

The Importance of Comprehension and Implementation of the Quran

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Allah, The Exalted, said:

{شَهْرُ رَمَضَانَ الَّذِي أُنزِلَ فِيهِ الْقُرْآنُ هُدًى لِّلنَّاسِ وَبَيِّنَاتٍ مِّنَ الْهُدَىٰ وَالْفُرْقَانِ} [البقرة:185]

"The month of Ramadhan in which the Qur'an was revealed, as guidance for mankind, and clear proofs of guidance, and the Furqaan (Criterion). [2:185]

And He, The Exalted said:

{كِتَابٌ أَنْزَلْنَاهُ إِلَيْكَ مُبَارَكٌ لِّيَدَّبَّرُوا آيَاتِهِ وَلِيَتَذَكَّرَ أُولُو الْأَلْبَابِ} [ص:29]

"A blessed Book which We have revealed to you, so that they reflect upon its verses and that those of sound intellect would take heed." [38:29]

Indeed *Tilaawah* (reciting and following) the Quran and reflecting upon it is the greatest door to guidance. This is because it always guides to that which is most upright. It leads and directs to doing righteousness and avoiding detestable acts. It fills the heart with *Eemaan* (Faith) and consciousness of Allah. It inspires towards absolute success in the abode of nobility. It frightens and warns from absolute loss, failure, and depravation in the abode of humiliation and remorse. It consists of many lessons, admonition, and parables that are presented to all of mankind. Yet, only the knowledgeable understand them.¹

The reciter the Quran with comprehension and reflection is driven to answer the command of Allah and His Messenger (may Allah praise him and grant him peace). Such a person glorifies, exalts Allah, singles Him out in all forms of worship and devotion, observes his/her duty of Salah, Zakah, Hajj, and fasting the month (of Ramadhan). Additionally, such a person competes in the supererogatory deeds that draw one nearer to Allah, hoping for His Mercy and Pleasure. Allah, the Exalted, said:

{إِنَّ هَذَا الْقُرْآنَ يَهْدِي لِلَّتِي هِيَ أَقْوَمُ وَيُبَشِّرُ الْمُؤْمِنِينَ الَّذِينَ يَعْمَلُونَ الصَّالِحَاتِ أَنَّ لَهُمْ أَجْرًا كَبِيرًا} [الإسراء:9]

"Indeed, this Qur'an guides to that which is most upright (just and correct) and gives good tidings to the believers who do righteous deeds that they will have a great reward." [17:9]

And He, The Glorified and Exalted, said:

{إِنَّ الَّذِينَ يَنْتُلُونَ كِتَابَ اللَّهِ وَأَقَامُوا الصَّلَاةَ وَأَنْفَقُوا مِمَّا رَزَقْنَاهُمْ سِرًّا وَعَلَانِيَةً يَرْجُونَ تِجَارَةً لَّن تَبُورَ لِيُؤْفِقَهُمْ أَجْرَهُمْ وَيَزِيدَهُمْ مِنْ فَضْلِهِ إِنَّهُ غَفُورٌ شَكُورٌ} [فاطر: 29-30]

"Indeed, those who make Tilaawah (recite and follow) the Book of Allah and establish the Salaah and spend [in His cause] out of what We have provided them, secretly and openly, hope for a profitable trade that will never perish. That He may give them in full their rewards and give them even more, out of His Grace. Indeed, He is Forgiving and Appreciative." [35:29, 30]

Reciting, reflecting upon, and implementing the Quran is the habit and practice of the believers, a trait of the righteous allies of Allah, and a cause of Allah guiding His close servants. Discarding its reflection and implementation is a trait of the aversive sinners, and a cause of the misguidance of those who are astray and the arrogant. Allah, Exalted, says rebuking them:

{أَفَلَا يَتَذَكَّرُونَ الْقُرْآنَ أَمْ عَلَىٰ قُلُوبٍ أَقْفَالُهَا} [محمد: 24]

"Then do they not reflect upon the Qur'an, or are there locks upon [their] hearts?" [47:24]

¹Al-Ankaboot (29:43)

And Glorified is He, said:

{أَفَلَا يَتَذَكَّرُونَ الْقُرْآنَ وَلَوْ كَانَ مِنْ عِنْدِ غَيْرِ اللَّهِ لَوَجَدُوا فِيهِ اخْتِلَافًا كَثِيرًا} [النساء: 82]

“Then do they not reflect upon the Qur’an? If it had been from other than Allah, they would surely have found within it much contradiction.” [4:82]

And, Exalted is He, said:

{قَدْ كَانَتْ آيَاتِي تُتْلَىٰ عَلَيْكُمْ فَكُنْتُمْ عَلَىٰ أَعْقَابِكُمْ تُنكصُونَ () مُسْتَكْبِرِينَ بِهِ سَامِرًا تَهْجُرُونَ () أَقَلَّمْ بِدَبَّرُوا الْقَوْلَ أَمْ جَاءَهُمْ مَا لَمْ يَأْتِ آبَاءَهُمُ الْأَوَّلِينَ} [المؤمنون: 66-68]

“Indeed, My Verses used to be recited to you, but you used to turn back on your heels; in arrogance regarding it, conversing at night, aversely speaking falsehood. Then have they not reflected over the Word (of Allah), or has there come to them that which had not come to their forefathers?” [23:66-68]

Meaning: If they only would have reflected upon the Quran they would surely have been impelled to believe and been prevented from disbelief and sin. Hence, this indicates that reflection upon the Quran calls to every good and protects from every evil.

Additionally, Allah has described the Quran as being the best, most excellent speech and narrative, wherein He has repeated and reiterated to facilitate comprehension. When the pious listen to it; their skin shivers out of fear and awe. Exalted, is He, said:

{اللَّهُ نَزَّلَ أَحْسَنَ الْحَدِيثِ كِتَابًا مُتَشَابِهًا مَثَابًا يَتَشَعَّرُ مِنْهُ جُلُودُ الَّذِينَ يَخْشَوْنَ رَبَّهُمْ ثُمَّ تَلِينُ جُلُودُهُمْ وَقُلُوبُهُمْ إِلَىٰ ذِكْرِ اللَّهِ ذَلِكَ هُدَىٰ اللَّهِ يَهْدِي بِهِ مَنْ يَشَاءُ وَمَنْ يُضَلِلِ اللَّهُ فَمَا لَهُ مِنْ هَادٍ} [الزمر: 23]

“Allah has sent down the best narrative: A Book wherein is similarity and reiteration. The skins of those who fear their Lord shiver therefrom. Then their skins and hearts soften (relax) at the remembrance of Allah. That is the guidance of Allah by which He guides whom He wills. And whomsoever Allah leaves astray; for him there is no guide.” [39:23]

Moreover, Allah has criticized believers for not having humility when hearing the Quran and He warned them from resembling the disbelievers in that regard. Glorified, He is, said:

{أَلَمْ يَأْنِ لِلَّذِينَ آمَنُوا أَنْ تَخْشَعَ قُلُوبُهُمْ لِذِكْرِ اللَّهِ وَمَا نَزَلَ مِنَ الْحَقِّ وَلَا يَكُونُوا كَالَّذِينَ أُوتُوا الْكِتَابَ مِنْ قَبْلُ فَطَالَ عَلَيْهِمُ الْأَمَدُ فَقَسَتْ قُلُوبُهُمْ وَكَثِيرٌ مِنْهُمْ فَاسِقُونَ} [الحديد: 16]

“Hasn’t the time come for those who have believed that their hearts should become humbly submissive at the remembrance of Allah and what has come down of the truth? And that they be not be like those who were given the Scripture before. A long period passed over them, so their hearts hardened. And many of them are defiantly disobedient.” [57:16]

Glorified is He, has also informed us that the Quran increases the believers in Eemaan when they read it, pondering and reflecting over its verses:

{إِنَّمَا الْمُؤْمِنُونَ الَّذِينَ إِذَا ذُكِرَ اللَّهُ وَجِلَّت قُلُوبُهُمْ وَإِذَا تُلِيَتْ عَلَيْهِمْ آيَاتُهُ زَانَتْهُمْ إِيمَانًا وَعَلَىٰ رَبِّهِمْ يَتَوَكَّلُونَ} [الأنفال: 2]

“The believers are only those who, when Allah is mentioned; their hearts become fearful, when His verses are recited to them; it increases them in faith, and they only rely upon and trust in their Lord.” (8:2)

He also informed us that when the Quran is recited to good People of the Book; they prostrate down on their faces crying. It increases them in humility, faith, and submission. (They abandon the distorted abrogated religions of Judaism and Christianity and humbly submit and embrace Islam upon hearing and reflecting upon the Quran):

Glorified is He said:

{قُلْ آمَنُوا بِهِ أَوْ لَا تُؤْمِنُوا إِنَّ الَّذِينَ أُوتُوا الْعِلْمَ مِنْ قَبْلِهِ إِذَا يُتْلَى عَلَيْهِمْ يَخِرُّونَ لِلْأَذْقَانِ سُجَّدًا (107) وَيَقُولُونَ سُبْحَانَ رَبِّنَا إِنْ كَانَ وَعْدُ رَبِّنَا لَمَفْعُولًا (108) وَيَخِرُّونَ لِلْأَذْقَانِ يَكُونُونَ خُشوعًا} [الإسراء: 107-109]

"Say, "Believe in it (the Quran) or do not believe". Indeed, those who were given knowledge before it; when it is recited to them, they fall upon their faces in prostration. And they say, "Glorified is our Lord! Indeed, the promise of our Lord has been fulfilled." And they fall upon their faces weeping, and it (the Qur'an) increases them in humble submission." (17:107-109)

Furthermore, Allah has certainly warned His servants of turning away from the Quran, with a very severe warning. He cautioned them of this danger and the burden and sin that one guilty of this will bear on the Day of Resurrection, due to one turning away from the Quran and not embracing it with acceptance and submission. Exalted is He said:

{وَقَدْ آتَيْنَاكَ مِنْ لَدُنَّا ذِكْرًا (99) مَنْ أَعْرَضَ عَنْهُ فَإِنَّهُ يَحْمِلُ يَوْمَ الْقِيَامَةِ وِزْرًا (100) خَالِدِينَ فِيهِ وَسَاءَ لَهُمْ يَوْمَ الْقِيَامَةِ حِمْلًا} [طه: 99-101]
"And We have certainly given you from Us a Reminder (this Qur'an). Whoever turns away from it; will surely bear a burden on the Day of Resurrection. Abiding eternally therein, and what an evil load it is for them on the Day of Resurrection." (20:99-101)

Therefore, since the Quran is a Reminder for the Messenger (may Allah praise him and grant him peace) and for His Ummah; it is binding upon us to embrace it with acceptance, submission, compliance, and reverence. And that we are guided by its light to the Straight Path. And that we approach it by learning it, teaching it, implementing its teachings so that we are blessed with a good life in this life and attain its intercession in the abode of return after death.

Turning away from the Quran, opposing it, or even worse and more dangerous; rejection and denial; is deviation, misguidance, disbelief, and transgression. The one guilty of this deserves the punishment in this life of having a wretched, deprived, and miserable life. On the Day of Resurrection this person will be disregarded and assembled in the hellfire with the blinded. Exalted is He, said:

{فَإِمَّا يَأْتِيَنَّكُمْ مِنِّي هُدًى فَمَنِ اتَّبَعَ هُدَايَ فَلَا يَضِلُّ وَلَا يَشْقَى (123) وَمَنْ أَعْرَضَ عَن ذِكْرِي فَإِنَّ لَهُ مَعِيشَةً ضَنْكًا وَنَحْشُرُهُ يَوْمَ الْقِيَامَةِ أَعْمَى (124) قَالَ رَبِّ لِمَ حَشَرْتَنِي أَعْمَى وَقَدْ كُنْتُ بَصِيرًا (125) قَالَ كَذَلِكَ أَتَتْكَ آيَاتُنَا فَنَسِيْتَهَا وَكَذَلِكَ الْيَوْمَ تُنْسَى} [طه: 123-126]

"Then if there comes to you guidance from Me; then whoever follows My Guidance shall neither go astray nor be miserable. And whoever turns away from My remembrance; will surely have a depressed life, and We shall resurrect him blind on the Day of Resurrection. He will say: "O my Lord! Why have you resurrected me blind, while I had sight (before)? (Allah) will say: "Like this, Our Ayaat (proofs, evidences, verses, lessons, signs, revelations, etc.) came to you, but you disregarded them (i.e. you left them, did not reflect upon them, and you turned away from them), and so this Day, you will be neglected (in the Hell-fire, away from Allah's Mercy)."[20:123-126].

Therefore, it is befitting that every Muslim (especially in this blessed month and great season) to revere the Noble Quran, give it its due respect, and truly make *Tilaawah* of the Quran in its proper manner by: comprehending its meanings, reflecting and contemplating over its Aayaat, and implementing and putting it into practice, accordingly.

The eminent scholar, *ibnul-Qayyim*, may Allah have mercy upon him said:

"There is nothing more beneficial for the heart than reciting the Quran with contemplation and reflection. This is because it is a compilation of all of the stations of the traversers (to Allah), ranks of those cognizant and conscious of Him, and the conditions of the doers of deeds. It produces love, aspiration, fear, hope, devotion, entrustment, reliance, pleasure, gratitude, patience, and every condition that enlivens and refines the heart. Likewise, the Quran restrains from all reprehensivetraits and deeds that ruin and destroy the heart. So, if people only understood that which is obtained from reciting the Quran with contemplation and reflection; they would be preoccupied with it over everything else. If one was to recite it with such reflection and contemplation; upon reaching a verse that one is in

need of to cure ones heart; repeating again and again, even for a hundred times, even all night long..Therefore, reciting just one verse with comprehension and contemplation is better than completely reciting the whole Quran without comprehension and contemplation. Moreover, it is much more beneficial for the heart and more conducive to attaining Eemaan and tasting the sweetness of the Quran.”²

This statement of Imam ibnul-Qayyim, may Allah have mercy upon him, is extremely beneficial and full of wisdom. The Quran has a complete positive and beneficial effect on one who recites the Quran in this manner. By that such a person becomes one of the firmly established people of ‘Elm (Islamic knowledge) and Eemaan (Faith). And this is the objective of the Quran and its overall goal and purpose.

Because of this the eminent scholar of Islam, *Shaykh al-Islam ibn-Taymiyyah*, may Allah have mercy upon him, said:

“The objective of the Quran is comprehending its meaning and implementing it. If this is not the aspiration of the memorizer of it; then such a person is not from the people of ‘Elm (Islamic knowledge) and the Deen (the religion).”³

Oh Allah, please make the Noble Quran the spring of hearts, light of our chests, reliever of our sorrow and grief, and banisher of our anxiety and worries. Please teach us of it that which we are ignorant of and make us benefit from that which you have taught us. Please grant us with its proper recitation, contemplation, and implementation, following its commands and avoiding its prohibitions. Please raise us by it in levels and ranks on the day that we are presented before you. Oh, Allah please safeguard us from heedlessness, obliviousness, and turning away from it.

Abdul-Razzaq al-Badr is a prominent shaykh, Islamic University professor, Masjid an-Nabee lecturer, son of one of the most prominent senior major scholars, the Shaykh, the Muhaddith of al-Madeenah, *Abdul-Muhsin al-Badr*. May Allah preserve them both.

Translated by: Zaid bin Abdul-Malik. May Allah preserve them.

²Miftaah Daar -as-Sa’aadah

³Majmoo’ al-Fataawah ibn Taymiyyah