

Taste and Tadabur



Compiled by
Nuh Saunders

Foreword by
Dr. Shadee Elmasry

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

أَفَلَا يَتَذَكَّرُونَ الْقُرْآنَ
أَمْرًا عَلَى قُلُوبٍ أَقْفَالُهَا

Will they not reflect upon the Qur'an? Or, is it that there are
locks upon their hearts?
Surat Muhammad Ayat 24 (47:24).

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THE SHIMMERING LIGHT



DAR AL-QURRA

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Author: Nuh Saunders
Translation: Dar al Qurra Team
Editor: Nuh Saunders and Umm Khadijah Zaynab
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The Shimmering Light
Mississauga, ON, Canada
www.theshimmeringlight.com
info@theshimmeringlight.com

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Introduction

There was once a young man filled with zeal for the deen. He devoted himself to reciting the Quran, studying, attending circles, visiting mashayikh, and acting upon the sunnah. At a certain point, he began tiring. His heart wandered towards what his peers were doing: playing, relaxing, chasing jobs, and money. He complained to his father, who himself was a scholar. “Father, my *himma*, my aspiration, is diminishing. I am inclining towards worldly matters, while knowledge and worship is becoming heavy on me.” Without a moment’s hesitation, the father said, “Recite the Quran with *tadabbur*, contemplation.” A poet once said, “When guidance settles in the heart, the limbs perk up with energy in worship.” It is only when we forget the purpose and the goal of deen that it’s actions become weighty on our souls. The Quran constantly reminds us of our goals, and tells us about those who came before us who attained this goal. This is the importance of *tadabbur*. It’s about the purpose. Nuh Saunders is bringing tremendous energy and enthusiasm for the Quran. This booklet is just a taste of that energy. May Allah bring benefit by it and may Allah increase him in the service of the Quran.

Dr. Shadee Elmasry
Director of Religious Education at
NBIC & Safina Society
North Brunswick, NJ
USA

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

Chapter 1

What is the Qur'an?

- ❖ The Qur'an is the speech of Allah, which descended from the celestial realm to the heart of the Prophet Muhammad ﷺ by way of the archangel Jibril.
- ❖ The recitation of it is an act of worship.
- ❖ It is that which is written between the two covers of a book.
- ❖ The Qur'an, its exact pronunciation, and all of its variant readings, has been conveyed to us by groups upon groups over the course of history to the present (Mutawatir).

What is Tadabur?

Understanding what is recited from the Qur'an, with a present heart, pondering on the verses and words of what is recited with the intention to gain new meanings and give further purpose to one's life.

Allah, Subhana wa ta'ala, says in the Qur'an: Will they not reflect upon the Qur'an? Or, is it that there are locks upon their hearts? Surat Muhammad Ayat 24 (47:24).

Know that tadabur isn't merely reciting the verses of the Qur'an, or memorizing its words, but, rather, that it is something greater than that. It is the affair of connecting the heart to God, the Almighty, and preparing the soul to receive gnosis of God.

The purpose of the Qur'an isn't to just recite it in the same way you read any other book, rather, the goal is to recite the Qur'an and manifest outwardly its effects on your character, daily life, and relationship with Allah.

Chapter 2

What is the Difference Between Tafsir and Tadabur?

Tafsir is the unveiling of the meanings of each ayat of the Qur'an, while tadabur is what comes after the meaning has been unveiled. Tadabur is looking at the meaning, the exact wording, and the sentence structure with close examination. It is reciting the Qur'an and finding out how the Revelation pertains to one's personal state and daily life. We use tafsir and various other methods to arrive at the aim of the Qur'an, which is tadabur. The more purified your heart is, the more that vessel will extract from the Qur'an. Tafsir is based upon proofs, while tadabur is based on an examination of proofs, rational concepts, and personal ideas; all the while taking the self into account.

Chapter 3

Tadabur Consists of the Following Two Principles

1. Understanding the Context

Al-Fatiha | Al-Maida

- ❖ Islamic Law

Al-An'am | At-Tawba

- ❖ The consequences of denying the messenger of Allah for the disbelievers of Mecca.

Al-Furqan | Al-Ahzab

- ❖ Arguments on the prophethood of Muhammad ﷺ and the requirements of faith in him.

Saba | Al-Hujraat

- ❖ Arguments on La ilaha illa Allah and the requirements of faith in it.

Qaf | At-Tahrim

- ❖ Arguments on afterlife and the obligation of faith in it.

Al-Mulk | An-Naas

- ❖ Admonition to the Quraysh about their fate in this life and the Hereafter if they deny the Message and the Messenger.

2. Certainty in the Qur'an and What is in it, and Submission to its Teachings

In order to get the most out of the Qur'an you must have a certainty that what is in the Qur'an is true. The Prophet ﷺ said, "doubt in the Qur'an is disbelief". Submitting to the teachings of the Qur'an is an act of the heart.

Seven Principles of Reflecting on the Qur'an

1. Sincerity for it brings forth the realities of reflection and understanding

The secret to being successful in understanding the Qur'an and properly reflecting upon the Qur'an isn't specific to the Qur'an alone, rather, this is a secret that lies in every righteous action. This secret is sincerity in all actions.

2. Preparing yourself to reflect on the Qur'an before you begin to recite

There are two doors that you must enter to prepare yourself, the outward and the inward, and both lead to the heart. The result is to bring about the desired meanings that Allah is sending down.

	Outward	Inward
1.	Proper wudu	Freeing the heart of the busyness of the world
2.	Wearing clean clothes	Reminding the self over & over about seeking Allah
3.	Perfuming the body	Making righteous intentions
4.	Facing the qibla	Seeking refuge from the accursed Satan

3. Asking Allah to grant you the ability to reflect on the Qur'an

Never underestimate the power of dua'. Dua' is the weapon of the believer and has allowed him to triumph over his enemies for centuries.

4. Taking the self into consideration when reciting Qur'an and reflecting on one's sins and character defects

"If one wishes to know himself, then he should present himself to the Qur'an."

5. Accustom the self to taking one's time when reciting the Qur'an

"The non-Arabic speaker who does not understand the Qur'an should recite slowly, because that is closer to reverence and respect and more affecting upon the heart than babbling speed."

- Shaykh Khalil al-Hussary

6. Keeping the aim of the Qur'an in mind, which is to reflect and ponder over the verses of the Qur'an

This can be done by keeping a positive attitude and not getting discouraged.

7. Constantly reciting the Qur'an night and day

1. Reading from the mushaf, as well as reciting from memory.
2. Reciting during the salah, as well as outside of the salah.
3. Reciting silently, as well as audibly.
4. Reciting inside the masjid, as well as doing so outside of the masjid