

# New Muslims Class

LESSON 10

## Introduction to the Qur'an



DISCOVER ISLAM

# Today's Agenda

- **Review of Last Week's Lesson (Lesson 10 – Key Figures)**
- **Part 3: Lesson Eleven – Intro to the Quran**
  - Understand importance of Qur'an
  - Understand how it was revealed and compiled
  - Understand what we may learn from it and how to approach its study
  - Explain basic manners for handling, reciting and listening to Qur'an

# The Qur'an– What is it?

- **Word of Allah.** An attribute of Allah that was preserved word for word, letter for letter, inflection for inflection. Not anyone's words, nor does it resemble anyone's words.
- **Eternal challenge to mankind.** Allah revealed the Quran in the tongue of the Arabs in a period at the height of their eloquence, yet they were dumbfounded by it.
- **Contains commandments and prohibitions.** Explains the purpose of our existence, and the wisdom of the world etc...

# History of Revelation

- **When it was revealed: started in Ramadan at Ghar Hira (a cave in a small mountain near Mecca).**
  - The Prophet, peace be upon him, was meditating when visited by Jibreel (as).
  - The first revelation-- *Iqra*.
- **It was revealed over a period of 23 years. Dealt with situations and addressed people as situations occurred.**
- **Methods of revelation**

# History of Revelation

- **Two distinct periods with their own character.**
  - Meccan focus is on instilling creed, heaven and hell, unity of Allah.
  - Medinan: focus establishing rules of the state etc.
- ***Asbaab an-Nuzool* (the reasons for revelation)**

# Format of the Qur'an

- Chapters and verses
- Tafseer
- Translations
- Can find roman transliterations — but learn with someone

# Format of the Qur'an

- Compiled into one book after the death of the Prophet (s) by Abu Bakr and 'Uthman (ra).
- One scholar has said that there are 3 basic themes in the Qur'an: *tawheed, risaala, aakhira*
- Recitation: Tajweed

# Reward for Reciting the Qur'an

- For each letter you get reward

“The servant gets nearest unto God by means of reciting the Qur'an” (Tirmadhi)

- The best worship of Allah is recitation of his book with and without understanding
- The Qur'an has the history of those who passed and those who will come
- There are warnings against not following it
- It keeps one company in grave and intercedes on one's behalf on Day of Judgment



# Recitation

- **Basic prerequisites**
  - Have a deep faith that it is the Word of Allah.
  - Recite with the intention of purifying oneself, coming closer to Allah and seeking His pleasure.
  - Continuously thank Allah for the blessing of the Qur'an.
  - Accept and trust, without any doubt, all knowledge and guidance contained within it. Surrender to its message.
  - Make an effort to change your life, attitudes and behavior based on its message.
  - Be in a state of wudu—unlawful to touch the Qur'an without it.

# Recitation

- Try to read a little bit every day and ponder on meaning. Do what you can do consistently.
- Listen attentively when it is being recited – wrong to converse when people are reciting the Qur'an.
- When you finish a full recitation of the Qur'an, try to do the following.
- Spend time pondering the meanings.
- Is a healing, physical and psychological

*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 (The Journey by Night) (17:82 )*

# Basic Adab (Etiquette) of the Qur'an

- Don't touch the Qur'an except in the state of ritual purity in wudu, and recite it when in a state of ritual purity;
- Brush one's teeth with a toothstick (*siwak*), remove food particles from between the them, and to freshen one's mouth before reciting, since it is the way through which the Qur'an passes;
- Sit up straight if not in prayer, and not lean back;
- Dress for reciting as if intending to visit a prince, for the reciter is engaged in an intimate discourse;
- Face the direction of prayer (*qiblah*) to recite;
- When beginning to recite, take refuge from in Allah from the accursed Devil and say the *Basmala*, whether one has begun at the first *surah* or some other part one has reached;
- Recite it leisurely and without haste, distinctly pronouncing each letter;

# Basic Adab (Etiquette) of the Qur'an

- Pause at verses that promise Allah's favour, to long for Allah Most High and ask of His bounty; and at verses that warn of His punishment to ask Him to save one from it;
- Give each letter its due so as to clearly and fully pronounce every word, for each letter counts as ten good deeds;
- Don't place other books upon the Qur'an, which should always be higher than all other books, whether they are books of Sacred Knowledge or something else;
- Place the Qur'an on one's lap when reading; or on something in front of one, not on the floor;
- Don't let a day go by without looking at least once at the pages of the Qur'an;
- Don't recite it out aloud over another's reciting of it, so as to spoil it for him or make him resent what he hears, making it as if it were some kind of competition;
- If one finishes reciting the entire Qur'an, begin it anew, that it may not resemble something that has been abandoned.

# Du'as From the Qur'an

- **Du'as of gaining knowledge**

High above all is Allah, the King, the Truth! Be not in haste with the Qur'an before its revelation to thee is completed, but say, "O my Lord! advance me in knowledge." (20:114)

"O my Lord! bestow wisdom on me, and join me with the righteous; (26:83)

- **Du'a of Glorifying Allah**

"So (give) glory to Allah, when ye reach eventide and when ye rise in the morning. Yea, to Him be praise, in the heavens and on earth; and in the late afternoon and when the day begins to decline." (30:17-19)

"Men who celebrate the praises of Allah, standing, sitting, and lying down on their sides, and contemplate the (wonders of) creation in the heavens and the earth, (With the thought): "Our Lord! not for naught Hast Thou created (all) this! Glory to Thee! Give us salvation from the penalty of the Fire." (3:191)

- **Du'a of Seeking Guidance**

"Our Lord!" (they say), "Let not our hearts deviate now after Thou hast guided us, but grant us mercy from Thine own Presence; for Thou art the Grantor of bounties without measure. (3:8)

# New Muslims Class

## LESSON 11 Appendix



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# Glossary

**Qur'an:** Lit. Recitation, lecture. The Holy Book of Islam, the uncreated word of God, the final scripture as revealed to the Prophet Muhammad <sup>SAW</sup> through the Angel Gabriel.

**Surah:** A chapter of the Qur'an

**Du'a:** Supplication.

**Tawheed:** The oneness of Allah. Refers to the fact that there is nothing worthy of worship except Allah, and that nothing can exist except by His will.

**Risaala:** The message. Can refer to the message to any of the prophets, but generally refers to the revelation to the Prophet Muhammad (s).

**Aakhira:** The Hereafter.

**Tajweed:** Literally means "to make better". Refers to reciting the Qur'an in an excellent manner, following the rules of recitation as taught by the Prophet (s).

**Asbaab an-Nuzool:** Context of revelation (of specific verses of the Qur'an).

**Ghar Hira:** The Cave of Hira where the Prophet (s) first received revelation from Allah via the Angel Jibreel (as).

**Iqra:** "Read". The command to the Prophet (s) to read, which was the first word of the Qur'an revealed.

**Adab:** Etiquettes or manners.

# FAQs

## 1. Where in the Qur'an should I start reading? Which surahs are important to start with?

- *You can begin where ever you want.*
- *Possibility: start with Fatiha, since that's the opening of the Qur'an and critical to know for prayers.*
- *Possibility: You can start with last 30<sup>th</sup> surahs of the Qur'an, which contains the shortest surahs. That way you can read the small surahs and perhaps memorize a few for the prayers.*
- *Another thing you can do is buy a concordance of the Qur'an. A concordance is like a full indexing of the subjects and words contained in the Qur'an. So you can search on subjects and read those parts first (e.g. stories of the prophets, peace be upon them all).*
- *In any case, it is praiseworthy to try to read the Qur'an all the way through, at your own pace. Try to read a little bit each day, as this will make it close to your heart and protect you, insha-Allah.*



# FAQs

## 2. How can I learn Arabic?

- *First, do not be discouraged about this new and different language– 82% of Muslims are non-Arabic speakers, so they all had to learn to read Arabic at some point or another.*
- *You can start with some beginner-level “readers” for learning the Arabic letters. It may be advisable to find a native speaker to spend 2-3 hours a week with you to practice your letters and words.*
- *Then try reading some Qur'an– you will be surprised how quickly you can start to pick it up. Again, do this with a friend or teacher who can spend some consistent time with you.*
- *The New Muslims Class offers a sister class for Arabic, called the NMC Arabic Class. This is taught with the intention to teach new muslims arabic in an easy and approachable manner. Contact [newmuslimsarabic@yahoo.com](mailto:newmuslimsarabic@yahoo.com) for more information.*
- *Always remember that you are getting reward for every letter read, especially if you are new and struggling– there is extra reward for this effort!*

# References

1. Murad, Khurram; Way to the Qur'an; The Islamic Foundation, 1997.
2. Von Denffer, Ahmad; Ulum-ul-Qur'an: An Introduction to the Sciences of the Qur'an; The Islamic Foundation, 1994