

## Significance of Tilawah

### Meaning of Tilawah: Lexical and traditional or technical

In 91:2 it means **to follow**: *wa shamshi wa dhuhāhā, wal qamari idhā talāhā* (91:1 & 2)

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ \* وَالشَّمْسِ وَضُحَاهَا \* وَالْقَمَرِ إِذَا تَلَاهَا

*I swear by the sun and its brilliance, And the moon when it follows the sun,*

In 10:16 it means **recitation**; here the Prophet has been instructed to say to the Quraysh:

قُلْ لَوْ شَاءَ اللَّهُ مَا تَلَوْتُهُ عَلَيْكُمْ وَلَا أَدْرَاكُمْ بِهِ فَقَدْ لَبِثْتُ فِيكُمْ عُمُرًا مِّن قَبْلِهِ أَفَلَا تَعْقِلُونَ

*Say: If Allah had desired (otherwise) I would not have recited it to you, nor would He have taught it to you; indeed I have lived a lifetime among you before it; do you not then understand?*

In 5:27 it means to **relate** a story

وَاتْلُ عَلَيْهِمْ نَبَأَ ابْنَيْ آدَمَ بِالْحَقِّ إِذْ قَرَّبَا قُرْبَانًا فَتُقُبِّلَ مِنْ أَحَدِهِمَا وَمَنْ يُتَّقِبَلْ مِنَ الْآخِرِ

*And relate to them the story of the two sons of Adam with truth when they both offered an offering, but it was accepted from one of them and was not accepted from the other*

### What do we mean by the phrase: Doing Tilawah Regularly?

- 1) Part of our daily schedule – like prayers, exercise, school study, reading, etc.
- 2) We begin reciting it early in our lives, especially when we are young: Imam al-Sadiq (a) said: *He who recites Qur'an while he is young, Qur'an mixes with his flesh and his blood, and Allah places him amongst the blessed and the chosen righteous. On the Day of Judgment, Qur'an shall become his defender and [pray for him a handsome reward.]*
- 3) Recite at least a certain number of verses daily. Allah says in 73:20 *فَأَقْرءُوا مَا تَيَسَّرَ مِنْهُ* - *So recite as much of the Qur'an as is feasible.* The Prophet (s): *One who recites 10 verses (every) night will not be counted amongst the heedless, and if he recites 50 verses he is counted amongst those who remember Allah (regularly) (Dhākirīn); and one who recite 100 verses is considered amongst the obedient servants of Allah (Qānitīn)*
- 4) We are not considered as those who were heedless to Islamic advices on tilawah; in fact the literal meaning of the word “Qur'an” means, “that which is recited often.” Allah says: *وَقَالَ الرَّسُولُ يَا رَبِّ إِنَّ قَوْمِي اتَّخَذُوا هَذَا الْقُرْآنَ مَهْجُورًا* *And the Messenger will say: O my Lord, surely my people have treated this Qur'aan as a forsaken thing. (25:30)*
- 5) Tilawah should have divinely inspired impact on our day to day life. In the *Lantern of Path* we read: *Whoever recites the Qur'an and does not humble himself before Allah (SWT), whose heart is not softened, nor regret and fear provoked within him, undervalues the immensity of Allah (SWT)'s affair and is in a clear state of loss.*
- 6) It eventually results into our following the Divine message to the humanity

## Why should we do Tilawah regularly?

### 1. Allah instructs to do so through the Qur'an itself

إِنَّ الَّذِينَ يَتْلُونَ كِتَابَ اللَّهِ وَأَقَامُوا الصَّلَاةَ وَأَنفَقُوا مِمَّا رَزَقْنَاهُمْ سِرًّا وَعَلَانِيَةً يَرْجُونَ تِجَارَةً لَّن تَبُورَ

35: 29 SHAKIR: Surely they who recite the Book of Allah and keep up prayer and spend out of what We have given them secretly and openly, hope for a **gain which will not perish**

YUSUFALI: hope for a **commerce that will never fail**:

PICKTHALL: they look forward to **imperishable gain**

MIR AHMED ALI: hope for a **merchandise that shall not perish**

QULI QARAI: expecting a **commerce that will never go bankrupt**

إِنَّمَا الْمُؤْمِنُونَ الَّذِينَ إِذَا ذُكِرَ اللَّهُ وَجِلَّتْ قُلُوبُهُمْ وَإِذَا تُلِيَتْ عَلَيْهِمْ آيَاتُهُ زَادَتْهُمْ إِيمَانًا وَعَلَىٰ رَبِّهِمْ يَتَوَكَّلُونَ

8:2 The faithful are those whose hearts tremble [with awe] when Allah is mentioned, and when His signs are recited to them, they increase their faith, and put their trust in their Lord

### 2. The Prophet (s) was sent to do tilawah of the Qur'an to Muslims.

If the Prophet or Imams were present with us, they would do the same to us. That is why many scholars and lecturers often quote Qur'anic ayaat to its audience.

لَقَدْ مَنَّ اللَّهُ عَلَى الْمُؤْمِنِينَ إِذْ بَعَثَ فِيهِمْ رَسُولًا مِّنْ أَنفُسِهِمْ يَتْلُو عَلَيْهِمْ آيَاتِهِ وَيُزَكِّيهِمْ وَيُعَلِّمُهُمُ الْكِتَابَ وَالْحِكْمَةَ وَإِن كَانُوا مِن قَبْلُ لَفِي ضَلَالٍ مُّبِينٍ

3:164 It was a special Grace from the Almighty that He sent the Prophet who, amongst other things, recited the ayaat from the Holy Qur'an and taught it to the people. Before this, the people had been in a manifest error.

There are a few similar verses in the Holy Qur'an (2:129; 62:2)

### 3. A lot of emphasis in the Hadith

قَالَ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ (ص) فِي وَصَايَاهُ لِعَلِيِّ (ع): يَا عَلِيُّ عَلَيْكَ بِتِلَاوَةِ الْقُرْآنِ فِي كُلِّ حَالٍ

Holy Prophet (s): O Ali, I advise you to recite the Qur'an under all conditions

قَالَ النَّبِيُّ (ص) : نَوَّرُوا بُيُوتَكُمْ بِتِلَاوَةِ الْقُرْآنِ وَلَا تَتَّخِذُوهَا قُبُورًا كَمَا فَعَلَتِ الْيَهُودُ وَالنَّصَارَى صَلُّوا فِي الْكَنَائِسِ وَالْبَيْعِ وَعَطَلُوا بُيُوتَهُمْ فَإِنَّ الْبَيْتَ إِذَا كَثُرَ فِيهِ تِلَاوَةُ الْقُرْآنِ كَثُرَ خَيْرُهُ وَاتَّسَعَ أَهْلُهُ وَأَصْنَاءُ لِأَهْلِ السَّمَاءِ كَمَا تُضِيءُ بِجُحُومِ السَّمَاءِ لِأَهْلِ الدُّنْيَا

*Illuminate/brighten/enlighten your homes through the recitation of the Qur'an and do not turn them into graves, similar to what the Jews and Christians did. They prayed in churches and synagogues and ignored their houses. That house in which a lot of Qur'an is recited, its good*

*things are increased and family is enriched. It is illuminate for the dwellers of the heavens the way stars illuminate earth dwellers.*

QUESTION FOR REFLECTION: What is wrong in reciting the Qur'an only at mosques?

Imam Ali: *One who gets accustomed to reciting the Qur'an, would not feel lonely from the parting of peers* (Mizan al-Hikam, H. 16200)

وقال (صلى الله عليه وآله وسلم): إن القلوب تصدأ كما يصدأ الحديد، " قيل: "يا رسول الله وما جلاؤها؟" قال: "قراءة القرآن وذكر الموت

#### **4. The Fourteen Ma'sumeen (a) who were the great teachers and exegete of the Qur'an used to do a lot of Tilawah**

Once Imam al-Sādiq (a) asked his son Ismā'īl to read the Qur'an. The latter said that he was not in wudhū. The Imam said in that case he could recite it but should not touch the writings of the Qur'an.

One of the Imam sent his son to Madrasah. When he learnt memorization of a sura, the Imam gifted so much to the teacher that people protested at the value of gift.

We are there shi'ahs, followers and devotees and would like to imitate them to our level best.

Imam al-Sadiq (a) said, "My father . . . would gather us together and order us to praise Allah till sunrise. Whoever was able from among us, my father would order him to recite the Qur'an, but he would order the one who could not read to praise Allah."

#### **5. Plenty of benefits and reward promised**

a) For every letter we recite we get a lot of rewards

-الرسول (ص): إن هذا القرآن حبل الله، وهو النور البين، والشفاء النافع، - إلى أن قال:  
فاقرؤوه، فإن الله يأجركم على تلاوته بكل حرف عشر حسنات، أما إني لا أقول ألم عشر،  
ولكن (ألف) عشر و(لام) عشر و(ميم) عشر

b) So many Hadiths on the benefits and reward of reciting certain verses and surahs of the Holy Qur'an. These Hadiths are quoted by scholars over centuries, for they know that the Almighty is all Merciful and Generous; He can and will provide what has been promised.

c) Holy Prophet (s): *O my dear son, do not be heedless from reading the Qur'an, for the Qur'an enlivens the heart, and prevents from indecency, evil and rebellion.* (MH 16203)

d) Holy Prophet (s): *You are advised to recite the Qur'ān, for reciting the Qur'ān is atonement (kaffarah) for the sins; shelter from the (Hell) fire; and safety against the punishment.* (MH 16,201)

e) Holy Prophet (s): *يا سلمان عليك بقراءة القرآن، فإن قراءته كفارة للذنوب، وستر من النار، وأمان من العذاب، ويكتب لمن يقرأه بكل آية ثواب مائة شهيد، ويعطى بكل سورة ثواب نبي، ينزل على صاحبه الرحمة*

## 6. Practice of the companions of the Ma'sumeen (a)

- Companions of Imam al-Husayn who busied themselves with reciting the Holy Qur'an in their lives, whilst in Karbala and on the eve of 'Ashura
- Bibi Fidra, did not say a word but quoted Qur'anic verses for 40 years
- Burayr b. Hudayr al-Hamadani was hafiz Qur'an, used to instruct on the Qur'an in masjid of Kufa, and was called the leader of those who knew the Qur'an by heart.
- Nafi b. Hilal al-Jamali was chief of his tribe & knew the Qur'an by heart.
- Hanzal b. Asad al-Shaybani knew the Qur'an by heart.

## 7. Contemporary scholars also do regular tilawah

- 'Allamah Tabatabai and his guests
- Mulla Asghar when he was our guest

## 8. It is the first major step to approaching the Holy Qur'an.

17:9 *surely this Qur'an guides to that which is most upright* - إِنَّ هَذَا الْقُرْآنَ يَهْدِي لِلَّتِي هِيَ أَقْوَمُ

- Imam Ali (a) on the Excellence of the Holy Qur'an

*And know that this Qur'an is an adviser who never deceives, a leader who never misleads and a narrator who never speaks a lie. No one will sit beside this Qur'an but that when he/she rises achieving one increase or one decrease - increase in his guidance or decrease in his (spiritual) blindness. You should also know that no one will need anything after (guidance from) the Qur'an and no one will be free from want before (guidance from) the Qur'an. Therefore, seek cure from it for your ailments and seek its assistance in your distresses. It contains a cure for the biggest diseases, namely unbelief, hypocrisy, revolt and misguidance.* (NB Sermon 176)

- Similar to wheat/barely being fed to birds around holy places & mosques so as to attract them to these places.

ASSIGNMENT: Format a mnemonics to remember the 10 reasons on why we should recite the Holy Qur'an regularly and/or the 6 points on what is meant by the phrase, "Reciting the Qur'an Regularly."

