

Our obligations towards the Qur'an and what is the benefit of reading the Qur'an?

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The Qur'an was revealed in Ramadan as guidance to mankind

Ramadan is the (month) in which was sent down the Qur-an, as a guide to mankind, also Clear (Signs) for guidance and judgment (between right and wrong).

Al-Baqara 2: 185

Our obligations towards the Qur'an

1- To read it as often as possible with attention and devotion:

Recite what is sent of the Book by inspiration to thee, and establish regular Prayer: for Prayer restrains from shameful and unjust deeds; and remembrance of Allah is the greatest (thing in life) without doubt. And Allah knows the (deeds) that ye do.

Al-Ankabut 29: 45

We should be humble, sincere and devoted when reading the Qur'an or reciting it in our prayers:

The Believers must (eventually) win through,

Al-Mumenoun 23: 1

Those who humble themselves in their prayers;

Al-Mumenoun 23: 2

2-To study its verses and reflect and try to understand its meaning and message

and We have sent down unto thee (also) the Message; that thou mayest explain clearly to men what is sent for them, and that they may give thought.

An-Nahl 16: 44

(Here is) a Book which We have sent down unto thee, full of blessings, that they may meditate on its Signs, and that men of understanding may receive admonition.

Sa D 38: 29

3-To apply the guidelines of the Qur'an in our character and behavior

Aesha was asked about the character of the Prophet (PBUH) and she said: (His Character was that of the Qur'an) Bokhari

4-To teach the Qur'an to others and to spread its useful message

Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) said: (The best among you is the person who learns the Qur'an and teaches it to others) Bokhari

5-To defend the Qur'an against those who distort its message

Ye shall certainly be tried and tested in your possessions and in your personal selves; and ye shall certainly hear much that will grieve you, from those who received the Book before you and from those who worship many gods. But if ye persevere patiently, and guard against evil, then that will be a determining factor in all affairs.

Al-Imran 3: 186

Rather than react in emotional outcry we need to respond in a calm way and explain that the Qur'an is the word of God, and that it was meant to guide us and improve our behavior.

Those burning the Qur'an are only burning paper, for the message of the Qur'an is alive in the hearts and minds of Muslims all over the world:

Nay, here are Signs self-evident in the hearts of those endowed with knowledge: and none but the unjust reject Our Signs.

Al-Ankabut 29: 49

Many Americans are ignorant about the Qur'an and its universal message of hope, guidance and are not aware of its benefits. As Muslims living here in America as a minority among a non-Muslim majority it is important not to isolate ourselves, but to keep our Islamic centers open, and to reach out, work with and cooperate with non-Muslims. This way they begin to know us and understand that we want to live in peace, and that Muslims do not hate non-Muslims.

To get the most benefit of the Qur'an we should:

1-Read it slowly and properly and listen attentively

When the Qur-an is read, listen to it with attention, and hold your peace: that ye may receive Mercy.

Al-Araf 7: 204

And:

Move not thy tongue concerning the (Qur-an) to make haste therewith.

Al-Qiama 75: 16

It is for Us to collect it and to promulgate it:

Al-Qiama 75: 17

But when We have promulgated it, follow thou its recital (as promulgated):

Al-Qiama 75: 18

Nay more, it is for Us to explain it (and make it clear):

Al-Qiama 75: 19

2-We should study the Qur'an and reflect on its verses

And among His Signs is this, that He created for you mates from among yourselves, that ye may dwell in tranquility with them, and He has put love and mercy between your (hearts): verily in that are Signs for those who reflect.

Ar-Rum 30: 21

When we understand that our spouses are a mercy and blessing from God and that our relationship is based on kindness, love and mercy and that we find peace and tranquility in them, we should reflect this understanding in the way that we treat our spouses.

3-We need to increase our faith and submit to Allah and turn to Him seeking His guidance

And that those on whom knowledge has been bestowed may learn that the (Qur-an) is the Truth from thy Lord, and that they may believe therein, and their hearts may be made humbly (open) to it: for verily Allah is the Guide of those who believe, to the Straight Way.

Al-Hajj 22 : 54

The benefit of reading the Qur'an and applying it in our lives

1-The Qur'an is a guidance from Allah

2-It is a mercy

3-It is a cure for the ills in our hearts

4-It is a reminder of our accountability to Allah

5-It promises us a great reward

O mankind! there hath come to you a direction from your Lord and a healing for the (diseases) in your hearts, and for those who believe, a Guidance and a Mercy.

Yunus 10: 57

We send down (stage by stage) in the Qur-an that which is a healing and a mercy to those who believe: to the unjust it causes nothing but loss after loss.

Al-Isra'a 17: 82

Verily this Qur-an doth guide to that which is most right (or stable), and giveth the glad tidings to the Believers who work deeds of righteousness, that they shall have a magnificent reward;

Al-Isra ' a 17: 9

Those who rehearse the Book of Allah, establish regular Prayer, and spend (in Charity) out of what We have provided for them, secretly and openly, hope for a Commerce that will never fail:

Fatir 35: 29

For He will pay them their meed, nay, He will give them (even) more out of His Bounty; for He is Oft-Forgiving, Most Ready to appreciate (service).

Fatir 35: 30

Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) said:

(Whoever was preoccupied with the Qur'an that he/ she did not ask Me for anything, I will give him better than what I give to those who call on Me and ask Me. The distinction of Allah's words over the words of human beings is like the distinction of Allah over His creation) Termedhi.

6-Peace and contentment

"Those who believe, and whose hearts find satisfaction in the remembrance of Allah: for without doubt in the remembrance of Allah do hearts find satisfaction.

Ar'R'd 13: 28

"For those who believe and work righteousness, is (every) blessedness, and a beautiful place of (final) return."

Ar'R'd 13: 29

7-The Qur'an intercedes on our behalf on the Day of Judgment

Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) said:

(Fasting and the Qur'an intercede on behalf the servant of Allah on the Day of Judgment. Fasting says: "O Lord I prevented him from his food and desires, allow me to intercede on his behalf"; and the Qur'an says: "O Lord I prevented him from sleeping at night, allow me to intercede on his behalf") Ahmad, Tabarani & Hakim

8-Those who have excelled in the Qur'an are with the Angels

Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) said:

(The person who is clever in the Qur'an is with the Angels, honorable righteous ambassadors; and the person who reads the Qur'an but it is difficult on him will; get double the reward) Muslim

Deserting the Qur'an

If we do not read the Qur'an on a regular basis, or forget what we have memorized because we did not study it often, or if we do not apply Qur'anic teachings in our lives, then we have deserted the Qur'an. The Qur'an refers to this :

Then the Messenger will say: "O my Lord! truly my people took this Qur-an for just foolish nonsense."

Al-Furqan 25: 30

Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) said:

(The example of the person who have studied and memorized the Qur'an is that of a person who owns camels that he tied up. If he takes care of it, he keeps it, but if he let it go lose, it will run away)

Bokhari, Muslim & Ahmad

(If the person who knows the Qur'an reads it by day and by night , he will remember it; but if does not do that he will forget what he knew of the Qur'an)

Muslim

What is the meaning that the Qur'an is a guidance to mankind?

-The Qur'an is God's last divine revelation to mankind:

This day have I perfected your religion for you, completed My favour upon you, and have chosen for you Islam as your religion.

Al-Maeda 5: 3

-Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) is God's last prophet & messenger

Muhammad is not the father of any of your men, but (he is) the Messenger of Allah, and the Seal of the Prophets: and Allah has full knowledge of all things.

Al-Ahzab 33: 40

Therefore, the Qur'an and the prophet's teachings must be applicable in all societies. The Qur'an confirms this concept:

Alif Lam Ra. A Book which We have revealed unto thee, in order that thou mightest lead mankind out of the depths of darkness into light - by the leave of their Lord - to the Way of (Him) the Exalted in Power, Worthy of all Praise!

Ibrahim 14: 1

And:

Blessed is He Who sent down the Criterion to His servant, that it may be an admonition to all creatures;

Al-Furqan 25: 1

Since Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) is God's last messenger, then it stands to reason that he was sent as a universal messenger to all mankind. The Qur'an confirms this concept:

Say: "O men! I am sent unto you all, as the Messenger of Allah

Al-Araf 7: 158

And:

We have not sent thee but as a universal (Messenger) to men, giving them glad tidings, and warning them (against sin), but most men understand not.

Sa Ba 34: 28

And

We sent thee not, but as a mercy for all creatures.

Al-Anbia'a 21: 104

Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) said:

(I have been preferred over other prophet: I was given eloquence in speech; and victory over my enemies because they get terrified; spoils of war were allowed for me; the whole earth was made suitable as clean and fit to pray in; and I was sent to all mankind; and I was made the last of the prophets) Muslim & Termedhi

The Prophet's teachings are applicable today in any society if we follow the concept and spirit of his sayings and are not stuck on the literal words.

It is the shortcomings of Muslims that we do not explain the Prophet's life story and his teachings to non-Muslims. We have failed as Muslims in spreading the tolerant and peaceful teachings of Islam which respects religious freedom and man's right to choose his fate. On the contrary a small group of fanatics have succeeded in portraying Islam as a hateful violent religion. With their attitudes and killings and terror they have sabotaged the efforts of moderate Muslims and they have twisted and altered the true teachings of Islam. Rather than being the spokesman for Islam, these fanatics and radicals are the enemies of Islam. They are not Muslims for they have rejected the noble teachings of the Qur'an and distorted the teachings of the Prophet (PBUH).