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Prophetic Pearls for the People of the Qur'an

1. The best of all people

Rasulullah ﷺ said, "The best amongst you are those who learn the Qur'an and teach it." [Sahih Bukhari]

Abu Abdir Rahmaan As Sulami *Rahimahullah* taught the Qur'an in the era of Sayyiduna Uthmaan ؓ. He said, "This Hadith is what has made me sit in this place of mine (in which I devoted myself to teaching the Qur'an)." [Sahih Bukhari]

Shaykhul Hadith Maulana Muhammad Zakariyya *Rahimahullah* writes: The Qur'an is the basis of Deen, Deen is dependent upon its preservation and propagation, which is why learning and teaching it is obviously the best occupation... the highest level is to learn its meaning and purpose, and the lowest is to merely memorize it.

[Fazail Qur'an]

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2. The favourites of Allah

Rasulullah ﷺ said, "Indeed, Allah has family members from amongst the people." The Sahaabah ؓ asked, "Who are they, O Rasulullah?" Rasulullah ﷺ replied, "They are the people of the Qur'an. They are the family of Allah and His favourite ones." [Sunan Ibn Maajah]

Shaykhul Hadith Maulana Muhammad Zakariyya *Rahimahullah* writes: The people of the Qur'an are those people who remain occupied with the Qur'an and have a special affiliation with the Qur'an. For such people to be of the family of Allah and amongst His favourite ones is quite obvious. What an honour indeed. With just a little effort, one becomes a friend of Allah, is included in His family and becomes among His favourite servants. [Fazail Qur'an]

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3. Allah elevates people due to the Qur'an

Sayyiduna Umar ؓ appointed Naafi ibn Abdul Haarith as the governor of Makkah Mukarramah. He met Umar ؓ in Usfaan. Umar ؓ asked him, "Who did you appoint as your representative (over Makkah)?" Naafi replied, "Ibn Abzaa." "Who is that," enquired Umar ؓ. "One of our (freed) slaves," was the reply. Umar ؓ asked in astonishment, "You placed a slave in charge of them?" He responded, "He is a Qaari (proficient reciter and Haafidh) of the book of Allah and he is an Aalim of the laws of inheritance." Umar ؓ then remarked, "Listen well, Rasulullah ﷺ has said: **"Allah Ta'ala elevates nations through this Book and degrades others through it."** [Muslim]

It is the decision of Allah that whichever group of people abide by the Qur'an and keep a strong relationship with it, He will elevate them, in this life and the next, no matter who these people are, with regards to their lineage, colour and language. In contrast, the people who disregard it and turn away from it will be degraded to the lowest level, even if they are people of high status. The history of Muslims and Islam confirms the truth of this Hadith. The use of the word 'nations' in the hadith discloses that the law of rise and fall as described in this hadith applies not to individuals alone, but to nations as well. [Ma'ariful-Hadith]

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4. The most beloved people to Rasulullah ﷺ

Kulayb ibn Shihaab *Rahimahullah* narrates: Ali ؓ was in the Masjid of Kufah. He heard loud voices (coming from the Masjid). He asked, "Who are these people (who are making so much noise in the Masjid)?" The people replied, "Some people who are learning the Qur'an or reciting the Qur'an." Ali ؓ commented, "Listen! Those people were the most beloved people to Rasulullah ﷺ." [Musnad Al-Bazzaar]

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5. Rasulullah ﷺ honours the Haafidh

Sayyiduna Jaabir ؓ narrates that Rasulullah ﷺ used to join two people from the martyrs of Uhud in one cloth (due to a shortage of cloths, while their clothes were still on their body which would create a barrier between their bodies). (Before placing them in the grave), Rasulullah ﷺ would ask: "Which of the two memorized more of the Qur'an?" When he was shown which of the two it was, he would place that person first in the grave." [Sahih Bukhari]

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6. Envy for two great bounties

Rasulullah ﷺ has said: "Envy (admiration) is not permissible except for two types of persons:

a) A man whom Allah has taught the Qur'an, and he recites it throughout the night and day. A neighbour of his hears him reciting, and says, 'If only I was granted what this man was granted so that I could do actions like him (i.e. I would have recited the Qur'an perpetually).'

b) A man whom Allah has granted wealth, which he spends in good causes. A man says, 'If only I was granted wealth like him, so that I could do actions like him (i.e. I would have spent all that wealth for the sake of Allah)." [Sahih Bukhari]

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7. The reward for every letter of the Qur'an recited

Rasulullah ﷺ said: "The person who recites one letter of the Book of Allah shall receive one reward, and a reward is multiplied ten times. I do not say that alif laam meem is one letter. Rather, alif is one letter, laam is one letter, and meem is one letter." [Sunan Tirmidhi]

This hadith proves the great virtue of reciting the Qur'an without even understanding it. The example used by Rasulullah ﷺ is very striking. Alif Laam Meem are the huroof-muqata'aat whose meaning is known only by Allah Ta'ala. When one recites these words, whose meaning is not known to anyone else, he is still rewarded.

According to what has been written in Kitaabul Adad of Ibn Abdil Kafi, there are 386 877 letters in the Qur'an. Since we have been promised at least 10 rewards for every letter we recite of the Qur'an, a person who completes the Qur'an once will at least receive 3 868 770 rewards in his book of deeds, each reward being a key to some treasure or a token to some bounty in Jannah. Therefore, such a person will become a triple millionaire in the true sense of the word.

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8. The reward of going every morning to memorize the Qur'an

Sayyiduna Uqbah ibn Aamir ﷺ narrates: Rasulullah ﷺ came out of his home while we were in the Suffah (the back section of Masjid An-Nabawi). He asked, "Which of you would like to go every morning to Buthaan" or he said "to Aqeeq and bring back from there two humped female camels, without committing any sin or breaking any family ties." We replied, "O Rasulullah, every one of us would love to do that." Rasulullah ﷺ said, "If one of you goes to the Masjid in the morning and learns two verses of the book of Allah, it will be better for him than receiving two female camels. And three verses will be better for him than three female camels. And four verses will be better for him than four female camels. And these verses will be better for him that a similar number of male camels."

[Sahih Muslim]

To the Arabs, a camel was a much desired possession, in particular a she-camel with a fat hump. It is an undeniable fact that let alone two camels, even if one were to acquire kingdom over the seven continents, then too, death will one day separate him from his wealth. But the reward of one verse of the Qur'an will remain with him forever.

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9. More Virtuous Than 100 Rakaats of Salaah

Sayyiduna Abu Zarr ﷺ narrates: Rasulullah ﷺ said to me, "O Abu Zarr! For you to go in the morning and learn one verse from the book of Allah is better for you than performing 100 rakaats (of nafl salaah). And for you to go and learn one chapter of knowledge is better for you than performing 1000 rakaats (of Nafl Salaah), whether you practice on this knowledge or not."

[Sunan Ibn Majah]

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10. 4 Great Benefits of Hifdh Classes

Rasulullah ﷺ said, "Whenever a group of people gather in any house from the houses of Allah, reciting the book of Allah and learning and teaching it, Sakeenah (tranquility and peace) descends upon them, Rahmah (the mercy of Allah) envelops them, angels surround them and Allah remembers them in the presence of those who are in his close proximity." [Sahih Muslim]

Maulana Muhammad Zakariyya Rahimahullah has written, "The acquisition of any of the rewards mentioned above are so sublime that even if one devotes his entire life to acquire any one of them, it would be worthwhile." [Fazail-e-Qur'an]

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11. The Fragrance & Sweetness of the Qur'an

Rasulullah ﷺ said,

"The example of the believer who recites the Qur'an is like that of the citron: its fragrance is pleasant and its taste is pleasant.

The example of the believer who does not recite the Qur'an is like that of the date: it has no fragrance, but its taste is sweet.

The example of the hypocrite who recites the Qur'an is like that of the sweet basil: its fragrance is pleasant, but its taste is bitter.

And the example of the hypocrite who does not recite the Qur'an is like that of the colocynth (a bitter desert fruit): it has no fragrance and its taste is bitter. [Sahih Bulkhari]

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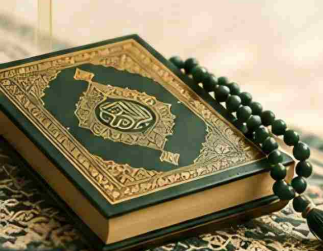
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12. The Qur'an: A Lifelong Companion

Rasulullah ﷺ said, "Whoever learns the Qur'an in his youth, it becomes deeply rooted in his flesh and blood. And whoever learns it in his old age, while it slips away from him, yet he does not abandon it, will receive a double reward."

[Shu'abul Imaan]

This hadith provides encouragement for both the young and the old: the young should seize the opportunity to learn the Qur'an while their memory is strong, while those who are older should never allow their age or difficulty to prevent them from pursuing the Book of Allah.



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13. The Greatest Investment

Sayyiduna Abu Umaamah ﷺ reports: "A man came to Rasulullah ﷺ and said, "O Rasulullah ﷺ! I bought some property in so and so area, and I made so much profit." Rasulullah ﷺ said, Should I not inform you of some deal which will earn you more profit?" The man asked, "Is such a deal available?!" Rasulullah ﷺ said, "A man who learns ten verses (of the Qur'an has made far greater profit)." The man went immediately and learnt ten verses, and then returned to Rasulullah ﷺ to inform him."

[Mustadrak Haakim]

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14. The True Honour of the Qur'an

Sayyiduna Abdullah ibn Amr ibnul Aas ﷺ reports: "Whoever recites the Qur'an, it is as though Prophethood has been placed between his two sides, except that revelation is not sent to him.

Whoever is granted the Qur'an and thinks that someone else has been given something better than what he has been given has belittled what Allah has honoured and has honoured what Allah has belittled.

It is not befitting for the bearer of the Qur'an to become angry when others become angry, nor to behave ignorantly when others behave ignorantly. Rather, he should pardon and overlook, for the sake of the honour of the Qur'an." [Shu'abul Imaan]

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15. A Heart Without the Qur'an

Rasulullah ﷺ said, "Indeed, the person in whose chest is no portion of the Qur'an (i.e. he has not memorized any portion of the Qur'an) is like a deserted dilapidated house."

[Sunan Tirmidhi]

The heart is inhabited and beautified with Imaan and the words of the Qur'an. When the heart is void of the Qur'an, it is like a deserted house. None can derive benefit therefrom. Snakes and wild animals inhabit a deserted dilapidated house. Similarly, a heart devoid of the Qur'an is inhabited by Shaytaan and evil desires.



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16. The Honour of the People of the Qur'an

Rasulullah ﷺ said, "The Qur'an will come on the Day of Qiyamah and say, 'O my Rabb, honour him.' He will then be dressed in the garment of honour. The Qur'an will again say, 'O my Rabb, increase his honour.' He will then be adorned with the garment of honour. Then the Qur'an will say, 'O my Rabb, be pleased with him.' Allah Ta'ala will be pleased with him. Then he will be told, 'Recite the Qur'an and ascend through the ranks.' His rank will increase with every verse he recites."

[Sunan Tirmidhi]



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17. The Qur'an: Your Intercessor on the Day of Qiyaamah

Rasulullah ﷺ said, "Learn the Qur'an, for it will come forward on the day of Qiyaamah to intercede for those who had learnt it. Learn the two shining Surahs; Surah Baqarah and Surah Aale' Imraan. They will come on the day of Qiyaamah, as if they are two clouds, two shades or two rows of birds, arguing on behalf of those who had learnt them.

Learn Surah Baqarah, for learning it is barakah (a source of unimaginable good and blessings) and failing to learn will be hasrah (an unimaginable source of regret in the Hereafter). The magicians will never be able to overpower it."

[Sunan Tirmidhi]

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18. Reward for Every Effort in Reciting the Qur'an

Rasulullah ﷺ said, "The one who is proficient in reciting the Qur'an will be with the noble and righteous scribes (Angels). And the one who recites the Qur'an while struggling with it, and it is difficult for him, will receive two rewards."

[Sahih Muslim]

The one who exerts himself while finding it difficult will receive double reward, firstly because of his recitation, and secondly because of the added effort he has to make due to his continuous faltering. But this does not mean that he has surpassed the one who is proficient in the Qur'an.

Both reciters have been promised a unique reward. The reward which was mentioned for the one proficient in the Qur'an is that he will be in the company of the angels. The other will receive a separate reward for the effort he makes due to his faltering. Therefore one should not stop reciting the Qur'an due to any such difficulties.

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19. The Lofty Ranks of the People of the Qur'an

Rasulullah ﷺ said, "It will be said to the companion of the Qur'an: 'Read and ascend, and recite (with clarity and correct pronunciation) as you used to recite in the world. Indeed, your rank will be at the last verse that you recite.'" [Sunan Tirmidhi]

Qadi Iyaadh Rahimahullah states: 'This virtue applies only to those who recite the Qur'an as it ought to be recited, who practise on its teachings and who contemplate over its meanings. In the Aakhirah, a person will be able to recite only those verses that he practised on. He will be unable to recite those verses the teachings of which he neglected. Therefore, the highest level of Jannah will be reserved for Rasulullah ﷺ and then for people according to the extent to which they practised the teachings of the Qur'an.' (Faydhul-Qadeer 4/308)



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20. A Crown Brighter Than the Sun

Rasulullah ﷺ said, "Whoever recites (learns) the Qur'an and practices upon it, his parents will be given a crown to wear on the day of Qiyaamah. The crown will outshine the brightness of the sun, had the sun been confined within some houses of this world amongst you. (If this is the honour awaiting the parents of the Haafidh) What do you think will be the honour of the one who practiced upon this (Qur'an)."

[Abu Dawud]

Those who learn and practise upon the Qur'an will be a means of their parents receiving crowns whose brilliance surpasses even the sun. If this is the reward granted to the parents, who were responsible for their existence or education, one can only imagine the immense reward awaiting the person who learns and practises upon the Qur'an.



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21. Recite the Qur'an with Reflection & Beauty

Rasulullah ﷺ said, "O people of the Qur'an! Do not take the Qur'an as your pillow (i.e. do not neglect the Qur'an by failing to recite it at night). Recite it during the night and the day as it deserves to be recited. Propagate it and read it with a beautiful voice. Ponder over it. Do this so that you may be successful. Do not recite it in a fast pace, for it will earn for you special rewards." According to another wording: "Do not seek to get reward for it quickly, since you are to receive its reward [on its time]." **[Shu'abul Imaan]**

From this hadith, we learn some of the rights of the Qur'an:

1) Showing respect to it. 2) Reciting it as it ought to be recited. 3) Reciting it in Tahajjud Salaah and during the day. 4) Reciting it in a beautiful voice. 5) Propagating the Qur'an. 6) Pondering over its meaning. 7) Having sincerity and seeking the Hereafter by means of it.

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22. Recite the Qur'an for Allah's Pleasure

Sayyiduna Jaabir ﷺ narrates that Rasulullah ﷺ once entered the masjid, where he saw a group of people reciting the Qur'an. Rasulullah ﷺ said, "Recite the Qur'an, and seek Allah (His pleasure and His love) through it, before such people come who will straighten it like an arrow is straightened (i.e. they will recite it impeccably with perfect Tajweed), but with the purpose of earning the world through it. They will not seek the Aakhirah through it." [Musnad Ahmad]

From this Hadith, we learn that one should learn the Qur'an sincerely. One should seek Allah's pleasure through his recital and should beg Allah to grant him Jannah by means of the Qur'an. That is truly the prize of one who learns the Qur'an. One should not learn the Qur'an with any worldly motive, or to show off and brag about one's expertise in the Qur'an.



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23. The Importance of Preserving the Qur'an

Rasulullah ﷺ said, "How evil it is for anyone of you to say, *"I forgot so-and so verse of the Qur'an."* In fact, he has been made to forget (because of some wrong which he has done). Continue reciting the Qur'an because it escapes faster from the hearts of man than camels escape from their ropes (when it gets loose)."

[Sahih Bukhari]

Just as a camel may escape if neglected, the Qur'an can easily be forgotten if one becomes careless in reciting or memorising it. The Qur'an is a precious spiritual bounty that must be cherished and consistently maintained, for if it is neglected, Allah Ta'ala may take it away and grant it to those who will appreciate its value.



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24. Seek Jannah Through the Qur'an

Rasulullah ﷺ said, "Learn the Qur'an and ask Allah to grant you Jannah through its blessings before others learn it and ask (people to give them the wealth of) the world through it. Three kinds of people learn the Qur'an:

a) a man who wishes to boast and show off through the Qur'an,

b) a man who uses it to earn a living

c) a man who recites it for the pleasure of Allah."

[Shu'abul Imaan]

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25. The Sin of Neglecting What Allah Has Bestowed

Rasulullah ﷺ said, "The good deeds of my Ummah were shown to me, which included even some dirt which a man removes from the Masjid. The sins of my Ummah were shown to me. I did not find any sin as great as that of forgetting a Surah or a verse of the Qur'an after being granted it." [Abu Dawud]

Allamah Teebi Rahimahullah writes: The words 'after being granted it' was said, instead of 'after memorizing it' to indicate that this was a great favour and gift which Allah had bestowed upon a person, so that he may be grateful for it. By forgetting it, he has been ungrateful for that great favour. Due to this aspect, the gravity of the sin has increased. [Mirqaatul Mafaatih]

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26. Three Ways of Disrespecting the Qur'an

Rasulullah ﷺ said, "Learn the Qur'an. Once you have learnt it, do not overstep the boundaries regarding it, do not shun it (by abandoning its recitation), do not use it as a means of earning, and do not use it as a means of amassing worldly wealth." [Musnad Ahmad]

- **Overstepping the Boundaries with the Qur'an:** Reciting too quickly, reciting for fame or to show off, or mispronouncing its words in an attempt to beautify one's voice.
- **Shunning the Qur'an:** Neglecting its recitation, failing to understand its meanings, or not practising upon its teachings.
- **Using the Qur'an for Worldly Gain:** Reciting to win prizes, charging for recitals, or taking payment for leading Taraaweeh Salaah.

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27. The Seriousness of Neglecting the Qur'an

Rasulullah ﷺ said, "There is no person who recites the Qur'an and then forgets it, except that he will meet Allah on the Day of Judgement as a leper." [Abu Dawud]

Ibn Allaan Rahimahullah writes: "The leprosy mentioned in the Hadith should be understood according to its apparent meaning. The appropriateness of this punishment is that the Qur'an is a light through which a person's eyes find comfort and his heart finds peace, both inwardly and outwardly. In particular, the signs of the Qur'an are evident on the faces of its people. Therefore, the one who loses it through neglect and abandonment is punished with its opposite, such as the darkening of the face and the ugliness of one's appearance. This is because leprosy is a disease in which the affected limb first becomes red, then turns black, and the flesh begins to break apart and fall away. This causes people to avoid the afflicted person and distance themselves from him as much as possible, out of aversion and fear of the harm he may cause."

[Al Futuhaat]

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28. Protected & Preserved by Allah Forever

Allah Ta'ala says, "Indeed We have revealed The Reminder (the Qur'an) and We are its protectors (preservers)." [Suratul Qamar ; V:17]

Abdul Karim Al-Qushayri Rahimahullah writes in the explanation of the above verse: "Allah Ta'ala revealed the Taurah and entrusted its preservation and protection to the Bani Isra'eel, since 'they were entrusted with the task of protecting the book of Allah'. They altered and changed it. Allah Ta'ala then revealed the Qur'an and informed mankind that He will protect it and preserve it. Allah Ta'ala protects and preserves it through the Qurraa and Huffaadh. Their hearts are the treasure houses which store His book. (Therefore, Allah Ta'ala will take care and protect the hearts of those who strive to preserve the Qur'an and protect it)." [Lataa'iful Ishaaraat 2/264]

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29. The Divine Promise of Qur'aanic Preservation

Rasulullah ﷺ said, "Allah Ta'ala said (to me), "I have revealed to you such a book which water cannot wash away. You will be able to recite it whether you are asleep or awake (i.e. it will be preserved in your memory while asleep and when awake)." [Sahih Muslim]

Unlike previous scriptures that were written on parchments and could be erased, or dissolved by water, the Qur'an's ultimate preservation does not rely on paper.

Ibn Kathir explains this by saying: '(Water cannot wash it away) because it is preserved in the chests, it was made easy for tongues to recite, it guards over the hearts, it is miraculous in its words and its meanings. For this reason, it is mentioned in previous scriptures in the description of this Ummah: 'Their scriptures are in their chests.'

[Tafseerul-Qur'anil Azeem]

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30. The Qur'aan: The Spring of the Heart (1)

اللّٰهُمَّ اجْعَلِ الْقُرْآنَ رَبِيْعَ قَلْبِيْ وَ نُوْرَ صَدْرِيْ
وَ جَلَاءَ حُزْنِيْ وَ ذَهَابَ هَمِّيْ وَ غَمِّيْ

Allaahummaj alil Quraana rabee'a qalbee, wa nuura sadree, wa jalaa'a huznee, wa zahaaba hummee wa ghammee

"O Allah, make the Qur'an the spring of my heart, the light of my chest, the dispeller of my sadness and the reliever of my grief and distress." [Musnad Ahmad]



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30. The Qur'aan: The Spring of the Heart (2)

Rasulullah ﷺ described the Qur'an as the spring of the heart, as spring brings life, colour and rejuvenation to the earth, the Qur'an revives our hearts and strengthens our Imaan. By reciting it, reflecting on its meanings and applying its lessons, we can renew our Imaan and bring happiness into our lives.

The Qur'an is also the light of our chests, guiding us towards the Straight Path, and a means of finding relief from grief, worry and anxiety. Through developing a personal relationship with the Qur'an, our lives can be transformed, and our hearts can find peace and tranquillity.

May Allah Ta'ala make the Qur'an the spring of our hearts, the light of our chests, and a means of removing our worries and distress.

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