

Appendix 3

Suggestions for Further Study

This book has only been an introduction to the study of Qur'anic Arabic. The study of the Qur'an is a life-long process. There will always be something new in the Qur'an for the earnest seeker of truth.

1. Listen frequently to the recitation of the Qur'an. Stick to one reciter initially. The recitation of al-Minshawi is very exact. It also induces a proper mood for appreciating the meaning of the Qur'an.

His recitation is available on cassettes and CD.

For an excellent resource for listening and memorizing, go to **www.reciter.org**.

As you listen, see how much you can understand.

Try listening to the recitation in Arabic while following a translation of the Qur'an in English. A fairly literal translation is best for this - the one by Arberry is generally quite good. (A translation like that of Muhammad Asad's which is very meticulous and stimulating may not be ideal for this.)

2. Read the Qur'an frequently. Try to have a programme for completing the recitation of the Qur'an every two or three months. Ramadan is a good time to get into regular reading habits. As you read, see how much you can understand and translate. Use a copy of the Qur'an with parallel translation.

3. Memorize as much of the Qur'an as possible, even if you do not grasp the meaning of all that you memorize. Eventually with study and effort, the meanings will unfold on you. This is a constant source of enrichment.

4. Recite what you have memorized in your Salat. Recite from various parts of the Qur'an. Many of us tend to be lazy and recite the short surahs at the end of the Qur'an in our Salat. To recite from various parts of the Qur'an will make for concentration and deeper awareness.

5. Develop your knowledge of Arabic grammar and structure. In this book, we have covered only the basic elements of the grammar and structure of Qur'anic Arabic. You will need to build on this. For further studies in grammar, Dawud Cowan's *Grammar of Modern Literary Arabic* is excellent. *First Steps in Arabic Grammar* by Muhammad Haroun and M Yasien is good for late primary and early secondary school use. It deals with modern Arabic but the essential elements of grammar are the same. It uses Arabic grammatical terms side by side with established English equivalents. This is useful for those who will eventually access Arabic from Arabic sources.

6. Consult various translations of the Qur'an. No single translation can ever claim to convey the full meaning of the Qur'an or to be accurate in every respect. There will often be a variety of interpretations for a given text and a translation is often limited to choosing one interpretation. For a given verse, you may need to consult a variety of translations.

A good starting point is the meticulous on-going work *A Word for Word Meaning of the Qur'an* by M. Mohar Ali published by Jimas, Ipswich. The widely available translations by Muhammad Asad, Muhammad Yusuf Ali and Muhammad Marmaduke Pickthall have much to commend them. *The Message of the Qur'an* by Muhammad Asad is excellent for the more dedicated

scholar who will feel amply rewarded and challenged by close scrutiny of his translation and commentary. With difficult or controversial points, it is helpful to work with a study group and to have a competent teacher. Arthur J. Arberry's *The Koran Interpreted* is good for a close rendering of the original and manages at the same time to be elegant and poetic. In his introduction, he wrote movingly about the effect the Qur'an had on him.

7. For basic meanings of words, Penrice's *Dictionary and Glossary of the Qur'an* is still the most thorough although it was written more than a century ago. It uses grammatical expressions that will be only familiar to classical scholars. In some cases, he does not fail to suppress a Christian bias and deep anti-Islamic prejudices. These two points apart, the book is still very useful and reflects a certain thoroughness and exacting standards of scholarship.

8. Learn to use reference books and material on compact disks. One reference book in Arabic is indispensable for any close study of the Qur'an and its structures. It is the *Mu'jam al Mufarras li Alfaz al-Qur'an al-Karim* compiled by Muhammad Fu'ad Abd Al-Baqi. This lists all the words in the Qur'an and where and how often they occur.

The *Mu'jam al-Alfaz wa-l A'lam al-Qur'aniyyah* by Muhammad Isma'il Ibrahim is excellent for the primary meanings of Qur'anic words. This is for more advanced users.

9. Having now a good grasp of the basic grammar and structure of Arabic and being able to consult Arabic dictionaries, try referring to and reading works in Arabic. With the help of a teacher, a systematic study of the fairly recent work, *Safwat at-Tafasir* (3 vols.) by Muhammad Ali as-Sabuni will prove most stimulating and rewarding. At least, keep it as a reference.

10. Apply your knowledge to other uses of Arabic. The basic grammar that you have acquired in studying the Qur'an is also the grammar that is used in modern standard Arabic. For those who wish to go on to broaden their knowledge of Arabic into Arabic for daily use, reading books and newspapers etc. they can start with the Arabic Linguaphone course which unfortunately is very expensive. For those interested in translating from Arabic into English, *A Week in the Middle East* is a book with parallel Arabic and English texts with the translation of a very high standard. The audio tapes accompanying the book are excellent but not easily accessible. Also, Arabic is now increasingly offered at universities and institutions throughout the world and it may be useful to attend these. Intensive courses often yield the best results.

11. Finally, keep uppermost in your mind the main purpose for studying Arabic and the Qur'an. *The Way to the Qur'an* by the late Khurram Murad is a splendid book written by someone whose life and character mirrored the Qur'an to which he was intensely devoted. This book will no doubt remind us that grammar and structure are not the purpose of studying the Qur'an but a means to accurate understanding, enrichment and guidance. Our duties to the Qur'an remain: to believe in it, to recite it, to understand it, to ponder on it, to live by it, to teach it.

Recommended books, audiocassettes, computer programmes

For finding Qur'anic references

Al-Mu'jam al-Mufahras li alfaẓ al-Qur'an al-Karim, by Muhammad Fu'ad Abd al-Baqi, Dar ash-Sha'b, Cairo.

Easyview Kuran Kerim (computer programme - Mac format only) by M Akif Eyler, Ankara, 1993; rapid search and find facility according to *surah* and verse numbers. Easy downloading. Free - Public domain software.

email: eyler@trbilun.bitnet

Dictionaries

Mu'jam al-Alfaẓ wa-l A'lam al-Qur'aniyyah by Muhammad Isma'il Ibrahim, Dar al-Fikr al-'Arabi, Cairo, 1968

A Dictionary and Glossary of the Koran by John Penrice, first published 1873
Arabic English Dictionary - the Hans Wehr Dictionary of Modern Written Arabic (paperback), edited by J M Cowan, New York, 1976

Arabic Grammar in English

First Steps in Arabic Grammar by Yasien Mohamed & Muhammed Haron, Shuter & Shooter, Pietermaritzburg, South Africa, 1989

Modern Literary Arabic by David Cowan, Cambridge University Press, 1958

Grammar of the Arabic Language (2 vols.) by Wright, Cambridge University Press

Linguaphone Arabic Course, London, 1991

English Grammar

Basic English Grammar by Don Shiach, John Murray, London, 1995

Punctuation and Grammar by Catherine Hilton & Margaret Hyder, Letts, London, 1993

Arabic grammar and Tafsir in Arabic

Al-Farid fi 'Irab al-Qur'an al-Majid, 4 vols. by Husayn ibn Abi al-'Izz al-Hamadani (d. 643 AH), edited by Muhammad Hasan an-Nimr, Dar ath-Thaqafah, Doha, Qatar, 1991

Mu'jam Qawa'id al-Lughah al-Arabiyyah fi Jadawil wa Lawhat (A Dictionary of Arabic Grammar in Charts and Tables) by Antoine Dahdah, Libraire du Liban, Beirut, 1987. An Arabic-English edition has been published.

Safwat al-Bayan li Ma'ani al-Qur'an, Husayn M Makhluḥ, Kuwait, 1987.

Safwat at-Tafasir, (3 vols.) by Muhammad 'Ali as-Sabuni, Makkah, al-Mukarramah, 1980.

Translations of the Qur'an in English

A Word for Word Meaning of the Qur'an, Vols. 1-5 by M. Mohar Ali, Jimas, Ipswich.

The Message of the Qur'an by Muhammad Asad, Dar al-Andalus, Gibraltar, 1980

The Koran Interpreted, Arthur J Arberry, Oxford University Press, 1964

The Meaning of the Glorious Qur'an by Muhammad Marmaduke Pickthall, various editions available.

The Holy Qur'an - Text, translation and commentary by Abdullah Yusuf Ali,

various editions available.

Tajwid (Qur'an recitation)

Tajwid al-Qur'an by Ashraf Abdul-Fattah, Aladdin Hassanin & Salah Saleh, Bakkah Publishing, London, 1989

Qur'an at-Tajwid, CDs, colour coded, repetition facility, (Mac & PC), Syria,

Qur'an Recordings

Muhammad Siddiq al-Minshawi, audiocassettes, CDs

Muhammad Khalil al-Husari, audiocassettes, CDs

Sudaysi, audiocassettes, CDs

Internet resources

www.reciter.org

www.emuslim.com

General

Way to the Qur'an by Khurram Murad, Islamic Foundation, Leicester, 1986

Major Themes in the Qur'an by Fazlur Rahman, Bibliotheca Islamica, Chicago, 1980.

Qur'an in the Classroom by Adeleke Dirisu Ajjola, Islamic Publications, Lahore, 1977

'Ulum al-Qur'an by Ahmad von Denffer, Islamic Foundation, Leicester, 1983