

Supplication and Method for Easy Memorization of the Qurān

Hadhrat Ibn 'Abbās رضي الله عنه reports that he was once in the company of Rasulullāh ﷺ when Hadhrat Ali رضي الله عنه came in and said "O Prophet of Allāh ﷺ, you are dearer to me than my father and mother. I try to memorize the Qur'ān but cannot do so, as it vanishes from my memory." Rasulullāh ﷺ said, "Shall I tell you of a method that will benefit you as well as those to whom it is conveyed by you? You will then be able to retain whatever you learn." At the request of Hadhrat Ali رضي الله عنه Rasulullāh ﷺ said: "When the night preceding Friday comes, rise up in its last third portion, if possible, for that would be excellent, because this is the best part of the night, as this is the time when angels descend and prayers are specially granted at this hour. It was for this time that Hadhrat Ya'qub رضي الله عنه had been waiting when he had said to his sons that he would, in the near future, pray to his Lord for forgiveness for them. If it be difficult to get up at that time, then you should do so in the middle part of the night and if even that be not possible, offer the four rak'āt in the early part of the night. After reciting surah Fātihah in each rak'ah, surah Yāseen should be recited in the first rak'at, surah ad-Dukhān in the second, surah Alif Lām Meem Sajdah in the third and surah al-Mulk in the fourth. After completing at-tahiyāt (glorification of Allāh in the sitting posture in salāh) you should praise and glorify Almighty Allāh abundantly, invoke peace and blessings on me and on all the Prophets, and seek forgiveness for all believers and those Muslim brethren who have passed away before you, and then recite the following du'ā:

اللَّهُمَّ ارْحَمْنِي بِتَرْكِ الْمَعَاصِي أَبَدًا مَا أَبْقَيْتَنِي وَارْحَمْنِي أَنْ أَتَكَلَّفَ مَا لَا يَعْينُنِي وَارْزُقْنِي حُسْنَ النَّظَرِ فِيمَا
يُرْضِيكَ عَنِّي اللَّهُمَّ بَدِيعَ السَّمَوَاتِ وَالْأَرْضِ ذَا الْجَلَالِ وَالْإِكْرَامِ وَالْعِزَّةِ الَّتِي لَا تُرَامُ أَسْأَلُكَ يَا اللَّهُ يَا
رَحْمَنُ بِجَلَالِكَ وَنُورِ وَجْهِكَ أَنْ تُلْزِمَ حِفْظَ كِتَابِكَ كَمَا عَلَّمْتَنِي وَارْزُقْنِي أَنْ أَقْرَأَ عَلَى النَّحْوِ الَّذِي يُرْضِيكَ
عَنِّي اللَّهُمَّ بَدِيعَ السَّمَوَاتِ وَالْأَرْضِ ذَا الْجَلَالِ وَالْإِكْرَامِ وَالْعِزَّةِ الَّتِي لَا تُرَامُ أَسْأَلُكَ يَا اللَّهُ يَا رَحْمَنُ
بِجَلَالِكَ وَنُورِ وَجْهِكَ أَنْ تُنَوِّرَ بِكِتَابِكَ بَصِيرَتِي وَأَنْ تُطَلِّقَ بِهِ لِسَانِي وَأَنْ تُفَرِّجَ بِهِ عَن قَلْبِي وَأَنْ تُشْرَحَ بِهِ
صَدْرِي وَأَنْ تَغْسِلَ بِهِ بَدَنِي فَإِنَّهُ لَا يُعِينُنِي عَلَى الْحَقِّ غَيْرُكَ وَلَا يُؤْتِيهِ إِلَّا أَنْتَ وَلَا حَوْلَ وَلَا قُوَّةَ إِلَّا بِاللَّهِ
الْعَلِيِّ الْعَظِيمِ

Translation: O Allāh, have mercy upon me, so that I always abstain from sinful deeds as long as I am alive, be kind to me so that I do not toil in vain pursuits and bless me with solace in that which pleases You. O Allāh, the Originator of the heavens and the earth, Master of Glory and Honor, Lord of such Majesty, the attainment of which cannot even be conceived. O Allāh, the Most Beneficent, I pray in the name of Your Majesty and Effulgence of Your Countenance, to impose upon my heart the memorization of Your Book, as You have taught me the same, and grant me such a manner of recitation as pleases You. O Allāh, the Originator of Heavens and Earth, Master of Glory and Honor, Lord of such Majesty, the attainment of which cannot even be conceived! O Allāh, the Most Beneficent I pray in the name of Your Majesty and Effulgence of Your Countenance, to illumine my vision with the Light of Your Book, bless my tongue with a flow in its reading, and through its blessing remove heaviness of my heart, open my mind, and wash away (the sins of) my body. Certainly there is none other than You to support me in the cause of truth, and there is none other than You that can fulfill this desire of mine. There can be no safeguard (against evil) nor any power (over virtue) except with the help of Allāh, the Most High, the Most Great.

Ibn 'Abbās رضي الله عنه reports that hardly had five or seven Fridays passed when Hadhrat 'Ali رضي الله عنه came to Rasulullāh ﷺ and said, "Previously I used to learn about four verses but I was not able to retain them, and now I learn about forty and I can remember them as clearly as if I have the Qur'an open before me. Previously when I heard a hadith and then repeated it I could not retain it, and now I hear ahādith and, when I narrate them to others, I do not miss a single word."

Taken from Fazāil-e-Aa'māl [end of the Virtues of the Holy Qurān] with slight editing