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Islamic Queries

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Translated by Saleem Bhimji

Edited by Arifa Hudda



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Translated by Saleem Bhimji ♦ Edited by Arifa Hudda
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How to Conclude the Recitation of the Noble Qur'an

Question

What is the ruling on concluding the recitation of the Noble Qur'an by saying, *Indeed Allah, the Greatest, has spoken the truth* (صَدَقَ اللَّهُ (الْعَظِيمُ)? In addition, why is there a difference in this phrase in what the Shi'a and the Sunnī say when completing the recitation of the Noble Qur'an?

Answer

Both forms of this statement, meaning: *Indeed Allah, the Greatest has spoken the truth* (صَدَقَ اللَّهُ الْعَظِيمُ); as well as: *Indeed Allah, the Most High, the Greatest, has spoken the truth* (صَدَقَ اللَّهُ الْعَلِيُّ الْعَظِيمُ) are recommended (*mustahhab*) to say when one concludes the recitation of the Noble

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Qur'an. However, there are some personal prejudices which have resulted in the Shi'a and Sunni choosing one statement over the other:

1. It is possible that the Ahl al-Sunnah feel that by bringing in the name *the Most High* (الْعَلِيِّ) this is a sign of extremist leanings that equates Imam 'Alī (عليه السلام) as being Allah (الله) or one who is at the same level of Allah (الله) [as the name of Imam 'Alī (عليه السلام) is derived from the Beautiful Name of Allah, al-'Alī or *the Most High*]. However, this is nothing more than an incorrect excuse on their part, and if we were to accept this interpretation, then we must also remove the verse of the Qur'an in which He states: ﴿وَهُوَ الْعَلِيُّ الْعَظِيمُ﴾ - *And He (Allah) is the Most High, the Greatest.*¹
2. Both of these phrases occur in the traditions (*aḥādīth*) of the Shi'a, however the Qur'anic reciters amongst the Shi'a community, acting contrary to the irrational comments of the Ahl al-Sunnah and their removal of this name (of Allah (الله) - *al-'Alī*) have sought to keep alive this statement, and thus we see in the traditions that it has been stated:

...فَإِذَا فَرَغَ مِنْ ذَلِكَ قَالَ - وَهُوَ مُسْتَقْبِلُ الْقِبْلَةِ - صَدَقَ
اللَّهُ الْعَظِيمُ الَّذِي لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا هُوَ الْحَيُّ الْقَيُّومُ...

Therefore, when you have finished that [what was mentioned in the beginning of the *ḥadīth* in terms of acts of worship of the recitation of the Noble Qur'an], then while

¹ *Qur'an*, Sūrah al-Baqarah (2), verse 255; Sūrah al-Shūrā (42), verse 4.

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facing the *qiblah* say, *Indeed Allah, the Greatest, has spoken the truth* (صَدَقَ اللَّهُ الْعَظِيمُ) - the One whom there is no god except for Him, the Ever-Living, the Self-Sustaining.²

3. In addition, in a statement of Imam al-Ṣādiq عليه السلام in which he was speaking about the acts of worship to be performed on the 15th of [the month of] Rajab, he stated that when you reach the end of the recitation of the Noble Qur'an, while you are still facing the *qiblah*, you should say: *Indeed Allah, the Greatest, has spoken the truth* (صَدَقَ اللَّهُ الْعَظِيمُ).
4. 'Abdullāh ibn Salām asked the Noble Prophet ﷺ a series of questions, and one was in regards to what should be said when a person initiates and concludes the recitation of the Qur'an? The Prophet ﷺ replied that one should start the recitation of the Qur'an by saying *In the Name of Allah, the Most Gracious, the Most Merciful* (بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ); and that at the end, one should say *Indeed Allah, the Most High, the Greatest, has spoken the truth* (صَدَقَ اللَّهُ الْعَلِيُّ الْعَظِيمُ).³

² Ṭūsī, Muḥammad ibn al-Ḥasan, *Miṣbāḥ al-Mutahajjid wa Salāḥ al-Muta'abbid*, vol. 2, p. 807, Mu'assisah Fiqh al-Shi'a, First Printing, Beirut, 1411 AH.

³ Majlisī, Muḥammad Bāqir, *Biḥār al-Anwār al-ḥāmi'ah li Durrar Akhbār al-A'imma al-Aṭḥār*, vol. 57, sec. 37, p. 243, Dār al-Iḥyā' al-Turāth al-'Arabī, Beirut, Second Printing, 1403 AH. The Arabic text of this tradition states:

...مَا ابْتَدَأَ الْقُرْآنَ وَ مَا خَتَمَهُ؟ قَالَ: يَا ابْنَ سَلَامٍ ابْتَدَأُوهُ بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ وَ خَتَمَهُ صَدَقَ اللَّهُ الْعَلِيُّ الْعَظِيمُ...

Therefore, based on what has been mentioned, saying the phrase: *Indeed Allah, the Greatest, has spoken the truth* (صَدَقَ اللهُ الْعَظِيمُ) at the conclusion of the recitation of the Qur'an is not only something which is NOT impermissible, rather, we can state that saying this phrase is actually recommended (*mustahhab*).

However seeing as how it is possible that by saying the phrase in this manner may be seen by the masses (of the Shi'a) as accepting of incorrect evidences (from the Ahl al-Sunnah), some of the *marāji' taqlid* have advised that we (the Shi'a) should not recite this phrase in that manner (and rather the Shi'a should use the phrase, *Indeed Allah, the Most High, the Greatest, has spoken the truth* (صَدَقَ اللهُ الْعَلِيُّ الْعَظِيمُ)).⁴

When the various *marāji' taqlid* were asked this question about which method the Shi'a should employ when reciting this phrase, the below answers were provided:

1. **Āyatullāh al-Uzmā Khāmene'i**: It is no problem to recite it in either method.
2. **Āyatullāh al-Uzmā Makārim Shirāzi**: It must be said in the customary way of the Shi'a [meaning *Indeed Allah, the Most High, the Greatest, has spoken the truth* (صَدَقَ اللهُ الْعَلِيُّ الْعَظِيمُ).]
3. **Āyatullāh al-Uzmā Šafi Gulpāygāni**: [We should look] towards how it is mentioned in the blessed verse of the Qur'an (as found in *Ayat al-Kursi*) in which the Qur'an mentions, ﴿وَهُوَ الْعَلِيُّ الْعَظِيمُ﴾ - «*And He (God) is the Most High, the Greatest.*» Thus, you too, when you complete the recitation of the Qur'an must

⁴ Āyatullāh Makārim Shirāzi.

say: *Indeed Allah, the Most High, the Greatest, has spoken the truth* (صَدَقَ اللَّهُ الْعَلِيُّ الْعَظِيمُ).

4. **Āyatullāh al-Uzmā Mahdī Hādawī Tehrānī:** It is no problem [to use either phrase], except in the case of the secondary ruling [in the Science of Jurisprudence] pretext – such as if using the phrase: *Indeed Allah, the Greatest, has spoken the truth* (صَدَقَ اللَّهُ الْعَظِيمُ) would result in a tacit approval for a flawed denomination within Islam (*madhab*).⁵

In conclusion, both forms of this statement - *Indeed Allah, the Greatest has spoken the truth* (صَدَقَ اللَّهُ الْعَظِيمُ) as well as: *Indeed Allah, the Most High, the Greatest, has spoken the truth* (صَدَقَ اللَّهُ الْعَلِيُّ الْعَظِيمُ) are recommended (*mustahhab*) to say when one concludes the recitation of the Noble Qur'an, as is seen in the teachings of the Prophet ﷺ and his family, the Ahl al-Bayt ʿ.



O Allāh! Send Your prayers upon Muḥammad and the family of Muḥammad!

⁵ Religious queries posed to the offices of the Grand Āyatullāhs: Khāmeneʿī, Makārim Shīrāzī, Ṣāfi Gulpāygānī, may they be protected, through the Islam Quest Website.

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