

LESSON 12: PHILOSOPHY OF SALAAT:

The most important act of Ibadat (Worship) in Islam is Salaat (Prayer). It is an expression of total submission to Allah (S) and a means of communication between the Creator and His servants.

Imam Ali ibn Abi Taalib (A) has said about prayer:

"Know that every action you do will depend on you Salaat."

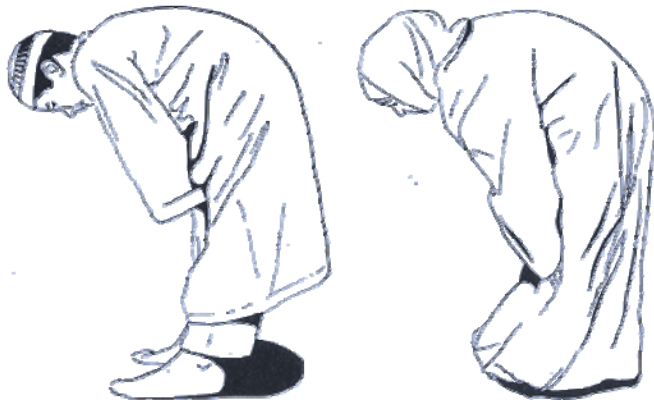
From this we know for a fact that if our Salaat is accepted then all other actions are also accepted and if our Salaat is rejected then so are our other deeds.

Salaat greatly affects the lives of those who perform it. It keeps the soul of a person free from idolatry and when carried out sincerely, it also helps to cure moral diseases such as infidelity, hypocrisy, pride, dishonesty etc.

- By praying at the specified times, a person learns to be both disciplined and punctual.
- It gives a purpose to the lives of people and has a stabilizing effect. In times of stress, Salaat provides a place of peace where a person can forget all worries and cares and rest his weary head on the doorstep of Allah (S).
- The Holy Prophet (S) used to say to Bilal, who was the Mu'adhin of the Muslims, "Comfort me, O Bilal!" meaning that he should recite the Adhaan and call out for prayer.

Salaat is a source of piety and perfection. Through its performance a person can discover the hidden secrets of his soul and its amazing relationship with Allah (S).

All those acts that surround it or are related to it also fall under its special influence. For this reason we shall look at the things connected to and performed within Salaat and study the philosophy behind each. This will help us better appreciate why we perform it in the manner we do.



THE SPIRIT OF SALAAT:

Salaat, through its words, movements, prostrations, bows and supplications, provides a person with a means of rebuilding his personality afresh.

Properly performed with understanding of the recitations and the philosophies involved, it is a spiritual journey of sorts - a Me'raj (Heavenly Ascension) for the Believer. On the other hand, prayer performed as a ritual and with no concentration is like a dead body without a spirit.

As we attempt to understand and focus on our Salaat, it may help to choose a place that is simple, quiet and private when praying to avoid any distractions.

Salaat is not a sport or a play that we can perform it as we wish in a hurried manner.

Discipline is of the utmost importance. Remember, if we wish to fully exploit this treasure trove, then we must be prepared to put some effort into our actions.

NOTE:

It is highly recommended that one should recite Tasbeeh of Hadhrat Fatema al-Zahra (A) after the completion of every Salaat.



CARELESSNESS IN PRAYER:

Salaat as we have mentioned time and again is the central pivot of all worship in Islam. It must be prayed and there is no excuse for not performing it.

In fact, even if a person is too sick to pray standing up, it is recommended he sit and pray and if this is not possible, he should sleep with his right side facing Qiblah and perform his Salaat with his head and eyes. All this shows us how important Salaat to Allah (S).

According to the Holy Prophet (S)

"Allah (S.W.T.) takes away all the blessings from a person who does not pray or is careless of his/her Salaat. S/he will die in a very bad state, be tortured in Barzakh and face extreme hardship during the Day of Judgement."

In another hadith he says:

" Whosoever takes his/her Salaat lightly, s/he will not be from my Ummah."

A Muslim must constantly try to improve the quality of his/her Salaat.

We should avoid praying Salaat when sleepy or tired and instead wait a little until our minds are fresh enough to concentrate full on what we are saying and doing.

In conclusion let us ponder on the Salaat of our Ma'soomeen (A) and how they used to prepare themselves for meeting their Lord.

Imam Ali (A) would turn pale whilst performing Wudhu and used to say,

"It is time for me to give back the Divine trust to the Almighty "

LESSON 13: THE MUNAFIYAT OF SALAAT

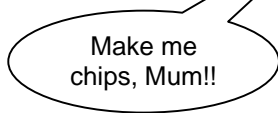
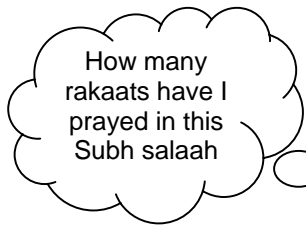
Munafiyat of Salaat are things that invalidate Salaat

There are **12 things** that can make your Salaat Batil (invalid). If any of these things happen, you will have to offer your prayers again.

Things That Invalidate Salaat

📖1135 – 1164

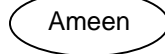
DOUBTS IN FIRST 2 RAKAATS OR FAJR OR MAGHRIB SALAAT



SPEAKING INTENTIONALLY



ADDING OR LEAVING OUT WAJIBE RUKN OF SALAAT



SAY AMEEN AFTER SURATUL HAMD



EATING OR DRINKING



LAUGHING

QWIPTC

MUQADDAMATUS SALAAT NOT FULFILLED



THINGS THAT MAKE WUDHU BATIL



TURNING AWAY FROM QIBLAH



ACTIONS THAT SHOW U R NOT PRAYING



CRYING FOR WORLDLY THINGS



FOLDING ARMS INTENTIONALLY

Some Munafiyat Explained

Anything That Makes Wudhu Batil

📖1136 – 1138

- It makes no difference whether it happened intentionally or by mistake.

Turning Away From The Qiblah

📖1140

- If it happened **intentionally** then the **Salaat is Batil** under all circumstances.
- If it happened **by mistake** and you **remember it after the time of Salaat** had ended, then there is **no Qadha**.

Speaking Intentionally

📖1141 – 1159

- This makes Salaat Batil if you intentionally utter even a single word consisting of a single letter.
- Clearing one's throat will not make Salaat Batil.
- If someone says Salaamun Alaykum then the person praying should reply with the same phrase use and say Salaamun Alaykum

Laughing Intentionally

📖1160

- Even if you feel like laughing but control yourself forcefully until your face turns red, you have to pray again.

That Which Can't Be Called Salaat

📖1161 – 1162

- Any act that changes the form of Salaat, regardless of whether it was done intentionally or by mistake.
- Moving the arms or even indicating something to someone with your hands will not harm the Salaat.



SALAAT SHOULD BE PERFORMED WITH PRESENCE OF MIND AND HEART

EXERCISE 13 - MUNAFIYAT OF SALAAT:

Remember to write down the Masail No. And always ask for help if you cannot find the answer!!

Sajida was praying Namaaz but her thoughts were about the job she had lost. Feeling depressed as she prayed she suddenly started to cry. Did this action invalidate her Namaaz? Explain your answer.

Masail No. _____

Just as Zahra was about to complete her Salaam, she remembered that although she had changed her clothes which had become najis when her daughter urinated on her, she had forgotten to make her legs Pak. Does she have to offer her Salaat again? Explain your answer.

Masail No. _____

LESSON 14: PRAYING WHEN TRAVELLING

It is a great sin (Gunahe Kabira) to make one's Wajib prayers Qadha. Even a dying person, who is conscious, has to offer Salaat in whichever way possible.

A person while on a journey, whether by aeroplane, automobile or train has to offer Wajib prayers if s/he thinks that before s/he reaches his/her destination it will become Qadha.

These Are The Steps To Follow

1st perform Wudhu; if this is not possible, do Tayammum instead.

- **Next** you have to find out the position of Qiblah with the help of a compass or by asking someone who may know.
- **Then** you should make your Niyat and recite Takbiratul Ihram facing Qiblah.

You need not change the direction you are praying in afterwards if the automobile, train or aeroplane changes direction.

How To Pray When Travelling

- If you can, then pray in a standing position.
- If you cannot stand and pray, then sit down and pray.
- If this is not possible, then the Ruku, Sajdah and all other actions should be done with the movement of the eyelids.

REMEMBER

- The body and clothes for Salaat should be Tahir. If any of these become Najis while on a journey and if it is possible to change the clothes or make the body Tahir, it should be done.
- If it is not possible to change the clothes or to make the body Tahir, you should still pray, BUT Qadha of the prayer would have to be offered later.

WAJIB PRAYERS ARE SUCH AN IMPORTANT IBADAT THAT THEY CANNOT BE LEFT OUT UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCES.

FURTHER DETAILS AVAILABLE IN
'A CODE OF PRACTICE FOR MUSLIMS IN THE WEST'

EXERCISE 14 - PRAYING WHEN TRAVELLING:

You are travelling by aeroplane and you want to say your prayers. How will you do it? Explain your answer.

You are travelling and you want to say your prayers. Your clothes and body are najis [since you went to the toilet and there was no water]. There is no way of cleaning them and the time of prayers is becoming Qadha.

LESSON 15: SALAAT - PLACE OF PRAYER



7 CONDITIONS TO BE MET:

1. The place where prayers are offered must be Mubah (not Ghasbi).

2. The place of prayers should not be unstable, like heaps of sand on the beach



3. It is not allowed to pray in a place where the prayer cannot be completed properly, or where there is danger to one's life, for example, on a busy road during rush hour.

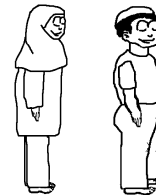


4. There should be enough space to stand properly and to perform Ruku and Sajdah properly.

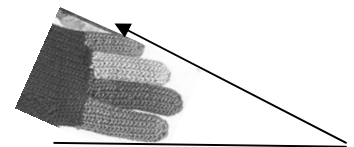


5. The place of Sajdah must be Tahir.

6. Women should stand behind men while praying.



7. The place where we place our forehead while in Sajdah should not be higher or lower than **4 fingers** when compared to the place of our toes



LESSON 15: SALAAT - PLACE OF PRAYER

MASJID

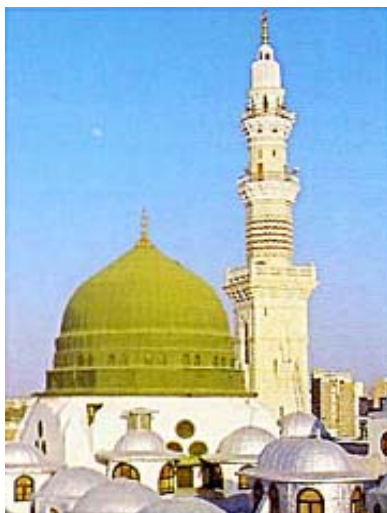
It is stressed that the Salaat should be performed in a Masjid (mosque). Masjid in order of preference are:

Masjidul-Haraam (around Ka'aba)



A prayer offered here is equal to **100,000 prayers** anywhere else.

Masjidun-Nabi (Madina)

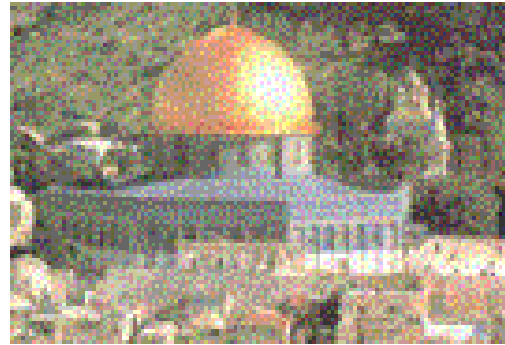


A prayer offered here is equal to **10,000 prayers** anywhere else.

Masjidul-Kufa and Baitul-Muqaddas -



AND



MASJID-E-KUFA

BAITUL MUQADDAS

A prayer offered here is equal to **1,000 prayers** elsewhere.

**FOR, WOMEN, IT IS BETTER TO PRAY WHERE THEY ARE PROTECTED
BEST FROM NA MAHRAM – WHETHER THAT PLACE IS THEIR HOME OR
THE MOSQUE THEY SHOULD DECIDE**

Our Holy Prophet (S) has said that: “A Masjid will complain before Allah if it is neglected and nobody comes to pray there.”

EXERCISE 15: PLACE OF PRAYER

Remember to write down the Masail Numbers:

Hassan went to his friend’s house for a sleepover. In the morning he did not offer Fajr Salaat as he had forgotten to ask his friend’s permission before going to sleep. Was this the right decision to make? Why?

Masail No. _____ **Yes** **No**

Because _____

Husain’s baby sister made the carpet in the Salaat Room Najis when her nappy leaked. By the time Husain went in to offer his Maghribain Salaat, the carpet had dried. So he placed his Mohr on the dried Najis area and prayed. Is his Salaat valid? Why?

Masail No. _____ **Yes** **No**

Because _____

LESSON 16: SALAAT - CLOTHES OF PRAYER

There are certain rules laid down concerning the clothes when saying prayers. Clothes must:



Be Tahir and Mubah

NOT Be part of a dead animal

For men only: They **should not wear** anything made of:



Gold - pure or mixed.

OR

wear pure silk

EXERCISE 16 - CLOTHES OF PRAYER

Remember to write down your Masail Numbers

Your friend Abbas has come to visit you for the first time. It is time for prayers and he starts praying in one corner of your sitting room. He prays with his tie and chain, which are made of silk and gold. Is his Salaat Batil? Give three reasons.

Masail No. _____

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

What would have happened if in the above example, the person visiting your house was your cousin Sabira (also wearing the gold chain, school silk tie?) Would her Salaat be Batil? Why?

Masail No. _____

Explain: **The difference between Najis and Dirty: AND**

The difference between Tahir and Clean:

LESSON17: SALAAT - TIMES OF PRAYER

The Time of Prayer for the Daily Prayers

The following is explained better by using the timings of Salaat, sunrise and sunset for the 12th of November:

An Example: Timings for 12th Nov are:

Fajr 5:52 a.m.	Sunrise 7:15 a.m.	Dhohr 11:51 a.m.	Sunset 4:17 p.m.	Maghrib 4:27 p.m.
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- a. **Subh** (Fajr Prayers)
Beginning from Subhe Sadiq and ending at sunrise.
On 12th Nov Subhe Sadiq is at 5:52 a.m.
Sunrise is at 7:15 a.m. that is when Salaat becomes Qadha.
- b. **Dhohr** (Midday Prayer)
Beginning from exact noon and ending when four Rakaats time remain to sunset.
On 12th Nov Dhohr Salaat time starts at 11:51 a.m. (which is the exact noon for this date) and ends at 4:13 p.m.
** exact noon is the beginning time for Dhohr Salaat
- c. **Asr** (Afternoon Prayer)
Beginning after completing of four Rakaats time from exact noon and ending at sunset.
On 12th Nov Asr Salaat time starts at 11:55 noon and ends at 4:17 p.m.
- d. **Maghrib** (Evening Prayer)
Beginning after sunset, ending when four Rakaats time remains to exact midnight.
On 12th Nov Maghrib time starts at 4:27 p.m. and ends at 11:48 p.m.
- e. **Eisha** (Night Prayer)
Beginning after the completion of 3 Rakaats time from sunset and ending at exact midnight – 11:51 pm. **Exact midnight is 12 hours after exact noon.**
On 12th Nov Eisha time begins at 4:30 p.m. and ends at midnight which on this day is 11:51 p.m.



EXERCISE 17: TIMES OF PRAYER

Hassan began offering his Maghrib Salaat when he was sure the time for Salaat had set in. In the middle of his Salaat he began to doubt whether the time had set in or not. Is his Salaat valid? Why?

Masail No. _____ Yes No

Because _____

Naznin began offering her Dhohr Salaat when she was sure that the time for Salaat had set in. In the middle of her Salaat she realised that Salaat time had actually set in just then. Is her Salaat void? Why?

Masail No. _____ Yes No

Because _____

LESSON 18: SAUM - SIGNIFICANCE OF FASTING

The Month of Ramadhan is the holiest month in the Islamic calendar and begins with all its social, moral and spiritual blessing. The following quotation from a Du'a points out some of these blessings:

"O Allah this is the month of Ramadhan in which You sent the Qur'an as a guide for people and as a clear sign to differentiate between right and wrong; and it is the month of fasting, month of prayers, month of returning to You (Tawbah) and month of repentance; it is the month of forgiveness and mercy....; the month in which is the 'Night of Qadr' which is better than a thousand months....; O Allah, bless Mohammed and his progeny.... and keep me free for Your worship and for reciting the Book."

It appears from the above sentences that amongst the blessings of this month are Qur'an, the 'Night of Qadr', the repentance from sins and mutual understanding and forgiveness.

According to Islamic belief, every action, whether good or bad, carries more weight in this month. Thus, charity is a virtue at all times, but is more virtuous in this month; and injustice is an evil at all times, but is more evil in this month. Reciting the Qur'an is a commendable deed the whole year round, but during the month of Ramadhan it assumes a far greater significance.

And as the month of Ramadhan entered, Imam Zainul Abideen (A) would pray:

"O Allah, help us fast in this month, by preventing our limbs from doing anything that displeases You, and by engaging them in acts which gain your pleasure.....so that we may not lend our ears to things futile and our eyes may not see that which leads to forgetting You. Our hands may not commit that You have prohibited, and our feet may not advance towards the forbidden....." (Saheefa-e-Kamilah)

Our Holy Prophet (S) told Jabir bin Abdillah:

"O Jabir, this is holy Ramadhan, whoever fasts in it during the day, and stands to remember Allah during the night, controls his hunger and speech, he shall be forgiven his sins the way the holy month passes".

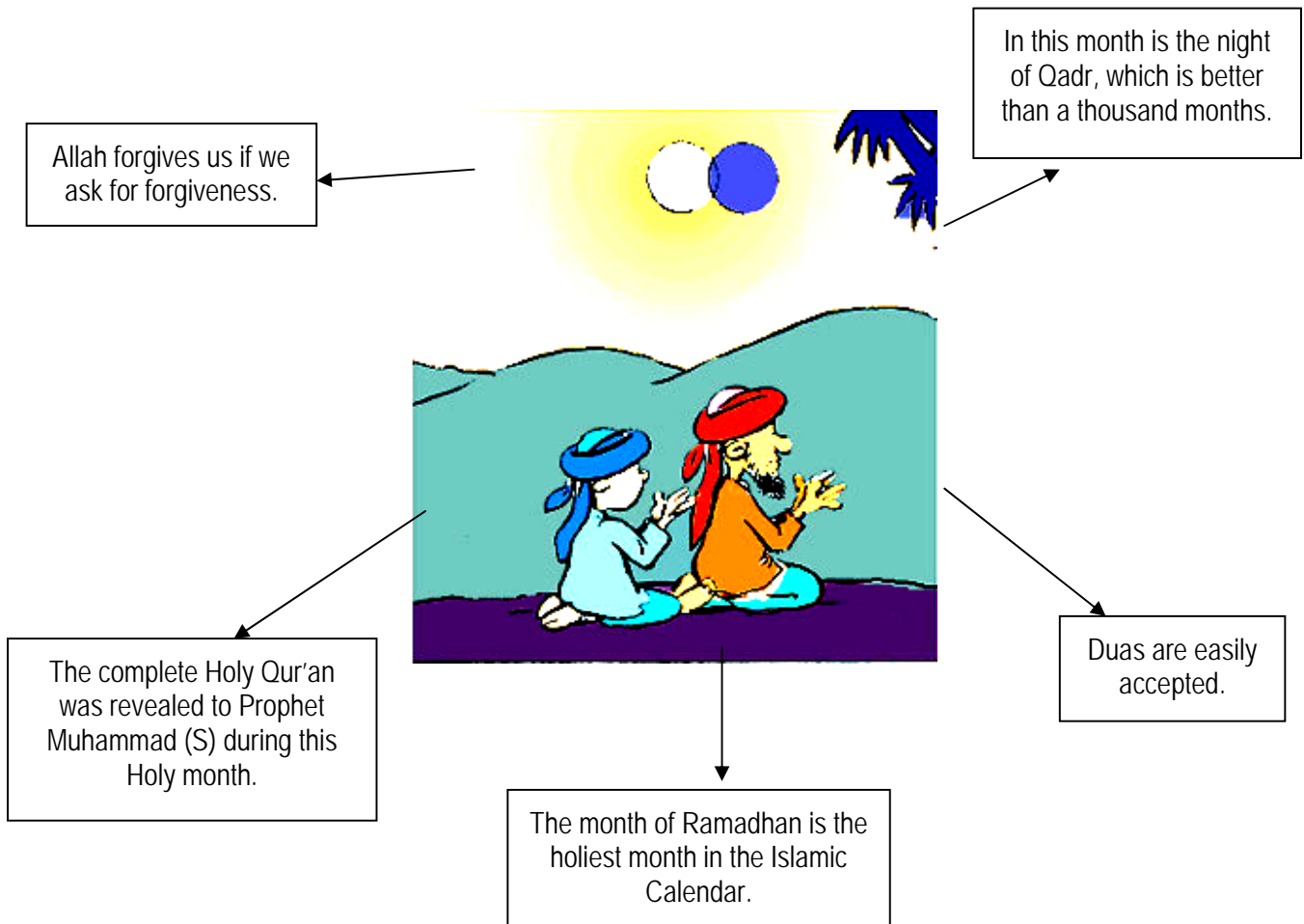
Jabir said:

"O Messenger of Allah, what a beautiful advice this is!"

The Holy Prophet (S) answered:

"And how important the conditions!" (Furoo' Al-Kafi Vol.4)

LESSON18: THE IMPORTANCE OF FASTING:



Reasons For Fasting

1. Fasting is Wajib
2. It helps us to strengthen our will power against those things that are Haraam.
3. Brings about Unity amongst us and those living near us.
4. As we feel hungry we begin to realise how the people who are poor and cannot afford food suffer daily in their lives and as a result of our fasting we may feel that we should do something for them.

The Holy Prophet (S) has advised that we should eat enough to kill the hunger and not more

LESSON 19: SAUM - THE DIFFERENT FASTS AND THEIR CONDITIONS

Wajib Fasts

1. Fast during the month of Ramadhan. 📖 1559
2. Qadha fast for the month of Ramadhan. 📖 1572
3. Fast becoming wajib on account of Kaffara. 📖 1667
4. When a father dies, it is wajib on the eldest son to fast his Qadha fasts. 📖1721
5. Fast broken or left out intentionally. 📖 1667

Fasting is Mustahab on all the days of the year except on those days on which it is Haraam to observe fast. Some are mentioned below.

Haraam Fasts

1. Eid-ul-Fitr. 📖 1748
2. Eid-ul-Hajj. 📖 1748
3. A fast kept despite illness.

Makruh Fast 📖 1756

It is Makruh to fast on the 10th of Muharram (Ashura Day).

Sunnat Fasts 📖 1757

1. On all days of Rajab and Sha'ban or on as many as is possible to fast, even if it is only one day.
2. The 18th of Zilhajj - Eid-e-Ghadir.
3. The 24th of Zilhajj - Eid-e-Mubahila.
4. The 27th of Rajab – Me'raj.

Conditions of Fasting

1. Sanity.
2. Islam: Should be a Muslim and follow Islamic laws.
3. Not being in danger of illness by fasting.
4. Not being a traveller.

Saum is an act of worship; its main aim is to stay away from forbidden things so as to earn "the pleasure of Allah by obeying Him."

The most important thing is the **Niyyat** (Intention). There is no need to utter it. However one must have in mind why one is fasting; that is one must have in mind: "Qurbatan Ilallah"; for the pleasure of Allah. 📖 1559

Fasting begins with the setting in of the time for Subh prayers. This time is called SUBHE SADIQ or FAJR. Fasting ends at MAGHRIB which occurs a few minutes after sunset.