

## **How to be with the Quran - Othman Bin Affan (raa) part 2**

DISCLAIMER: This reminder was originally delivered in Arabic on Friday, 6 February 2009. Any meanings lost in translation are not to be attributed to the speaker as reminders are translated by volunteers. The mosque has no official translator and volunteers often have no formal qualifications to translate on the day. Please forgive any errors as they are from our human weakness and any right guidance is from God.

Praise be to God who has made our preservation in the preservation of His book. No falsehood can approach this book from before or behind it. It is a revelation from a Lord who is Wise and Praiseworthy.

Oh Muslims, the prophet peace be upon him (pbuh) desired to make the Quran the only method of raising the Muslim individual, family and community. Othman bin Affan was one of those chosen people who heard the verses of God recited directly from the prophet (pbuh) and that had a direct effect on shaping his personality. It purified his soul and placed sincerity in his heart.

Othman May God be pleased with him was attached to the Holy Quran; He had a special relationship with the book of God. Abu Abdul-Rahman Al-salami said: "Those who used to teach us the Quran such as Othman bin Affan, Abdullah bin Masood and others told us that when they learnt ten verses from the prophet (pbuh), they used not to exceed them before they learnt what was in the verses of knowledge and how to implement that knowledge". They said: "as a result we learnt the knowledge of the Quran and how to implement that knowledge". That is why they used to take such a long time to memorise and learn to implement each chapter. God (SW) said in says: "[This is] a blessed Book which We have revealed to you, [O Muáammad], that they might reflect upon its verses and that those of understanding would be reminded." [SAAD 38:29]

Othman bin Affan narrated the hadith of the prophet Mohammed (pbuh):" The best among you (Muslims) are those who learn the Qur'an and teach it". He was also one of those who made the Quran – as revealed in full upon the prophet (pbuh) - widely available to people as well as being a source for many Quran narrators connecting the narrations to the prophet (pbuh).

Listen to what he said of the Quran: 'if our hearts were pure, they would never be satisfied with enough of God's words' and 'I hate a day in which I don't look in the covenant of God, i.e. the Quran'. He memorised the whole Quran which never left his lap. When asked about that, he replied: 'it is blessed [book] which was brought by a blessed man [Muhammad (phuh)]'. He was well known to recite the Quran a lot. So much so, his wife said to the people who killed him: 'kill him or leave him, by God he used to read the whole Quran in one unit of prayer at night'

He was one of those who were described by the verse "Is one who is devoutly obedient during periods of the night, prostrating and standing [in prayer], fearing the Hereafter and hoping for the mercy of his Lord, [like one who does not]? Say, "Are those who know equal to those who do not know?" Only they will remember [who are] people of understanding." [Az-Zumar 39:9]

Oh Muslims: These chosen righteous people were raised at the school of Quran. Whenever they read the Quran, they were affected by its verses and that was reflected - in their worship, their behavior and their morals – by an abandoning being anxious over tribulations of this life that they saw as insignificant and instead strove hard for the hereafter. By this reflection on the book of God, the generation of the companions may God be pleased with them, were the best example. They were the ideal society; the society that prophet (pbuh) brought up. They were the most precious society: the society that submitted to God alone and no one else. They were the society of true love between individuals making up that society and the society of clarity and honesty in dealings and transactions.

Oh Muslims: From this godly (rabbani) side of the life of Othman and his relationship with the Holy Quran, we learn: God (the Most Glorious, the Most High) sent down this Quran as a pathway for people to follow in their life, to be guidance for them with the truth it contains, and to govern their life with the law of God. It is a book which was sent down to bring out mankind from darkness into the light and to lead people to that which is most viable and most useful. “[This is] a Book which We have revealed to you, [O Muúammad], that you might bring mankind out of darkness into the light by the permission of their Lord – to the path of the Exalted in Might, the Praiseworthy” [Chapter Ibraheem 14:1]

We also learn that we must improve our relation with the Quran, in order to do that and to benefit from the guidance of Quran; we must have knowledge of what is in it and what God wants of us. God Almighty addresses us through the Quran, and our understanding of that addressing depends on our understanding of the Quran.

It is not permissible for the Muslim to say: I will shall get the matters of belief from Quran and leave the noble manners of dealing with people! Or: I shall get my obligations and worship from Quran and leave the rules of fair dealings in transactions! Or: I shall get the spiritual side of Quran and leave the economic, political or legislative matters of life! God says: “Indeed, this Qur’ān guides to that which is most suitable” [Al-Israa 17:9] and “there has come to you Our Messenger making clear to you much of what you used to conceal of the Scripture and overlooking much. There has come to you from God a light and a clear Book. By which God guides those who pursue His pleasure to the ways of peace and brings them out from darknesses into the light, by His permission, and guides them to a straight path.” [Al-Mā’idah 5:15-16] and “And We have revealed to you, [O Muúammad], the Book in truth, confirming that which preceded it of the Scripture and as a criterion over it. So judge between them by what God has revealed and do not follow their inclinations away from what has come to you of the truth. To each of you We prescribed a law and a method” [Al-Mā’idah 5:48].

Quran, its verses and words were in the eyes of the companions of the prophet (pbuh) as a joy for those who are alienated, a light for those who follow the right path, guidance for those feel lost, a warm shelter for those who repent and an infinite source for those who seek and apply its knowledge. It is the strong covenant of God, the clear light and the straight path.

The Quran was their connection with God and the tool they used to get to him (SW). It’s his words, a secret among his secrets and a light among his lights.

So how can the heedless people overlook Quran! How can the underachievers distance themselves from it! How can they leave it on the shelves gathering dust because of their ignorance? And how are the numbers of those who are willing to gain from its light is so little?

Say to yourself: I will go back to the book and the words of God. I will go back to the Quran to clean myself. I will purify my hearts and souls and to clear our chests from any ill feelings. Go back to Quran in order to learn and act upon it and to follow its path. “Alif, Lām, Meem, This is the Book about which there is no doubt, a guidance for those conscious of God” [Al-Baqarah 2:1]