



**A Study of the Qur' ān  
While Reciting**

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with Chair of the Department of Qur' ānic Recitation  
Mawlana Arif Kamal

DARUL QASIM  
COLLEGE



Shaykh Ibrahim Al-Akhdar born in Madinah in 1945, has recited to many of the most qualified reciters of our generation. He has recorded multiple recitations of the entire Qur'ān and is currently the Shaykh al-Qurrā' of Masjid al-Nabawī.

Mawlana Arif reflects on his recitation to Shaykh Ibrahim. “Qur'ān is about sitting with the teachers and benefiting from their experiences. It's not something that you can just get from books, reading on your own. It's also not something that you can get through your own individual studies. This speaks to how the Qur'ān and Islam has been passed from chest to chest, generation to generation through human interaction. Today, everything is digitalized, tried to be made easy, catered to you, at your footsteps.

He really showed me that you have to make the higher efforts of travel to gain benefits.”



“He asked me:  
'How was the speech of the Prophet ﷺ.  
I'm not asking about his ﷺ recitation.  
I'm asking about his ﷺ speech.'

"So he mentioned a Hadith that the  
Prophet ﷺ would recite in such a  
manner that you could count the  
number of words that he ﷺ recited.”

“So, when you recite, anyone  
listening should be able to count the  
number of words. So that they can  
know where the word begins, where  
the word ends, and when the next  
word begins, and when the next word  
ends. This also speaks to that the art  
of the preservation of the Qur'ān or  
even reciting not just the letters not  
just the words, but in a manner that  
represents and emulates the speech  
of the Prophet ﷺ.”

“Reciting Qur’ān to my teacher unties knots I didn’t know I had. The more knots I untie, the more the spiritual effects of the Qur’ān I am exposed to, and feel I am able to help others reach as well. My physical recitation, as I keep working on it, only humbles me more towards what I don’t know and hopefully elevates my spirituality.”

“The Prophet ﷺ said “nothing brings the servants of Allah closer to Him than that which came from Him (referring to the Qur’ān).”



“As a student, a lot of my recitation wasn’t just recitation, it was a study of the Qur’ān while reciting. So that’s what we’re trying to bring here in the department of Qur’ānic Recitation as well.”

"When I would recite to my teachers,  
oftentimes, they would stop my  
recitation and say,

‘Okay, what does this word mean? Why  
is it good for us to recite this word in  
this way? Why is it good for us to stop in  
this particular part? If we make waqf  
here, if we stop here, what meanings are  
brought out? And then if we stop on this  
other place, what other meanings are  
brought out? Considering these two  
things, which one is the best to stop on?’

“A student who comes to Darul Qasim College to study and recite is getting the full experience. Of course, the benefit of improving their recitation, but also understanding how recitation isn’t separate from the meaning. It isn’t separate from understanding its background. It isn’t separate from tafsīr.”

“The goal isn’t just to study the text, but the goal is to have a broader understanding of the field. To appreciate the contributions of scholars from the past and into the present, so students can have a complete study of the science. Although, we utilize standard texts the way that we teach it here, at Darul Qasim College, isn’t a standard way.”

Entering Mawlana Arif's Linguistic Tafsir class, brings to life many of the teaching tools and techniques he has acquired through his own study of the the Qur'ān while reciting. It also gives you a taste of what an advanced, academic study of the Qur'ānic Recitation is.

The surah being studied today raises complexities. Mawlana Arif calls their attention to the deeper meanings of the words and how that impacts the translation. He discusses with them the common mistakes made in translation and how they can understand the word and the meaning of it correctly. He poses to them the question: "What would be the best translation?"



Here, an appreciation of the language of the Qur'ān and confidence in its preservation is being taught alongside the relationship between recitation and the extraction of meaning. He reminds his students, “The the Qur'ān has been memorized by millions of Muslims but in terms of Tajwīd, the fact that not just the words are preserved, but even the movement of the tongue when pronouncing each letter has been preserved.”

Appreciation and confidence is further cemented through the tools of critical inquiry that courses like these build in our students.

As confidence builds in the classroom, it is tempered with Prophetically inspired humility. He shares:

“It is extremely humbling that despite your many improvements, perfection is still far. It is rewarding, knowing your aim is to sound as close to the recitation of the Nabi ﷺ. It is overwhelming, witnessing the various modes of recitation which the qirā’āt uncover, like stepping from a shallow shore into the deep ocean. It is frightening, knowing that these verses must reach deep into the heart and never stop merely at the throats. It is a huge honor, which cannot be compared to any honor in the world knowing that the pleasure sought can only be of Allah and not of any other listening soul.”



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our Ramadan Series

“Catching Lightning  
in a Bottle”

with Chair of the Department  
of Qur'anic Exegesis

Mawlana Kamil Uddin