

What are our obligations towards the Qur'an?, and what is the benefit of reading the Qur'an? And how can we get the most benefit?

BS Foad, M.D 2010

The Qur'an was revealed during the month of Ramadan as a guidance to mankind:

"Ramadan is the month in which the Qur'a was sent down, as a guide to mankind, also clear Signs of guidance and judgment between right and wrong" Al-Baqara 2: 185

Our obligations towards the Qur'an:

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

"Recite what is sent of the Book by inspiration to you and establish regular prayer" Al-Ankabut 29: 45

2-To try and understand its message and guidance 3-To apply its guidelines in our character and behavior. Aesha said when asked about the Prophet's character? (His character was that of the Qur'an) Bokhari

4-To teach it to others and 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 it against those who distort its message: *"You shall certainly be tried and tested in your possessions and in yourselves; and you shall hear much that will grieve you from those who received the Book before you and from those who worship many gods. But if you patiently persevere, and guard against evil, that requires resolve" Al-Imran 3: 186*

How can we get the benefit of the Qur'an?

1-Being sincere and devoted 2- Reading the Qur'an with attention and focus and not being distracted

"When the Qur'an is read, listen to it with attention, and hold your peace, that you may receive mercy"

Al-Araf 7: 204 3-Studying the Qur'an and reflecting on its verses: *"A Book which We have sent down to you, full of blessings, that they may reflect on its signs, and that those of understanding may remember their duty to Allah" Sa D 38: 29.* 4-Turning to Allah seeking His guidance

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

The Qur'an is a divine revelation to all mankind, and not just for Muslims:

"Alif Lam Ra. A Book which We have revealed to you, in order that you may lead mankind out of the depths of darkness into light" Ibrahim 14: 1

The Qur'an is the last Divine revelation, and Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) is God's last messenger sent as a universal messenger to all mankind. It is the fault and shortcoming of Muslims that they do not explain this concept, and do not portray proper Islam in their character and behavior. What non-Muslims see in the news media will certainly turn them off and have a show a negative image of Islam

"Say: "O mankind I am the messenger of Allah sent to you all" Al-Araf 7: 158

"We have sent you but as a universal messenger to all mankind" Sa Ba 34: 28

Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) said: (And the messenger used to be sent specifically for his own people, but I was sent to all mankind) Bokhari

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

1-Guidance 2- Reminder of our accountability 3- Mercy 4- Cure for the ills in our hearts

5-Promising God's reward and good pleasure 6-Peace and contentment 7-The Qur'an will intercede

on our behalf on the Day of Judgment 8-Those who have excelled in the Qur'an are with the Angels

"O mankind there has come to you from your Lord a reminder and a healing for the ills in your hearts, and for those who believe a guidance and a mercy" Yunus 10: 57

"We sent down in the Qur'an that which is a healing and a mercy to those who believe" Al-Isra'a 17: 82

"Indeed this Qur'an guides to that which is right and gives glad tidings to those who believe and do righteous deeds that they will have a great reward" Al-Isra'a 17: 9

"Those who rehearse the Book of Allah, establish regular prayer, and spend out of what We provided for them in charity, secretly and openly, hope for a reward that will never fail. For Allah will give them their dues, and will give them more out of His bounty, for He is often-forgiving, ready to appreciate service"

Fatir 35: 29 & 30. Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) said: (Fasting and the Qur'an intercede on behalf a

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

Deserting the Qur'an involves not reading it, or forgetting what we had memorized, or not

studying it, or not applying its guidelines, or not teaching it to our children. "And the Prophet said: "

O my Lord my people have deserted this Qur'an" Al-Furaqan 25: 30