

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

IN THE NAME OF ALLĀH, THE GRACIOUS, THE MERCIFUL

خَيْرُكُمْ مَنْ تَعَلَّمَ الْقُرْآنَ وَ عَلَّمَهُ

*The best among you is the one who learns the Holy Qur'ān
and teaches it to others*

(Bukhārī)

TA'LĪMUL QUR'ĀN

A Self-Study Book

for

**Learning the Correct Recitation and
Translation of the Holy Qur'ān**

Dr. Karimullah Zirvi

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TA'LĪMUL QUR'ĀN

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In the name of Allāh the Gracious, the Merciful

TA'LĪMUL QUR'ĀN

FOREWORD

Allāh, the Omniscient, the All-Knowing, has revealed the Holy Qur'ān to Ḥaḍrat Muḥammad (peace and blessings of Allāh be upon him) as the guidance for all mankind for all times. It is a very concise book in the Arabic language. Merely reading the Holy Qur'ān earns one a mighty reward. Our beloved master, the Holy Prophet (peace and blessings of Allāh be upon him) has said:

مَنْ قَرَأَ حَرْفًا مِنْ كِتَابِ اللَّهِ فَلَهُ حَسَنَةٌ وَالْحَسَنَةُ بِعَشْرِ أَمْثَالِهَا لَا أَقُولُ الْم حَرْفٌ
أَلِفٌ حَرْفٌ وَلَا مٌ حَرْفٌ وَ مِيمٌ حَرْفٌ

*mann qara-a ḥarfān min kitābillāhi falahū ḥasanatun walḥasanatu bi'ashri
amthālihā fa aqūlu alif lam mim ḥarfun alifun ḥarfun wa lamun ḥarfun wa
mimun ḥarfun*

"When a person recites one letter from the Book of Allāh, that is one good deed equal to ten good deeds the like of it. I do not say that Alif, Lām, and Mīm is a letter; but Alif is a letter, Lām is a letter, and Mīm is a letter."

(Tirmadhī)

He (peace and blessings of Allāh be upon him) further exhorts:

اقْرءُوا الْقُرْآنَ فَإِنَّهُ يَأْتِي يَوْمَ الْقِيَامَةِ شَفِيعًا لِأَصْحَابِهِ

iqra'ul-qur'āna fa innahū ya'fi yaumal qiyāmati shafi'an li-aṣḥābīhī

"Keep reading the Qur'ān for it will intercede for its readers on the Day of Judgement."

(Muslim)

The Promised Messiah (on whom be peace) received a revelation in a vision about the Holy Qur'ān.

He (on whom be peace) states:

"I saw in a vision that *Ḥaẓīratul Quds* (i.e., heaven) is being watered with the water of the Holy Qur'ān and the Holy Qur'ān is a great ocean which is surging with thunder. Whosoever drinks from this water will not only remain himself alive but also will be able to make others alive."

(Rūḥānī Khazā'in, Vol. 5, pp. 545-546)

Reading and comprehension of the Holy Qur'ān is incumbent upon all followers as they are to lead their lives in complete conformity with its teachings. So to facilitate this, Dr. Karīmullāh Zirvī has compiled a self-study book entitled, "Ta'limul Qur'ān" for learning the correct recitation and translation of the Holy Qur'ān. It is a step-by-step guide to learn the correct recitation of the Holy Qur'ān. It also comprises a selection from the commentary of Ḥaḍrat Mirzā Bashīruddīn Maḥmūd Aḥmad^{ra} to generate interest in the reader and for the appreciation and comprehension of the Holy Book.

We pray that Allāh accepts this effort and that readers benefit from it immensely.

Daud A. Hanif
Missionary In Charge and
Nā'ib Amīr Jamā'at, USA

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In the name of Allāh the Gracious, the Merciful

TA'LĪMUL QUR'ĀN

INTRODUCTION

The teaching and learning of the Holy Qur'ān is a source of great blessing.

God Almighty says in the Holy Qur'ān:

وَرَتِّلِ الْقُرْآنَ تَرْتِيلًا

wa rattilil Qur'āna tarfila

And recite the Qur'ān slowly and thoughtfully (73:5)

The Holy Prophet^{sa} said:

خَيْرُكُمْ مَنْ تَعَلَّمَ الْقُرْآنَ وَعَلَّمَهُ

khairukum man ta'allamal qur'āna wa 'allamahū

"The best among you is the one who learns the Holy Qur'ān and teaches it to others"

Ḥaḍrat Masīh Mau'ūd^{as} states about the Holy Qur'ān:

1. Recitation of the Holy Qur'ān melodiously is also a worship.
2. There is a blessing in the Holy Qur'ān that its recitation expands one's mind and removes speech impediments.
3. The real purpose of recitation of the Holy Qur'ān is to learn truth, to gain knowledge and to make a pious change in one's self.
4. I say it repeatedly and loudly that loving and obeying the Holy Qur'ān and the Holy Prophet^{sa} can make one capable of showing miracles.

In his book, Kashtī Nūḥ, the Promised Messiah^{as} has exhorted his community in these words:

"The real and perfect paths of salvation have been opened only by the Holy Qur'ān; all others were only its shadows. Therefore, you should study this Holy Scripture with the utmost attention and deepest thought; and you should love it as you have never loved anything else. For indeed, as God has conveyed to me:

الْخَيْرُ كُلُّهُ فِي الْقُرْآنِ

al-khairu kulluhū fil-qur'ān

i.e. All sort of virtues are in the Holy Qur'ān

All kinds of good are to be found in it - and this is truth. Unfortunate, indeed, are the people who give preference to other things over it. The Holy Qur'ān is the fountainhead of your salvation for all betterment and success. There is not even a single spiritual need which has not been met for you in this Holy Book. The supporter or falsifier of your faith on the Day of Judgement would be the Holy Qur'ān, and apart from this book, there is no other under the heavens, which can provide you with direct guidance. It is indeed a great blessing of God upon you that He has bestowed upon you a book like this. ... Realize, therefore, the value of the blessings bestowed upon you. It is a precious blessing and a great treasure."

(Kashfī Nūḥ, Rūḥānī Khazā'in, Vol. 19, p. 26)

Ḥadrat Khalifatul Masīh V^{aba} in his Friday Sermon of September 24, 2004, stated the following with regards to teaching the recitation and translation of the Holy Qur'ān:

"Every Aḥmadī should make sure that he himself, and his wife and children recite the Holy Qur'ān regularly. He should also make a full effort to learn the translation of the Holy Qur'ān. In addition, he should read Ḥadrat Masīh Mau'ūd's^{as} Commentary of the Holy Qur'ān. They should recite the Holy Qur'ān as if it is not an ordinary book, but rather keeping in mind that it is the Word of God Almighty."

Ḥadrat Khalifatul Masīh IVth in his Friday Sermon of June 19, 1998 stated the following with regards to the teaching of the recitation and translation of the Holy Qur'ān:

"Just teaching the reading of the Holy Qur'ān is not enough. When you teach the meaning of the Holy Qur'ān, love for the Holy Qur'ān is bound to develop. ... If love of the Holy Qur'ān is established in one's self, all the problems of one's life will be solved. For those who love the Holy Qur'ān, evils disappear and they are given a new life."

By the Grace of God Almighty, it has become possible for us to hold the Ta‘limul Qur’ān Classes in different regions of the USA during the past several years. The purpose of these classes has been to create awareness about the importance of learning and teaching the Holy Qur’ān with translation. Thus, the objectives of the Ta‘limul Qur’ān Classes were:

1. *Learn to recite the Holy Qur’ān correctly.*
2. *Learn split-word translation of the Holy Qur’ān.*
3. *Follow guidelines for the study of the commentary of the Holy Qur’ān.*
4. *Develop trainers for training others in the family.*
5. *Develop love of the study of the Holy Qur’ān.*

This book, Ta‘limul Qur’ān, has been prepared as a self-study book for learning the correct recitation and translation of the Holy Qur’ān and also for use as teacher's guide in the Ta‘limul Qur’ān Classes. It is a compilation of the material already published in the literature. For more details, the readers are urged to read the following:

- i. The Holy Qur’ān (English Translation): Maulawī Sher ‘Alī^{ra}
- ii. The Holy Qur’ān (English Translation and Short Commentary): Edited by Malik Ghulām Farīd^{ra}
- iii. The Holy Qur’ān (Urdū Translation): Mīr Muḥammad Ishāq^{ra}
- iv. Qā‘idah Yassarnal Qur’ān: Pīr Manzūr Muḥammad^{ra}
- v. Tartilul Qur’ān: Abū Lauda‘ Al-Hāfīz
- vi. Aṭ-Ṭarīq (Urdū): Abū Lauda‘ Al-Hāfīz
- vii. Correction of Some Common Mistakes (Urdū): Professor Sūfī Bishārat-ur-Raḥmān, MA
- viii. Invocations of the Holy Prophet^{sa}: Dr. Karīmullāh Zīrvī
- ix. Meanings of the Difficult Words of the Holy Qur’ān: Compiled by Bashīr Aḥmad Qamar (English Translation by Ṭāḥīr Maḥmūd Aḥmad).
- x. Tajwīd for Beginners: M. Q. I. Ishāq, Azhar Academy Ltd., London, UK

The main features of the material covered in the book are:

1. *Fundamentals of the proper recitation of the Holy Qur’ān*
 - i. *Ramūz-e-Auqāf (Various stop signs of the Holy Qur’ān).*
 - ii. *Correction of some common mistakes.*
 - iii. *Basic Arabic Grammar.*
2. *Translation of Sūrah Al-Fāṭīḥah and the first five Rukū‘ of the following Sūrahs of the Holy Qur’ān: Al-Baqarah, Āl-e-‘Imrān, Al-Nisā’, and Al-Mā’idah.*

3. *Qur'ānic vocabulary (Split-word translation of Sūrah Al-Fatīhah and Sūrah Al-Baqarah) to learn translation of the Holy Qur'ān.*
4. *Guidelines for the memorization of the Holy Qur'ān.*
5. *Qur'ānic prayers.*

I am greatly thankful to Dr. Ahsanullah Zafar, Amīr Jamā'at, USA and Hafiz Samiullah Chaudhary for their interest and guidance towards making the Ta'limul Qur'ān program successful. I am also thankful to Maulana Munir-ud-Din Shams, Additional Wakilut-Taṣnīf, London and Maulana Daud Ahmad Hanif, Missionary In Charge and Nā'ib Amīr, USA for reviewing this book. I appreciate Mr. Latif Ahmed's help in making the cover of the book.

May God Almighty make this book a source of learning correct recitation and translation of the Holy Qur'ān. May all who study this book develop a love of the study of the Holy Qur'ān. Āmīn.

Karimullah Zirvi