

Chapter – 83

Quran Recitation

(ترتیل قرآن)

❖ أَوْ زِدْ عَلَيْهِ وَرَتِّلِ الْقُرْآنَ تَرْتِيلًا -

(O Enwrapped Prophet! You wake up for prayers for about half a night) or add to it a little, and recite the Quran slowly and distinctly. (73:04)

❖ وَقُرْآنًا فَرَقْنَاهُ لِتَقْرَأَهُ عَلَى النَّاسِ عَلَىٰ مُكْثٍ وَنَزَّلْنَاهُ تَنْزِيلًا -

We have revealed the Quran in parts so that you may recite to it to people slowly (with deliberation, and that is why) we have sent it down gradually, in parts. (17:106)

Dear People! In our period, education of Tafseer (elucidation of Quran) was given. People used to read Quran with translation. Recitation with Tajweed (rules of recitation) was in practice. In each morning, from every house, sounds of Quran's recitation could be heard. Some people used to arrange house gatherings for combined recitation as well.

Nowadays, Quran is being neglected. It has been kept apart. If Quran is talked about some people say that "what the use of reading is, if you do not understand it". Actually they are not interested in understanding Quran but their intension is to keep people away even with the words of Quran.

They do not know even Quran's words have blessings. Reading Quran with understanding is worship. Reading Quran without understanding is also worship. Look! If you take vitamins by knowing its benefits or not knowing, it has to give benefit. On the other hand if you eat poison knowingly or unknowingly it will damage.

Thus, if the words of Quran are recited it would at least give a continuation to Quran. Quran's continuity is the specialty of Islam. None of the Holy Books have been narrated as much as Quran. Quran is the only Book which is being read since last 1400 years. Even its pronunciation has continuity.

However, as regards reading Quran, the general environment is that those who read it, neither their pronunciation is proper nor their articulation. Some words need elongation but they are not aware of it. Similarly, other rules like Ikhfa, Izhar and Gunna etc. are also not known. When it is read, it looks as if a train is running or airplane is flying. Nowadays, people become graduates and post-graduates. They also become Engineers and Doctors, but they do not give attention to learn Quran properly. If they are called in any combined gathering for Quran recitation they become very uncomfortable.

Some people read Quran in a singing form. These people consider Quran's recitation is identical to music. Actually, the singing makes the words unnecessary elongated. Moreover, neither their articulation is correct nor the word's attribute. If proper care is not given to the articulation of words, meanings are changed. That does not remain Quran and it becomes something different. If the rules of recitation are known and with little efforts the attributes of words are corrected that would be enough. If attractive rhythm is not there no problem, but the Arabic tune should be there then it will be very good.

As mentioned above, if the articulations of alphabets are not correct then the meanings are changed. For example:

الْهَمْدُ لِلَّهِ (Extinguishing fire is for Allah - wrong)

الْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ (All praise is to Allah)

آلَمِينَ (Full tortures- wrong) --- عَالَمِينَ (Whole world)

الرَّهْمَانِ (Meaningless word) ---- الرَّحْمَنِ (The Most Gracious)

الرَّهِيمِ (Meaningless word) ---- الرَّحِيمِ (The Most Merciful)

إِيَّاكَ نَأْبُدُ (You Alone we run - wrong) ---- إِيَّاكَ نَعْبُدُ (You Alone we worship)

إِيَّاكَ نَسْتَأِينُ (You Alone we anguish - wrong)

إِيَّاكَ نَسْتَعِينُ (You Alone we ask for help)

دَّالِينَ (Those who show gestures - wrong)

ضَّالِّينَ (Those who go off track)

There are 17 articulation points of Arabic alphabets. Arabic scholars like them. Remember that from two articulation points one alphabet should not be executed. The salient features of Tajweed are placed hereunder:

Articulation points

1. Huroof-e-Halaqi: (From throat): It has 6 letters, 3 articulation points. (ء، ها، حا، خا، عا، غا)
2. Huroof-e-Shufavi: (From lips): It has 4 letters, 2 articulation points. (فا، با، وا، ما)
3. Huroof-e-Lisani: (From tongue and different places of mouth): 18 letters, 10 articulation points. (*Eighteen alphabets*)
4. Huroof-e-Jaufi: (Mouth's middle empty space): 3 letters, 1 articulation point. (الف، و، ی)
5. The Ghnnah is expressed from inside the nose. 2 letters, 1 articulation point. (م، ن)

❖ Attributes of letters

- a) Mahmoosa alphabets: The combined words of these letters come out as فَحْتَهُ شَخْصٌ سَكْتُ
- b) Shadidah alphabets: The combined words of these letters come out as قُطِبُ جِدِّ اَتَكَ
- c) Mutawassitah alphabets: The combined words of these letters come out as لِنِ عَمْرٍ
- d) Musta'aliah alphabets: The combined words of these letters come out as حُصَّ ضَغَطٍ
- e) Muzliqah alphabets: The combined words of these letters come out as فَرَمِنَ لُبِّ
- f) Mutbiquah alphabets: The alphabets are ظا، طا، ضاد، صاد

Note: Imam Jazari رحمه الله عليه (1350-1429AD) has presented all these attributes in Arabic language and in the poetic form. For this, main Tafseer-e-Siddiqui may be referred. ---- *Compiler.*

Dear People! Someone has asked me that, “In which period **اعراب** (the diacritics) have been placed on the words of Quran”? I told him that it was the period of Hajjaj bin Yusuf (the governor of Iraq, 661 – 714 AD). He said, “If the diacritics are wrongly placed, whether

meanings would not be changed”? I replied, “Quran is not a written book therefore it is not dependent on writing, but right from the period of the Noble Prophet till now it is mainly based on its recitation. For you this Quran has reached to us by eyes, but for us we believe that it has reached to us through ears.” ---- Remember! The pronunciation, articulation and attributes of Quranic words are more reliant on listening from your teacher.

It was the habit of Prophet Muhammad صلى الله عليه وسلم that not only free well-informed people but the educated prisoners were also utilized for teaching the common people. They were given the education of Quran which was more essential. In this way Quran was spread fast in Muslims.

Famous angel Jabriel used to come every Ramazan to Prophet Muhammad صلى الله عليه وسلم and remind him the Quranic parts. In the very period of Noble Prophet, Hundreds of Muslims had memorized Quran.

Quran was recited with seven to ten narrations. The recitation of Quran is continued till today with different narrations. It was asked with the Noble Prophet that “Why Quran is recited in 7 to 10 narrations and why this difference is”? The actual thing is, in the period of the Noble Prophet there were many tribes of Arabs and still these are. Every tribe has recited Quran in their own linguistic style that is why the difference exists. The Prophet has granted his concurrence in this regard. The important thing is that narrations may be changed but the meanings must not be affected. Prophet’s accord is given with the following words:

أُنزِلَ الْقُرْآنُ عَلَى سَبْعَةِ أَحْرَفٍ

(Quran has been sent down in seven dialects)

The meaning of word سَبْعٌ, in Arabic language is also taken as ‘many’. ---- Why the narration of Hafs has become famous? The basic reason is there is almost no difference between Hafs Narration and the dialect of Quraish which is the most eloquent as well.

God says in Quran:

فَأَقْرءُوا مَا تَيَسَّرَ مِنَ الْقُرْآنِ

{Therefore recite from the Quran as much as easy for you (73:20)}

God Himself prefers your convenience. With Hanafi belief, in prayers if small surah is recited even that prayer is considered to be

fulfilling the obligation. However, the recitation of Surat-ul-Fatiha is compulsory. The smallest surah of Quran is Surat-ul-Kausar. It has 3 verses. Despite that this surah is very small still it clearly indicates the Quran's way of expression. In prayers, minimum 3 verses from any other part but equivalent to this Surat-ul-Kausar would be sufficient to complete the prayer. Aayat-ul-Kursi is one verse but it also displays the Quran's way of expression, therefore in prayers this one long verse would also be enough to fulfil the obligation.

Dear People! The Holy Quran is being narrated continuously since last 1400 years. Its pronunciation is also constant. Its words, its spellings all are persistent too. Quran is virtually is a blessing for us. It is our honour. One who leaves it, he neither remains a religious person nor of this world. Our life and death is on Quran. Recite correctly. Learn Arabic accent and tone. Even learn Arabic language so that you can understand Quran. Have deep considerations on Quranic contents as well. This, one Quran would be enough for you.

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