

Foundation

90 Hrs Certificate Course

Towards Understanding Qur'anic Arabic

Teaching Arabic through the Qur'an

By

Dr Muhammad Ibrahim H. I. Surty



QAF Qur'anic Arabic Foundation



In the name of Allah the Merciful the Mercy Giver

Foundation 90 Hrs Certificate Course

**Towards Understanding Qur'anic Arabic
Teaching Arabic through the Qur'an**

by Dr Muhammad Ibrahim H. I. Surty

Brief Outlines

The Scope and Significance of Qur'anic Arabic:

It is remarkable to witness that Qur'anic Arabic has set a uniform standard for the Arabic language, which has been meticulously and ardently followed over the last fourteen centuries. This set standard of excellence has never permitted any deviation in literary Arabic at any time from the Qur'anic standard. In fact, the Qur'an continues to resolve Arabic linguistic disputes up to the present day. This uniform set standard eases the study and comprehension of the immense body of Arabic literature, contributed over fourteen centuries, on different disciplines of language and human civilisation. Thousands of Arabic manuscripts have so far been catalogued worldwide and this process still continues. Each day witnesses many new manuscripts. This is the principal reason why Qur'anic Arabic has been studied from its inception to this day.

The galaxy of Qur'anic scholarship is gargantuan and includes a large number of shining stars in almost all of its disciplines. Like other Qur'anic disciplines, the literary genius of Qur'anic Arabic, throughout the generations, has always attracted thousands of Muslim scholars. In closely related prominent components of Qur'anic style, grammar and rhetoric – there exists an extremely rich academic contribution from Muslim scholarship, which is thought-provoking, meticulous and painstaking. Indeed, the encyclopaedic merits of such works cannot be ignored. Celebrated works on Qur'anic exegesis generally incorporate grammatical as well as rhetorical analysis of Qur'anic Arabic.

It is fascinating to witness that the Qur'an, time and time again, invites its readers with great emphasis towards reflection over its revealed Arabic language; it encourages exploration, observation and experimentation of the hidden forces of nature¹ as methods for the enhancement of the horizons of human knowledge – the basis of the glory and dignity of humanity at all times.

QAF provides a modern learning environment through analysis and research, and educates on linguistics, literary and Qur'anic Arabic using the Qur'an and the *Sunnah* as its core source of study.

What kind of Problems are Students confronted with when trying to Learn Arabic as a Foreign Language?

The greatest difficulty which beginners studying the Arabic language encounter is the recognition of various forms of nouns

¹ It is to be noted that these themes cover one-eighth of the Qur'an.

and verbs. Nouns exist in three numbers, e.g. singular, dual and plural; two genders, masculine and feminine. The dual as found in Arabic is usually something with which students are not acquainted because it does not exist in most other languages. The Plural in Arabic is formed by adopting different methods and nouns in all three cases -the nominative², accusative³ and genitive⁴. If nouns and pronouns in their singular, dual and plural numbers, two genders and then three cases are presented simultaneously, it causes confusion in the minds of beginners and they tend to lose interest in learning Arabic.

The same is true for verbs. Again there are three numbers: singular, dual and plural, two genders: masculine and feminine; two tenses: used for first person, second person and third person. Furthermore verbs are either active or passive, and have several derived forms. Naturally, if all these patterns are presented together, then it will create confusion, especially for beginners. Conversely, this method may not be very effective for those whose mother tongue is Arabic; they may not find these variations difficult in view of their familiarity with them. But certainly for beginners who have tried to learn Arabic as a Foreign Language it can be something of a maze.

The Salient Features of the Course:

- The Course is the result of around fifty years of research and practical teaching both at University level and to the

² A form noun used when it is the subject of a verb.

³ Grammatical case indicating the object of an action.

⁴ Grammatical case showing source or possession.

Muslim community at the principal mosques and at QAF House in the City of Birmingham.

- The Course includes Two Modules. The First Module comprises of seven lessons and it is strictly confined to singular forms in nouns, verbs, pronouns and their suffixes. Experience of teaching suggests that this is effective for students who learn Arabic as a Foreign Language. The Course is taught through graded progression which remains its backbone.
- All sixteen lessons based on their grammatical themes are judiciously divided into Sixty-Three small Units. In each Unit new grammatical themes are presented and fitted together like precious jewels in a necklace in such a way that either their removal or replacement would damage the beauty and elegance of the necklace as a whole. In their present order, Ninety-Three designed grammatical rules are incorporated. Rules are systematically analysed and synchronised with examples that are cited from the text with graded progression, to provide extra strength toward the comprehension of the grammar. This method strictly discourages rote learning.
- Around one thousand four hundred words are included, both in the designed text and Qur'anic text, comprising of over five hundred references to the Qur'an, which greatly assist the comprehension of the Qur'an, classical Arabic literature and grammatical themes.
- Qur'anic text is cited as evidence for the selected grammatical themes. This method can be traced as having been adopted by Muslim scholarship from the inception of

the revelation of the Qur'«n for its comprehension. In this exercise all attempts have been made to make sure that there exists no difference of opinion from Muslim scholars throughout fourteen centuries, and contextual meaning is presented to the students. All accept that the grammatical evidences provided are genuine.

- According to the adopted method each word can generally be analysed and its basic forms can be ascertained. Undoubtedly, *Al-Amr*, the Imperative and *Al-Nahy*, the Prohibitive are not introduced at an early stage. Their inclusion is deliberately deferred till Lesson Fourteen owing to the strict graded progression in the presentation of grammatical themes. The *Muḍāri' majzūm*, Imperfect Jussive is presented in Lesson Thirteen. For the comprehension of their word formation the knowledge of *Muḍāri' majzūm* is inevitable. With this method students are saved from rote learning.
- Modern Arabic words are deliberately avoided because the principal aim of the Course is to bring students close to the Qur'«nic text.
- In the first Module Five Pillars, namely (1) *al-M«ḍī*, Perfect (Past Tense), (2) *al-Muḍāri'*, Imperfect (Present and Future tense), *Ism al-Fā'il*, Active Participle, *Ism al-Fi'l*, Verbal Noun and (5) *Ism al-Maf'ūl*, Passive Participle are introduced through graded progression. Their methods enable students to construct a large number of new words. In the appendix of the course, tables have been provided which include all five pillars. At the same

time, through graded progression, tri-literal sound and weak roots are presented in ascending numerical order.

- A4 size colour coded tables have been provided to students. These tables comprise of nine pages which indicate tri-literal roots of verbs with three different colours for each root. These tables are provided free and can be accessed via QAF's website: www.qaf.org.uk/tables
- In Module Two (Lessons 8-16) with graded progression of the grammatical themes, nine *Thulāthi Mazīdfih*, Derived Forms of the verbs are introduced. Each lesson in this Module includes one of the nine derived forms and these can be comprehended with the Rules, their grammatical analysis and examples from the Text. Tables are also provided in which Five Pillars are presented which enable students to compose many more new words. In these lessons the remaining important grammatical themes are incorporated.
- A pocket size glossary of fifty-two pages containing around one thousand four hundred words is published which is provided free as part of the course material. It is available on QAF's website: www.qaf.org.uk/glossary.pdf
- Each lesson at its end includes the glossary and exercises. These are essentially a supplement to the taught lesson. A key to the exercises is provided at QAF's website: www.qaf.org.uk/keyfortheexcercises.pdf
- From lesson five till lesson sixteen a selection of over five hundred references to the Qur'«n are presented. Up to lesson twelve the designed text runs parallel to the

Qur'anic text. It is to be noted that *al-Shaykh* 'Abdul M«jid Dary«b«d» was a prolific scholar of the Qur'anic sciences and his English translation of the Qur'anic text, published by Islamic Foundation, Leicester is provided in the appendix. This translation is very close to the Qur'anic words and assists the students greatly.

- Tried and tested methods are used in the Course. All in all it is a ninety hour course presented systematically and structured to facilitate careful graded progression. It is nevertheless a step by step climb up a hill, with progress to the next step depending upon confidence with the step preceding it. The climb should not however be seen as threatening, rather each step is short to allow a secure foothold before the next is attempted. It presents an ideal invitation.

The Teaching of the Course at the University of Birmingham, UK:

The Course has been taught in Two Modules as an M.A. Degree requirement by Dr Surty, first at CSIC, Selly Oak Colleges affiliated with the University of Birmingham, and later at the University of Birmingham, Department of Theology and Religion for twenty successive years.

For a few years Dr Surty also taught the Course on Fridays at The Oxford Centre for Islamic Studies, Oxford.

Teachers' Training of the Course by QAF:

- A number of attempts have been made both at home and abroad for teachers' training. The Vice Chancellors of International Islamic University, Islamabad, Pakistan and one of the oldest Universities of India, Aligarh Muslim University, have invited Dr Surty to conduct extensive teachers' training for Qur'anic Arabic and invited scores of teachers for this purpose. They launched an Urdu translation of the Course which received wider media publicity.

Video Recording of the Course at Islamic Research Foundation (IRF) Studio:

- Fortunately, the entire Course has been recorded by IRF on twelve DVDs in a classroom setting with students and taught by Dr Surty with visual aids on the request of IRF in 2007. It is the first such English language course of its kind in the world. DVDs provide an ample opportunity to the students to revise and learn rapidly. By the grace of Allah, serial programmes on Qur'anic Arabic have been televised by Peace TV worldwide and this noble venture has and is enabling thousands of interested people the world-over to learn Qur'anic Arabic. The Course, in colour-coded format, is accompanied by an album of twelve DVDs comprising of sixty-six half hour episodes. The album is given free as Course material to those who buy the Course book.

Learn Qur'ānic Script Rapidly
An Illustrated text book
With two free DVDs (Containing 12 episodes)

by Dr. Muhammad Ibrahim H. I. Surty

This Course has been taught by Dr. Surty in a classroom setting to children. The Moroccan *Qārī al-Shaykh* 'Abdul Karīm Sharīb has recited the text of the book. The Course begins with the Arabic alphabet, and then leads students, through graded progression, towards the recitation of the Qur'anic text. This Course is equally good for adults. Watch a clip on QAF's website. The Course also develops skills for writing Arabic script, with graded progress.

- By the grace of Allah QAF has published a fully illustrated A4 sized coloured Course book on Art paper.
- Intermediate and advanced Courses on Qur'anic Arabic are being compiled and both of them will be published in the near future, *inshā Allāh*.
- So far over two thousand male and female students have benefitted from the course through classroom teaching.
- It is indeed encouraging to note that a large number of interested people who have purchased the Qur'anic Arabic Course material from different countries of the world, have studied it and many among them have expressed their appreciation. The Course has been taught over the years in Birmingham, Britain's second largest city, which has proven to be its cradle.

Wamā Tawfīqī Illā billāh

Dr. Muhammad Ibrahim H. I. Surty

B.A. (Hons), M.A, Ph. D. (London)

Senior Lecturer, University of Birmingham (Retired)

Director, Chairman & Founder of QAF Trust

 **Views of the Muslim Scholars** 

“I consider the noble endeavors of Dr Surty to teach Arabic, the language of the Noble Qur’^{an}, which remained alive among Arabs for more than fourteen centuries, as praise worthy. It is also the language of the Traditions of the Messenger of Allah ﷺ and from where stems all the Islamic *Shari’ah* which is followed by Muslims throughout the world.

Among the tasks which Dr Surty accomplished is compiling a book comprising of lessons to teach Qur’^{anic} Arabic based on introducing its vocabulary and expanding its meaning to the students in a simple direct method taking into consideration the context and atmosphere of Britain and Western countries. Two aims have been achieved by his approach: teaching Arabic language in general and Qur’^{anic} terms in particular.

His attempt deserves recognition and admiration. I am hopeful that students who wish to learn Arabic will find the book very useful. In collaboration with Dr Surty and on his request, I am contributing this introduction to his book.”

Al-Shaykh Sayyed Abul Hasan Ali Nadwi

“I am much obliged to Dr Surty who kindly showed me his book and explained its teaching methodology. I found the book and its methodology a new approach to facilitate the teaching of the language of the Qur’«n. I am hopeful that this novel book will promote its universal usage and help teachers of Arabic as a second language to follow his new methods. Any efforts in this direction will be very rewarding since teaching Qur’«nic Arabic is certainly included in the saying of the Prophet ﷺ: ‘the best of you is he who learns and teaches the Qur’«n’.”

Professor Dr Shaykh Idris - Institute of Islamic and Arabic Sciences of America, USA

“Arabic language has been honored to be the language of the Noble Qur’«n. Beginners always find difficulties in the comprehension of this language which increases the need to develop new methods of teaching it. This big challenge has been confronted by the author who compiled this valuable and extremely useful work based on his long experience and aptitude of research. He has succeeded in its presentation as he has selected its examples and applications mainly from the Qur’«n, in addition to some extracts from *Hadīth*, proverbs and wise sayings.”

Professor Dr Ahmed Ali al-Imam, Vice Chancellor, Qur’«nic University and Islamic Sciences, Omdurman, Sudan.

“Having gone through the work, I have found it to be unique. It is a book seeking to teach Arabic with the Holy Qur’«n as its focus. Every word used in this important book is to be found in the Holy Qur’«n and in the *Hadīth* of the Prophet Muhammad ﷺ. By the time one reads this book through, one would end up not only

learning Arabic vocabulary and grammar, but becoming very well acquainted with the teachings of Islam.

In this well researched work, Dr Surty, no doubt putting to good use his long experience in teaching Arabic to non-Arabs, has started with the assumption that the reader is an absolute beginner. This book is a must for all those who wish to learn Qur'anic Arabic without tears. I commend it to all non-Arabic speaking people who want to learn Qur'anic Arabic easily."

**Professor Dr Abubakar A. Gwandu - Former Vice Chancellor,
Usman Danfodio University, Sokoto, Nigeria.**

"This book fills a major gap in the field of Arabic language teaching. Very well written, systematically compiled to make Qur'anic Arabic easy to learn and a joy to teach. The author manages in this work to combine a scholar's depth with Arabic teacher's skills to produce a masterpiece in Qur'anic studies that make the eyebrows of all experts rise."

Professor Dr Mawil Izzi Dien

Views of the Students

Comments from ladies:

"Clear graded progression facilitates rapid learning, specially written texts highlight grammatical themes, and lead smoothly into the student being able to tackle Qur'anic texts directly. Grammatical themes are backed up by clear reference tables that keep consolidation of lessons. Wherever possible new rules are presented in a systematic way that aids assimilation."

Lucy Hudson - M.A Student, CSIC, University of Birmingham, U.K.

“This book is logical, clear and well presented with relevant and interesting exercises and extracts. The methodology is well defined and demonstrates an organised progression which facilitates learning and enables very fast progression to be made. Following the Course was very enjoyable and has stimulated me to continue further any study of Arabic.”

Clair Norton – Graduate Student, Department of Byzantine Studies, University of Birmingham, U.K.

“I am an English Muslim. I have made several attempts to teach myself Arabic but by far the best method I have come across is Dr Surty’s Course ‘Towards Understanding Qur’anic Arabic.’

Jannat Al-Haddad – Wisbech

“I have attended Dr Surty’s classes on Qur’anic Arabic at the Oxford Center for Islamic Studies and I was amazed at how much we had learnt and managed to remember from each lesson! The method is very clear and easy to follow. I recommend the Course to everyone for self study and teaching.”

D. K. Maryam – Oxford

“I found the book to be very helpful in learning the Qur’anic language and grammar. I am also involved with a small group of ladies who are learning Qur’anic Arabic, and we have found Dr Surty’s Course to be of enormous help.”

Rashda Ali – London

“Attending the Quranic Arabic course has been a real eye-opening experience for me. For many years my dream was to understand the language of the Quran. Alhamdulillah, that was made possible through the efforts of Dr Surty and QAF. The approach that this course takes, is one that allows students who have very little background in Arabic language to grasp grammatical rules very quickly and is done so systematically and gradually that the comprehension of the Arabic language is made easy. I have no doubt that this unique approach to teaching Quranic Arabic will continue to benefit generations to come *inshaAllah*.”

Nimo Mohamed – BSc Hons, Optometry - Birmingham

“Alhamdulillah, I had the privilege of attending Dr Surty’s classes. It was a pleasure to witness such a fresh technique of teaching.

Dr Surty has come up with a truly revolutionary and ground breaking way of teaching Qur’anic Arabic in as little as 16 lessons. I found this absolutely phenomenal. The evidence speaks for itself; students are achieving remarkable results and are able to grasp not only the forms and the roots of the Arabic words but are exposed to the use of dictionaries right from the start.

Dr Surty’s approach is innovative of verb conjugation using just the singular form initially. Once the students are confident and therefore don’t get overwhelmed with too much information, he introduces them to dual and then the plural; this is very impressive. This also is true of the way he presents the moods of the verbs and nouns. He introduces it gradually and backs the

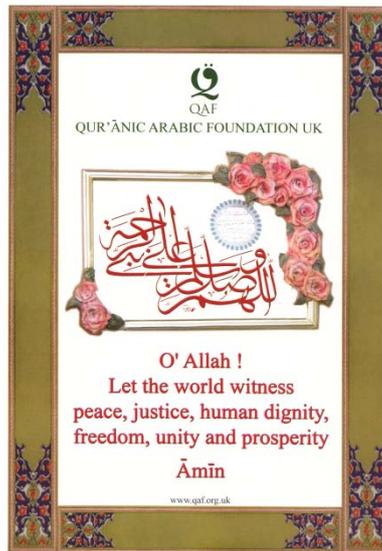
concepts up with a respectable amount of resource material which the students can refer to in order to enhance their learning. I wish I had this when I first set on the road to learning Arabic.”

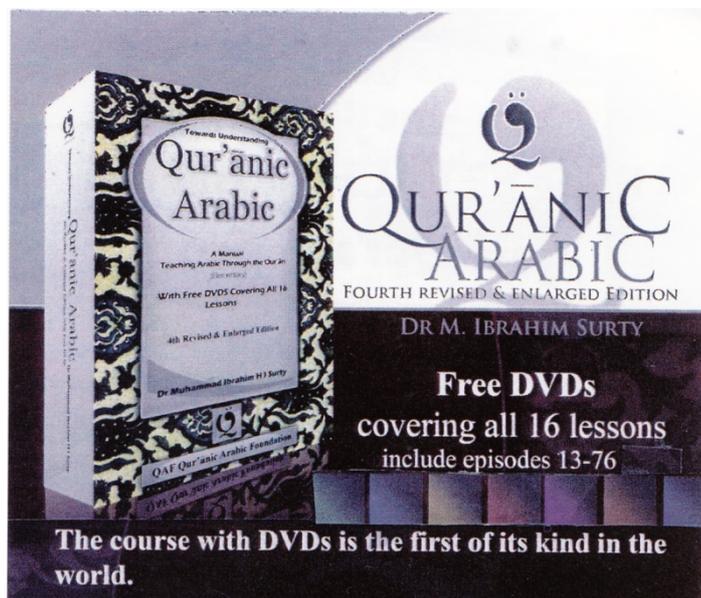
Parveen Akhtar - MA Arabic/English Translation graduate – Leeds



Saying of the Prophet Muhammad (ﷺ):

“The best among you is one who learns and teaches the Qur’ān.”

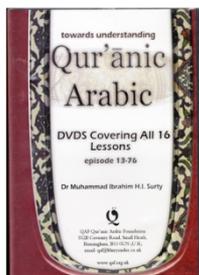




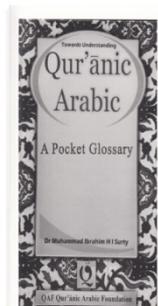
The following free material is provided with the course:



Arabic Verb Conjugations in Colour Coding



DVDs Covering all 16 Lessons



A Pocket Glossary

Bring a TEACHER Home to teach Qur'anic Script

by Dr Muhammad Ibrahim H. I. Surty

Subsidised price £7.99 + Postage
(£10.00 with postage in UK)

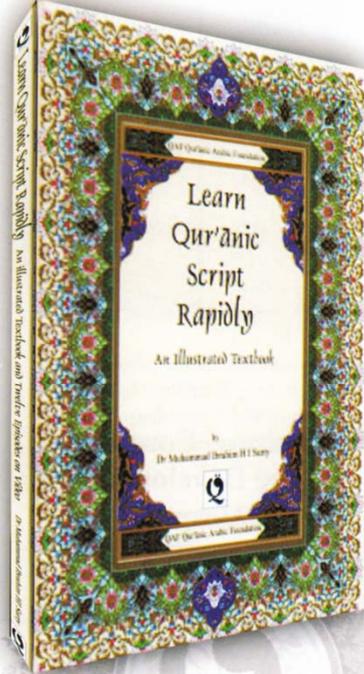
This fully illustrated colour
hardcover A4 size textbook
accompanies two free DVDs
(included) to provide a glorious
opportunity for children and adults
to learn the Qur'anic script and its
correct pronunciation rapidly.

The DVDs contain 12 episodes set in
a unique and lively classroom setting
taught by Dr Muhammad Ibrahim H.
I. Surty, Senior Lecturer,
Department of Theology and
Religion, University of Birmingham,
UK.

ISBN 1 898596 35 2

64pp. An excellent gift for children
and beginners.

Two free DVDs



QAF: Qur'anic Arabic Foundation
552B QAF House, Coventry Road, Small Heath,
Birmingham B10 0UN U.K.
Tel: 0121 771 1894
e-mail: info@qaf.org.uk www.qaf.org.uk
Registered Charity No. 1027642