

Salah (Namaz)

Namaz is a Persian word that literally means "to bow." In Arabic, prayer is called "Salat" (الصلوة) which literally means "to pray". The word "salat" is used for prayer in the Qur'an and Hadith.

Importance of the Prayer

The prayer is the fundamental element of the religion of Islam. After believing in Allah and His Messenger, the most important part is the prayer.

The Obligation of Salat

Salat was made obligatory on the occasion of the Ascension. The prayer is a form of worship of Allah, which is not permissible to miss for a Muslim under any circumstances and it was made obligatory for every Muslim man and woman to pay it at fixed times.

A Comprehensive Worship:

The prayer is the part of the religion of Islam which includes many acts of worship, Such as remembrance of Allah, recitation of the Qur'an, standing or Qiyaam, bowing or Ruku. Prostration, Supplication, Glorification and Takbeer, etc. In this way, the prayer encompasses many acts of worship.

The Plurality of Emphasis:

Among the Islamic rituals of worship, the prayer is a form of worship that is often urged to be performed. It has been emphasized in hundreds of hadiths.

The Difference between Islam and Disbelief

The basis of differentiation between Muslims and non-Muslims is the prayer. The Prophet ﷺ said:

بین العبد و بین الكشر ترک الصلاة (سنن ابی داود: حدیث 4678)

"The difference between worship and disbelief is the abandonment of prayer."

The Prayer is Obligatory in All Circumstances:

Zakat and Hajj are obligatory on the wealthy. Leave has been granted to travelers and sick people for fast. However, the prayer is obligatory upon every Muslim: Allah says

Verily, Prayer is obligatory for Muslims in accordance with the fixed timings.

Last Advice of the Holy Prophet ﷺ

The importance of prayer can be estimated from the last advice the prophet ﷺ gave,

أَنَّ رَسُولَ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ كَانَ يَقُولُ فِي مَرْضِيهِ الَّذِي ثُوِّقَ فِيهِ: الصَّلَاةُ وَمَا مَلَكَتْ أَيْمَانُكُمْ مَا زَالَ يَقُولُ لَهَا
حَتَّىٰ مَا يَفِيضَ بِهَا السَّانُه

The Messenger of Allah ﷺ used to say, during the illness that would be his last: "The prayer; and those whom your right hands possess. And he kept on saying it until his tongue could no longer utter any words.

The first account on Day of Judgment

إِنَّ أَوَّلَ مَا يُحَاسَبُ بِهِ الْعَبْدُ يَوْمَ الْقِيَامَةِ مِنْ عَمَلِهِ صَلَاةً

The first thing a slave will be called to account from his deeds on the Day of Resurrection will be his salah. So, if it is correct then he will succeed and earn deliverance, but if it is corrupted then he will fail and lose.

Namaz refrains from Sins

"Surely, prayer prohibits indecency and impiety."

The prayer plays an important role in making a person punctual. When a person makes the performance of Namaz strictly obligatory upon himself, then the rest of his life, day and night, is organized.

Prayer also teaches equality. The ruler and the subjugated, the rich and the poor all stand together in the line of the prayer. Rather, whoever comes first is closest to the Imam. All discriminations disappear.

Prayer creates feelings of brotherhood and compassion within Muslims. Which plays an important and rich role in social development.

Therefore, Allah Almighty has kept many secrets and symbols in the prayer. It is a complete and rich source of individual and collective reform of Muslims.

Offering the prayer is an act of worship, but there is a whole system of character building and Islamic formation of the society in it.

You will be able to receive all the benefits of Namaz when you are aware of the significance and translation of the Namaz.

Zakat

Zakat is derived from the word "zakaa". The literal meaning of which is to flourish, to grow, to be more, and to be clean. In Shari'ah, Zakat refers to "every Muslim who is a Sahib e Nisab () or a person of means. He or she must give affixed portion (two and a half percent) of his wealth once a year in the way of Allah". It means, whoever has seven and a half tolas of gold or fifty-two and a half tolas of silver or equivalent in cash or trade goods of the same value, and one year has passed, then two and a half percent of this wealth must be paid as zakat. Every sane, mature and independent Muslim has to pay it as his religious duty. Zakat was first made mandatory in 2 Hijri but in 9 Hijri it was implemented in full.

Zakat is paid on gold, silver, merchandise, cash, cattle, and crops. However, the rate of Zakat on all of them is different. Zakat levied on crops and fruits is called "Ushar". Ushar means "tenth". Gardens and crops that are irrigated by rainwater, then one-tenth of it will be given as zakat, and the land which is irrigated with water from wells or ponds and canals, etc. there is a twentieth part of the produce is on it.

Importance of Zakat

The importance and excellence of Zakat have been described in great detail in the Holy Quran and hadiths. Zakat is the second most important element of Islam after prayer. There are eighty- two (82) places in the Holy Qur'an where the obligation of prayer and zakat has been mentioned together.

Jihad of the First Caliph against Zakat-deniers:

Zakat is a form of worship of Allah Almighty which is related to the rights of Allah as well as the rights of the people. The importance of zakat in the Islamic Shari'ah can be estimated from the fact that after the departure of the Holy Prophet (PBUH), rebellions erupted across Arabia and the Islamic State faced the most critical situation and crisis. The most threatening was the challenge of the denial of Zakat. At this very critical moment in Islamic history, Hazrat Abu Bakr

Siddique boldly declared that despite the counsels of most of the Companions that whoever tried to create a difference between prayer and zakat, he would fight him. Therefore, the first Caliph, Hazrat Abu Bakr Siddique, waged an open jihad against the rebels, and his sword did not stop until the revolt of the Zakat deniers was completely subdued.

Self-Purification

Zakat purifies the human heart from the greed of wealth.

Collect alms (Zakāt—the Alms-due) from their wealth so that by these (alms) you may purify them (of their sins) and (by this purification of faith and riches) bestow upon them blessing and pray for them. (Al-Tawba:103)

Punishment for non-payment of zakat

And those who hoard silver and gold and do not spend it in the cause of Allah, warn them of a grievous torment. (Al-Tawba:34)

Fasting

Fasting is a Persian word. In Arabic, it is called 'Al Soom'. The literal meaning of which is "to stop" in the term Sharia. It means to refrain from eating and drinking from dawn to sunset and abstain from sensual desires. That is why it has been given the name 'Som.'() Fasting became obligatory on 10 Shaban 2 Hijr, a year and a half after the Hijrah to Medina.

Fasting was obligatory for every Ummah

O believers! Fasting is prescribed for you as it was prescribed for the people before you so that you may become pious.

Leaving fast is a great Sin

"Whoever breaks the fast during Ramadan without an allowance or illness, then if he fasted for all time, his fasting would not make up for it."

Aim of Fasting

The Prophet ﷺ said, "Whoever does not give up forged speech and evil actions, Allah is not in need of his leaving his food and drink (i.e. Allah will not accept his fasting.)"

Benefits and Effects of Fasting:

1. It is a month of training to avoid evil and do well.
2. Fasting makes one accustomed to hardship.
3. It creates a sense of people's sufferings and problems.
4. Fasting teaches punctuality.
5. Fasting makes a person spiritually strong, and it is the spiritual strength that brings a person closer to Allah the Almighty.
6. Fasting also helps to improve your health.

Pilgrimage

The literal meaning of Hajj is "to intend to visit a place". In the terms of Shari'ah, attending the Kaaba and performing Hajj rituals on the specific days of Zul-Hijjah is called Hajj. Hajj is the fifth pillar of Islam. It became obligatory in 9 AH.

Whoever enters it attains safety and protection; and the Pilgrimage to this House is prescribed for the people for the sake of Allah whoever may afford its journey; and whoever denies (it), then indeed Allah is Self-Sufficient, Beyond Need of all the worlds.(Aal Imran:97)

Types of Hajj:

There are three types of Hajj

Hajj Tamattu: In which Ihram should be tied with the intention of Umrah and untied after Umrah. Then later the Ihram of Hajj should be put on.

2. Hajj Qiran: This is the Hajj in which Umrah and Hajj are performed with the same Ihram.

3. Hajj Ifrad: In which Ihram should be worn only with the intention of Hajj.