HOW TO BEHAVE AT THE PRESENCE OF QURAN

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Abstract: *Everything has its own ethics. No matter it is a religuos, social or ethical behavour. The more significant the issue, the more observations are needed. To recite all holy books we should regard these moral codes as we are in fact talking to the Creator and Originator of the whole Universe.*

Key words: *customs, reciting Quran, ethics*

Introduction

Imam Ali said,

"... و تعلموا القرآن فانه أَحسن الحديث و تفقهوا فيه فانه ربيع القلوب و استشفوا بنوره فإنه شفاء الصدور و أَحسنوا تلاوته فانه أَنفع القصص."

Amirul Momenin Ali said, "… and learn Quran which is the best word and comprehend it well which is the spring of hearts and ask treatment from Quran's Light which is the cure of hearts and recite it well which is the most fruitful accounts."[1]

Introduction

The holy Prophet said,

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إنی تارک فیکم الثقلین کتاب الله و عترتی

“ I endow you two precious gems; the Book of God and my Family.”

It is doubtless that Quran “the divine eternal book” is the most elevated word which is always alive, fresh and vivid. This great book is the most stable path of guidance and a treasure which has no end.

Quran is a mighty which is no mightier than it. It includes the most eloquent advice and sweetest tales. Truly Quran “this enlightening Book” is one of the two precious deposits of the holy Prophet to which we should recourse.

Doubtlessly one of the ways to recourse to Quran is to observe codes of behavior related to this Book. Therefore, it is upon us to respect this noble scripture and modify our thought and actions so as to deserve this endless ocean.

In the present article the best attempt is made to get acquainted with our duties towards Quran and behave as our leaders of religion have taught us, as they are left with us by God in trust, they are the carriers of Quran, and the elected ones by God to guide and propagate.

Therefore, comprehending and using Quran is not possible unless by recourse to infallible imams and this is the first step to observe Quran’s dignity.

First

To be clean and have Vuzu

It is suitable to be tidy and clean while we are in the presence of Quran like any other situation when we are in the presence of others. This is a sign of our respect to Quran and obligatory for us. It is hoped that this this cleanness of our body can affect our inside.

The holy Quran states in Surah Vaqi’a, verse 79:

لَا يَمَسُّهُ إِلَّا الْمُطَهَّرُونَ

Which none shall touch except the purified;

According to the expressive words of God the requisite of reciting Quran is purity and cleanliness and it means to take Vuzu or Ghusl and if any one wants to touch Quran lines should have vuzu.

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Second

How to start reciting Quran

It is advised to take the following steps before reciting Quran:

a. Reciting Salavat to Prophet and his pure family

Before reciting Quran we should send a salavat to the holy Prophet and his family; because Quran is sent down to us for the blesses of him and through his teachings we have reached this boiling spring of knowledge. Therefore, we should ask God to send His blessing to the Prophet and his family.

God Almighty says in Surah Ahzab verse 56:

إِنَّ اللَّهَ وَمَلَائِكَتَهُ يُصَلُّونَ عَلَى النَّبِيِّ يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا صَلُّوا عَلَيْهِ وَسَلِّمُوا تَسْلِيمًا

Allah and His angels praise and venerate the Prophet. Believers, praise and venerate him and pronounce peace upon him in abundance.

b. Taking refuge to God the Creator of the World from Satanic temptation

The second step is to seek God's safeguard from Satanic temptation. This is called " Iste'aze" and is explicitly mentioned in Quran:

فَإِذَا قَرَأْتَ الْقُرْآنَ فَاسْتَعِذْ بِاللَّهِ مِنَ الشَّيْطَانِ الرَّجِيمِ

When you recite the Koran, seek refuge in Allah from the stoned Satan.

The temptations of cursed satan are mentioned in many verses of holy Quran. Contemplating on them, we can realize that Satan involves and interferes more in those affairs that God loves more. And also we know that worshipping God is of the most valued actions before God and also reciting Quran is of the best worships.

According to the order of holy Quran, while reciting Quran, we should seek refuge to God and say:

أعوذ بالله من الشيطان الرجيم

I take refuge to God from driven away Satan.

This refuge is one of the most powerful tools to combat satan's great power.

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c. The starting point to recite Quran is to say " in the name of God"

As we know " in the name of God, the most compassionate the most merciful" is a verse of the verses of holy Quran which comes at the beginning of all surahs of Quran except surah Toubah. This noble verse is repeated in Quran for 114 times and this declares its importance. It may Quran in this way is teaching us to start any activity by the name of the Merciful God.

The holy Prophet said,

" any action which is not started by the name of God would be a failure and fruitless."

This zikr has great thavab and rewards.

Third

Listening to the Quran while being recited

وَإِذَا قُرِئَ الْقُرْآنُ فَاسْتَمِعُوا لَهُ وَأَنْصِتُوا لَعَلَّكُمْ تُرْحَمُونَ

When the Koran is recited, listen to it in silence in order that Allah has mercy upon you.(7:204)

According to Quran, while Quran is recited, people should listen and keep quite. It is similar to the situation when a person is speaking others should keep quite until he finished. This silence even will be rewarded.

The holy Prophet said,

قارى القران و المستمع فى الاجر سواءٌ

The reciter of Quran and listener of Quran receive equal reward.[2]

Therefore, to respect the word of God we should keep quite which this will cause salvation of human being.

Fourth

Reciting Quran by looking at its text

Imam Sajjad , in a very nice metaphor, resembles Quran to a treasure; if you open it, it deserves to be looked at.

Another codes of ethics in this regard is to recite the holy verses of Quran from its texts; because in addition to recitation of Quran, looking at its verses is another ibadah (i.e. worship)

Imam Sadiq told Ishaq ibn 'Ammar:

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“ Oh Ishaq! Do not you know that looking at Quran is a worship?”[3]

One of the names of Quran is “ Light” and enjoying Quran’s light is possible by looking at it. for this reason, God has promised to give great reward for this looking-at.

The holy Prophet said, “Anyone who recites Quran from its text, God will write two thousands hasaneh for him and for one who recites Quran memorized, God will write a thousand hasaneh for him.”[4]

Fifth

Reciting Quran correctly (Tartil)

In reciting Quran we should notice to pronounce words and letters in correct way.

In Quran we read that

وَرَتِّلِ الْقُرْآنَ تَرْتِيلًا

Recite the Quran in a distinct tone;(73:4)

And also imam Ali said,

“Learn Quran and recite it properly and correctly.”

So Quran should be recited slowly, well and correctly because Quran recitation in this way is a sign of respecting the word of God which is Quran.

In description of Prophet it is quoted that he always recited Quran slowly and calmly.[5]

This is our duty to learn how to recite Quran correctly.

Sixth

Reciting Quran in sweet tone and good voice

It is proper Quran reciter recites it well; he should observe several codes in this regard:

1. Recite it by sweet nice tone and voice

لكل شيء حلية و حلية القران الصوت الحسن

Anything has an ornament and ornament of Quran is good sound.[6]

Any time imam Sajjad was reciting Quran, passers stopped in front of his

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home and absorbed by his voice and for a while they forgot time.

2. Reciting Quran in sonorous voice

The holy Prophet said,

إن القران نزل بالحزن فاقرءوه بالحزن

Quran has been sent down with sorrow. So recite Quran in sonorous voice.

And also God revealed to Mosa, anytime you stand up in my court be similar to a needy humiliated person and if you recite Torah recite it with sorrow.[7]

3. Another code is to recite it loudly and quietly.

Imam Baqir said,

Anyone who recites " انا انزلناه" loudly is similar to a fighter in the path of God and anyone who recites it quietly is similar to the one who is martyr in the path of God.

It is worth mentioning reciting Quran loudly or quietly depends on the time and situation.

Reciting it aloud means respecting the word of God. It causes awakening of heart, lift spirits up, and ends tiredness of listeners and reciters. In addition, the ears of reciter and listeners become more familiar with the words of Quran and all will benefit from rewards of its recitation.

Of course it should be cared this does not cause in taking pride for reciter or bothers others.

Seventh

- Do not put Quran in the back, leave it aside
- Clean the place of putting it

There are some other customs regarding the rights of the holy Quran and our duties:

1. Do not put it behind

The holy Prophet said,

"Any one who turns his back to Quran, it leads him to hell."[8]

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2. Do not leave Quran

Imam Sadiq said,

"That Quran which is left, and dust covers it, and it is not recited will complain God."[9]

3. Prostrate by reciting verses of Sajde (prostration)

In four Surah of Quran there are several verses that any one by hearing them or reciting them is obliged to prostrate. These verses are:

إِنَّمَا يُؤْمِنُ بِآيَاتِنَا الَّذِينَ إِذَا ذُكِّرُوا بِهَا خَرُّوا سُجَّدًا وَسَبَّحُوا بِحَمْدِ رَبِّهِمْ وَهُمْ لَا يَسْتَكْبِرُونَ

Only those who believe in Our verses, when reminded of them, prostrate themselves and exalt with the praise of their Lord in humility;(32:15)

وَمِنْ آيَاتِهِ اللَّيْلُ وَالنَّهَارُ وَالشَّمْسُ وَالْقَمَرُ لَا تَسْجُدُوا لِلشَّمْسِ وَلَا لِلْقَمَرِ وَاسْجُدُوا لِلَّهِ الَّذِي خَلَقَهُنَّ إِنْ كُنْتُمْ إِيَّاهُ تَعْبُدُونَ

Among His signs are the night and the day, and the sun and the moon. But do not prostrate yourselves before the sun or the moon; rather prostrate before Allah, who created them both, if it is He whom you worship. (41:37)

فَاسْجُدُوا لِلَّهِ وَاعْبُدُوا

Rather, prostrate to Allah and worship Him.(53:62)

كَلَّا لَا تُطِعْهُ وَاسْجُدْ وَاقْتَرِبْ

No, indeed; do not obey him! Prostrate and come nearer (to Allah).(96:19)

4. Keeping Quran clean
5. Covering Quran
6. keep Quran in a good place
7. put Quran in high shelf
8. do not put anything on Quran
9. be polite while reciting Quran
10. do not leave Quran open after reading it
11. sit while facing Qiblah while reading Quran
12. the time for recitation

Reciting Quran is good in all time but in special time reciting it is more advised:

- Ramadan month
- After daily prayers
- Eve and day of Fridays
- For the one who is about to die

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13. Sending the rewards of Quran recitation to deceased people

But our choice would be nothing but he!

[1] Bihar al-Anvar, vol.2,p.36
[2] Mostadrik al-Vasail, vol.4, p.261
[3] Kafi, vol.2, p.614
[4] Jame'e Akhbar va Athar, vol.1, p.326
[5] Vasail al-Shia, vol.6, p.208
[6] Bihar al-Anvar, vol.89, p.90
[7] Kafi, vol.2, p.614
[8] Kafi, vol.2, p.599
[9] 'Udat al-Da'ee, p.290

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