

The Qur'ān: Respect and Proper Manners

9th Grade to 12th Grade

The following is a list of etiquettes of the Qur'ān. These are not necessarily issues of ḥalāl and ḥarām but rather ways through which we can honor the Qur'ān, giving it the respect and proper manners it deserves.

1. Before reciting it, say the isti'ādah and the basmalah, whether you are starting at the beginning of a sūrah or some other part you have reached.
 - a. The Isti'ādah
 - i. 'a'ūdhu bi l-lāhi mina sh-shayṭāni r-raġīm
 - ii. I take refuge in Allāh from the accursed shayṭān
 - b. The Basmalah
 - i. bismi l-lāhi r-raḥmāni r-raḥīm
 - ii. I begin/My beginning is in the name of Allāh, the Unimaginably Merciful, the Ever-Merciful
2. Make sure that the Qur'ān is higher than all other books with no book over it.
3. Place the Qur'ān on your lap when reading it or on something in front of you but not on the floor.
4. Only touch it when you are clean and in a clean place.
5. When you want to hand it to another person, do so carefully with two hands rather than tossing it.
6. Only touch it when you are in a state of ritual purity (wuḍū').
7. When reciting it, sit up straight and respectfully, e.g., do not stick out your feet or cross one leg over another when in a chair.
8. Recite it slowly, distinctly pronouncing each word.
9. Do not enter the bathroom with it.
10. Dispose of it or anything written in Arabic in the proper way, e.g., by burning it or by shredding it using a micro-cut, crosscut shredder and then recycling it.
11. Once you begin reciting, do not interrupt your recitation from moment to moment with human words unless it is something important.
12. When you yawn, stop reciting it because the Qur'ān is the word of Allāh and yawning is from the shayṭān.
13. Do not recite it out loud over another person's recitation of it because that may make him not like what he hears.
14. Give each letter its right, clearly and fully pronouncing it, for each letter counts as at least ten good deeds.
15. Do not use the Qur'ān as pillow or lean upon it.
16. Face the direction of prayer (qiblah) when reciting it.
17. If you put down the Qur'ān, do not leave it open.
18. Find out the meanings of the Qur'ān's words and phrases.
19. At times, try to be alone when reciting it, so that no one interrupts you, forcing you to mix the words of the Qur'ān with replying, for this nullifies the effectiveness of the isti'ādah.

20. When you finish reciting the entire Qur'ān, begin it again so that it may not resemble something that has been abandoned.
21. Before reciting it, brush your teeth, preferably with a toothstick (miswāk), removing food from between them, and freshen your mouth because this is the path through which it passes.
22. Do not let a day go by without looking at least once at the pages of the Qur'ān.
23. Do not randomly recite certain 'āyāt from each sūrah but rather try to recite a whole sūrah or at least part of it in order.
24. Use your mind to try to understand what is being said to you by Allāh.
25. When you write the Qur'ān, do so in a clear, beautiful way.
26. Recite it when in a state of ritual purity (wuḍū').
27. Dress nicely before reciting it because you will be speaking to your Master in an intimate conversation.
28. Do not recite it to song tunes, tremulous tones, or plaintiveness, all of which is misguidance.
29. Pause at descriptions of earlier peoples and individuals to pay attention to and benefit from their example.
30. Pause at 'āyāt that promise Allāh's favor to long for Allāh, the Most High, and ask for His bounty and at verses that warn of His punishment to ask Him to save you from it.