

# THE HOLY QURAN

## القرآن الكريم

### Objectives >>>

#### Students should:

- Understand the origin of the Qur'ān is from Allah (SWT)
- Know the basic structure of the Qur'ān and be aware it is in Arabic
- Memorise the names of some ṣurah
- Know the etiquettes and rules of handling the Qur'ān
- Understand that the Qur'ān is the word of Allah
- Know the rewards of looking at, reading and memorising the words of the Qur'ān
- Learn about the first revelation
- Understand the importance of putting the Qur'ān into practice
- Learn two important lessons from the Qur'ān

FUNDAMENTALS OF ISLAM

LEVEL 2

### Lesson 1: The Qur'ān: a Gift from Allah (SWT)



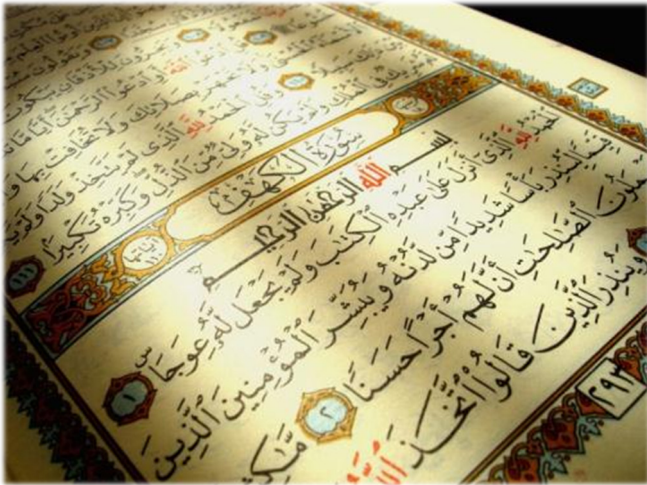
Allah (SWT) has given us many gifts, including wonderful eyes to see with, our ears to listen with, flowers to smell, the sun for warmth, and so on. Everything in the Universe is there for our benefit and enjoyment. There is one special gift He has sent to help us become good Muslims. That gift is the Qur'ān. Have a look at a copy of the Qur'ān. It is not written in English, but in a language called Arabic. This is the language of Arabia, where Prophet Muḥammad was born and lived.

### THE WORDS OF ALLAH

The Qur'ān contains the words of Allah. Allah revealed the Qur'ān to the Prophet, letter by letter. The Prophet (saw) would then speak these words to the people around him. The words were sent to the Prophet by Allah through an angel, called Jibrā'īl or Gabriel. Prophet Muḥammad then recited the words to people, and many would remember them by heart. He also asked special people called scribes to write down these words. The Qur'ān was not sent all in one go, it was sent part by part over 23 years.

## THE LANGUAGE OF THE QUR'ĀN

The Qur'ān is in the Arabic language. Have a look at your copy of the Qur'ān and look at the Arabic letters.



### **Class Discussion**

What differences can you see between Arabic and English writing?

Yes, the sentences start from right to left, and the first page is at the other end of the book compared to an English book.

## THE STORY OF THE FIRST REVELATION

Allah sent message to the Prophets in many different ways. Have you heard the story of how Allah (SWT) sent a message to Prophet Ibrāhīm in his dream, or how he talked to prophet Musa (as) through a burning bush?

The way that Allah (SWT) usually sent messages to Prophet Muhammad was through the angel Gabriel. Prophet Muḥammad used to leave his hometown Mecca and go to a nearby cave called the cave of Ḥira. Sitting there alone, till late at night, he used to think about many things, such as the universe, and who created it and all the things in it.



One day, the Prophet (saw) heard the voice of the angel Gabriel telling him “Read!”

He said in surprise, “What shall I read?”

Again the voice very clearly called out, “Read, O Muḥammad!”

And a third time angel Gabriel repeated, “Read in the Name of Your Lord Who created...”

When Prophet Muḥammad said these words, Gabriel said to him: “I am Gabriel and you Muḥammad are the Messenger of Allah”.

After this first experience, Prophet Muhammad (saw) felt like he had been given a great responsibility and when he got home he told his wife about this. She told him: ‘you are a good man and you treat people well, Allah will help you on this mission.’ The Prophet (saw) then told her he was tired, and asked her to bring him a blanket. He then went to sleep, and received another revelation soon after that telling him to start spreading the message of Islam.

This first revelation, or *wahy*, as it is called in Arabic, were the first five āyāt of Surat ‘Alaq. Angel Gabriel continued to bring āyāt of the Qur’ān to Prophet Muḥammad in this way for the next 23 years. Most of the āyāt were revealed in Mecca or Medina. Sometimes, the angel came when the Prophet (saw) was alone, and sometimes, when he was with other people. No one else could see or hear the angel except Prophet Muḥammad (saw).

### **Memorisation Activity**

اقْرَأْ بِاسْمِ رَبِّكَ الَّذِي خَلَقَ

“Read in the name of your Lord Who created.” (96:1)

### **Class Activity**

Split into groups of three. Act out the story of the first revelation. One person should be the narrator, another should play the role of Angel Gabriel, and a third person play the role of the Prophet.

## Review Questions:

**Q1. The name of the angel who brought the messages of Allah (SWT) to the Prophet was:**

- Gabriel
- Michael
- Israfil

**Q2. The Qur'an was revealed to the Prophet (saw):**

- In one go
- Part by part over 23 years
- Part by part over 10 years

**Q3. The Qur'an is the:**

- The Word of God
- The words of the prophet
- Neither of the above

## Lesson 2: The Qur'an and Me

In this lesson, we will talk about some of the ways that we can use this amazing gift from Allah (SWT) called the Qur'an.

### READING AND MEMORIZING THE QUR'AN

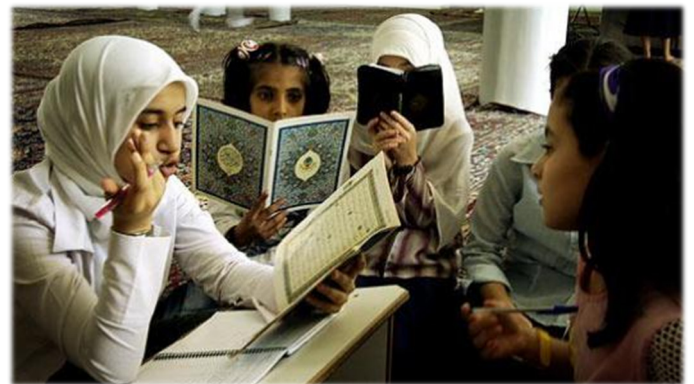
The Qur'an is divided into chapters, each of which has a name.

- A chapters of the Qur'an is called a *ṣurah*
- Each *ṣurah* is made up of sentences. These sentences are called *āyāt*, which means signs in the Arabic language.
- The shortest *ṣurah* is called *Ṣurat Kawthar*, and it has only 3 *āyāt*
- The longest *surah* is *Ṣurat Baqarah*, and it has more than 250 *āyāt*
- The first *ṣurah* in the Qur'an is called *Ṣurah Fātiha*. It has seven *āyāt* and is recited every day in our daily prayers.
- The *ṣurahs* towards the end of the Qur'an are also quite short, and can be learnt by heart easily, so we can recite them in our daily prayers.

There are many reasons why we should learn the *ṣurahs* of the Qur'an by heart or at least read them from the Qur'an as much as we can.

1. We get many rewards from Allah (SWT). After we die, every *ṣurah* we have memorised will be an extremely beautiful person who will come to keep us company when we are frightened or lonely.
2. Each *ṣurah* has a lesson and a moral which we can then follow in our life.
3. When we recite the Qur'an in our house, the angels see our house from the sky, shining bright as a star on earth.
4. When we recite the Qur'an, angels enter our house and bless it.

### WHAT DOES THE QUR'AN TALK ABOUT?



In the Qur'an, Allah talks to us about many different things. He tells us the stories of the Prophets, He tells us about Islamic rules, and He tells us how to how to behave as good Muslims. He also talks about Himself, the Judgment Day, angels and many other things we can't see or hear. These are all very important things, and if we want to know about them, we have to learn how to read and then understand the Qur'an.

### HOW TO FIND A SŪRAH AND ĀYAH IN THE QUR'AN:

Let us do some exercises to get more familiar with the Qur'an.

As we know from before the Qur'an has 114 Chapters or 'sūrah'. The number of *āyāt* in Qur'an is 6205. Sometimes, when someone wants us to know where an *āyah* is in the Qur'an they give us the *sūrah* number and the *āyah* number. For example, let us try to find the *āyah* about being good to our parents that we talked about last week. Remember, the *sūrah* number was 17, and

the āyah number was 23, so usually it would be written like this:

17:23

Now, try to find the following āyāt in your copy of the Holy Qur'an:

- 78:3
- 10:30
- 2:225
- 3:55
- 4:90

## HOW TO LOOK AFTER AND RESPECT THE QURAN

We have to look after the Holy Qur'an because it is such a special book. There are some rules about what we should do when we want to read it.

- We must never touch the writing of the Qur'an without first having Wuḍū'
- We must always recite it to gain rewards from Allah
- We must hold the Qur'an properly (as your teacher will show you)
- We should not leave it open when no one is reciting it.
- We should try to face Qiblah while reciting the Qur'an
- When someone is reciting the Qur'an, we must listen quietly, and not talk
- We should never keep the Qur'an on the floor
- Before starting to recite the Holy Qur'an, we should say:

### Memorisation Activity

اعوذ بالله من الشيطان الرجيم

I seek refuge in Allah from Satan, the outcast.

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

I begin in the name of Allah, the Most Kind, the Merciful.

## Review Questions

**Q1. The first ṣurah in the Qur'an is called:**

- Ṣurah Fātiha
- Ṣurat Ikhlas
- Surah Baqarah

**Q2. When someone is reciting the Qur'an:**

- We should listen and pay attention
- We do not need to listen

## Lesson 3: the Message of the Qur'an

### REVIEW: THE REWARDS OF LOOKING AT THE QUR'AN AND RECITING IT

In our last lessons, we learnt that reading the Qur'an makes Allah pleased with us, and gives us many benefits and a lot of rewards. Even if we listen respectfully when someone else is reciting the Qur'an, Allah (SWT) rewards us.

However, it is most rewarding if we recite the Qur'an ourselves.

Imam al-Ṣādiq (as): "Recite the Holy Qur'an, and memorise it. Allah will not punish the heart which has Qur'an in it."

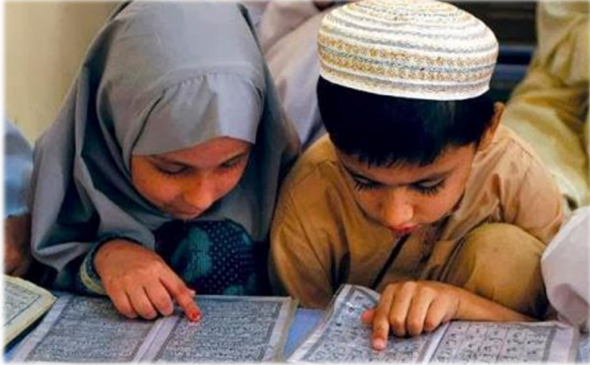
Although there are many benefits of learning the ṣurahs of the Qur'an by heart, it is good to still recite those ṣurahs you have memorised by looking at them in the Qur'an. Firstly, we get reward for holding the Qur'an and then for looking at the words of the Qur'an.

Have you seen how iron nails gather rust when they are left out in the rain? Our heart gathers "rust" too from our bad deeds, but by reciting the Quran we can remove this "rust" and polish and shine our hearts.

Prophet Muhammad (saw) said that whoever recites the Qur'an, Allah will reward him by saving him from suffering on the Judgment Day.<sup>i</sup> On top of that, we get ten rewards for every letter of the Qur'an that we

recite. Also, our homes become brighter if we read the Qur'an and they are visited by angels.

We are also taught by our Imams that it is better to recite out loud rather than quietly or in a whisper. Reciting the Qur'an loudly spreads its benefits to those who listen to it too, and has other benefits as well.



## A MESSAGE FROM THE QUR'ĀN

As we learnt in previous lessons, the Qur'an is a book that teaches us what Allah wants from us and how to live. Let's look at some of the things that the Qur'an teaches us.

### BEING GOOD TO OUR PARENTS

One of the main messages of the Qur'an is that we should be good to our parents, respect them and show them love at all times. The Qur'an says:

لَا تَعْبُدُونَ إِلَّا اللَّهَ وَالْوَالِدَيْنِ إِحْسَانًا

“Do not worship anyone but Allah and be good to your parents” (2:83)

One day, a person came to the Prophet (saw) and asked him: “who is the person that I should treat with the most respect?” The Prophet (saw) said: “your mother”.

The man asked: “then who?” The Prophet (saw) said: “your mother”. The man asked: “then who?” The Prophet (saw) said: “your mother”. The man asked: “then who?” The Prophet (saw) said: “your father”. The Prophet (saw) also said: “God is pleased when the parents are pleased, and God is not pleased when the parents are not pleased”. This shows just how important it is to be good to our parents. If we are not good to our parents, then we will be kept very far away from Paradise and will not be allowed to enter it.<sup>ii</sup>

## Class Activity

Let's all sing the following nashīd together and try to memorise it:

"<sup>i</sup> Who should I give my love to?  
My respect and my honor to  
Who should I pay good mind to?  
After Allah  
And Rasulallah

Comes your mother  
Who next? Your mother  
Who next? Your mother  
And then your father

Cause who used to hold you  
And clean you and clothes you  
Who used to feed you?  
And always be with you  
When you were sick  
Stay up all night  
Holding you tight  
That's right no other  
Your mother (My mother)

Who should I take good care of?  
Giving all my love  
Who should I think most of?  
After Allah  
And Rasulallah

Comes your mother  
Who next? Your mother  
Who next? Your mother  
And then your father

Cause who used to hear you  
Before you could talk  
Who used to hold you?  
Before you could walk  
And when you fell who picked you up  
Clean your cut  
No one but your mother  
My mother

Who should I stay right close to?  
Listen most to  
Never say no to  
After Allah  
And Rasulallah

Comes your mother

Who next? Your mother  
Who next? Your mother  
And then your father

Cause who used to hug you  
And buy you new clothes  
Comb your hair  
And blow your nose  
And when you cry  
Who wiped your tears?  
Knows your fears  
Who really cares?  
My mother

Say Alhamdulillah  
Thank you Allah  
Thank you Allah  
For my mother

## THE IMAMS' GOODNESS TO THEIR PARENTS

Imam al-Sajjad (as) was very careful to follow the teaching of the Qur'an and always be respectful to his mother and treat her well. In fact, he would never sit down to eat a meal together with his mother. One day, someone asked the Imam (as) why he did this. The Imam (as) said that he did not eat with his mother in case while they were eating, his mother might look at a piece of food and want to eat it, but he might accidentally reach for it first. He did not want even this to happen. Look how careful he was to never hurt or be disrespectful to his parents in any way.

Imam Ḥasan (as) was also very respectful towards his parents. He would go to the mosque and hear the Prophet speaking and he would then go home to his mother Sayyeda Fāṭimah (as) to tell her what the Prophet (saw) had said. His mother enjoyed this and liked to hear him repeating the Prophet's words. However, one day, as the young Imam Ḥasan (as) was about to tell her what the prophet had said, he stopped and did not want to continue. When she asked him why he said that he had noticed his father was in the house. He felt it was not respectful to speak while his father, who is more knowledgeable, was there. He was too shy to speak in front of his father in this situation. Again, look how careful he was to not be disrespectful to his parents.

## Class Discussion

How can we be good to our parents?

- Obey them?
- Speak to them politely?
- Help them around the house?
- Pray for them?

## PRAYING FOR OUR PARENTS

One way of being good to our parents is to pray for them. Allah (SWT) teaches us how to do this in the Qur'an. Memorise this du'a (which comes from two āyāt in the Qur'an) and always recite it in the Qunūt of your prayers:

رب اغفر لي و لوالدي و ارحمهما كما ربياني صغيرا

“O Allah, forgive me and my parents, and have Mercy on them, just like they took care of me and raised me when I was young”.

### Q1. The Qur'an teaches us to:

- a. Love and respect our parents
- b. Be good to our parents
- c. Both a & b

### Q2. When it comes to the Qur'an:

- a. It is best to recite the Qur'an by actually reading from it out loud
- b. It is best to recite the Qur'an from memory without reading it
- c. It is best to recite the Qur'an by actually reading from it in a soft whisper voice

### Q3. For every of the Qur'an that a person recites:

- a. They get one reward
- b. They get no rewards
- c. They get ten rewards

## Lesson 4: Putting the Qur'an into Practice

So far, we have learnt about the Qur'an and some of the lessons that the Qur'an teaches us. In this lesson we will talk about how important it is to put the Qur'an into practice. What we mean by this is: it is very important for us to do what the Qur'an says. We should not just read the Qur'an for the sake of reading it. We must make sure we do what it says.

### PUTTING THE QUR'ĀN INTO PRACTICE

Who remembers what lesson we learnt from the Qur'an last week? Yes, we learnt that we must be good to our parents and respect them at all times.

Who did that this week? Well done. Let's try our best to keep practicing what we learnt for the next week that is coming.

When the Qur'an tells us to do something, it is Allah (SWT) who is telling us to do this, and so we must listen. Allah (SWT) would only tell us what is best for us, and so we have to try as much as we can to follow those rules. So it is not enough just to read the Qur'an, we also have to practice what we learn from the Qur'an.

Now, let's see what other lesson the Qur'an has for us, so that we can practice it this week.

### ANOTHER MESSAGE FROM THE QUR'ĀN

Another message that the Qur'an teaches us is to always treat other people the way we would like to be treated, if not better. This applies to all people, but especially to fellow Muslims.

One day, a man who usually lived in the desert came to the city of the Prophet to talk to him. He saw that the Prophet was riding his horse. He caught hold of the rope of the horse and asked the prophet to give him one piece of advice that would be the most useful to him. The Prophet (saw) said: "if there is something that you would like people to do for you, then you do it for them also, and if there is something you would not like people to do for you, then you do not do it for them also". This is one of the most important rules of being a good Muslim.

Just like we don't like anyone to be rude to us, hurt us, take our things from us without our permission or talk about us behind our back, we also should not do that to them.

And just like we like people to respect us, be kind to us, smile at us and speak politely with us, we should do the same to them. Let's listen to this story about a Muslim man and his family and see how he put the needs of his fellow Muslim brothers before his own needs:

"Once when 'Īd was approaching, I had absolutely no money. My children would see other children buying new clothes for 'Īd and looking happy, while they were wearing torn clothes. My wife asked me if there was a way of getting clothes for the children, so I wrote to a very close friend of mine asking for some money. He sent an envelope with a lot of money in it, but before I opened, I got another letter from another close friend saying he also needed money. So I did not even open the envelope of money and sent it straight to my other friend who was in need. I went to the mosque, sad and heart-broken, and stayed there the whole night because I couldn't face seeing my wife and children. But when I got home the next morning, I saw my wife happy and smiling and thanking me for helping my friend.

I was surprised by this and went to see the friend who had asked me for money. I found that after he had sent me money, he had no money left himself and so he had written to our third friend to ask for money. That third friend had sent the money back to the first and so on. Eventually, we decided to share the money between us so that each of our families could have some money and be happy for 'Īd."<sup>iii</sup>

Look at the way these Muslim friends treated each other. Each of them would have liked to have money, but they preferred that their friend had money more than they did and so they kept on trying to help each other.<sup>iv</sup>

### Class Discussion

Each person should list a number of ways in which they could treat others the way they would like to be treated. Each person should come up with five ideas, and then your teacher will hold a class discussion.

## Class Activity

Class poster: pool all your ideas together from the last activity. Make a poster encouraging your friends and people in your community to do the five best things you could come up with in your discussion. Make the poster title: 'Treating Others with Goodness'.

## Review Questions

### Q1. The main reason we read the Qur'an is:

- So we can get reward for reading it
- Because it sounds nice
- So we can learn from it and put the lessons into practice

### Q2. The Qur'an teaches us:

- To treat people as we would like them to treat us, if not better
- To only treat our family and close friends well
- Neither of the above

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<sup>i</sup> Bihaar-ul-Anwaar vol. 92 page 19

The Holy Prophet of Islam (SAW) has said:

"One who listens to the Quran (while it is being recited), will be kept away from the evils of this world; and one who recites the Quran will be kept away from the trials of the hereafter; and the person who listens to even one ayah of the book of Allah (SWT) it is better (for him) than a mansion of gold."

The Holy Prophet of Islam (SAW) has said:

"Surely this Quran is the rope of Allah, and a manifest light (noor), and a beneficial cure; therefore busy yourself with the recitation of it, for Allah - the Mighty and the Glorious - gives the reward of ten good deeds to you for every letter that is recited."

<sup>ii</sup> Mishkatul Anwar, chapter on goodness to parents

<sup>iii</sup> Muruju 'dh-dhahab by Mas'udi, Beirut 1966, vol.3, p.446

<sup>iv</sup> Bibliography: *An Introduction to the Glorious Qur'an* by Bahram Samii, Published by: The Muhammadi Trust, Great Britain.

[www.ezsoftec.com/stories/rasool3.asp](http://www.ezsoftec.com/stories/rasool3.asp)

[www.islamicoccasions.com](http://www.islamicoccasions.com) Madressa.net syllabus, Class 1, section on Quran.