

When
HEARING
Becomes
LISTENING

Prophetic Listening and How It Can Transform the
World Within Us and Around Us

Mikaeel Ahmed Smith

Qalam

© by Michael V. Smith II

All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced, distributed, or transmitted in any form or by any means, including photocopying, recording, or other electronic or mechanical methods, without the prior written permission of the author.

ISBN: 979-8-218-10798-7

Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data is available.

Published by

'ilmStore.in

www.ilmStore.in | info@ilmStore.in | +91 94220 09767

Nanded, Maharashtra, India

in arrangement with

Qalam Books and Qasim Publications

4200 International Parkway

Carrollton, Texas 75007

www.qalam.institute

Author Mikael Ahmed Smith

Editor Dr. Julio Rivera

Lead Design Amnah Sultan

Cover Concept Sarah Ahmed

This edition is published in India by **'ilmStore.in** and authorised for sale only in India.

Contents

Introduction: When Hearing Becomes Listening	1
Part 1 Why is Listening Important?	3
1 The Importance of Listening in the Quran and Sunnah	5
2 Reclaiming Deep Listening Today	27
Part 2 What Prevents Us from Listening?	71
3 Understanding Communication	73
4 The Noise Detox Process	93
Part 3 The Reward of Listening	115
5 An Islamic Framework of Listening: Ibn al-Qayyim's Levels of Listening	117
6 What Do We Gain From Deep Listening?	131
Conclusion: Moving Forward to Becoming Better Listeners	149
Bibliography	155

WHEN HEARING BECOMES LISTENING

Introduction:

Sitting among his fellow Qurayshi chiefs, filled with angst regarding the message of Muhammad, ‘Utbah bin Rabī‘ah noticed the Prophet ﷺ, despite the commotion of the traders and worshipers all around, sitting peacefully by himself near the Kaaba. At that moment he decided that it was time to take matters into his own hands. “I will go speak to Muhammad and I will offer him some things. Perhaps he will accept them and leave us alone,” he said to the others. After gaining the approval of his fellow chieftains, who were all out of ideas regarding this new problem, he walked over to the Prophet ﷺ who was still sitting reflectively with a captivating presence. ‘Utbah sat before him. “Nephew, you have honor and a noble lineage among us, and you brought something grave to your people, through which you have split their ranks, made them look foolish, censured their idols, and excluded their forefathers. Therefore, listen to me present some things to you that you can think about, perhaps you will accept some of them.” The Prophet ﷺ looked up at ‘Utbah and said, “Speak, O Abū al-Walīd (‘Utbah’s nickname), and I will listen.”¹

In another instance a young man, who was fed up with his father’s constant requests for financial support, brought his now embarrassed father before the Prophet of Allah ﷺ. When the father and son both arrived, before either party could present their case, the Prophet ﷺ spoke to the elderly man, “As you came here, you were thinking something to yourself. Can you please share those thoughts with me?”

1. Ibn Ishāq, *al-Siyar wa al-Maghāzī*, 207.