

## 156299 - Is It Permissible to Recite the Entire Quran Daily?

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### the question

Is it permissible to complete the Quran every day? How are we to understand the proven reports which say that the Salaf used to complete it in less than three days?

### Summary of answer

Reciting the entire Quran daily is not prohibited, but the Prophet (peace be upon him) advised against finishing it in less than three days, as it prevents proper reflection. Most scholars recommend completing it in seven days, but occasional rapid recitation for special circumstances may be permissible.

### Detailed answer

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### The Virtues of Reciting the Quran

Reading and reciting the Book of Allah, may He be Exalted, is one of the greatest acts of worship in Islam. How can that not be the case, when what is read is the words of Allah, may He be Exalted?

In addition to this honour that is attained by the one who reads the Quran, Allah, may He be Exalted, has promised the reader great rewards in this world and the hereafter, such as it being guidance and healing for him, that for every letter he will have ten good deeds (Hasanat) to his

credit, that the Quran will intercede for him on the Day of Resurrection, and other rewards and benefits.

## **How the Early Generations Approached Quran Recitation**

Hence we see that the noble Companions and Successors, and those of the early generations of this Ummah who followed them, were keen to read the Book of their Lord, may He be Blessed and Exalted, and they would allocate for themselves a portion of it to be read every day.

## **Completing the Quran in Seven Days: Prophetic Guidance**

Despite their eagerness to read the Book of their Lord, they adhered to the guidelines set out by Islamic teachings and did not overstep the bounds, and did not let their eagerness cause them to do anything contrary to prophetic guidance.

Hence the majority of scholars are of the view that the Quran may be completed every seven days, and whoever has the strength to do more should not complete it in less than three days, except in specific circumstances which we will mention below.

Most of the early generations adhered to the practice of completing it in seven days, following the advice of the Prophet (blessings and peace of Allah be upon him) to `Abdullah ibn `Amr ibn Al-`As (may Allah be pleased with him).

It was narrated that `Abdullah ibn `Amr (may Allah be pleased with him) said: The Messenger of Allah (blessings and peace of Allah be upon him) said: "Read the Quran in a month." I said: I am able to do better than that... Until he said: "Then read it once every seven days, and do not do any more than that." (Narrated by Al-Bukhari, 4767 and Muslim, 1159)

So they did not complete it in less than three days, because the Prophet (blessings and peace of Allah be upon him) discouraged them to do that.

It was narrated that `Abdullah – that is, ibn `Amr (may Allah be pleased with him) said: The Messenger of Allah (blessings and peace of Allah be upon him) said: "No one properly

understands who reads the Quran in less than three days.” (Narrated by At-Tirmidhi, 2949); Abu Dawud, 1390; and Ibn Majah, 1347; classed as authentic by Al-Albani in Sahih Ibn Majah)

This is what the Companions understood from the Prophet’s teachings, and the leading scholars followed them in that.

- It was narrated that Ibn Mas`ud (may Allah be pleased with him) said: Read the Quran in seven days and do not read it in less than three days. (Narrated by Sa`id ibn Mansur in his Sunan with an authentic chain of narration, as was stated by Al-Hafidh Ibn Hajar in Fada`il Al-Quran, 9/78)
- It was narrated from Mu`adh ibn Jabal (may Allah be pleased with him) that he regarded it as makrooh to read the Quran in less than three days. (Narrated by Abu `Ubayd in Fada`il Al-Quran, 89; classed as authentic by Ibn Kathir in Fada`il Al-Quran, 254)
- Ibn Kathir (may Allah have mercy on him) said:

More than one scholar among the early generations regarded it as disliked to read the Quran in less than three days. This is also the view of Abu `Ubayd, Is-haq ibn Rahawayh and others of the later generations. (End quote from Fada`il Al-Quran, 254)

In addition to the fact that the one who reads it in less than three days does not understand it properly, he also does not benefit from the sublime and subtle meanings that are understood by the one who reads the Quran with reflection, at a measured pace.

Shaykh Al-Islam Ibn Taymiyah (may Allah have mercy on him) said:

Reading Quran in the manner enjoined instills great faith in the heart, and increases a person in certainty, reassurance and healing. (End quote from Majmu` Al-Fatawa, 7/283)

## **Examining Reports of Rapid Quran Completion**

With regard to what is mentioned in scholarly books about some people completing the Quran four times in one day or four times in one night, such reports should be investigated to find out whether they are soundly narrated from their alleged sources, because it is highly unlikely that

that happened, as the time is not long enough for that in the first place. The same may be said concerning the claim that some of them completed the Quran between Maghrib and `Isha' (!) and other claims that cannot be believed, even if one is able to read quickly. As for reading the entire Quran in a single day, that is possible; in fact some of the leading scholars did that – as was narrated from them – in a single Rak`ah.

## **Is finishing the Quran daily in line with the Sunnah?**

An-Nawawi (may Allah have mercy on him) said:

As for those who completed the Quran in a single rak`ah, they are innumerable, because they are so many. They include: `Uthman ibn `Affan, Tamim Ad-Dari, and Sa`id ibn Jubayr. (End quote from Al-Adhkar, 102)

But is the one who does that following the Sunnah of the Prophet (blessings and peace of Allah be upon him), or is he doing something that is not permissible according to Islamic teachings?

The answer is that the one who does that as a habit and way of life is undoubtedly doing something that is contrary to Islamic teachings, and he can only be doing that at the expense of neglecting other Shar`i duties such as prayer, teaching his children, upholding ties of kinship and taking care of his family, or by neglecting working to earn a living.

As for the one who does that occasionally with the aim of reviewing what he has memorised, or to make the most of auspicious times – such as the month of Ramadan – or because he is observing I`tikaf (retreat for worship) in the mosque, or because he is focusing on worship for a limited time in Makkah, for example – then that is not contrary to Islamic teaching. It is in this manner that we may interpret the reports narrated from some of the imams (leading scholars), that they completed the Quran twice in one day or once in a day; it is not to be understood that this was their way of life at all times.

Ibn Rajab Al-Hanbali (may Allah have mercy on him) said:

Qatadah regularly used to complete the Quran every seven days, and in Ramadan he would complete it every three days, and in the last ten nights of Ramadan he would complete it every

single night. In Ramadan Ash-Shafa`i used to complete the Quran sixty times [i.e., twice a day], reciting it outside of prayer. Something similar was also narrated from Abu Hanifah.

The prohibition on reading the entire Quran in less than three days is to be understood as referring to doing that persistently. But at auspicious times, such as the month of Ramadan, and especially on the nights on which Laylat Al-Qadr is sought, or in auspicious places, such as Makkah for those who go there and are not residents, then it is recommended to read a great deal of Quran so as to make the most of that time or that place. This is the view of Ahmad, Is-haq and other leading scholars, and is indicated by the actions of other scholars, as mentioned above. (End quote from Lata'if Al-Ma`arif, p. 171)

Consult these answers for further context: ([141700](#), [50781](#), [22722](#), [37683](#), [65754](#), [10984](#), [485](#))

And Allah knows best.