

Tarbiyah Resource Development

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Part I: Living the Glorious Qur'ān: A Divine Guide for Humanity

The Qur'ān is a divinely revealed text that was descended from the heavens from the Creator of all creation and brought down by the Arch Angel Jibreel (AS) for the benefit of all of humanity. It serves as a divine guide for humankind, urging us to uphold and live its message. To live and transmit the Qur'ān is to make it central to our lives, embodying its values in our actions and words, and fostering a love for sharing it with everyone around us—believers and non-believers alike—as a source of inspiration. The Qur'ān holds transformative power, reshaping our hearts and minds, guiding us towards spiritual and moral growth and calibrating our soul towards the Truth. Through its teachings, we are reminded of our purpose in life and the path to righteousness, serving as a guiding compass on our journey in this world and towards our final destination in the eternal hereafter. The Qur'ān inspires both personal and collective transformation, with examples evident throughout history and continuing into contemporary times. Therefore, living the Qur'ān is a call not only at the personal level but also as a collective society; it invites us to revive our communities and take measures to ensure its message endures for generations. This divine revelation transforms the human and the collective society towards that which is upright, and True.

As parents, educators, and community leaders, we must ask ourselves: Are we raising our children in accordance with the teachings of the Qur'ān? Are we instilling in them a love for the Qur'ān, encouraging them to live by it and make it their primary reference in all aspects of life? Our commitment to the Qur'ān should not be limited to select or fleeting moments; instead, it must be a lifelong endeavor that permeates every area of our lives.

Do we truly live by the Qur'ān? This question challenges us to examine whether our actions align with its teachings and if we strive to uphold its values in all aspects of our lives. We must also be prepared to overcome the various hurdles associated with embracing the truth and adhering to the message of the Qur'ān.

Do we memorize the Qur'ān regularly with understanding and implementation? True connection with the Qur'ān comes not only through recitation but also through reflection and an appreciation of its linguistic miracles, as well as the application of its message. Do we dedicate time to learning and contemplating the circumstances and context in which the verses were revealed, and how they were embraced and implemented in the lives of the Prophet ﷺ and his companions? Furthermore, we should view the Qur'ān as a vital source of rejuvenation—a daily nourishment for our souls. A consistent daily reading schedule (*wird*) reinforces this bond, grounding us in the divine wisdom that sustains us in every aspect of life. The Qur'ān is the light that guides us, and we must carry it with us in every moment.

The Qur'an: A Divine Guide for All Humanity

The Qur'ān is unique in that it is a divine revelation conveying a message from the One who created and sustains everything. As Allah ﷻ says in Sūrah Ibrāhīm (14:1):

الرَّ كُتُبَ أَنْزَلْنَاهُ إِلَيْكَ لِتُخْرِجَ النَّاسَ مِنَ الظُّلُمَاتِ إِلَى النُّورِ بِإِذْنِ رَبِّهِمْ إِلَى صِرَاطِ الْعَزِيزِ الْحَمِيدِ



"This is a Book We have sent down to you so that you can bring mankind from the darkness to the light, by the permission of their Lord, to the Path of the Almighty, the Praiseworthy."

Qur'an, 14:1

The Qur'ān was sent as a light to guide humanity from the darkness of ignorance to the light of divine wisdom and truth. It offers a way of living that liberates and uplifts the human spirit, empowering individuals to embrace the beauty of Truth. The Qur'ān contains a universal message that reveals the path to righteousness, justice, and peace. In providing this guidance, it offers not only principles for personal growth but also a framework for building a just and compassionate society. The Qur'ān serves as both a spiritual guide and a moral compass, providing clarity on the meaning of life, the nature of our existence, and the path that leads us to our ultimate destination—the eternal afterlife. Its timeless guidance offers comfort, hope, and direction, where we consistently find Allah's ﷻ wisdom, mercy, and support readily available to us.

As Allah ﷻ says in Sūrah Al-Naḥl (16:89):

وَيَوْمَ نَبْعَثُ فِي كُلِّ أُمَّةٍ شَهِيدًا عَلَيْهِمْ مِّنْ أَنفُسِهِمْ وَجِئْنَا بِكَ شَهِيدًا عَلَىٰ هَؤُلَاءِ ۚ وَنَزَّلْنَا عَلَيْكَ الْكِتَابَ تِبْيَانًا لِّكُلِّ شَيْءٍ وَهُدًى وَرَحْمَةً وَبُشْرَىٰ لِلْمُسْلِمِينَ



“Consider, O Prophet, the Day We will call against every faith-community a witness of their own. And We will call you to be a witness against these ‘people of yours’. We have revealed to you the Book as an explanation of all things, a guide, a mercy, and good news for those who ‘fully’ submit.”

Qur’an, 16:89

The Qur’an provides a detailed account of our purpose on this earth, offering the light of understanding that illuminates the way to righteousness through reflection, belief and action. Through it, Allah ﷻ has given us everything we need to navigate the challenges of life, pointing us to the path of truth, justice, and eternal success.

The Transformative Power of the Qur'an

One of the greatest transformations that the Qur’an brings about is the calibration of the soul toward truth. The Qur’an guides us in purifying our hearts, removing the darkness of sin, and directing our thoughts, intentions, and actions to please Allah ﷻ, and how we can cultivate peace and happiness within ourselves. Through the Qur’an, we are reminded of the true purpose of our existence: to worship Allah ﷻ, seek His mercy, and strive to live righteous lives that reflect His divine attributes. As Allah ﷻ says in Sūrah Al-A‘rāf (7:52):

وَلَقَدْ جِئْنَاهُمْ بِكِتَابٍ فَصَّلْنَاهُ عَلَىٰ عِلْمٍ هُدًى وَرَحْمَةً لِّقَوْمٍ يُؤْمِنُونَ



"We have brought them a Book elucidating everything with knowledge, as guidance and mercy for people who believe."

Qur’an, 7:52

By following the guidance of the Qur’an, we can overcome the trials and tribulations of life, finding peace and tranquility in our hearts. The transformative power of the Qur’an extends beyond the individual; it has the potential to transform entire societies, lifting them from the depths of ignorance, oppression, and injustice to a state of justice, peace, and prosperity.

This transformative impact is exemplified in the eloquent speech of Ja'far ibn Abī Ṭālib (ra), who responded to King Najashi of Abyssinia's questions about the message, way of life, and book brought by the Prophet Muhammad ﷺ:

“King, we were a people in a state of ignorance and immorality, worshipping idols and eating the flesh of unslaughtered animals, committing all sorts of abomination and shameful deeds, breaking the ties of kinship, treating neighbors badly, and the strong among us exploited the weak.

We remained in this state until God sent us a Prophet, one of our own people whose lineage, truthfulness, trustworthiness, and integrity were well-known to us. He called us to worship God alone and to renounce the rocks and the idols which we and our ancestors used to worship besides God. He commanded us to speak the truth, to honor our promises, to be kind to our kin, to be helpful to our neighbors; to cease all forbidden acts, to abstain from bloodshed, to avoid obscenities and false witness; to not appropriate an orphan's property nor slander chaste women. He ordered us to worship God alone and not to associate anything with Him, to uphold prayer, to give charity and to fast in the month of Ramaḍān.

We believed in him and what he brought to us from God and we followed him in what he has asked us to do and we keep away from what he forbade us from doing...”

And upon hearing some words of Qur'ān recited by Ja'far (ra), Najashi, the King, was moved to tears and remarked: “The message of your Prophet and that of Jesus came from the same source...” and accepted Islam.

Teaching the Qur'an to Children: Instilling Love and Connection

One of the most important responsibilities of parents, educators, and community leaders is to teach children to love and connect with the Qur'ān, nurturing their reliance on it as the source of Truth and the guiding framework for their lives. This connection extends beyond memorization; it involves cultivating an understanding of its meanings and teachings —such as the values of the Qur'ān, including honesty, charity, and doing no harm— through a genuine love for the Qur'ān. While memorizing the Qur'ān is a noble and virtuous act, fostering a love for it means guiding young people to reflect on its meanings, ponder its lessons, and apply its teachings through the lenses of their logical, cognitive, emotional, and spiritual development.

We must be cautious not to focus solely on memorization without emphasizing understanding and application. True transformation occurs when we engage deeply with the Qur'anic text and integrate its teachings into our everyday lives. This type of interaction with the Qur'anic text is evident in the lives of the companions.

Abu 'Abdur Rahmān (ra) reported:

عَنْ أَبِي عَبْدِ الرَّحْمَنِ قَالَ كَانُوا يَعْنِي الصَّحَابَةَ يَقْتَرِبُونَ مِنْ رَسُولِ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ عَشْرَ آيَاتٍ فَلَا يَأْخُذُونَ فِي الْعَشْرِ الْأُخْرَى حَتَّى يَعْلمُوا مَا فِي هَذِهِ مِنَ الْعِلْمِ وَالْعَمَلِ قَالُوا فَعَلِمْنَا الْعِلْمَ وَالْعَمَلَ



“The companions would learn to recite ten verses from the Messenger of Allāh (ﷺ). They would not take another ten verses until they understood the knowledge and deeds they contained. They would say, “We learned sacred knowledge and action together.”

Musnad Ahmad 23482

This teaches us that the companions would not move on until they had interacted with the verses through practice and truly living by them. Although many could memorize the Qur'an very quickly, they avoided doing so and took understanding, connecting, and implementing the Qur'an as a real transformative experience. Moreover, the Qur'an must be made relevant to children's lives. They should be encouraged to reflect on Qur'anic stories and lessons and to see how these teachings can be applied to their own experiences. By doing so, children will develop a lifelong relationship with the Qur'an that will guide them in times of joy and difficulty, helping them grow into morally upright and spiritually grounded individuals.

The Qur'an: A Linguistically Stunning Miracle

In today's world, due to many linguistic barriers, we may often turn to understand the Qur'an through translations. While translations can be helpful and provide meaningful insights into the Qur'an, they cannot fully capture the depth and richness of the Qur'an's original Arabic text. The nuances, beauty, literary devices, rhythm, balance, precision, and perfectly chosen words in the Qur'an cannot be completely translated. While learning the Arabic of the Qur'an can be a goal that may be slowly attained, it is still possible to spend time studying, reflecting and appreciating the linguistic beauty and miracle of the Qur'an. Even for those who do not speak Arabic fluently, reading and reciting the Qur'an in its original language can have a profound spiritual effect, as the Arabic words themselves carry a unique divine wisdom that transcends translations. Listening to the Qur'an, even when we may not fully understand its meanings, brings forth Allah's ﷻ mercy and guidance. As Allah ﷻ says in Surah Al-A'raf (7:204):

وَإِذَا قُرِئَ الْقُرْآنُ فَاسْتَمِعُوا لَهُ وَأَنْصِتُوا لَعَلَّكُمْ تُرْحَمُونَ



“When the Qur'an is recited, listen to it attentively and be silent, so you may be shown mercy.”

Qur'an, 7:204

Our hearts find ultimate peace and tranquility in the remembrance of Allah ﷻ, and engaging with the Qurʾān is a vital part of keeping our hearts steadfast. For those who struggle with reading and understanding the Qurʾān, it is reassuring to know that there is immense mercy in this journey.

As narrated by al-Bukhari (4937) and Muslim (798), “The one who is skilled in reciting the Qurʾān will be with the noble, honorable scribes, and the one who recites the Qurʾān and falters therein, struggling with it, will have a double reward.” This highlights that striving to understand and engage with the Qurʾān is a noble endeavor, and Allah ﷻ rewards our efforts, regardless of our level of proficiency. So, let us listen to the Qurʾān, seek to understand it, and cherish the mercy it brings into our lives, homes, and families.

Reflection and Understanding: Contextualizing the Qurʾān

The Qurʾān was revealed over a period of 23 years in various contexts and circumstances. The verses were revealed in response to specific events, questions, and challenges faced by the early Muslim community. Understanding the context in which each verse was revealed allows the reader to fully appreciate its meaning and draw inspiration for applying the teachings of the Qurʾān to our lives.

For example, some verses were revealed to address the challenges faced by the Muslims in the early years of Islam, while others were revealed in response to specific incidents, such as battles, social issues, or the treatment of specific groups of people. The verses revealed in Makkah, which focus more on building faith, differ from those revealed in Madinah, which primarily provide rules and regulations. This distinction offers valuable wisdom, highlighting that the foundation of faith in the heart must precede the implementation of guidelines for individuals and society. By studying the context of the verses, we gain a deeper understanding of how the teachings of the Qurʾān can be applied to various situations and how they remain relevant to our lives today.

This contextual understanding also enables each of us to appreciate the Qurʾān as a living text. It is not a static document but a dynamic source of guidance that addresses the evolving needs of humanity. The Qurʾān remains ever relevant, with its lessons applicable to every situation, from personal struggles to global challenges.

The Qurʾān as a Foundation and Framework for all Knowledge

The Qurʾān is not only a spiritual and moral guide; it also serves as a foundation for all knowledge. It provides a practical framework for thinking, problem-solving, building, and developing that is applicable in every facet of life. When we examine the achievements of many thinkers, inventors, polymaths, judges, reform leaders, and sultans throughout history, we find that their successes were grounded in their knowledge of the Qurʾān and its teachings. This is evident in the contributions of scientists like al-Rāzī, Ibn Sīnā, and al-Bayrūnī, as well as leaders like Salāḥ ad-Dīn al-Ayyubī and Mehmed II, among many others.

A common thread among them is a deep understanding and scholarship of the Qur'ān, which served as a foundation for their flourishing within their respective fields of specialization. The Qur'ān invites us to reflect on the natural world, observe the signs of Allah ﷻ in creation, and seek knowledge that leads to a deeper understanding of the universe and our place within it through a framework of Truth. As Allah ﷻ says in Sūrah al-A'rāf (7:52):

وَلَقَدْ جِئْنَاهُمْ بِكِتَابٍ فَصَّلْنَاهُ عَلَىٰ عِلْمٍ هُدًى وَرَحْمَةً لِّقَوْمٍ يُؤْمِنُونَ



"We have brought them a Book elucidating everything with [our] knowledge, as guidance and a mercy for people who believe."

Qur'an, 7:52

By studying the Qur'ān through the lens of building a knowledge framework, we can observe how these scholars contributed to the advancement of knowledge across various fields, including mathematics, astronomy, medicine, law, jurisprudence, social sciences, and philosophy. Their work clearly demonstrates the Qur'ān's integral connection to all areas of study and highlights how the pursuit of knowledge is a form of worship. This pursuit intertwines spiritual and cognitive development, driven by the purpose of seeking Allah's pleasure.

The Community's Connection to the Qur'ān as a Cornerstone for Success

The success of a community depends on the collective outcome of individual connections to the Qur'ān. Throughout history, during decisive moments of success, Muslims, leaders, and communities have been deeply connected to Allah ﷻ through the Qur'ān and have sought success through this bond. A notable example is narrated in a ḥadīth about 'Umar ibn al-Khaṭṭāb (ra): On the night before the battle of Badr, when the Muslims were vastly outnumbered and had very few resources, the Prophet Muhammad ﷺ remained awake weeping and praying under a tree, seeking Allah's ﷻ assistance and praying for success in the cause of Islam. This illustrates how pivotal the connection with the Qur'ān and Allah ﷻ has been in guiding and supporting the Muslim community throughout challenging times. Thereupon, Allah ﷻ revealed the following verse from Sūrah al-Anfāl (8:9):

إِذْ تَسْتَغِيثُونَ رَبَّكُمْ فَاسْتَجَابَ لَكُمْ أَنِّي مُمِدُّكُمْ بِأَلْفٍ مِّنَ الْمَلَائِكَةِ مُرَدِّفِينَ



"[Remember] when you were asking for help of your Lord, and He answered you, 'Indeed, I will reinforce you with a thousand from the angels, following one another.'"

Qur'an, 8:9

This serves as a reminder that sincerely turning to Allah ﷻ and relying wholeheartedly on Him ﷻ is met with the promise of divine support. Such verses in the Qurʾān strengthen the believers' reliance, especially during their most desperate moments. Similarly, it is narrated that Salahuddin al-Ayyubi would walk through the camp of his soldiers' at night, and on one such occasion, he heard the recitation of the Qurʾān during their night Qiyām prayers. Both of these accounts highlight the importance for both leaders and community members to maintain a profound connection to the Qurʾān. This deep bond ensures that the community remains firmly rooted and strives toward collective success.

Conclusion: Embracing the Qurʾān as a Lifelong Guide for Transformation

Living the Glorious Qurʾān is not merely about recitation or memorization; it is about embodying its teachings and values in our daily lives and communities. As a divine guide for humanity, the Qurʾān offers profound insights that shape our spiritual, moral, and intellectual frameworks. It invites us to reflect deeply on our existence, urging us to seek knowledge, justice, and compassion in every aspect of our lives. By fostering a connection with the Qurʾān—listening to it, understanding its context, and applying its lessons—we open our hearts to Allah's ﷻ mercy and guidance.

As we strive to instill a love for the Qurʾān in future generations, we must remember that our efforts extend beyond ourselves. They impact our families, communities, and ultimately, society as a whole. The transformative power of the Qurʾān can uplift individuals and groups alike, driving us toward a more just and compassionate world. It is our responsibility to convey the enduring wisdom of the Qurʾān in a way that ensures it resonates across generations, guiding us and those who come after us.

May Allah ﷻ inspire us to read, reflect upon, and live by the Qurʾān, recognizing it as a living text that speaks to the needs of humanity in every era. Ameen.