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Virtues of the **QURAN**

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Reading the Quran, learning it, memorising it, understanding and studying it, contemplating and reflecting over it, acting in accordance to its teachings and calling towards it, all are virtuous and rewarding actions in Islam. The Quran is God's speech and communication to mankind, and as such, it is something that should be an integral part of our lives. The Messenger Muhammad said, "The best amongst you are those who learn the Quran and teach it."



For many of us, with Arabic not being our first language, we may struggle to read the Quran. This may lead to frustration or worse, despair and giving up. However, the Messenger Muhammad informed us that the effort and time made in attempting to recite the Quran correctly is not wasted. He said, "The fluent reader of the Quran will be in the company of the noble angels. As for the ones who read and stutter due to finding it difficult, they will have a double reward." This narration not only tells us about the reward of the Quran student, but gives us an incentive to want to become fluent readers of the Quran.



In another teaching, the Messenger Muhammad said, "Read the Quran, for it will come and intercede for its readers on the Day of Judgement. Read the chapters of The Cow and the Family of Imran [chapters 2 and 3] for they will come as clouds or a flock of birds on the Day of Judgement, interceding on behalf of their readers."



Every letter of the Quran read is equal to ten rewards. Therefore, each time you read even the shortest chapter of the Quran, it is extremely rewarding. The Messenger Muhammad said, "Whosoever reads a word of the Quran will be given ten rewards. I do not say that 'Alif lam meem' is a word. Rather, 'alif' is a word, 'lam' is a word and 'meem' is a word." If you were to count the words of the first chapter of the Quran alone, of which there are twenty-five, and then multiply that by ten, there would be two hundred and fifty good deeds from reciting that chapter alone.



Every passage you memorize of the Quran will translate to a level higher in Paradise. This alone is an amazing reward. Although memorization can be difficult in the beginning, training and practice, along with frequent repetition can make this task easier. The Messenger Muhammad said, "The person who memorizes the Quran will be told to ascend a level in Paradise for every passage they have memorized. Their final level will be with the final passage they have memorized."



Islam is based on the Quran, alongside the teachings of the Messenger Muhammad. The Messenger Muhammad told us that the Quran is the rope that extends down to us from the heavens. He spent much of his life teaching and explaining the Quran. He in turn encouraged his disciples to learn the Quran and teach it to others. Thus, the Quran has been studied and taught, being passed down from generation to generation in this way. For this reason, the Messenger Muhammad told us that the people of the Quran are God's special people.



The Messenger Muhammad taught us to honor and respect the people of the Quran. He instructed that the person who leads the congregational daily ritual prayers should be the one most versed in the Quran. He further said, "It is from the glorification of God to honor the one who has memorized the Quran."



Reading, learning and studying the Quran is crucial for all Muslims. It is from the Quran that we learn who God truly is and what God wants and what pleases Him. The Quran is the foundation of learning Islam. The Messenger Muhammad gave the parable of the one who learns from the guidance of the Quran and the Messenger Muhammad and the one who does not. He said, "The example of the guidance and knowledge that God sent me with is like the example of heavy rain.

The rain strikes the earth, some if it is good and fertile soil which accepts the rain and thus brings forth vegetation and fodder. Other parts of the earth hold the water on the surface, thereby allowing others to drink and benefit. Yet other parts of the earth are barren, neither holding the water nor providing plants. This is the example of the one who learns the religion of God and teaches others, and the example of the one who pays no heed to it and does not accept that guidance."



Therefore, to dedicating time to learning the Quran, whether it is learning to read it, memorizing it, understanding and studying it, contemplating and reflecting over it, all are worthwhile pursuits and noble actions. Each day, we should set some time aside to connect with the Quran, bearing in mind all the virtues and rewards mentioned above.

