



RECITATION WOES

REMEDY TO THE
5 MOST COMMON
CHALLENGES IN
QURAN RECITATION



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Introduction

The Creator of the universe spoke to mankind through the most eloquent and purest book in existence. We recognize this holy book as the Quran.

Just as land thrives off of water, our hearts are nourished by the recitation of the Quran. Life's many obstacles consume this vessel with discomfort, disappointment, and disconnect; from this, how do we change the condition of our hearts? The path to spirituality and happiness comes from hearing the Creator's words spoken to you through your own voice—the ultimate channel for inner peace.

The goal of this eBook is to help you connect with the book of Allah Subhanahu Wa Tala through its recitation. Journey through the stories of five individuals who overcame their obstacles and healed through the Quran. Discover your own challenges, learn the tools to progress in your recitation, and nurse your heart back to life with the divine cure.

MEET AMINA

This is a story of a 48 year old woman from the Fiji Islands named Amina. She was born and raised as a Muslim, but grew up knowing very little about her religion. After having experienced the joys of a university education, marrying the man of her dreams, and raising three beautiful children, she yearned for something greater—something to complete the void within her heart. What she yearned for was the ability to recite and understand the Quran.

Her quest to learn the Quran was not simple. Because of her age, she found minimal outlets to learn Arabic. Quite often, the Imams and teachers would simply tell her to recite Surah Ikhlas and that would be sufficient for her; however, Amina knew that she wanted more. She finally found an instructor who agreed to teach her the letters, but after eight months of being taught through transliteration, Amina realized that she still did not know how to read the Arabic

“INDEED, HE WHO FEARS ALLAH AND IS PATIENT,
THEN INDEED, ALLAH DOES NOT ALLOW TO BE
LOST THE REWARD OF THOSE WHO DO GOOD.”
—SURAH YUSUF: 90

letters in their true form and sound.

After three long years of searching, she finally stumbled upon a program that taught people of varying ages and experiences how to read the Quran. This felt right. She was finally on her way to connecting with the words of her Creator.

1 ARE YOU AWESOME OR HAPPY?

The most common challenge that many face when learning to recite the Quran is determining the primary characteristic of a letter. Here are three steps to help you resolve this challenge!

1

Say the word “Awesome” out loud. You will notice that the “AWE” sound has a heaviness to it— this sound comes from within.

2

Say the word “Happy” out loud. You will notice that the “AA” sound is lifted and the sound is light. Make sure to smile!

3

There are only seven letters that are ALWAYS awesome:

ض ص ق
خ غ ظ ط

MEETHASAN

This is a story of a 21 year old man from New York City named Hasan. Like the other kids in his neighborhood, Hasan grew up attending the Sunday school at his local masjid until the 8th grade. Hasan was an excellent student; he studied hard, did well on the SATs, but missed Quran class quite often. After graduating with his Bachelor's degree, Hasan was accepted into a pre-med program and spent his days and nights studying for the MCATs—putting aside anything

that would distract him from his career goals.

The many years of being away from Quran had shown the effects on his soul. Similar to the way color fades in the bright sun, Hasan's heart had now reached a condition where it felt faded and worn. Seeking solace and comfort, Hasan rushed to the only place where his interaction with the Quran existed many years ago—the Masjid.

After having missed the Isha prayer, Hasan sat alone in the

masjid and began to call upon his Lord aloud. He grabbed a Quran from the shelf and began to read—slow and steady he thought to himself. The immediate feeling of tranquility filled his heart. From that moment forward, Hasan had made an intention to reconnect with the speech of Allah Subhahanu Wa Ta'ala and he was determined to learn to read the Quran once again.

THOSE WHO HAVE BELIEVED AND WHOSE HEARTS ARE ASSURED BY THE REMEMBRANCE OF ALLAH. UNQUESTIONABLY, BY THE REMEMBRANCE OF ALLAH HEARTS ARE ASSURED." [13:28]

2 THE LETTERS OF THE THROAT

The second most common challenge many face when learning to recite is when they encounter the throat letters. These letters are key to understanding rhythm rules and are easy to pronounce with these simple tricks!

3rd Part of the Throat

Gargle the sound

ع خ

Scratch the sound

2nd Part of the Throat

Lift the sound

ع ح

Spicy sound
Blow the air

1st Part of the Throat

Lookup and say "AAA"

ا ء ه

Drag the sound

MEET THE KHANS

This is a story of a young couple who were both born and raised in Southern California. As the eldest children in their respective families, they were each taught by the local Quran teacher who gave them candy and also carried a stick. By the age of seven, they had finished reading Quran for the first time. In the struggle of learning multiple languages, they learned to read with incorrect pronunciation. Many years later, while reciting Quran in the morning, they heard

each other reading and realized that they were both at the same level in terms of their recitation. They thought to themselves, “Why do my children recite better than I do?” They made an effort to read every day in order to improve their pronunciation, but found that their recitation remained stagnant. With every passing day, Mr. and Mrs. Khan were saddened that they never experienced the sweetness of reading the book of their Lord. This was the catalyst for their journey into reading and understanding the Quran.



O YOU WHO HAVE BELIEVED,
SEEK HELP THROUGH
PATIENCE AND PRAYER.
INDEED, ALLAH IS WITH THE
PATIENT. [2:153]

3

THIS CAT FEELS COOL

C **A** T

The "Line on Top" accent represents the "A" sound in the word "CAT."

F **EE** L S

The "Line on Bottom" accent represents the "EE" sound in the word "FEELS."

C **OO** L

The "Swoosh" accent represents the "OO" sound in the word "COOL"

The third most common challenge that many face when learning to recite the Quran is clarity in their accents. Two important things to remember when working on your accents is:

- 1) Where does the sound live
- 2) Clarify the accent

MEET TERESA

“IF ALLAH KNOWS [ANY] GOOD IN YOUR HEARTS, HE WILL GIVE YOU [SOMETHING] BETTER THAN WHAT WAS TAKEN FROM YOU, AND HE WILL FORGIVE YOU; AND ALLAH IS FORGIVING AND MERCIFUL.” [8:70]

This is a story about a Hispanic woman, named Teresa, who converted to Islam at the age of 24. A year after embracing Islam, she wed Tariq, an Arab man who was fluent in the language. Over time, Teresa learned how to pray, started to wear hijab, and was active in her local masjid and community. She was a professional, a mother of a beautiful daughter, and tried her best to understand the religion that had changed her life for the better.

As she reached the next phase of her journey, she knew that learning to read the Quran was key to her spiritual success. With her husband’s busy work schedule, he was unable to teach her the Arabic letters. Soon after, she found success in an online program that gave her the right tools to pave her path. Within the three years of becoming Muslim, she learned to recognize the letters in the Arabic language. She then proceeded to learn to recite the Quran with tajweed, went for Umrah, and welcomed her second child into the world—Baby Yusuf.



4

TRANSITIONING TOOLS

The fourth challenge new reciters face is transitioning between letters. It is a simple concept. Transitions are all about identifying and making sure to give each letter its due right. Two important tools to help you transition effortlessly when reciting are:

1. Identify whether a letter is Awesome or Happy.
2. Identify where the sound lives (is it a throat letter, lip letter, etc.)

Practice your “Transitioning” skills by reciting the words below. Remember to use your two tricks to help you smoothly transition in your recitation.

طَعَامٍ أَعْبُدُ
نَصْرُ تَضَلِيلِ

MEET YAQUB

"AND YOUR LORD SAYS, "CALL UPON ME; I WILL RESPOND TO YOU." [40:60]

This is the story of a 23 year old man who grew up in a Southeast Asian home; his name was Yaqub. He was born and raised in Pakistan until the age of 13, when his family decided to migrate to South Florida. Although they now lived in the United States, Yaqub's parents maintained a strict household with strong cultural traditions. Everyday since the age of four, Yaqub was forced to read Quran for an hour. If he ever got into any trouble at school or at home,

he was forced to read Quran as a form of punishment. In his parent's eyes, they were helping their son to connect to the book of Allah—but Yaqub felt differently. The thought of the Quran gave him anxiety and he viewed its recitation in a negative light.

Many years later when Yaqub was 19 years old, an exciting new tajweed seminar had come into town for the weekend. Of course Yaqub's parents had

insisted that he attend and benefit from the young instructor. Yaqub reluctantly agreed and attended the seminar. To his surprise, Yaqub loved the seminar. It awakened in him this new found desire to connect with the Quran. He no longer wanted to feel discomfort with the Quran; rather, he wanted to find peace in its recitation. Yaqub dedicated the next few years to learning to recite the Quran with tajweed and eventually memorized the Quran in its entirety.

5

NORTH TO SOUTH & EAST TO WEST

The fifth challenge faced by Quran reciters is the dilemma of how long to stretch sounds when reciting. This can be easily resolved by focusing on the shape of the stretching symbol. There are two types of stretches: a North to South stretch or an East to West stretch. Depending on which stretch it is, you will easily know how long to stretch the sound.

NORTH TO SOUTH



These stretches all point North to South. They will be stretched for a length of two counts.

EAST TO WEST STRETCH



This stretch points in the East to West direction. It will always be recited between 3-6 counts depending on the following scenarios:

An East to West on any letter will be stretched for 3 counts:

وَمَآ

An East to West followed by ء will be stretched for 4 counts:

مَشَاءَ

An East to West on a miracle letter (a letter that only Allah knows the meaning of) will be stretched for 6 counts:

ق



Conclusion

The Quran is a book that evokes emotion. We want our emotions to connect back to the Quran, and its recitation to be a tool used to heal and nourish our hearts. Through its proper recitation, the Quran will give us confidence in our day to day lives, bring us happiness, and ultimately shower us with the mercy of our Lord.

Do not underestimate the bounties of the Quran. When you can change your experience with the speech of Allah Subhanahu Wa Tala, you can literally change the condition of your life.

You might be asking, what's next, how do I do this? I would like to share with you a set of videos where I tackle the emotional barriers people face before they start to revolutionize their life and their journey with The Quran. Check your inbox in a few days!