

# Why reading Qur'an with understanding is important?

Whenever a person reads a book he wants to understand it to gather knowledge and apply it in his daily life. Qur'an is the word of Allah SWT and the most fortunate of people apply it in their lives by putting an earnest effort to understand it.

The first revelation of the Holy Qur'an that was revealed to Prophet Muhammad SAWS was 'Read' 'اقرأ' from (Surah Alaq verse 1) which shows the importance of acquiring knowledge by reading.

Let us look into some of the benefits of reading and understanding Qur'an for better implementation:

## 1. Reading and Understanding Qur'an are the rights of Qur'an

There are mainly five rights of the Qur'an upon the reader.

**Attentive listening:** " So when the Qur'an is recited then listen to it and pay attention so that you may receive mercy". (Surah Al A'raf verse 204). But nowadays people put on the Qur'an recitation through tape recorders and keep themselves busy with their usual chores. It is an insult of the Qur'an. So forbid from doing so.

**Recitation:** Allah also says in the Holy Qur'an, " recite the Qur'an with measured recitation". (Surah Al Muzammil verse 4) In this verse, it is said to recite Qur'an in a slow measured tone so that it could soothe and strengthen the mind and soul of the reciter. The tajweed (rules of recitation) also beautifies the recitation immensely.

**Memorization:** Allah says in the Qur'an, " he who has no Qur'an in his heart is like a house that is destroyed". (Hadeeth narrated by At Tirmidhi on the authorization of Ibn Abbas). So try to memorize one Sur'ah every week.

**Contemplation:** Allah says in the Qur'an: " Then do they not reflect upon the Qur'an or are there locks upon their hearts?" (Surah Mohammad verse 24) One should read the Qur'an contemplating the depth of each ayah so that the meaning of each word would penetrate into his mind and reflect in his behavior so that the heart and soul will be filled with the light of its pure guidance.

**Application:** Allah says in the Qur'an, and this "(Qur'an) is a book We have revealed which is blessed, so follow it and fear Allah that you may receive

*mercy*". (Surah Al Anam verse 155) One can apply the teachings of the Qur'an in daily life by obeying all commands of Allah and heeding all His prohibitions which will result in his transformation into a true servant of Allah.

All the above references stress upon including Qur'an, the word of Allah in one's life, to be guided, to fill one's heart with the assurance of each word of the Qur'an.

**2. One can implement teachings of Qur'an better when one tries to understand it and ponder on its meaning:** Abu Abdur Rahman as Sulami said, we were informed by those who used to teach us the Qur'an, Uthman Bin Affan, Ibn Masud, and others, that they would learn ten verses at a time from the Prophet SAWS and they would not go beyond them until they had learnt the knowledge and application within them. They said, so we learnt the Qur'an along with its knowledge and application at the same time.

Likewise, a person can allow some time in his schedule on a daily basis to read Qur'an in Arabic as well as its meaning in whichever language he feels to understand it better and then keep underlining the verses which he could incorporate or include in his life. That would be a very effective way of applying the knowledge of Qur'an in one's life. But unfortunately, people nowadays think that they have fulfilled the rights of the Qur'an by reading it without understanding the real purpose of its revelation. May Allah guide all of us to understand the true essence of our religion through the teachings of Qur'an and Sunnah/Hadeeth.

**3. Khushoo and khuzoo (concentration and humility) in Salah:** When a person prays Salah five times daily, there are chances of not being precise in it. He also might get distracted with many thoughts of his concerns and plans that are running in his mind. This can be avoided only when the person ponders on the meaning of each verse he recites in his prayer, that would not only help the person have khushoo and khuzoo in his prayer but he will be able to make a strong bond between him and Allah SWT.

**4. Clear interpretation of the Qur'an while inviting people towards our religion (Da'wah):** When a person wants to attract people towards Islam, he himself should have a proper and a clear understanding of Islam through Qur'an and Hadeeth. He may provide guidance, examples, and virtues of the noble teachings of the Qur'an while doing da'wah only if he has the basic foundational knowledge about teachings of Qur'an.

**5. Qur'an is the main source of knowledge as it is revealed on our last Prophet Muhammad SAWS:** The main base of our religion is that

Allah is our lord and Muhammad SAWS is our Prophet after whom no prophet will come and the noble Qur'an that was revealed on him is the final word of Allah SWT. It contains all the knowledge about the events like the creation of the universe, the creation of human beings, differentiation of good and bad, the day of resurrection, etc.

**6. Source of motivation for leading a successful life:** Today's life is full of competition, struggle, jealousy, corruption, indecency, distractions like social media, etc. So the best gift for the upcoming generation would be a clear understanding of Qur'an and constant guidance by the parents to attain Allah's pleasure and succeed in this life and in the hereafter.

Qur'an is revealed in Arabic because it is the most comprehensive language that has words with beautiful intonation and stress. The words are very precise and have richness in their meaning. It also has the most unique quality of including a vast number of messages in a few words, which means a single phrase or a sentence would have innumerable messages within it.

No doubt that recitation of Qur'an has its own perks and benefits. And it is absolutely baseless to say that Reading Quran in Arabic has no importance. As Allah (S.W.T) says in the Qur'an

Surah An-Kaboot chapter 29 verse no. 45,

**“We have revealed the verse of the Qur'an and recite what We have given to you.”**

Our beloved Prophet (P.B.U.H) said, Tirmidhi hadith no. 2910

**“Anyone who recites one letter of the book of Allah, he gets one hasna/sawab (reward) and that is multiplied 10 folds”**

But reading Qur'an serves only the first step when it comes to the amount of the reward. It is just like going to college (the first step towards knowledge) and

achieving nothing but attendance. You may get some marks for attendance. But practically you are missing out your actual purpose of being there.

Similarly if besides reading Qur'an in Arabic, if we read it in the language we understand and implement its teaching in our everyday life, we will get multiple times sawab. Likewise if along with going to college, you understand what is being taught there, you would be in a better position to implement it properly and Insha'Allah will pass your exams with flying colors.

Allah (S.W.T) says, Surah Al-Nahal verse no. 44,

**“We sent those Messengers with clear signs and scriptures; and now We have sent down the reminder to you (O Muhammad (SAW)) so that you may explain clearly to mankind as to what was sent to them so that they may think/ponder over it.**

Qur'an is not just meant for reading. It is a complete code of life. In order to implement that code, you need to understand its teaching. Have you ever wondered why Muslims all over the world are struggling and what was the secret of success of Mohammad (P.B.U.H) and his companions? It was the relationship they had with the Qur'an. They don't just read it but they understood it and ponder over it and tried to implement its teaching in their everyday matters hence they flourished.

Our beloved Prophet (P.B.U.H) said, Ibn e Maaja hadith no. 219,

**“Oh Abu-Dar, it is better that you learn one verse of Qur'an than pray hundred rakaat of Salah”**

In this hadith, Prophet Mohammad (P.B.U.H) emphasizes the importance of understanding and learning Qur'an. Understanding and learning a single verse of Qur'an is far more superior to reading 100 rakaat Salah. In every rakat, the minimum no. of verses that one recites are seven i.e. Surah Fatiha. In 100 rakaat, the minimum no. of verses that you will recite are 700 verses of Qur'an. According to hadith if you learn and understand one verse of Qur'an, it is far more superior than reciting 700 verses of Qur'an.

Consider Qur'an as guide book that guides you to such treasures which nobody has ever witnessed before. Then go and don't just read it, try to find the path that leads to treasures of world i.e. eternal success and peace.

We as a Muslim should read Quran with understanding so that we can understand its deep **meaning. When we know its meaning what Allah has really said in this Holy book then we can** implement all the things mentioned in Quran in our daily life. Once we read Quran with the understanding we can easily take guidance from this Holy book in our life. The Book of Allah is not like any other book; it is the timeless Speech of Allah and not a created thing. It deserves a far more careful study than anyone else's speech or book. For if one would try to evaluate the meanings of the verses. So, let every sincere Muslim who hopes to earn Allah's love by reciting and reflecting on Allah's Book hold tight to the meanings explained by the Prophet (SAW)

## Major Obstacles in understanding the Quran:

Several obstacles impede Muslims' understanding of the Qur'an. Reading a book does not necessarily mean that one can understand it. Knowledge of a language is of course necessary for understanding a book written in that language. However, is it sufficient? Books of famous thinkers (in any language) may be read by many but, in reality, are understood by very few, then what to say of the Qur'an whose author is Allah, possessing infinite knowledge and wisdom?

Another obstacle in understanding the Qur'an stems, on the one hand, from the mistaken belief that salvation in the Hereafter is achieved by faith alone and not by understanding the meaning of the Qur'anic verses. On the other hand, secular and liberal Muslims dismiss the idea that the Qur'an should be a guiding force in our

daily lives. Therefore, they do not consider it worthwhile to spend time and intellect in exploring the depth of Qur'anic meanings in the same way that other areas of interest are explored. Furthermore, some Muslims have assigned such special status to past Islamic scholars and Imams that the latter's works are considered sacred and beyond error. In this case, the question arises: Should all Qur'anic interpretation be frozen in their time and space? No doubt, these scholars of the past did their best critical thinking and research into the Qur'an during their time; and their works are treasure for us. However, why do most of their followers shut the door for further critical thinking and research into the Qur'an? In fact, as human knowledge evolves, it becomes imperative for us to enhance, reinterpret, and advance the past understanding of the Qur'an. The Quran is very clear on this point: [\(41:53\)](#) نَ لَهُمْ أَنَّهُ الْحَقُّ سُنُّرِيهِمْ آيَاتِنَا فِي الْأَفَاقِ وَفِي أَنفُسِهِمْ حَتَّىٰ يَتَّبِعُوا.

In time We shall make them fully understand Our messages [through what they perceive] in the utmost horizons [of the universe] and within themselves, so that it will become clear unto them that this [revelation] is indeed the truth.

A further obstacle in understanding the Qur'an is the susceptibility of human beings to take shortcuts. If we believe that simply reciting the verses of the Qur'an (without understanding them) is sufficient to bring lots of rewards – here as well as in the Hereafter – then why should we struggle to understand the Qur'an? Ingenious shortcuts to wealth, prosperity, good health, and multiple rewards in the Hereafter through recitation of certain words, and verses, and even by simply running one's finger on the words of the Qur'an are commonplace in the collective Muslim experience.

This has led to a mental malaise wherein Muslims fail to recognize and revere the value of acquiring Islamic knowledge and understanding of the Qur'an. In turn, this lack of understanding of the Qur'an and our subsequent failure to act upon it, has led to our present deplorable status in the world.

Is there any hope for us to regain our lost dignity? The Qur'an proclaims there is. The Qur'an says that Muslims should never despair of Allah's mercy and blessing (39:53). It says that the Book of Allah is always there to help them at every step but it can only help those who want to live by it and not those who simply want to read or recite it for earning some easy rewards for the Hereafter. The Qur'an is for the living and not for the dead: [\(36:70\)](#) لِيُنذِرَ مَن كَانَ حَيًّا.

However, living by the Qur'an requires that, we, Muslims, understand it first. In order to understand it, however, we have to use our minds. Moreover, in order to use our minds we have to spend time and effort, we have to struggle and persevere, just as we do for other things in life. There are no shortcuts in this process. This is Allah's law of requital. Without proper input, one cannot get proper output.

How much time and effort do we normally spend in trying to understand the Qur'an compared to other pursuits of life? In addition, it is important to know that acquiring the knowledge and understanding of the Qur'an is incumbent on every Muslim: أَفَلَا يَتَذَكَّرُونَ (4:82) – Will they not, then, try to understand this Qur'an? Thus seeking knowledge of the Qur'an is a sacred duty imposed by Allah on every Muslim. Allah says that He has revealed this Qur'an so that humanity can come out of the depth of darkness into the shining light of its guidance: كِتَابٌ أَنْزَلْنَاهُ إِلَيْكَ لِتُخْرِجَ النَّاسَ مِنَ الظُّلُمَاتِ إِلَى النُّورِ (14:1).

How seriously do we take the Qur'an? Do we live by it and die for it as instructed by Allah? Or, do we pay mostly lip service by reciting it to earn rewards for the Hereafter? In probing the human psychology of evasion, Iqbal advises: Ai Musalmaan apne dil se pooch Mullah se na pooch. [O Muslims! Ask your own hearts, not Mullahs.] So, we must question our own hearts – why do we not seek to understand the Qur'an on our own? Why do we solely rely on fatwas and others' understanding of the Qur'an? Or, are we waiting to hear what we want to hear?

Allah says the Qur'an is more valuable than any treasure we can accumulate (10:58). So, do we really consider the Qur'an as the most valuable treasure in our lives? How much of our day- and night-time hours do we devote to it? To what extent our understanding of it is compromised by our lack of willingness to study it?

To remove these aforementioned obstacles, we must make a sincere pledge towards understanding the Qur'an and then trying to live by it.

## Conclusion:

As the Holy Quran is full of information that transforms the lives of millions of people around the world, so, it is important to recite and understand it in geographical (local) language for better understanding its knowledge. Understanding of Quran is very important for every Muslim because when we understand its meaning then we will be able to implement it in our lives. The Quran says that Muslims should never despair of Allah's mercy and blessings. Book of Allah is always there to help Muslims at every step but it can only help those who want to live by it.

Living by the Quran requires we Muslims, understand it first. In order to understand it, we have to use our minds for this we have to spend time and effort just like we do for other things in our life. For understanding Quran, we should read it with translation in that language which we can understand easily. We have to put an effort in it. It's important to know that gaining the knowledge and understanding of the Quran is necessary for every Muslim. Seeking knowledge of the Quran is a spiritual duty demanded by Allah on every Muslim.

# 9 *Great Benefits of Reciting the Quran*

01

Reading and reflecting over the Qur'an fulfills an Islamic duty.

02

The Qur'an will be a proof for you on the Day of Judgment.

03

The Qur'an will intercede for you on the Day of Judgment.

04

Your status in this life will be raised.

05

You will be from the best of the people.

06

There are 10 rewards for each letter you recite from the Qur'an.

07

The reciters of the Qur'an will be in the company of the noble and obedient angels.

08

Your position in Paradise is determined by your understanding with Quran

09

The Qur'an will lead you to Paradise!



## Virtues of reading Quran with understanding

- The teachings of Islam are present in Quran, which needs to be studied very carefully for being able to understand them properly. The Holy Prophet (SAW) said:

**“That person who, due to the excessive recitation of the Quran is not able to make Allah’s Dhikr and Dua, Allah (SWT) will bestow such a person with more blessings and Ni’mat than even those who make Dhikr and Dua.”**

**(Tirmidhi)**

Above hadith shows that following the holy verses to such an extent would provide better results in life.

Therefore, reciting the Holy Quran with translation has its increased value in the life of a Muslim which leads to increased awareness and understanding of its knowledge.

- Reading Quran with understanding and then reflecting over Quran can fulfill the Islamic duty of every Muslim which Allah (SWT) imposed on us.
- The position of one in paradise is determined by one’s understanding of Quran. Thus, understanding of Quran is very important in hereafter life too.
- Quran will act as an intercessor on the Day of Judgment.
- Great efforts are always rewarded with the great benefits. Someone, who is non-Arabian, spends a lot of time and work hard to learn how to read Quran, further spend more time and energy to understand the true teaching of Quran. This person is working for sake of pleasing Allah and will get the tremendous amount of returns in the form of blessings of Allah.
- Reading of the translation of the Quran is so important because every Muslim have to know the essential commands and requirements of Allah.
- Quran is the only way to honor and morality and it’s the duty of all Muslims to find this way. So understanding the Book of Allah is better than just Quran reciting and it is possible when it is interpreted by some local or an easily explicable language.

The Holy Quran is a highly admired book of Allah SWT that requires proper understanding, which is possible when it is interpreted in one’s own language. We should read Quran with better understanding so that we can earn Allah’s blessings in this worldly life and the life hereafter too. May Allah (SWT) bless us to understand His holy book! Ameen.

**NOTE: There is no doubt that learning Arabic and then understanding the Quran is the best and preferable way of understanding Quran, but since most people couldn’t do it or too old to learn the Arabic, the best alternate is to understand it with its translation and “Tafseer” in their own language. With this modern age of information technology, this facility is available in every hand (whoever has a mobile phone).**

