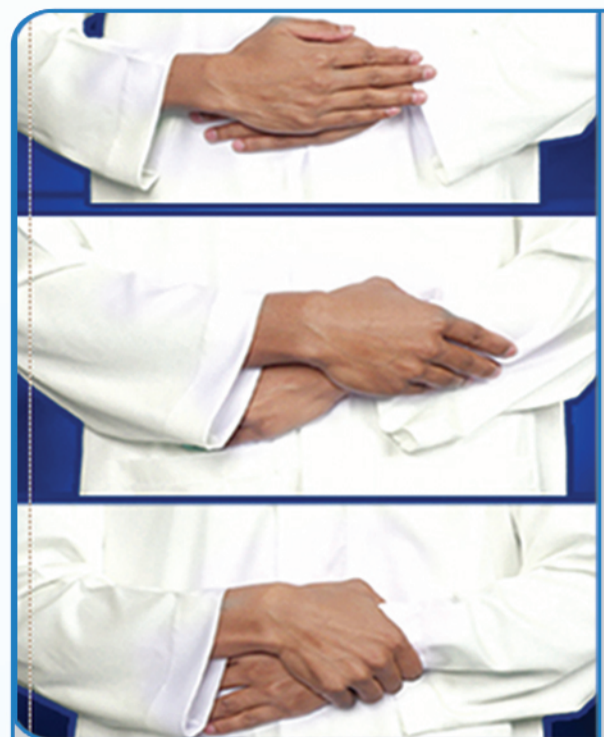


Prayer (Salah)



One begins the prayer by saying "Allahu Akbar" (Allah is the Greatest) while standing upright. The Imam says "Allahu Akbar" loudly in the beginning, as well as in all the other takbeerat (saying "Allahu Akbar") of the prayer in such a manner that those following behind him hear him. The followers, however, should say it quietly. At the beginning of the takbeer he raises his hands up to the level of his shoulders with his fingers closed together. The follower says "Allahu Akbar" after the Imam has finished saying it.

Note : It is obligatory to say the pillars (such as takbeerat al-Ihram) and obligatory acts of the prayer (such as all of the other takbeerat) loudly enough so that only the person praying can hear himself.



With his right hand, He grasps the wrist or forearm of his left, and keeps his gaze at the place of his prostration. He recites any of the supplications which are reported to be authentic, such as "Subhÿ aanak Allahumma wa bi Hÿ amdika wa Tabaarakasmuka wa Ta'ala Jadduka wa la ilaaha ghairuk" (You are Glorified, O Allah, and Praised; Your Name is Blessed; Your Majesty is Exalted, and none has the right to be worshipped but You). Then he says "A'udhu billahi min-ash-Shaitaanir-Rajeem" (I seek refuge in Allah from the accursed Satan); then "Bismillahir-Rahÿ manir-Rahÿ eem" (In the name of Allah, the Most Beneficent in Mercy, Most Merciful). All of this should be read quietly.

Then he recites Al-Fatihah. It is not obligatory upon those praying behind the Imam to recite Al-Fatihah in the loud prayers (Maghrib, Isha and Fajr) but it is better that he recites it in the times of quietness of the Imam (if there is any), and in the quiet prayers (Dhuhr and Asr). He then recites whatever he wishes from the Quran. The Imam recites loudly in Maghrib, Isha and Fajr, and quietly in the other prayers.

Note : It is better to recite the Quran according to the arrangement of the surahs in the Quran, and disliked to recite out of chronological order. It is forbidden, however, to recite words or verses in incorrect order.



Then he says "Allahu Akbar", raises his hands to his shoulders and then bows. In bowing, he should place his hands firmly on his knees, spreading his fingers, and stretching his back, straightening it so that the head is equal with his mid-section, neither higher nor lower than it. In the bowing, he should say three times, "Subhÿ aana Rabbiyal-Adheem" (Glory be to Allah, the Great). If one enters prayer late but completes the bowing, the standing before is also counted and he need not make up for this unit (Rak'ah) after completing the prayer.

Note : All the Takbeerat (saying Allahu Akbar") and Tasmi' (saying "Sami'Allahu liman Hamidah" -Allah answers he who praises Him) are said when one is actually moving, not before or after it, since those places are for other actions.



He then raises his head and says "Sami' Allahu liman Hamidah" (Allah answers he who praises Him) and raises his hands to his shoulders. Upon returning to stable upright standing position, he says "Rabbanaa wa-lakal-Hamd" (Tahmeed) (O Our Lord, to You is praise) [adding to it the saying] "Hamdan Katheeran Tayyiban Mubaarakan fihi, Mil'as-Sama waat wa Mil'al-Ard wa Mil'a ma Shi'ta min Shai'in ba'd" (Many praises that are pure and blessed, the fullness of the heavens and fullness of the earth and fullness of whatever You wish afterwards).

Note : The time of saying "Rabbanaa wa-lakal-Hamd" is after one is standing erect and not during movement from the bowing position.



He then prostrates saying "Allahu Akbar", keeping his stomach away from his thighs and thighs from his calves. He must prostrate on his forehead and nose, both palms of the hands, both knees, and both toes of the feet, with the fingers and toes pointing towards the Qiblah. He is to say in the prostration "Subhaana Rabbiyal-A'laa" (Glory be to Allah, the Exalted) three times.

Note : The prostration must be on seven appendages: the two feet, two knees, two palms of hands, and the head, which includes the forehead and the nose. The prayer is invalid by intentionally leaving any of these parts, except due to a valid excuse.



Then he raises his head saying Allahu Akbar and sits. The sitting between the two prostrations has two correct manners : 1) Sitting on his left thigh while propping the right foot with the heel up and the toes planted to the ground facing the Qiblah. 2) Propping up both of his feet, keeping his toes towards the Qiblah and sitting on his heels with his buttocks. He says "Rabbighfir-li" (O Allah forgive me) and he may add "warhamni, wajburni, warfa'ni, warzuqni, wansurni, wahdini,, wa 'aafini, wa'fu anni" (Have mercy on me, and strengthen me, raise me, give me sustenance, give me victory, guide me, pardon me, bestow clemency on me). Then he prostrates again like the first time, raises his head saying "Allahu Akbar", and then stands erect, putting pressure on the front part of the soles of his feet, and prays the second unit (Rak'ah) like the first.

Note : The place of reciting al-Fatihah is while standing, and therefore if he starts reading before the completely standing erect, he must recite it again or otherwise the prayer is invalid.



When he finishes the two units, he sits for the first sitting of Tashahhud as he did between the prostration, putting his right hand on his right thigh and left hand on his left thigh. He should make a fist of his right hand, making a circle with the thumb and middle finger, and point with his index finger. He recites, "At-Tahÿ iyyaatu lillaahi was-Salawaatu wat-Tÿ ayyibaat, as-Salaamu 'alaika ayyuhan-Nabiyyu wa Rahÿ matullaahi wa Barakaatuh, as-Salaamu 'alaina wa 'ala Ibaadillaahis-Saalihÿ een. Ash-hadu allaa ilaaha illallahu wa ash-hadu anna Muhÿ ammadan Abduhu wa Rasooluh" (The best of salutations and greetings are for Allah, and our prayers and our purest and good deeds. May the peace, mercy and blessings of Allah be on you, O Prophet. May the peace be upon us and on the righteous slaves of Allah. I testify that there is no deity worthy of worship except Allah and I testify that Muhammad is His Slave and Messenger). He then stands for the third and fourth bowing unit in the prayers that are three or four Raka'at (Maghrib, Isha, Dhuhr, 'Asr) saying "Allahu Akbar" and raising his hands. He then prays the rest similarly, except that he doesn't raise his voice in recitation and recites Al-Fatihah only.



He then sits for the final sitting of Tashahhud if the prayer is three or four Raka'at in the posture of tawarruk, which has three correct manners (see chart) : 1) Sitting on the buttocks with the knees bent, keeping left foot spread and sticking out from under the right calf and right foot propped up. 2) Sitting on the buttocks with the knees bent, keeping left and right feet laid on the right side. 3) Sitting on the buttocks with the knees bent, placing the left foot between his thigh and right calf and right foot spread.

Then he says as in the first Tashahhud : "At-Tahÿ iyyaatu lillaahi..." Then he says "Allahuma salli 'ala Muhÿ ammad wa 'ala Aali Muhÿ ammad kama sallaita 'ala Ibraheem wa 'ala Aali ibraheem, innaka Hÿ ameedum Majeed, wa Baarik 'ala Muhÿ ammad wa 'ala Aali Muhÿ ammad kama baarakta 'ala Ibraheem wa 'ala Aali ibraheem, innaka Hÿ ameedum Majeed" (O Allah, send praises upon Muhammad and the family of Muhammad, just as You sent praises upon Abraham and upon the family of Abraham. Verily, You are full of praise and majesty. And send blessings upon Muhammad and upon the family of Muhammad, just as You sent blessings upon Abraham and upon the followers of Abraham. Verily, You are full of praise and majesty). Then it is deemed praiseworthy to recite an authentically reported supplication like, "Allahumma inni a'udhu bika min adhaabi Jahannam, wa min adhaabil-Qabr, wa min fitnatal-Mahÿ ya wal-Mamaat, wa min fitnat-almaseehÿ ad-Dajjal" (O Allah I seek refuge in You from the punishment of Hellfire, and from the punishment of the Grave, and from the trial of life and death, and from the trial of the Dajjal [Antichrist]).



He then says the Tasleem saying "As-Salaamu 'alaikum wa Rahmatullah" (Peace be upon you and the Mercy of Allah), turning first to his right and then his left. When he finishes this, he recites the authentically reported supplications which are to be read after finishing the prayer.