

## MANNERS PERTAINING TO THE QUR'ĀN'S RECITATION

1. Cleansing the mouth with a *miswāk* (tooth-stick) before reciting.
2. Reciting in a clean, pure place, whether in a mosque or anywhere else and facing the qiblah (the Ka'bah) during recitation.
3. Starting recitation with the *isti'ādah* (seeking Allāh's protection from Satan) - Allāh, the Almighty, says: ***"When you recite the Qur'ān, [first] seek refuge in Allāh from Satan, the expelled [from His mercy]."*** (Sūrah an-Naḥl, 16:98)
4. Pronouncing the *basmalah* (saying, "*Bismillāhir-Raḥmānir-Raḥeem*") at the beginning of each sūrah, with the exception of *Sūrah at-Tawbah*.
5. Being humble to Allāh and contemplating the meanings of the recited verses - Allāh says: ***"Then do they not reflect upon the Qur'ān, or are there locks upon [their] hearts?"*** (Sūrah Muḥammad, 47:24) The Almighty also says: ***"[This is] a blessed Book which We have revealed to you, [O Muḥammad], that they might reflect upon its verses and that those of understanding would be reminded."*** (Sūrah Ṣād, 38:29)
6. Reciting the Qur'ān in measured rhythmic tones; chanting and making the voice pleasing while reciting - Allāh, the Almighty, says: ***"And recite the Qur'ān with measured recitation."*** (Sūrah al-Muzzammil, 73:4) Abū Hurayrah narrated that Allāh's Messenger (ﷺ) said: "He does not belong to us who does not chant the Qur'ān." (Narrated by al-Bukhārī)
7. Reciting the Qur'ān distinctly and without hastening - Abū Wā'il narrated: "We went to 'Abdullāh in the morning and a man said, 'Yesterday I recited all the *mufaṣṣal* [shorter] sūrahs.' 'Abdullāh said, 'That is very fast. I remember very well the recitation of those sūrahs which the Prophet (ﷺ) used to recite, and they were eighteen sūrahs from the *mufaṣṣal* and two *sūrahs* starting with "*alif, laam, meem*" and "*haa, meem*.'" (Narrated by al-Bukhārī)
8. Reading the Qur'ān with the proper lengthening (*madd*) - Qatādah narrated: "Anas bin Mālik was asked, 'How was the recitation of the Prophet (ﷺ)?' He replied, 'It was [characterized by sufficient] prolongation.' Then he [Anas] recited, '*Bismillāhir-Raḥmānir-Raḥeem*,' prolonging the pronunciation of '*Bismillāh*,' '*ar-Raḥmān*,' and '*ar-Raḥeem*.'" (Narrated by al-Bukhārī) Umm Salamah described the recitation of the Prophet (ﷺ) as "recitation in a manner which makes distinct every letter." (Narrated by Abū Dāwūd, at-Tirmidhī and an-Nasā'ī. At-Tirmidhī said, "It is a good, authentic ḥadīth.")
9. Pausing on verses of mercy and verses of punishment for supplication - Ḥudhayfah narrated: "One night I prayed along with the Prophet (ﷺ). He started with *al-Baqarah*, which he recited; then *an-Nisā'*, which he recited; then *Āli 'Imrān*, which he recited slowly. When he came to a verse praising Allāh, he would praise Him. When he came to a verse mentioning supplication, he would supplicate Him. When

he came to a verse mentioning seeking Allāh's protection, he would seek His protection." (Narrated by al-Bukhārī and Muslim)

10. Being moved and affected when reciting the Qur'ān - Allāh, the Almighty, said: ***"And when they hear what has been revealed to the Messenger, you see their eyes overflowing with tears because of what they have recognized of the truth. They say, 'Our Lord, we have believed, so register us among the witnesses.'"*** (Sūrah al-Mā'idah, 5:83) Allāh also said: ***"Say, 'Believe in it or do not believe.' Indeed, those who were given knowledge before it - when it is recited to them, they fall upon their faces in prostration, and they say, 'Exalted is our Lord! Indeed, the promise of our Lord has been fulfilled.' And they fall upon their faces weeping, and it [i.e., the Qur'ān] increases them in humble submission."*** (Sūrah al-Isrā', 17:107-109)
11. Prostrating during recitation - During a Friday prayer, 'Umar recited *Sūrah an-Naḥl*. When he came to a verse of prostration, he prostrated and so did the people along with him. In the next Friday prayer when he recited a verse of prostration, he said, "O people, when you come to a verse of prostration, you may prostrate, and you would act properly. But if you did not, you would not acquire a sin," and 'Umar did not prostrate. (Narrated by al-Bukhārī)
12. Moderation between reciting the Qur'ān loudly and quietly Allāh said: ***"And do not recite [too] loudly in your prayer or [too] quietly but seek between that an [intermediate] way."*** (Sūrah al-Isrā', 17:110) 'Uqbah bin 'Āmir heard the Prophet (ﷺ) say: "He who recites the Qur'ān loudly is like him who gives ṣadaqah openly, and he who recites the Qur'ān quietly is like him who gives ṣadaqah secretly. (Abū Dāwūd, at-Tirmidhī and an-Nasā'ī. At-Tirmidhī said it is a good ḥadīth)
13. Avoiding laughter, shouting and talking during recitation - Allāh instructed: ***"So when the Qur'ān is recited, then listen to it and pay attention that you may receive mercy."*** (Sūrah al-A'rāf, 7:204)
14. Completing the recitation within a certain period - 'Abdullāh bin 'Amr narrated: "Allāh's Messenger (ﷺ) said to me, 'Complete the Qur'ān in a month.' I said, 'But I have ability [to do more than that].' Allāh's Messenger (ﷺ) said, 'Then complete the Qur'ān in seven days, and not in less than that.'" (Narrated by al-Bukhārī and Muslim)