akhlaq of its Recitation

Merits of reciting the Holy Qur'an and Divisions of the Holy Qur'an

Learning Objectives:

- Etiquettes in dealing with the Holy Qur'an
- How to prepare oneself for reciting the Qur'an
- Learning about the merits of reciting the Holy Qur'an.
- Knowing the divisions within the Qur'an.

The Holy Qur'an is a book containing the word of Allah (SWT). It should be treated with upmost respect. This respect should also extend to any book which contains the verses of the Holy Qur'an.

This lesson will discuss how to respect and recite the Holy Qur'an.

1. The words of the Holy Qur'an should only be touched after doing Wudhu.

لَا يَمَسُّهُ إِلَّا الْمُطَهَّرُونَ

None shall touch it save the purified ones. [56:79]

2. However, you may recite the words at any time, even without Wudhu.

الَّذِينَ يَذْكُرُونَ اللَّهَ قِيَامًا وَقُعُودًا وَعَلَىٰ جُنُوبِهِمْ وَيَتَفَكَّرُونَ فِي خَلْقِ السَّمَاوَاتِ
وَالْأَرْضِ رَبَّنَا مَا خَلَقْتَ هَذَا بَاطِلًا سُبْحَانَكَ فَقِنَا عَذَابَ النَّارِ

Those who remember Allah standing and sitting and lying on their sides and reflect on the creation of the heavens and the earth: Our Lord! Thou hast not created this in vain! Glory be to Thee; save us then from the chastisement of the fire: [3:191]

3. Always begin the recitation with Ta'awwudh.

فَإِذَا قَرَأْتَ الْقُرْآنَ فَاسْتَعِذْ بِاللَّهِ مِنَ الشَّيْطَانِ الرَّجِيمِ

So when you recite the Quran, seek refuge with Allah from the accursed Shaitan, [16:98]

Ta'awwudh means to recite

أَعُوذُ بِاللَّهِ مِنَ الشَّيْطَانِ الرَّجِيمِ

Which means,

“I seek refuge in Allah (SWT), from Shaitan, the accursed.”

4. After Ta'awwudh, recite

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

Which means, S

"I begin in the name of Allah (SWT), The Beneficent, The Merciful."

5. Even if you know the verses by heart, it is better to recite while looking at the words, as this increases the rewards many times.

6. It is Mustahab to recite the Holy Qur'an with you head covered and while facing the Qiblah.

7. The Holy Qur'an should be recited without rushing, in a clear manner. Allah (SWT) says:

وَرَتِّلِ الْقُرْآنَ تَرْتِيلًا

...and recite the Quran as it ought to be recited. [73:4]

8. When the Qur'an is being recited, listen attentively and do not eat or talk. Allah (SWT) says:

وَإِذَا قُرِئَ الْقُرْآنُ فَاسْتَمِعُوا لَهُ وَأَنْصِتُوا لَعَلَّكُمْ تُرْحَمُونَ

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

9. Do not leave the Holy Qur'an open and unattended or in a place where it may be disrespected. Recite from it regularly and do not leave it unread on the shelf. Allah (SWT) says:

وَقَالَ الرَّسُولُ يَا رَبِّ إِنَّ قَوْمِي اتَّخَذُوا هَذَا الْقُرْآنَ مَهْجُورًا

And the Messenger cried out: O my Lord! Surely my people have treated this Quran as a forsaken thing. [25:30]

10. Worn-out pages of the Holy Qur'an or paper with verses of the Holy Qur'an must not be thrown in the bin. Instead they should be re-cycled or buried.

Merits of reciting the Holy Qur'an

There are many ahadith of the Holy Prophet (S) and the Aimmah (AS) on the rewards and blessings of reciting the Holy Qur'an. Here are some of these ahadith: The Holy Prophet (S) has said:

خَيْرُكُمْ مَنْ تَعَلَّمَ الْقُرْآنَ وَعَلَّمَهُ

1) *"The most excellent amongst you is the one who learns the Qur'an and then teaches it to others."*

إِنَّ هَذِهِ الْقُلُوبَ لِتَصْدَأُ كَمَا يَصْدَأُ الْحَدِيدُ وَإِنَّ جَلَاءَهَا قِرَاءَةُ الْقُرْآنِ

2) *“These hearts rust just as iron rusts; and indeed they are polished through the recitation of the Qur’an.”*

Imam Ali (AS) has said:

أَلْبَيْتُ الَّذِي يُقْرَأُ فِيهِ الْقُرْآنَ وَ يُذَكَّرُ اللَّهُ عَزَّوَجَلَّ فِيهِ تَكْثُرُ بَرَكَتُهُ وَ تَحْضُرُهُ
 الْمَلَائِكَةُ وَ تَهْجُرُهُ الشَّيَاطِينُ وَ يُضِيءُ لِأَهْلِ السَّمَاءِ كَمَا تُضِيءُ الْكَوَاكِبُ
 لِأَهْلِ الْأَرْضِ

“The house in which the Qur’an is recited and Allah, The Noble and Grand, is remembered will receive numerous Divine blessings (barakah), the Angels will be present, and the Satans will be distanced from there. In addition, that house will shimmer for the people of the sky, just like the stars shimmer for the people on the Earth.”

Basic subjects covered in the Holy Qur’an.

Allah sent 124000 prophets for the guidance of mankind. To some of these Prophets, he gave a set of rules and instructions that the prophets left behind in the form of books.

The Divine Books were:

- **Zabur** to Prophet Dawud (A),
- **Tawrat** to Prophet Musa (A),
- **Injil** to Prophet `Isa (A)
- **Holy Qur’an** to Prophet Muhammad (S)

The Holy Qur’an broadly contains:

1. **Ahkam:** These are verses about the Furu’-e-Din from which the Mujtahidín prepare the various Fatwas to do with Salaat, Sawm, Haj etc.
2. **Tareekh:** These are the verses that narrate the history of people who lived before our Holy Prophet (S).
3. **`Aqa’id:** These are verses that explain the Belief in the Unity of Allah, the Prophet (S) and the Day of Judgement.
4. **Akhlaq:** The verses outline the moral behaviour that Muslims are required to observe.

The Holy Qur’an therefore contains guidance that teaches us about our duties to ourselves such as how to lead a successful life in this world and in the hereafter. It also teaches us how to interact with other people and how to contribute to society. Finally it teaches us about our duty to our Creator and how to worship Allah (SWT).