

Chapter “3”

Tajweed and Lahn

First: Tajweed

- Definition:

- **Linguistically:** *Tajweed* means proficiency and betterment.

The verb "*jawwada*" in Arabic is a transitive verb that means to better something or to master it.

- **Conventionally:** a field of knowledge concerned with studying the words of the Qur'an with regard to articulating every letter from its correct articulation point and giving the letter its rights and dues with regards to its characteristics.

****Rights of the letters:** the required characteristics of the letter that are always present with them, such as their being pronounced at high or low places of articulation in the mouth.

****As for the dues of the letters,** these refer to the rules resulting due to the characteristics of the letter that are present with them only some of the time, eg. *Tafkhim* (heavy sound), *Tarqiq* (light sound), *idgham* (merging), *Izh-har* (clear), etc.

- **Aim of Tajweed:** To enable the reciter to master recitation, better his performance, and protect his tongue against committing mistakes when reciting the Qur'an.
- **Significance and Virtues:** It is one of the most reverend and honorable sciences due to it being concerned with the words of Allah (Glorified and Exalted be He). Learning *Tajweed* is very import since it helps the Muslim recite the Noble Qur'an in the proper manner.
- **Sources of Origin:** Taken from the manner of the recitation of the Prophet (pbuh), and the recitation of his companions (raa), and then the recitation of the, till it eventually reached us through numerous chains of narrations.
- **Types:** two types: Practical “Applied” and Theoretical tajweed.

First Type: Practically Applied Tajweed

- **Definition:** Recitation of the Noble Qur'an with a melodious measured intonation, in the very manner revealed to Allah's Messenger (pbuh).
- **Rule:** Reciting the Qur'an with a measured melodious tone is an **individual duty** (fard ‘ayn) for any Muslim who wants to recite any of the Qur'an.
- **Evidence:**
 - **From Quran:** Allah (swt) says: "...recite the Qur'an slowly and distinctly" (Al-Muzzammil 73:4).
 - **From Sunnah:** It was narrated from Ya`la ibn Mamlak that he asked Um Salamah (raa) about the recitation and prayer of the Messenger of Allah (pbuh), and she said: "Why do you want to know about his prayer?" Then she said: "He recited every word separately and clearly." (Al-Nasa'i and Al-Tirmidhi)
- **Way of Learning:** This field of knowledge is not to be learnt from books but by learning directly, face to face, from specialized scholars.

Second Type: Theoretical Tajweed

- **Definition:** Knowing the rules and rulings of theoretical *Tajweed*.
- **Rule:** It is a **fard kifaya upon the ummah**, and differs according to the people who are learning it, who are divided into two groups in this regard:
 - **The first group:** Regular people. Learning this type of *Tajweed* by them is preferable/recommended, but not obligatory.
 - **The second group:** Those people who dedicate their life for the service of Allah's Book by learning and teaching it in the due manner. As for learning this type of *tajweed* by such people, it is an individual duty in order for them to be a good example for others.
- **Evidence:** Allah's (swt) Saying: "...Yet it is not right for all the believers to go out [to battle] together: out of each community, a group should go out to gain understanding of the religion " (Al-Tawbah 9:122)

Second: Lahn

- **Definition:** A mistake and not following the correct manner. I
- **Divisions:** two types: Obvious (*Jali*) and Hidden (*khafi*)

First Division: Obvious (Jali) Lahn

- **Definition:** Pronouncing a word or letter the wrong way in a manner that distorts its morphology, whether this changes its meaning or not.
- **Examples:**
 1. Changing one letter for another:
 - **Changes the meaning:** switching the sin with a sad in the verse: " وأسرُوا الندامة ".
 - **Does not change the meaning:** switching the ta' with a ttaa' in the word: " التوراة ".
 2. Changing one harakah for another:
 - **a. Changes the meaning:** Pronouncing the "ت" with kasrah or dammah on the ta' in the verse rather than a fat-hah: { أَنْعَمْتَ عَلَيْهِمْ }.
 - **a. Does not change the meaning:** Pronouncing the final "هـ" in Allah's Saying (الْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ) "Praise belongs to Allah" as if it had a *dammah* rather than a *kasrah*.
- **Rule:** It is unanimously forbidden, particularly if it is deliberately intended or not given due attention by the reciter.
- **Reason for name:** It distorts the morphological shape of a word in a manner which is so clear that it can easily be discovered by both the scholars of recitation as well as the general public.

Second Division: Hidden (Khafi) Lahn

- **Definition:** a mistake in the pronunciation of a certain word in a manner inconsistent with the rules of recitation, but the morphology of the word does not change.
- **Example:** Not observing either the *Izh-har*, *Idgham*, or any of the other rules of recitation.
- **Rule:** Prohibited according to the preponderant opinion, particularly if it is committed deliberately or not paid due attention by the reciter. According to other scholars, it is reprehensible (*makruh*).
- **Reason for name:** It is called hidden as it is only known to the scholars of recitation, but is hidden from the general public as they are not able to notice it.

Review



- Tajweed is: a field of knowledge concerned with studying the words of the Qur'an with regard to articulating every letter from its correct articulation point and giving the letter its rights and dues with regards to its characteristics.**
- Practical tajweed is concerned with melodious recitation, whereas theoretical tajweed is knowing the rules.**
- The rule of practical tajweed is that it is a fard 'ayn, mandatory upon every Muslim, whereas that of the theoretical tajweed is a fard kifayah upon the entire ummah.**
- Obvious lahn is a mistake in the formation of the word whereas hidden lahn is a mistake in the rules of tajweed.**
- The obvious lahn is prohibited (haram) by consensus, and so is hidden lahn according to the majority.**

Test Your Knowledge!



A- Fill in the blanks:

1. Tajweed is a field of knowledge in _____ with regard giving each letter its _____ and _____.
2. The scholars came out with the science of tajweed based on the recitation of _____.
3. The aim of tajweed is to enable the reciter to _____ the recitation and to protect his tongue from _____.
4. Tajweed is divided into _____ tajweed and _____ tajweed.
5. Obvious lahn is a mistake in pronunciation which distorts the _____ whether the _____ is changed or not.

B- True or False:

1. Practical tajweed is a fard 'ayn upon every Muslim. ()
2. Switching the “د” with a “ض” in Allah’s verse " ولا الضالين " is hidden lahn ()
3. The way of learning practical tajweed is books of tajweed & recitations. ()
4. The right of the letter is the rules resulting due to characteristics that are present some of the time, whereas the due of the letter is the required characteristics of the letter that are always present with them. ()

