

The Qur'an & Sunnah in Arabic

The Qur'an was revealed in pure Arabic, chosen by Allah for His final revelation, carrying unmatched clarity, depth, and beauty. "Indeed, We have sent it down as an Arabic Qur'an that you might understand." [12:2]

Allah also says: "And thus We have revealed to you an Arabic Qur'an, so you may warn the Mother of Cities (Makkah) and those around it."

Its eloquence and unique structure are at the very heart of the Qur'an's inimitability (i'jāz). Every verse, word, and even letter in the Arabic Qur'an carries divine wisdom—each carrying precise meaning, beauty, and guidance that cannot be replicated or truly conveyed in any other language.

Just as the Qur'an was revealed in Arabic, the Sunnah was also preserved and conveyed in the same pure language. The Prophet ﷺ received revelation in Arabic, explained its meanings to the Companions in Arabic, and instructed them to transmit his words and actions exactly as they were revealed. In this way, the original guidance of Islam has been safeguarded, and its meanings kept clear and authentic for all generations.

The Sahabah and the Salaf consistently emphasized learning Arabic as a means to connect directly with the Qur'an and Sunnah, without relying on translations or interpretations. True understanding and preservation of the religion depended on engaging with the original language, ensuring that the meanings, wisdom, and guidance of Islam remain pure, clear and unchanged.

The Statements of the Scholars

Imam al-Shāfi'ī رحمه الله said: "Every Muslim is obliged to learn as much Arabic as will enable him to perform his duties of worship..." [al-Risālah]

Ibn Taymiyyah رحمه الله said: "The Arabic language itself is part of the religion, and learning it is obligatory and necessary. Understanding the Qur'an and the Sunnah is only possible through the Arabic language." [Iqtida' as-Sirat al-Mustaqim, 2/207]

Ibn al-Qayyim رحمه الله said: "The more one is able to understand Arabic, the more he will understand the Qur'an and Sunnah and what the Companions and Tabi'een said. So, understanding Arabic is the key to knowledge." [I'lam al-Muwaqqi'in, 2/257]

Shaykh al-Albānī رحمه الله said: "If a person wants to understand the Book and the Sunnah as they were revealed, then he must learn Arabic, because the translations do not fulfill this purpose." [Silsilat al-Hudā wa an-Nūr, tape no. 1]

Shaykh Bin Baz رحمه الله was asked: "Is learning Arabic obligatory?" He replied: "Learning Arabic is an important means for understanding the religion, and learning as much as one can is recommended. But what is obligatory is that which is required for one's religious duties." [Fatawa Nur 'ala ad-Darb, 1/290]

Arabic

The Key to Understanding Islam



The Key to Knowledge

The Qur'an itself affirms that Arabic is the chosen vessel for its guidance, law, wisdom, and miracles—testifying to the clarity and precision only possible in its original language: “In a clear Arabic language.” [26:195] Without Arabic, the true meanings, rulings, and profound subtleties of the Qur'an are weakened, hidden, or lost.

It is central to understanding Allah's message: “And We did not send any messenger except [speaking] in the language of his people so he might make [the message] clear for them.” [14:4]

“A Book whose verses have been detailed, an Arabic Qur'an for a people who know.” [41:3]

The Prophet ﷺ said: “Convey from me, even if it is one ayah...” [Bukhārī, no. 3461]—emphasizing the importance of preserving and transmitting knowledge as it was received, in Arabic, so its meaning and guidance remain intact.

From the earliest generations, all scholarship, explanation, and defense of the truth was written and transmitted in Arabic. Every major classical work in 'aqidah, fiqh, tafsīr, and hadith was produced in Arabic. Mastering Arabic grants access to this ocean of authentic knowledge. Without Arabic, a person's knowledge of Islam will always be secondhand, limited, at risk of error and misguidance. With Arabic, the Muslim can directly access, understand, and transmit the authentic teachings of Islam as they were revealed and practiced by the Salaf.

Strengthening Īmān

Understanding Arabic empowers every Muslim to connect directly with Allah's words and the teachings of the Prophet ﷺ, strengthening faith (īmān), certainty, and love for the truth. Engaging with the Qur'an and Sunnah in their original language brings unmatched clarity, sincerity, and a vibrant, living relationship with revelation—allowing the meanings, wisdom, and guidance to reach the heart with true conviction.

Unifier of the Muslim Ummah

Arabic unites Muslims across all lands and backgrounds, serving as the common thread in worship, learning, and scholarship. When believers use the same language for prayer, Qur'an, and Islamic study, they share in a unique spiritual and intellectual unity. This unity was cherished and emphasized by the Sahabah and the Salaf, who saw Arabic as a shield against confusion, division, and innovation.

A Plot Against the Believers

Throughout history, disbelievers have worked to disconnect Muslims from the language of revelation, knowing that neglecting Arabic weakens understanding, faith, and unity. The Salaf warned: abandoning Arabic leads to confusion, separation, groups, bid'ah and loss of true authentic Islam.

Preserving your faith and unity begins with making Arabic part of your life. Start your journey now—reconnect with Allah's guidance in its original language, and let each step bring you closer to the truth.

Steps to Learn Arabic

Common Barriers: Many non-Arab Muslims find learning Arabic challenging—due to a lack of quality resources, inconsistent teaching methods, or limited opportunities for practice. Sometimes, the sheer scope of the language can feel overwhelming.

Sincerity and Steadfastness: The Salaf were sincere and patient, who knew that every step in learning Arabic draw them closer to understanding Allah's words. The goal is not to become a linguist, but to connect with the Qur'an and Sunnah as they were revealed in order to worship Allah correctly.

Practical Steps for Every Muslim:

- **Start with Qur'anic Arabic:** Focus on the vocabulary and grammar most frequently found in the Qur'an and daily prayers.
- **Use Reliable, Salafi-Endorsed Resources:** Seek materials and teachers who stick closely to the methodology of the Salaf.
- **Memorize with Meaning:** Pair memorization of Qur'an, hadith, and key du'ā with understanding, not just repetition.
- **Incorporate Arabic Into Worship:** Use Arabic in daily prayers, dhikr, and supplications, even as you are learning.
- **Stay Consistent:** Set small, achievable goals—progress builds over time.

A Door to Lifelong Growth: Every effort to learn Arabic is rewarded by Allah and increases your ability to act on authentic knowledge. With patience, dua, and the right support, every Muslim can benefit and draw nearer to the original sources of Islam.