12 KEYS TO ENRICH YOUR ENGAGEMENT WITH THE QURAN

PERSONAL KEYS

1 SLOW DOWN

The goal isn't to get through as much as possible in a shallow reading, but to go deep with however much (or little) you can manage. What's the rush? You're with Allah as He speaks to you. Appreciate that He is hearing you.

2 EXPERIENCE EMOTION

Connect the concepts, descriptions and stories to real emotional moments in your life. For example, whenever you recite Al-hamdu lillah ("All praise is for Allah"), call to mind a time when you felt truly grateful and realized how much you need Him.

3 ENGAGE THE SENSES

Keep a copy of the Qur'an which you love to hold and look at. Try listening to different reciters as your eyes follow the translation. You might pick up meanings in the voice which you didn't notice in the words.

4 ACTIVATE IMAGINATION

Can you picture Paradise as it's being described? Can you see how the Prophets acted in the face of all those challenges? Keeping these images in your mind will be a source of great strength in your daily life.

INTELLECTUAL KEYS

1 SURAH OVERVIEWS

Before focusing on each line, it helps to have an idea of the contents of the chapter you're reading. You can read/listen to an explanation, but it helps just to skim through the surah and notice the major themes it contains.

2 ASK QUESTIONS

There can be no answers without questions, e.g. "Why was it said this way?" "What is the wisdom of that?" Your personal thoughts may not be ready for broadcast, but they are crucial to your growth and engagement.

3 ADD LAYERS

Every day when you come back to the Qur'an, you bring new questions and answers, and new insights open up. As you go through, consult some commentaries to fill the gaps and correct any misunderstandings.

4 ACCESS TOOLS

Make the most of books, lectures, websites and apps that can accompany you on your journey with the Qur'an and give you knowledge and confidence. Even better is to connect to real teachers who can steer your way through.

PRACTICAL KEYS

1 DO

God's Messenger (peace be upon him) was the "walking Qur'an" – so let's walk the walk. Every little thing you put into action will make what you read so much more real, relevant and rewarding.

2 WRITE

Keep a special journal of your new-found knowledge and your personal reflections as you read through the Qur'an. The process of writing etches ideas into your mind, even if you don't come back to read and reflect on your thoughts later on.

3 TALK

Share your favorite gems with your family and make its stories and teachings come alive for children. Let's create a culture where reflecting on the Qur'an becomes not only a private activity, but a public practice.

4 MEMORIZE

Every ayah of the Qur'an you store within your heart adds to your personal treasures. It brings you goodness, protects from harm, and provides comfort at times of need. Learning proper recitation with tajweed makes it more enjoyable and enriching.