

Islam at

your Hands

The Islamic Basic Rules
for New Muslims

Compiled by

Marwan AbdulHameed Samara

المبادئ الإسلامية الأساسية
للمسلمين الجدد

طبع على نفقة بعض المحسنين
غفر الله لهم ولوالديهم

يهدى ولا يباع
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Preface

All Praise is due to Allah, and His peace and blessings on the final Prophet Muhammad, upon his good and pure family, and upon all of his noble companions.

Praise be to Allah, Islam is the fastest growing religion in the world and it is the most rapidly prevalent among people. Indeed, one out of every five persons on earth is a Muslim.

I have been working in Islamic Office for more than eight years and thank to Allah hundreds of people converted to Islam during this period . I found that it is our duty to take care and follow up those new Muslims.

For this reason, I have compiled and prepared this book which consists of all the basic matters ,the New Muslims need . This book is a modest attempt to help the new Muslim to understand and apply Islam correctly based on the Quran and Sunnah. It was prepared in an easy and systematic way to strength and preserve their belief.

Foreword of Dr.Saad Bin Abdullah Albreak

The Chairman of The Islamic Office in New Industrial City.

In the name of Allah the most Gracious The Most Merciful. Praise be to Allah, and peace and blessings be upon our prophet Mohammed, and his family and companions.

My dear brother, Allah preferred us by mind, in which we can distinguish between right and wrong, between good and evil. So we should thank Allah for that and following his commandments.

No doubt that Islam is the religion which Allah has chosen for us and it is the only way of happiness here and in the other life .

Here are the most important commandments:-

Worship Allah only.

Be honest

Obey your parents.

Be kind with your wife and children.

Visit your relatives.

Give charity to the poor and help the needy.

Respect the others.

Do Your job perfectly.

Don't break your promises.

Always smile.

These commandments were revealed to us from Allah the most merciful to show us the right way of salvation.

We are in a path that lot of wise, intellectual and ordinary people passed before ,and all of them had one aim to please Allah in order to gain the happiness and they have found it in Islam .If you are interested to achieve that aim (the happiness),this booklet (Islam at your hands) will show you the way how to achieve it .

I have read this book and I found that it is a useful book, and it was written in a simple and concise manner. It also explained the pillars of Islam and the basic rules that the new Muslims need representing how to perform some of them by using graphics.

I recommend my new Muslims brothers, to thank Allah who guided them to the true religion and to do their best to invite others by being a good example.

Finally, I ask Allah Almighty to provide the author more success and reward .

Peace and blessings be upon our prophet Mohammed and his family and companions .

Written by:

Dr. Saad Bin Abdullah Alburaik
The Chairman of The Islamic Office in New
Industrial City.

Foreword

New Muslims interested in some of the principals of Islam will hopefully benefit from this book because the author has been teaching new converts Islam these principals for a good number of years. The author wrote this work during the years he taught in ICIC, the Industrial City Islamic Center in Riyadh. The experience he acquired has helped him to well design the contents. During these years, where the author was highly respected by his colleagues and students, the students were mainly from Asia and Africa.

My personal note is that the book may not be regarded as a reference for Western expats as much as it may be designed for new Muslims from Asia or Africa.

I know how challenging it is to write a book because I wrote a number of books myself. That is why I would like to thank the author for the effort itself (regardless of any disagreements some readers may provoke).

Written by:

ICIC Vice Chair,
Waleed Al Marzuki

Foreword

I read and went through this book to teach new Muslims their religion and I found that it is beneficial and it has covered all the subjects that the new Muslims need .

I pray to Allah almighty to reward the author Paradise.

Written by:

Hamood Ashemimry
The head of the Islamic
Education Foundation, Jeddah

15 General Advices for New Muslims

"Assalamu alaikum wa rahmatullahi wa barakatuh"

Welcome new brother/ sister in Islam.

I would like to congratulate you upon taking the most important decision of your life by converting to Islam. Al-Hamdulillah, All Praise be to Allah, who guided you to the straight path, the path of real success and peace where your mind, heart and body come together in a complete, beautiful and balanced system of worship.

Indeed, you are lucky because by converting to Islam Allah forgives all your previous sins and bad deeds. Also, this will grant you happiness here and Paradise in the other life.

In fact embracing Islam is the first important step and the other steps will come by increasing your knowledge, faith and attachment to Islam.

Here , I have some recommendations and advices for you:-

1. Make your Intention that your converting to Islam is for the Sake of Allah only, not for other purposes or benefits.
2. Be happy being Muslim because you are on the straight road to Jannah (paradise).
3. Be strong and find comfort in your prayers and other pillars of Islam.
4. Avoid Loneliness and try to find good friends who can guide and support you.
5. Keep up a good relationship with your family , do not break off the ties with them.

6. Keep away from debates and arguments with others.

7. Being new Muslim you may be tested by Allah to know how firm you are on your Islam. Keep away from debates and arguments with others.

8. Find a teacher to help you to understand Islam because Islam is a straight path based on knowledge that must be acquired.

9. Force yourself to eat Islamic food and leave all the unlawful food, which is forbidden to us such as the dead animals, blood, the flesh of swine, and wine .

10. Being new Muslim, you may face some difficulties. So you should be patient and never despair in Allah.

11. Seeking Knowledge is vital to every Muslim. Knowledge will enable you to practice your religious duties correctly.

12. Try your best to perform your prayers in the Mosque because it is an ideal place to meet Muslims and learn in a short time .

13. Share others and invite them to Islam. Start with your parents, wife relatives and neighbor. Don't be in a hurry, do it step by step.

14. After Islam you should be better than before to be a good example in front of others.

15. Allah requires Muslim women to cover their hair and wear some sort of loose attire, full-length garment in the presence of men who are not close relatives.

With my Best Wishes.

Chapter One (General Information)

In this chapter I am going to explain the most important concepts and matters in Islam

1.What is Islam?

2. The Most Important Teachings in Islam

3.Who are the Muslims?

4.Who is Allah?

5.Who is Muhammad?

6.What is Quran ?

7.What is Hadith?

8.The Characteristics Of Islam

9.The main manners in Islam

10.The major sins in Islam

11.Women in Islam

12.Jihad in Islam

1.What is Islam?

The Arabic word 'Islam' simply means submission and obedience . The other literal meaning of the word Islam is "peace" the peace of body and the peace of mind and this can be achieved only through submission and obedience to Allah.

Allah, the Most High says: "Those who believe and whose hearts find rest in the remembrance of Allah – indeed it is in the remembrance of Allah alone that the heart of man finds rest " [Quran: 13:28]

In fact Islam is not a new religion, but it is the same truth that Allah revealed through all His prophets. So, all the prophets Adam, Noah, Abraham, Moses and Jesus...etc. (peace and blessing of Allah be upon all of them), were Muslims and their religion was Islam.

Islam is not only a religion but it is also a complete way of life . It is a religion of peace for all people from whatever race or background they might be.

Islam is the fastest growing religion in the world because the simplicity of its doctrine. Seeking knowledge is an obligation matter in Islam. So that Muslims have made a great advances in medicine, mathematics, art, etc.

2-The Most Important Teachings of Islam .

No doubt that The Islamic teachings conveyed through the last Prophet (peace and blessing of Allah be upon him) were the everlasting guide and the most perfect form of the religion of Allah. Here are the most important of these teachings:

1. Worshiping Allah , the only one God and believe all His angels, all His holy books, all His prophets, day of Judgment, and destiny.
2. Allah is the source of all creation and that human beings are the best of His creation and they are created for a purpose , to worship Allah only.
3. Believing that prophet Mohamed (peace and blessing of Allah be upon him) is the last prophet and messenger.
4. Believing and practicing, the fifth Pillars of Islam .
5. Doing good deeds for the benefit of the community, nature, and mankind.
6. Seeking knowledge is an obligation for every Muslim man and woman.

3-Who are the Muslims?

Muslims are the followers of Islam. They are those who submit to Allah (The Only True God)and obey Him. They, also believe in the final prophet, Mohammed (peace and blessing of Allah be upon him). They also believe in all the Prophets starting with Adam including Noah, Abraham, Ishmael, Isaac, Jacob, Joseph, Moses, and Jesus (peace be upon all of them).

Today, 1.6 billion individuals around the world call themselves Muslims (23.4 percent of the overall global population).They are from different races, nationalities and cultures. Muslims may be Arabs, Turks, Persians, Indians, or other nationalities.

Muslims devote their lives to the service of Allah, the Creator and Sustainer of the universe. Muslims base their laws on their holy book the Qur'an, and the Sunnah(practical example of Prophet Muhammad and his sayings.)

It is easy to become a Muslim. One has to believe and affirm that "There is no true god but Allah and that Mohammed (peace and blessing of Allah be upon him) is the last Messenger of Allah.

4-Who is Allah?

The word Allah in Arabic means , the one and only True God or Creator and Provider of the universe. It is a unique term and nothing else can be called Allah. The term has no plural or gender. This shows its uniqueness when compared with the word "God," which can be made plural, as in "gods," or made feminine, as in "goddess".

In Islam, Allah has 99 names. Allah is the perfect which means that there is no sharer in His Nature and His Attributes. He is the Knower of the unseen and the visible. He is the All-Merciful, the All-Compassionate. Allah is the Self-Existing and Self-Sufficient Master who comprises all perfect . He is the All-Mighty, the All-Wise. He is free from every weakness and defect. Who is without partner or peer and He is the source of all Love and Grace.

When a disbeliever told The Prophet Mohammed (peace and blessing of Allah be upon him) to describe his God; Allah the Most High sent down this chapter :

“Say (O Muhammad), He is Allah, the One God, the Self- Sufficient Master, who has not begotten, nor has been begotten, and there is none like unto him” (Quran 112)

Muslims believe that there is nothing in the heavens nor on earth that deserves worship except Allah, the One True Creator. They also, believe that Allah is above all creations and above the heavens ,but He is with us by knowledge.

5-Who is Muhammad?

Prophet Muhammad whose name means "highly praised" was born in Makkah (the central city of the Arabian Peninsula) in the year 570 AD. He was the descendant of prophet Ismail (Ishmael) the son of Prophet Ibrahim (Abraham) (peace and blessing of Allah be upon both of them).

Prophet Mohammed (peace and blessing of Allah be upon him) was an orphan. His father Abdullah died before his birth, and his mother Aminah died when he was about 6 years old. He

was taken cared by his uncle Abu Talib. At age of 12, he joined his uncle on a caravan to Syria .

When he was a young man, Muhammad (peace and blessing of Allah be upon him) worked as a camel driver between Syria and Arabia. At age 25, Mohammed (peace and blessing of Allah be upon him) was hired by, a wealthy widow woman (Khadijah) to trade for her. At the same age he got married with her when she was 40 years old. They were happily married for 25 years. Khadijah passed away when she was 65 years old. During his marriage to Khadijah he was not married to anybody else. He was known all over Makkah that he was fair, decent and honest with a clear conscience, so they nicknamed him Al-Ameen.(The Trusted)

At the age of forty, Allah asked him, through the angel Gabriel, to proclaim the religion of Islam publicly. Then he started preaching Islam to people. But his teachings was met with severe and hostile opposition, and in the year 622 he left Makkah and emigrated to Yathrib, (Madina) with a number of his followers. In Madina, he laid the foundation for the ideal Islamic state. He sent letters to Kings and leaders beyond Arabia inviting them to Islam. After several years, he and

his followers returned to Makkah, where they forgave their enemies and established Islam definitively. Before he died, at the age 63, the greater part of Arabia was Muslim, and within a century of his death Islam had spread to Spain in the West and China in the east .

His prophet hood lasted for 23 years. He is the last prophet that Allah sent to mankind, there won't be any prophet after him .He was raised illiterate, unable to read or write, and remained so till his death.

5-What is Quran ?

Quran is the Last and Final Word of God Almighty and a message to all mankind. It is a collection of 114 chapters or Surahs that were revealed to Prophet Muhammad (may the peace and blessings of God be upon him) through the angel Gabriel over a period of 23 years. Note that the Quran was revealed to in Arabic only. So, any Quranic translation, either in English or any other language, is neither a Quran, nor a version of the Quran, but rather it is only a translation of the meaning of the Quran. It was memorized by Prophet Muhammad and his followers, dictated to

his companions, and written down by scribes, who cross-checked it during the Prophet's lifetime

Qur'an is made up of 114 chapters, called Suras, begins with the longest and ends with the shortest chapters. The first chapter, Al-Fatiha ("the Opening") is a short chapter that is recited at the beginning of any unit (Rak'ah) of the prayers. Each chapter is divided into verses called Ayat (singular Ayah, meaning "sign" or "proof").

Qur'an is the principle source of every Muslim's faith and practice. In fact it is the constitution of this nation. It deals with all subjects that concern us as human beings, including wisdom, doctrine, worship and law; but its basic theme is the relationship between God and His creatures. At the same time, the Qur'an provides guidelines for a just society, proper human conduct and equitable economic principles. It is the guidance for human beings and separation between right and wrong. It is serious and not joking. At the same time it provides guidelines and solutions for all the aspects of life political, economic and social. It gives only general guidelines without details. Details are derived from the Sunna (The prophetic sayings).

Muslims regard the Qur'an as the most important miracle of Muhammad, and the culmination of a series of divine messages that started with the messages revealed to Adam and ended with Muhammad. Qur'an has a unique and inimitable style of language and it contains many amazing scientific facts which were unknown at that time, and have only been discovered recently. So, Allah has challenged mankind and the jinn to produce something like it, even one surah or one aayah (verse), but they could not do that and will never be able to do that. Allah the Most High says:

"Say: "If the mankind and the jinns were together to produce the like of this Quran, they could not produce the like thereof, even if they helped one another."

(Qur'an 17:88) . He also says:

"We have, without doubt, sent down the Message, and We will assuredly guard it from corruption.

(Qur'an 15:9)

Finally, one of the most important characteristics of the Qur'an is that it is the only holy book remains today which has never changed and it is free from any errors or contradictions, despite it being revealed over a period of 23 years. It is preserved, word-for-word, since it was revealed in its original Arabic

language, unlike other scriptures which have been distorted and changed or lost.

Sir William MUIRS noted, "There is probably in the world no other book which has remained (fourteen) centuries with so pure a text"

Sir William Muir, KCSI (April 27, 1819 – July 11, 1905) was born in Scotland and he was Vice-Chancellor of Edinburgh University . His book (The life of Mohammed)

6-What is Hadith ?

Hadith is the second source of authority in Islam. It is a reliably transmitted report of what the Prophet Mohammed (peace and blessing of Allah be upon him) said, did, or approved (his Sunnah).

It is an explanation or a further clarification of the Qur'an and explains Qur'anic matters in detail. It considers The ultimate understanding of the Qur'an depends upon the context of Muhammad's (peace and blessing of Allah be upon him) life and the ways in which he demonstrated and applied its message .The sayings of the Prophet Muhammad (peace and blessing of Allah be upon him) explain some

historical events in detail since they are mentioned only briefly in the Qur'an.

Belief in the Sunnah is part of the Islamic faith. Muslims should believe and follow up the prophet's sayings and actions . Believing in the Qur'an without the Sunnah is a contradiction as the Qur'an confirms the importance of the Sunnah: Allah, the Most High says:

"O you who believe! Obey God and obey the Messenger and those charged with authority among you; and if you differ in anything among yourselves, then refer it to God and the Messenger if you do believe in God and the Last Day: that is best and most suitable for final determination." (Quran 4:59)

To establish the authority of hadith on firmer ground, Muslim scholars developed several disciplines dedicated to examining and verifying the relative authenticity of various reports attributed to the Prophet. The contents of sayings, as well as the reliability of those who transmitted them , were carefully examined. Sahih Bukhari and Sahih Muslim are considered to be the most important sources of Islamic authority after the Qur'an.

8-The Characteristics of Islam

1. It is a perfect religion : It covers all aspects of human life religious, social, political, economic, moral, spiritual, etc. Islam teaches us what we should do from the smallest things until the biggest ones.

2. Islam commands all kinds of good and forbids all kinds of evil. It encourages good manners and proper treatment of others, such as truthfulness, patience, deliberation, kindness, humility, modesty, keeping promises, dignity, mercy, justice, courage, patience, friendliness, contentment, chastity, good treatment, tolerance, trustworthiness, gratitude for favors, and self-control in times of anger.

3. Equality and Justice with people

regardless of their religion, colors, races and nationalities. Allah Al-Mighty says:

"Indeed, Allah commands that between people you judge with justice"

4. Islam is a religion of knowledge.

Knowledge is compulsory for every Muslim men and women. Knowledge will raise one's degree who has it to the highest degree.

Knowledge and practice like two sides of a coin,
There is no practice without knowledge and there
is no knowledge without practice. Allah Al-Mighty
says:

" Allah will raise those who have believed among
you and those who were given knowledge, by
degrees." [Qur'an 58:11]

**5. Islam explains the beginning of creation for
human and the end of their life and the
purpose why they were created.** Allah Al-
Mighty says:

"From it [i.e. the earth] We created you, and into
it. We shall return you, and from it We will extract
you another time". [Qur'an 20:55]

He also says:

" And I did not create the jinn and mankind
except to worship Me". [Qur'an 51:56]

**6. Islam is easy and clear and can be
understood and done by everyone.** For
example; Salah is compulsory for every Muslim,
but if you cannot do it by standing you can sit, if
you cannot sit, you can lie down, if you cannot lie
down you can do it by sign from your eyes but
you must do it.

7. Islam is Universal and Timeless Message.

Islam has a message that suitable for all people at all times, in all places from the creation of Adam up until the Day of Judgement. It is applicable today as it always has been.

8. Islam is far from contradiction. So we can't find any statements that conflict with modern science. There are Many verses in Quran that speak about scientific facts and processes but that have only recently been discovered and proven as scientific facts by scientists. For example, Allah speaks about the stages of development of the creation of the human being. Allah Al-Mighty says:

" And certainly did We create man from an extract of clay. then We placed him as a sperm-drop in a firm lodging (i.e, the womb). Then We made (from) the lump, bones, and We covered the bones with flesh; then We developed him into another creation. So blessed is Allah, the best of creators." *[Qur'an 23:12-14]*

9. Islam takes care of healthy. This matter is clear in Quran and Sunnah about how to keep healthy. Allah Almighty says:-

" and eat and drink but be not excessive. Indeed, He likes not those commit excess" [Qur'an 7:31]

Al-Miqdaam Ibn Maadly Karib said: I heard The Messenger of Allah (peace and blessing of Allah be upon him) saying :

" No human ever filled a vessel worse than the stomach. Sufficient for any son of Adam are some morsels to keep his back straight. But if it must be, then one third for his food, one third for his drink and one third for his breath." (Al-Tirmithee, No.2380)

10. Islam rejects the use of compulsion

in religious matters and that everyone has the complete freedom to choose his own religious belief .

Allah Al-Mighty says:

"There is no compulsion in religion"
(Qur'an 2:256)

9-The main manners in Islam;

Islam places great emphasis on manners and on the proper way to deal with others, whether they are Muslims or not. Relations between people are very important in Islam, Prophet Muhammad's (peace and blessing of Allah be upon him), said: "**I have been sent to perfect the best of manners**". (Muwatta Al-Immam Malik (1614).

Sahih according to Al-Albani(1/75).

These are the most important ethics which Islam urging us to follow:

1. Treat kindly with your parents respect them and obey them.
2. Respect and honor all human beings regardless of their religion, color, race, sex, language, status, property, birth and job .
3. Treat kindly with your neighbors.
4. Do not shout. Speak politely with low voice.
5. Don't lie, you should say the truth.
6. Do not mix truth with falsehood.
7. Say with your mouth what is in your heart .
8. Do not talk, listen or do anything in vain.

9. Be moderate in your life.
10. Walk with humility and calmness.
11. Do not be jealous of others.
12. say I do not know, if you do not have complete knowledge about any matter.
13. Do not follow blindly any information which you have heard from others.
14. Do not make mockery of others, do not insult others by nicknames, do not spy upon one another and do not backbite one another.
15. Avoid suspicion and guesswork.
16. Cooperate with one another in good deeds and do not cooperate with others in evil and bad manners.
17. Correct yourself and your families first before trying to correct others.
18. Fulfil your promises and commitments.
19. Call people to the way of your Lord with wisdom and beautiful advice.
20. Eat and drink [what is lawful] in moderation.

10-The major sins in Islam

In Islam ,sins are classified as major and minor. The major sins are those acts which have been forbidden by Allah in the Quran and by His Messenger. They are also all the sins that carry a specific legal punishment. The major sins in Islam are as follows:

1. Associating anything with Allah
2. Witchcraft (Magic)
3. Killing one without any reason
4. Eating up an orphan's wealth
5. Eating up usury(Riba)
6. Turning back during the war with disbeliever.
7. False accusation of chaste and believers women.

Other scholars add the following sins.

- 1.Adultery and Fornication
- 2.Homosexuality(sodomy)
- 3.Disobedience to parents
- 4.Drinking wine
5. Gambling
- 6.Committing suicide

7. Breaking contracts
8. Men's wearing silk cloth and gold
9. Lying under oath and false witness

Allah Al-Mighty says

“If you avoid the major (part) of what you have forbidden (to do), We will cancel out for you your (other) evil deeds and will admit you (to Paradise) with a noble entry.” (Qur'an 4:31)

Prophet Muhammad's (peace and blessing of Allah be upon him), said:

“Avoid the seven great major sins. To join others in worship along with Allah, to practice magic, to kill the life which Allah has forbidden except for a just cause , (according to Islamic law), to eat up Riba (usury), to eat up an orphan's wealth, to give back to the enemy and fleeing from the battlefield at the time of fighting, and to accuse, chaste women who never even think of anything touching chastity and are good believers.”

(Sahih Al-Bukhari Hadith 4.28)

11-Women in Islam

Over fourteen hundred years ago, Islam gave women their rights and raised their status , and made them equal with men in most rulings. In fact Islam honors women as mothers who must be respected, obeyed and treated with kindness, especially when they grow older and weaker. In Islam , mothers" rights are greater than those of the fathers. Allah Al-Mighty says:

"Worship God and join not any partners with Him; and be kind to your parents..."

(Qur'an 4:36).

Prophet Muhammad's (peace and blessing of Allah be upon him), said :-

“ Go and stay with your mother, the Paradise is lies under the feet of mothers”

(*Sunan* Ibn Majah, Hadith no. 2771)

Islam also honors women as wives. Islam urges the husband to treat his wife in a good and kind manner, and says that the wife has rights over the husband like his rights over her.

Allah Al-Mighty says: "And they (women) have rights similar (to those of their husbands) over them to what is reasonable, but men have a degree (of responsibility) over them. And Allah is All-Mighty, All-Wise"

(Qur'an 2:228)

Prophet Muhammad's (peace and blessing of Allah be upon him), said:

"The most perfect in faith amongst believers is he who is best in manners and kindest to his wife." (Sahih Muslim,no. 1468)

These are the following rights which the women have in Islam:

- 1.The right and duty to obtain education.
- 2.The right to inherit from her father, mother and husband.
3. The right to work [job or business] to earn money, and keep her own money .
4. The right to equal reward for equal deed or work.
5. The right to provisions from her husband for all her needs .

6.The freedom to express her opinion, to give sincere advice, to enjoin what is good and forbid what is evil.

7.The freedom to choose her husband and the freedom to obtain divorce from him.

8.The right to get sexual satisfaction from her husband.

9.The right to get custody of her children in case of divorce.

10. The right to re-marry after divorce or after becoming widow.

The women in Islam are required by Allah to cover their hair and wear some sort of loose fitting, full-length garment in the presence of men who are not close relatives.

Finally ,In 1930, Annie Besant (British socialist and famous writer) she said in her book (The Life and Teachings of Mohammed, 1932). "It is only in the last twenty years that Christian England has recognized the right of woman to property, while Islam has allowed this right fourteen centuries ago."

12-Jihad in Islam

Islam and other various Islamic terms and concepts are greatly misunderstood by the media especially in the West. Jihad is one of these concepts that is widely misunderstood. Some of the western people consider the word "Jihad" is synonymous with "terrorism" and Islam is a "militant" religion which aims to wage "Holy War" against all disbelievers, to convert them to Islam or to kill them.

Indeed, Islam is a practical religion that respects all human beings. Its message is peace and submission to Allah. Muslims believe in all the Prophets mentioned in the Bible, and the Quran.

Jihad in Islam which is taught by the Holy Quran and practiced by the Prophet Muhammad (Peace and blessing of Allah be upon him) and his Companions does not mean "Holy War". It means "struggle" or "striving" for the sake of Allah and it is devoting all abilities to achieve what is loved by Allah Almighty and reject what is hated by Allah. It is a struggle to do good and to remove injustice, oppression and evil from the society. This struggle should be spiritual as well as social, economic and political. It is required to protect

and defend the faith and human rights . It is not a violent concept. It is not a declaration of war against other religions. It is against evil thoughts, evil action and aggression against a person, family, society or country. Although Islam is the religion of peace, but it does not mean that it accepts oppression and it sometimes takes the form of war to spread the peace and prevent and remove the evil and aggression.

The basic rules of war in Islam are:

- 1.Be strong so that your enemy fear you.
- 2.Do not begin the hostilities. Work for peace as much as possible.
3. Fight only those who fight.
- 4.Stop hostilities as soon as the other party is inclined to peace.
- 5.Observe the treaties and agreements as long as the enemy observes them.
- 6.Don't kill women, children and the elderly, and don't cut the trees.
- 7.Fight for the sake of Allah not to occupy other lands. Allah Almighty says very clearly: "Fight in the way of Allah those who fight you, but do not do aggression. Truly, Allah does not love the aggressors."

(Quran 2: 190)

Chapter Two (Tawheed Section)

Fundamentals of Faith in Islam

There are **Three levels of Faith** :

Islam , Iman and Ihsan.

A-ISLAM is the First level and it has five pillars:-

1. The declaration of faith: To bear witness that there is none worthy of worship except Allah, and that Muhammed (peace and blessing of Allah be upon him) is His messenger to all human .

2. Prayers: Muslims have to perform five prayers a day as a duty towards Allah.

3. Zakah: It means giving a specified percentage(2.5 %) of ones wealth to the poor and needy people.

4. Fasting : During the month of Ramadan.

5. Hajj (Pilgrimage to Makkah): if it is possible.

B- Iman is the Second level and it is higher than Islam. It means: Belief in the heart, saying with the tongue, and doing practicing good deeds. There are **Six Pillars**:

1. Belief in the Oneness of Allah
2. Belief in the angels of Allah
3. Belief in all prophets of Allah
4. Belief in the Books of Allah
5. Belief in the Last Day and (the Day of Judgment)
6. Belief in Divine Decree (Qadr), (whether good or bad), are from Allah Almighty.

C. I'hsan is the Third and the highest level.

It has only one pillar. it means :

"Worship Allah as if you see Him, and if you don't see him, He sees you".

The Conditions of Testimony

The First Part of Shahadah

(I bear witness that there is no true God except Allah) has seven conditions : They are as follows:

1.Al-`Ilm: (Knowledge of the meaning of the shahadah, its negation and affirmation)

The phrase that "there is no true God" negates anything or anyone that is being worshipped other than Allah, and the phrase, "except Allah", confirms that all forms of worship, submission and adoration must be for Allah Alone.

2.Al-Yaqeen:(Certainty)perfect knowledge of it that counter-acts suspicion and doubt)

3.-Al-Ikhlaas:(Sincerity which negates shirk)

4.Al-Sidq: (Truthfulness that permits neither falsehood nor hypocrisy)

5.Al-Mahabbah: (Love of the shahadah and its meaning, and being happy with it)

6.Al-Inqiad: (Submission to its rightful requirements, which are the duties that must be performed with sincerity to Allah (alone) seeking His pleasure)

7.Al-Qubool:(Acceptance that contradicts rejection).

The second part of the Shahada

I bear witness that Muhammed(peace and blessing of Allah be upon him) is the final messenger of Allah to all human . This part has three conditions as well:

1.To believe in Muhammad(peace and blessing of Allah be upon him) and in whatever he said and conveyed in his message as the seal of the prophets.

2.To obey him in whatever he commanded and avoid whatever he warned.

3.To follow or imitate him in ‘ Ibādah (worship), and way of life.

Tawhid and Shirk

Tawhid (Faith in the Unity of Allah) is divided into three categories of Tawheed:

1-Tawheed Ar-Rububiyah:

Having faith and belief in the Oneness of the Lordship of Allah: To believe there is only one Lord for all that exists (Allah) and He is the Creator, Organizer, Planner, Sustainer and Giver of security.

2.Tawheed Al-Uluhiyyah:

Having faith and belief in the Oneness of the Worship of Allah: To believe that none has the right to be worshipped in truth [e.g. praying, invoking, asking for help (from the unseen), swearing, slaughtering sacrifices, fasting, pilgrimage etc.] except Allah alone.

3.Tawheed Al-Asmaa was-Sifaat:

Having faith and belief in the Oneness of Allah's Names and Attributes. We must believe in all the Qualities of Allah which Allah has stated in His Book (Qur'an) or mentioned through the Messenger without changing their meanings, or ignoring them completely, or twisting the meanings.

As for shirk (associating anything or anyone in worship with Allah), it is divided into three types:

1. Major shirk (ash-shirk al-akbar)

Anyone who associates others with Allah and dies on this shirk. Asking the dead or idols for help, slaughtering for them and making vows for them are examples of this shirk. The Major Shirk expels one from the religion.

It nullifies all of the person's deeds. Allah will not forgive him and Paradise is forbidden to him. Allah Al-Mighty says:

"Verily, Allah does not forgive association with him, but He forgives what is less than that for whom He wills". (Qur'an 4:48) .

Allah Al-Mighty also says:

"Verily, he who associates others with Allah , then Allah has forbidden him Paradise (the Jannah) and his refuge is the fire."(Qur'an 5:72)

2. Minor shirk (Ash-shirk al-asgar)

This kind of shirk does not expel one from the religion . It does not cause the one who commits it to remain in the Hell Fire forever . Minor Shirk only nullifies the deed which they are mixed with. It negates, however, the completeness of faith.

Riya (showing off) and swearing by other than Allah are examples of this kind of shirk. Prophet Muhammad (peace and blessing of Allah be upon him) said:

"Of which I fear for you the most is minor shirk." When he was asked what was it, he said, "Riya." (Al-AlBani, Hadith no. 1555)

The Things that Nullify a Muslim's Faith

There are Ten things that may lead a person to nullify his faith. Anyone who commits one of these things will become outside the circle of Islam. It makes no difference whether such violations are committed jokingly, seriously, or out of fear, except if they are done under a state of compulsion. Here are they:

1. Associating partners with Allah (shirk)

Such as invoking the dead people, asking their help, or offering vows and sacrifices to them. Allah Al-Mighty says:

"Verily, he who associates others with Allah, then Allah has forbidden him Paradise (the Jannah) and his refuge is the fire." (Qur'an 5:72)

2. Anyone who does not consider polytheists (Mushrikeen) to be unbelievers, or doubts about that or considers their ways to be correct.

3. Anyone who believes that some guidance is better than the Prophet's guidance or who prefers the rule of the Taaghoot over the Prophet's rule or who believes that systems and laws made by human beings are better than the system of Islam.

4. Setting up intermediaries between oneself and Allah, such as making supplication to them, asking their intercession with Allah, and trust in them.

5. Sihr (witchcraft) or practice of magic which includes the act of separating between a husband and wife, or tempting a person to do things he dislikes through devilish arts. Allah Al-Mighty says:

"The two angels , Haaroot and Maaroot, did not teach anyone (magic) unless they warn them but saying: 'In-deed, we are a trial, therefore, do not disbelieve.'"(Qur'an 2:102)

6. Supporting and aiding the polytheists(enemies of Islam) against the Muslims. Allah Al-Mighty says:

" O you who have believed, do not take the Jews and the Christians allies. They are allies of one another . And whoever is an ally to them among you -then indeed , he is one of them "

"(Qur'an5:51)

7. Anyone who mocks Allah, His Book, His Messenger or any other aspect of Allah's religion. Allah, the Most High says:

"Say: Is it Allah, His verses and His Messenger that you were mocking. Make no excuse: you have disbelieved after your (profession of) believe." (Qur'an 9:65-66)

8. Anyone who hates anything that the Messenger (peace be upon him) has declared to be lawful. Allah Al-mighty says:

"This is because they disliked what Allah has revealed ; therefore Allah has made their deeds worthless." (Qur'an 47:9)

9. Anyone who believes that some people are permitted to deviate from the Sharee'ah of Mohammed (peace be upon him) Allah Al-Mighty says:

"And whoever seeks a religion other than Islam, it will not be accepted from him, and in the hereafter he will be among the losers." (Qur'an3:85)

10. To Turn Away from Islam by neither learning nor acting upon its teachings . Allah Al-Mighty says:

"But those who disbelieve turn away from that of which they are warned." (Qur'an 46:3) .

Chapter Three (Fiqh Section)

Taharah in Islam

Taharah means cleanliness which includes all the aspects of Muslim's life. The body and clothes of the believer who intends to offer prayer must be free of filth/impurity and place should also be clean and pure. Islam emphasizes cleanliness and urges Muslims to purify their souls, their minds, their body and their clothes. The Messenger of Allah (peace and blessing of Allah be upon him) said:

"Cleanliness is half of the faith (Emaan)."

(Sahih Muslim, Hadith no. 534)

Taharah in Islam has two sides :

1) Inner Taharah

2) Outer Taharah

Inner Tahara can be achieved by performing the five pillars of Islam, having clean and pure thinking process, avoiding sins, making a lot of good deeds and especially making sure the heart is pure of spiritual maladies such as anger, hatred, relying on other than Allah, fear of loss of provision, etc.

Outer Taharah can be attained by proper bodily purification e.g. making wudu (ablution), taking bath, keeping house and clothes clean etc.

As a perfect teacher the holy Prophet Muhammad (peace and blessing of Allah be upon him) practiced cleanliness himself and ordered his companions to follow him. He kept his body and clothes clean, taking bath on regular basis, using perfume, and using Miswaak.

The Messenger of Allah(peace and blessing of Allah be upon him)said:

" Ghusl on Friday is compulsory for every Muslim who reach the age of puberty, and using Siwak and wearing perfume as much as his is able, even from his family's perfume."

(Saheeh Al-Bukhaaree,Saheeh Muslim).

He also said: "He who eats onion ,and garlic and leek , should not approach our mosque for the angels are harmed by the same things as the children of Adam".

(Sahih Bukhari, Number 458)"

Purification from Physical Impurity

Najaasah is an Arabic word means all physical substances which Islam considers impure and commands us to remove them before engaging in any act of worship.

If we want to pray, we must first remove all physical impurities from the body, clothing and the place of prayer .

The impure things in Islam

- 1.Human urine and stools
- 2.Blood (except if it a small amount)
- 3.Urine and dung of animals that are considered unlawful for human consumption
4. Pigs and dogs
5. Dead animals

What is Istinjaa?

Istinjaa means cleaning the private parts after passing out urine or stool. The following things can be used for Istinjaa:

- a. Water and it is superior to wiping.
- b. stones or dry Earth or Toilet Paper.
- c.** The best method is to combine between water and wiping. But , coal, bones, glass, baked bricks and printed paper are **disliked material**.

Toilet Etiquette (How to make Istinjaa)

1.Entering the toilet with the left foot first after saying, "Bismillaah Allaahumma innee'a'oodhu bika min-al-khubthi wal-khabaa'ith" (I seek refuge with You, O Allah, from the male and female Jinn)

2.Covering your private parts while answering the call of nature.

3.You must not answer the call of nature in a place where you may be seen or where you may offend people.

4.If you are out in an open space you must not relieve yourself in a hole.

5.If you are out in an open space you must not face the qiblah, the direction of the Ka'bah or turn your back towards it, for the Prophet (peace and blessing of Allah be upon him) said, "**When you are answering the call of nature, you should not face the qiblah or turn your back towards it.**"

(Saheeh Al-Bukhaaree: 386; Saheeh Muslim264).

6.You must try to be careful not to have any impurities splashed unto your body or clothes. If

this happens accidentally, you must wash the impurity off the affected place thoroughly.

What is The Required Purification for Prayer

Allah, the Most High says:

“O you who believe! Don't approach -Salâh (the prayer) when you are in a drunken state until you know (the meaning) of what you utter, nor when you are in a state of Janâba, (i.e. in a state of sexual impurity and have not yet taken a bath) except those passing through a mosque, till you wash your whole body. And if you are ill, or on a journey, or one of you comes after answering the call of nature, or you have been in contact with women (by sexual relations) and you find no water, then you can perform Tayammum with clean earth and rub therewith your faces and hands (Tayammum). Truly, Allah is Ever Oft-Pardoning, Oft-Forgiving”. (Qur'an 4:43)

Allah commands Muslims to purify themselves and perform the partial ablution (wudu') before performing the prayer, touching the Qur'an and circling the Ka'bah in Makkah. Ablution in Arabic means Wudu' derived from an Arabic word wada'a means light.

We must clean ourselves with water before performing prayer.

How To Perform Wudu

Wudu (ablution) is required for performing Salah and we cannot offer our Salah without it. Here are the steps of performing Wudu :

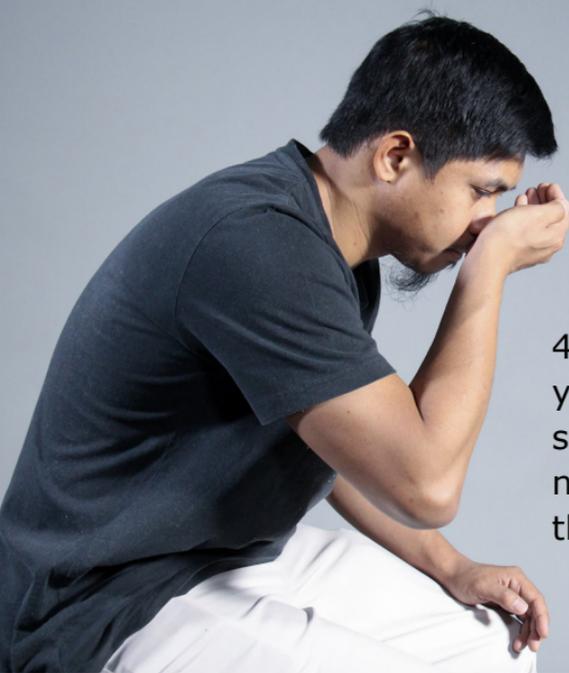
1. Make the Niyyah (intention) in your heart that this act of Wudu is for the purpose of preparing for Salah, and say: "Bismillah"(in the name of Allah).



2 - Wash both hands up to the wrists three times, making sure that water has reached between fingers



3 - Take water with your right hand ,put it into your mouth and rinse it thoroughly three times



4 - Take water with your right hand, splash it into your nose and blow it out three times





5 - Wash your whole face three times repeatedly.

(The whole face includes:
and the forehead to the bottom of the chin).



6 - Wash the right arm thoroughly from wrist to elbow three times, and make sure that no part of the arm has been left unwashed. Repeat with the left arm.



7 - Move the palms of the wet hands lightly over the head, starting from the top of the forehead to the back of the head, and passing both hands over the back of the head to the neck, and then bringing them back to the forehead.



8 - With the same water, rub the grooves and holes of both ears with the wet index fingers, while also passing the wet thumbs behind the ears from the bottom upward.

A close-up photograph showing a person in a white lab coat washing another person's foot. The person being washed is lying down, and their foot is held in the hands of the person in the lab coat. The background is a plain, light-colored wall.

9 - Finally, wash both feet to the ankles three times, starting with the right foot. Make sure that water has reached between the toes and covered the rest of the foot.

Wiping on Socks

There are certain conditions of wiping.

- a)** Socks or stockings must be thick .
- b)** They must cover both the upper and the Lower parts of the feet up to the ankle bones.
- c)** They must be put on after making wudu' (ablution) or Ghusl, while one is still pure.
- d)** Wiping must not exceed the period of one full day and night in the case of a resident and three days and nights for a traveler.
- e)** Finally, one must remove the socks if Ghusl (bathing) becomes obligatory.



10 - If you are wearing socks ,you can leave them on and wipe over them once with wet fingers in place of washing the entire foot.

Note Regarding Wudu :-

1. At the end of performing Wudu ,you should recite:

"Ashhadu alla ilaha illallahu, wa ash-hadu anna muhammadan abduhu wa rasuluhu."

This means: "I testify that there is no true God except Allah alone, and I testify that Mohammed (peace be upon him)is His servant and His messenger."

2. Doing the ablution should be in the prescribed sequence, without delays . Do not stop between these steps, if that happens, one must begin all over again.

Nullifiers of Ablution (Nawâqid al-Wudū')

There are eight things that nullify ablution (Wudu)

- 1)Any discharge from the front or back passage(urine, stools, wind, etc.)
- 2) Any unclean substance discharged from the body
- 3) Sleeping or Loosing of consciousness
- 4) Eating camel meat
- 5) Touching the [private sexual organs) penis Or anus with hand (without any barrier)
- 6) Apostasy from Islam
- 7) Bathing dead person (deceased)
- 8) Touching a woman with sexual desire

The Major Ablution(Ghusl Janabah)

Ghusl means washing the whole body and it must be done in the following states:

- 1.** For men and women after sexual intercourse
- 2.** If there is discharge of semen due to stimulation
- 3.** For females at the end of their menstruation period
- 4.** For females at the end of their post-childbirth bleeding
- 5.** If there is Ihtilaam "wet dreams"
- 6-** It is required to perform ghusl on a Muslim Who has died

How is Ghusl performed?

According to the Prophet (peace and blessing of Allah be upon him) the manner of performing Ghusl are the following:

- 1.** Wash hands three times.
- 2.** Wash and remove every defilement, congealed or liquid, from the body.
- 3.** Do Wudu as for Salah.
- 4.** Pour water over the head, running wet fingers through the hair and let the water reach down the roots of the hair.
- 5.** Pour water over the entire body, beginning with the right side, then the left. Wash

underarms, inside and outside the ears, inside the navel and between the toes.

It is an obligation that the water should reach all the parts of the body. If any part of the skin remains dry, the Ghusl is not valid.

Note : Wudu and Ghusl are allowed with the following types of water

1. Rain water.
2. Well water.
3. Water of a big tank or pond.
4. Water of melting snow or ice.
5. Spring, sea or river water

But they are not allowed with the following types of water

1. Unclean or impure water.
2. Water extracted from fruit and trees
3. Water that has changed its color, taste or smell .
4. Small quantity of water in which something unclean has fallen, e.g. urine, blood, wine and dead animals.
5. The used water after Wudu or Ghusl.
6. The left water over after drinking by pigs and dogs.

Tayammum (Dry Ablution)

Tayammum is done as a substitution for Wudu or Ghusl. The proof for this is Allah's Al-Mighty saying:

"...and if you don't find water, then perform Tayammum with good earth, wiping your faces and hands with it." (Qur'an 5:6)

Also the Prophet's (peace and blessing of Allah be upon him) saying:

"The earth was made a masjid (place of prayer) and purity for me." (Reported by Al-Bukhaaree and Muslim)

Tayammum is permitted in these Situations:

- 1.If there is no enough water for Wudhu or Ghusl.
- 2.If using water will cause any risk as sickness and so on.
- 3.If there is dangerous, a wild or poisonous animal or an enemy prevent you to reach the water.

Tayammum can be performed for both types:

1. Minor Impurity such as urine and feces.
2. Major Impurity such as sexual relations or wet dream.

It is permissible to perform Tayammum with everything that is found on the earth from its various types, such as sand, dirt and other types of earth.

How to Perform Tayammum?

1. Make the intention (Niyah) in your heart before performing Tayammum.

2. Recite **Bismi-llahi ar-rahmani ar-rahim** (In the name of Allah, the most Gracious, the most Merciful).

3 - Strike the earth (soil, sand, stone, gravel or soft rock) at once with the palms of both hands at once.





4 - Wipe over the forehead with the inside of the hands together. The forehead is defined to be the area between the hairline at the top, the bones of eyebrows at the bottom and the temples on the sides start wiping from the top .



5 - Wipe over the back of the right hand with the palm of the left, starting from the wrist to the fingertips.

The Prayers (Salah)

Salah is the second pillar of Islam. We have to perform it five times a day facing the Kabah. Salah is the most important of all obligatory acts that God has ordained upon Muslims. In fact, Salah is the only act that Allah ordered on children. Little ones are expected to learn how to pray by age 7 and perform their 5 daily prayers regularly by age 10.

Allah The Almighty ordered us to perform it in all cases, even during the war. It is the first thing to be asked about on the Day of Resurrection . If prayer is accepted then all our work will be accepted and if it is not accepted all his work will not be accepted either. Prayer is a Muslim's communication with Allah. Performing Salah is a sign of loving Allah and appreciating His Blessings.

In case of sickness Salah can be done while sitting or even lying, and it can be shortened through travelling .

In fact, the prayer will have a good effect on the person, if he performs it properly . It purifies and cleans our mind, and brings peace to our life. Also, it will fill our hearts with the remembrance of Allah.

At the same time Salah prevents him from shameful and evil deeds. Allah, the Most High says:

“Verily, the prayer keeps one from the great sins and all kinds of evil deeds” (Qur'an 29:45)

There is a prophetic saying that Salah is the only thing that differentiates a Muslim from a non-Muslim . Prayer is a distinguishing sign for pious (devoted) believers. Salah is the only worship which was given to the Prophet Mohammed (peace and blessing of Allah be upon him)when he went on a special and miraculous journey ascending into the heavens.

Salah must be performed in the Arabic language. The worshipper's body and clothing, as well as the place of prayer, must be cleaned.

The Conditions(Shuroot) of prayers

The Obligatory prayer has nine Shuroot (conditions). In Arabic, the conditions are called Shuroot, the plural of Shart, which linguistically means a sign. Conditions are those things which are required before performing Salah in order to be valid.

There are nine Conditions :

- 1) Al-Islaam.
- 2) Al-'aql (Sanity): sane and conscious.
- 3) Al-tamyeez (puberty): the age of Maturity.
- 4) State of purity: Having wudoo (ablution).
- 5) The removal of impurities from the body, from the clothes and from the place of prayer.
- 6) Covering the Awrah.
- 7) Praying it at the time it is supposed to be prayed.
- 8) Facing the direction of the Qiblah .
- 9) An-niyah (the intention): must be in the heart and not said aloud.

The Pillars (Arkaan) of the Prayer

The pillars (arkaan) of the prayer are the necessary parts. If any of these pillars are left out due to ignorance, forgetfulness, the prayer becomes invalid. The pillar has to be done or the Salah has to be repeated, even if a long time passes:

There are Fourteen Pillars:

(1) Standing during obligatory prayers if you are able.

(2) Saying Takbiratul Ihraam (**Allaahu akbar**)

[the opening takbeer]

(3) Reciting Al-Faatihah(The opening Chapter)

(4) Rukoo' (bowing), which means bending so that the hands can touch the knees. You should keep your head in line with your back .

(5) Rising from bowing and standing up straight.

(6) Sujood (prostration) on the 7 bones

(1. forehead & nose. 2&3. both palms.

4&5. both knees, 6&7. both feet .

All these bones must touch the floor during prostration)

(7) Rising from prostration

(8) Sitting calmly between the two prostrations

(9) Being tranquil and calm during every pillar position.

(10) The pillars should be done in order .

(11) The final Tashahhud.

(12) Sitting to recite the final Tashahhud and the two salaams (greetings).

(13) The two salaams which means sending the salah and salaam upon the prophet Mohammed (peace be upon him)(Peace and mercy be upon him).

(14) The two tasleems (saying `assalaamu `alaykum wa rahmatullaah to the right and then to the left).

The Duties (Waajibaat) of the prayers:

The Waajibaat of the salah are those things that must be done within the salah and if they are left out due to ignorance or forgetfulness the salah is still valid. But you should make the prostration of forgetfulness. However, if they are deliberately omitted then the salah is invalid.

There are Eight Duties :

1. All of the Takbiraat except takbiratul Al- ihram [All the sayings of Allahu akbar except the first one.

2. Saying: **Subhaana rabiyal `atheem** (Glory be to my Lord Almighty) at least once in Rukoo/bowing position.
- 3.Saying: **sami Allaahu liman hamidah**(Allah hears those who praise Him) for the Imam and for the one who is praying alone.
- 4.Saying: **Rabbanaa wa lakal hamd**(Our Lord, praise be to You)“
- 5.Saying: **Subhaana Rabbiyal `ala** (Glory be to my Lord most High) at least once when prostrating(in Sujood).
- 6.Saying: **Rabighfirlee**(Lord forgive me) at least once while sitting between the two prostrations.
- 7.The first Tashahud (At-tahiyaat) [in fajr the first is a pillar, in the others prayers they are wajibaat
8. Sitting down during the first Tashahud.

The Sunan (The Preferred Acts) of The Prayer

1. The opening call of the prayer
- 2.Placing the right hand over the left one with both over the chest in the standing position.
- 3.Raising the hands up to the level of the shoulders or near the ears with the fingers being close together (not separated) when saying "AllahuAkabar" in four cases:-
 - a. At the beginning of the prayer

- b.** When performing the Rukoo/bowing .
 - c.** When resuming the standing position after Rukoo.
 - d.** When standing to begin the third unit of the prayer;
- 4.** Saying three times "Subhana Rabbi al-atheem" in Rukoo and "Subhana Rrabbi al- A'la' in Sujood .
 - 5.** Saying "Rabi ighfer lee " (My Lord, forgive me) three times between the two prostrations.
 - 6.** Bowing down, making the head and back on one level.
 - 7-**While prostrating, the arms should not be brought close to the sides nor the thighs to the legs.
 - 8.**Raising the arms in Sujood .
 - 9.**Praying for the Prophet and the family of Muhammad, Ibrahim and the family of Ibrahim (as in Tashahud).
 - 10.** Performing the early morning prayer and the first two units of the sunset and the evening prayer with an audible voice.
 - 11.** Sitting between prostrations on the outer side of the left foot (i.e. laying it flat) keeping the right foot erected with the internal parts of the toes touching the ground.

12.The same position is to be taken while sitting in the first part of Tashahud.

13.Taking the position of Tawarruk sitting on his left foot laid down with his right foot erected) during the recitation of the second Tashahud.

14.Making du'a (to invoke Allah) following the recitation of the last Tashahud;

15.Whispering the recitation in the Dhuhr (noon), 'Asr (late afternoon).

16.Reciting another passage from the Holy Qur'an after the opening surah of Al-Fatihah.

Prostration of forgetfulness (Sojuudu as-Sahw)

Prostration of forgetfulness (Sojuudu as-Sahw) means performing two Sajdas (prostrations) at the end of the prayer for three different cases:-

- 1.** Adding something to the salah.
- 2.** Omitting something to the salah.
- 3.** Being uncertain or having doubts.

When performing this prostration of sahu(prostration of forgetfulness) , you will still say Subhan Rabbiyal Ala during these two prostrations. But after these prostrations, you won't recite the Tashahhud (Attahyat).You will just say the Taslim .

THE 5 TIMES of Salah

Allah, the Most High, Says:

"Verily, Salah (Prayers) has been decreed upon the believers- to be performed-at fixed times." [Qur'an 4:103]

The obligatory prayers are to be offered 5 times a day. The timings and number of Raka'ahs are mentioned below:

Type	Timing	No.Raka,ah (Obligatory)	N0. Raka'ah (Voluntary)
1. Fajr	dawn	2	2 before
2. Thuhur	Noon	4	4before)+2 after
3. Asr	Late Noon	4	-
4.Maghrib	After Sunset	3	2 after
5. Isha	Night	4	2 after + 3 Witr

If you miss an obligatory prayer due to sleep or forgetfulness, you must perform it as soon as you wake up or when you remember it.

(ATHAN)The Call for Salah

The words of Athan	The meaning
(Allaahu Akbar) Repeated 4 times	Allah is the Greatest
(Ash'hadu Ann Laa Ilaaha Illa Allah) (Repeated 2 times)	I declare that there is no God except Allah
(Ash'hadu Anna Muhammadan Rasoolul- Ilaah) (Repeated 2 times)	I declare that Mohammed (peace be upon him)is the Messenger of Allah
(Hayya Ala Salaah) (Repeated 2 times)	Hasten together for Salah
(Hayya Ala Falaah) (Repeated 2 times)	Hasten together for true success
(Allaahu Akbar) (Repeated 2 times)	Allah is the Greatest
(Laa Ilaaha Illa Allah)	There is no God except Allah

When you recite the Athan for down prayer (al Fajr), you add one more phrase twice following Hayya Ala Falaah The phrase required is:

Al-Salatu Khayrun Mina Nawm (Twice)	Salah is better than sleep
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(IQAAMAH) Entrance into Prayer

The Iqaamah is similar to the Athan except for the addition of a new phrase. The Iqaamah must be said before each Salah be it by itself or by being preceded by the Athan. You say the Iqaamah step by step in the following order:

The words of Athan	The meaning
(Allaahu Akbar)	Allah is the Greatest
(Allaahu Akbar)	Allah is the Greatest
(Ash'hadu Ann Laa Ilaaha Illa Allah)	I declare that there is no God except Allah
(Ash'hadu Anna Muhammadan Rasoolul-Ilaah)	I declare that Mohammed (peace be upon him) is the Messenger of Allah
(Hayya Ala Salaah)	Hasten together for Salah
(Hayya Ala Falaah)	Hasten together for true success
(Qad Qaamat Al-Salat)	Salah has Started
(Qad Qaamat Al-Salat)	Salah has Started
(Allaahu Akbar)	Allah is the Greatest
(Allaahu Akbar)	Allah is the Greatest
(Laa Ilaaha Illa Allah)	There is no God except Allah



How to perform Prayers

Before you begin your Salah, you must make sure that you have already made Wudu , your clothes, your body and the place must be free of impurities.

1 - Stand upright facing the direction of Al-Ka'bah. Make Niyyah (intention) in your heart for the prayer you want to pray.



2 - Raise your both hands close to your ears and say: "Allahu Akbar (Allah is the Greatest). This is called Takbiratul Ihram.



3 - Place your right hand over your left hand between your chest and upper stomach, and look at the place of prostration without lowering your head.

Then you have to recite The following :-

a-Recite the Opening Invocation (du'aa) for Salah(text no.1)

b- Follow it with reciting Surah Al- Fatiha(the opening chapter of the Quran)(text no.2) in all Rak'hs

c- Recite one of the shortest chapters of Qura(text no.3 or 4)



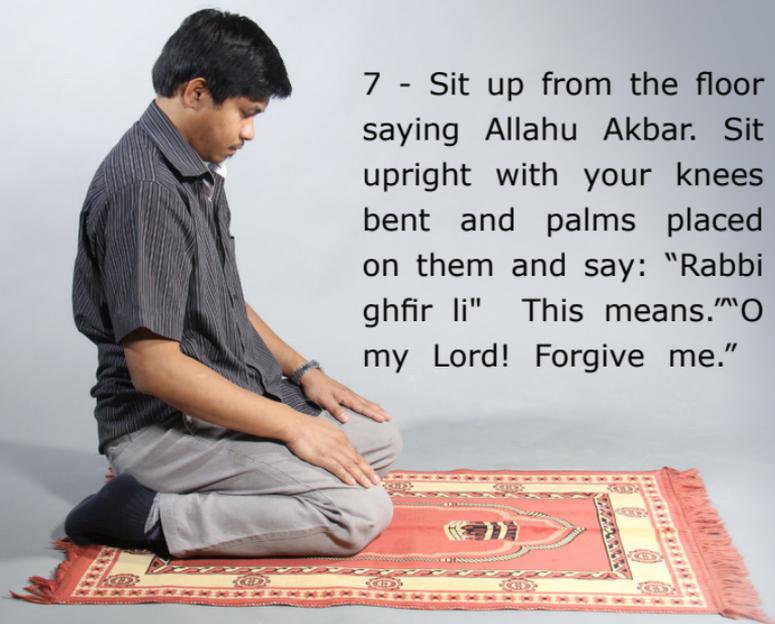
4 - Now bow down saying: "Allahu Akbar" and place your hands on your knees and say silently: "Subhana Rabbiyal Athim." This means: "Glorified is my Lord, the most great." three times. This position is called Rukoo'. Keep your head in line with your back, and look downward to the place of Sujood.



5 - Stand up from the bowing position saying: "Sami'Allahu liman hamidah" (Allah hears those who praise Him)"Rabbana lakal hamd." This means: (Our Lord, praise be to You)).



6 - Prostrate on the floor saying: "Allahu Akbar" with your forehead, nose, palms of both hands, your knees, and toes all touching the floor. Then recite silently: "Subhana Rabbiyal A'la."
("Glorified is my Lord, the Highest) three times. This position is called Sujud. Keep your arms away from the sides of the body and the ground.



7 - Sit up from the floor saying Allahu Akbar. Sit upright with your knees bent and palms placed on them and say: "Rabbi ghfir li" This means. "O my Lord! Forgive me."

8 - Say "Allahu Akbar" and again prostrate in the Sujood position. Recite "Subhana Rabbiyal A'la" three times. Sit up from this position saying "Allahu Akbar" This completes the first Rak'ah or unit of Salah.





9 - Now stand up for the second Rak'ah and perform it in the same way, but do not recite Opening Invocation (du'aa) at the beginning, and after the second Sujood (prostration) ,sit on the left leg while keeping the right foot upright and put your right hand on the right thigh, with all fingers together in a fist except the index finger. Stick the index finger straight out. Put your left hand on the left thigh. Recite Tashahhud silently.(text no.6).Raise your index finger of your right hand while reciting "Ash-hadu-al-la ilaha illaAllahu ..."



10 - In the third or fourth-Rak'ah prayers (Thuhr, Asr, Maghrib, and Isha) repeat the whole procedure. Stand up recite Surat Al-Fatiha, then continue doing the rest of the actions as you have done before (Rukoo', rising, Sujood).



11 - Also, in the last Rak'ah of any prayer, after you have made your Sujood, sit up and silently recite both Tashahhud and Salatul Ibrahimiyah.(text no.7& 6).



12 - At the end of any prayer, you must finish by making Tasleem, while still sitting, turn your face to the right and say "Assalamu alaikum wa rahmatullah" (Peace be upon you and God's blessings), and turn to the left and say the same "Assalamu alaikum wa rahmatullah".

Texts that Must be Memorized in The Prayers

Text No. 1)Istefah Dua: (opening prayer)

Arabic Text	The Meaning
Subhanaka Allaahumma Wabihamdika tabaarakas muka wa ta'aalaa jadduka wa laa ilaaha ghairuk.]	O Allah, how perfect You are and praise be to You. Blessed is Your name, and exalted is Your majesty. There is no god but You.

Text No. 2) Qu'ran- Surah Al- Fatihah

Arabic Text	The Meaning
A'auhtu billaahi minash-shaytaanir rajeem	I seek shelter in Allah from the rejected Satan
1)BISMILLA-HIR RAHMAN IR RAHIM	(1) In the name of Allah, the most Gracious, the most Merciful
2)Alhamdu liLLA-HI rabbil 'a-lameen)	(2)All praises and thanks be to Allah, the Lord of the worlds
3)Ar Rahma-nir Raheem	(3) The most Gracious, the most Merciful
(4)Ma-likI yawmid deen	(4)Master of the Day of Judgment.
5)Iyya-ka na'budu wa iyya-ka nasta'een	(5) You alone we worship, and from You alone we seek help.
(6)Ihdina asira-tal mustaqeem	(6)Guide us along the straight path
(7)Sirat al-thin an'amta 'alayhim, Ghayril maghdu-bi 'alayhim walad da-lleen A-MI-N	(7) The path of those whom You favored, not of those who earned Your anger or went astray.

Text No.3) Qu'ran- Short Surah (AL-Ikhlās Chapter)

Arabic Text	The Meaning
"Bismillahir rahmanir Rahim	In the name of Allah, the Most Gracious, the Most Merciful.
(1)Qul hu wal lahu ahad,	(1) Say, He is Allah, the Only One.
(2) allahus samad,	(2)Allah is Eternal and Absolute.
(3) lam yalid wa lam yulad,	(3) He begets not, nor was He begotten.
(4)wa lam ya kul lahu kufuwan ahad.	(4)And there is none co-equal unto Him .

Text No . 4) Qu'ran- Short Surah (AL-Asr Chapter)

Arabic Text	The Meaning
"Bismillahir rahmanir Rahim"	In the name of Allah, the most Gracious, the most Merciful.
1) Wal 'asr	1. By the essence of alltime.
2) Innal insa-na lafi khusr .	2. Verily, all humankind is in deep loss.
3) Illal ladhi-na a-manu wa 'amilus sa-liha-ti wa tawa-saw bil haqqi wa tawa-saw bis sabr	3.Except those who have believed in Allah and performed good deeds and reminded each other of the truth and reminded each other to be patient.

Text No .5) Qu'ran- Short Surah (AL- kafirun Chapter)

Arabic Text	The Meaning
"Bismillahir rahmanir Rahim	In the name of Allah, the most Gracious, the most Merciful.
1)Qul ya ayyuha al-kafirun	1- Say "O disbelievers!
2) La a'budu ma ta'budoon	2-I worship not that you worship
3) Wa-laaaa antum 'aaaybiduna maaa a'bud	3-And nor you worship what I worship
4) Wa-laaaa ana 'aaaybidunm maaaa 'abadtum	4-And I shall not worship what you worshiped.
5) Wa-laaaaa antum 'abiduna maaaa'bud	5-And nor you shall warships what I warship
6)Lakum dinukum waliya deen	6-For you, your religion. and for me my religion .

Text No .6) First Tashahhud

Arabic Text	The Meaning
Atta-hiyyatu lillahi was-salawatu wat- tayyibatu.	"Greetings, prayers and goodness belong to Allah
As-salamu 'alaika ayyuh-an- Nabiyyu wa rahmat-ullahi wa barakatuhu	Peace be on you O Prophet and the mercy of Allah and His blessings.
As-salamu 'alaina wa 'alaa 'Ibaadillah-is- salihin.	Peace be upon us and on the righteous servants of Allah
Ash-hadu-al-la-Ilaha ill Allah	I bear witness that there is no god but Allah
wa ash-hadu anna Muhammadan 'abdlahi wa Rasuluh	and bear witness that Mohammed (peace be upon him)is His servant and his Messenger.

Text No .7) Second Tashahhud

Arabic Text	The Meaning
(Allahuma sali ala Muhammad wa ala Aali Muhammad	"O Allah, let Your mercy come upon Muhammad and the family of Muhammad.
kama saliet ala Ibrahim wa ala Aali Ibrahim	as You let it come upon Ibrahim and the family of Ibrahim.
ennak hameed majeed,	Truly You are Praise worthy and Glorious."
(Allahuma barik ala Mohammed wa ala Aali Muhammad	O Allah, bless Muhammad and the family of Muhammad.
kama barakta ala Ibrahim wa ala Aali Ibrahim	as You blessed Ibrahim and the family of Ibrahim.
ennak hameed majeed).	Truly You are Praiseworthy and Glorious."

Invalidation of the Prayer

Any prayer is invalid and nullified if any of the following acts are committed:

1. Anything that breaks your wudu .
2. Laughing loudly during prayer.
3. Intentional talking.
4. Eating or Drinking.
5. If any area of your "Aura" is uncovered.
6. Excessive moving outside the regular acts and movements of prayer, without a proper reason.
7. Adding or subtracting an extra pillar such as Ruk'u bowing or Sujood (prostration).
8. Changing the meaning of what you're reciting.
9. Not facing the direction towards the Qibla.
10. Deciding to stop praying.

Friday Prayer(Salah Jum'ah)

Besides the five obligatory prayers, Allah Almighty has also ordained the "Jumah" (Friday Congregational Prayer) as a necessary prayer on the Muslim Nation (Ummah) as is made clear in the following verse of the Holy Qur'an:

"O you who believe, when the Athan is called for prayer on the day of Jum'ah (Friday), hasten earnestly to the remembrance of Allah (subhanahu wa ta'ala) and leave off business (and traffic). That is best for you if you only knew"(Qur'an62:9).

The Prophet(peace and blessing of Allah be upon him) in this regard said:" They (people) will have to stop neglecting the Friday prayer or otherwise, Allah (subhanahu wa ta'ala) will seal their hearts and they will be counted among the negligent" (Reported by Imam Muslim).

By virtue of the above Qur'anic verse as well as the respected sayings of the Prophet(peace and blessing of Allah be upon him) the Friday Congregational Prayer is, therefore, an obligation duty (Wajib) upon every free, adult, sane, resident Muslim man who has the ability to attend the Salah But those who are sick, travelers, and women are exempted from the obligation of attending the Prayer at the mosque. They have to offer Thuhr Prayer instead. The time for the Jum'ah prayer is the time of the Thuhr prayer.

Performance of the Jum'ah prayer is only allowed in the Congregational Mosques where, The "Jum'ah" prayer is therefore specific with a Sermon in which the mosque preachers (imams) discuss and deal with the daily problems or urgent matters that face the Muslim's society and give enlightenment from the torch of Islam. Friday Prayer is an occasion for the assembly of the Muslims of a whole city or a town. Getting together once a week develops unity, co-operation and brotherhood among Muslims.

The Etiquette for Friday Prayer.

Here are the requirements we should perform before going out to the Friday Prayer:

- 1.**Undertaking Ghusl (total ablution). The Prophet (peace and blessing of Allah be upon him) said: " Ghusl on Friday is necessary (Wajib) upon every adult person" (Reported by Imam Bukhari).
- 2.**Putting on the best and cleanest of clothes.
- 3.**Perfuming of oneself.
- 4.**Walking to the Masjid if it is possible.
- 5.**Avoiding stepping over people to get to a particular spot in the Masjid.
- 6.**Avoiding dividing two people who are sitting together.
- 7.**Not making someone stand and taking his place.
- 8.**Not clasping one's hands and intertwining one's fingers while waiting for the prayer.
- 9.**Sitting in the front rows and close to the Imam whenever possible.
- 10.**Remaining quiet while the Imam is delivering the khutbah (sermon). This actually includes listening to the Imam and not playing with anything while the Imam is speaking.
- 11.**Going to the Masjid in a state of calmness and not being hurried.

Congregational Prayer

Allah commands Muslim men to perform the five obligatory prayers in congregation and promises them a great reward for that. The Prophet (peace and blessing of Allah be upon him) said:

“The reward for a prayer offered in congregation is twenty-seven times greater than that offered by a person alone.” (Al-Bukhaaree: 619& Saheeh Muslim: 650)

The congregational prayer can be established by at least two people, one of them acts as the prayer leader (Imam).

Following the Imam in Prayer

This means that those praying behind the Imam must follow and do the same as he does during the prayer by observing all the prayer movements. The Prophet(peace and blessing of Allah be upon him) in this regard said: “The imaam is to be followed. Say Allaahu akbar when he says it, and do not say it until he says it first. Bow when he bows, and do not bow until he has done so first.” (Saheeh Al-Bukhaaree: 710)

Who Should Lead the Prayer?

The person who knows the Qur'an the best should be given preference in leading the prayer. If those present are equal in that respect, then the one who is best informed in the rules of religion , the Prophet(peace and blessing of Allah be upon him) in this regard said:

" Let him act as Imam to a congregation who knows the Qur'an by heart the best; and if all present should be equal in that respect, then let him perform who has the deepest knowledge of the Sunnah"

“(Saheeh Muslim: 673) .

The Imam stands in front of those he leads in prayer (Ma'moomoon; singular: ma'moom / follower). The followers, standing shoulder to shoulder, form straight lines behind him, and the front rows should be filled and completed first. If there is only one follower (Ma'moom), he stands to the right side of the Imam.

Shortening and combining Prayers.

1. Shortening prayers

Shortening (Qasr) in Arabic means offering two Rak'ahs(units of prayer) of Fard at a prayer time instead of four rak'ahs. Shortening the prayer is better than completing it according to the majority of scholars .

Allah the Most High says:

"And when you travel throughout the land , there is no blame upon you for the shortening prayer ." (Qur'an :4-101)

You start shortening the prayer as soon as you have crossed the outer-most limits of your hometown.

According to the majority of scholars, the distance of Qasr Journey is defined about eighty kilometers. It does not matter whether a person covers this distance on foot or by any other transportation .

The traveler is allowed to shorten the prayer unless the period is less than 4 days excluding the day of arrival and the day of departure.

2- **Combining prayers**

Combining(Jam) in Arabic and it means that the worshipper can join two prayers, Thuhr and `Asr, or Maghrib and `Isha', at the time of the earlier or later of the two prayers. Combining between two prayers is permissible for travelers while they are actually in the act of traveling, beginning from the time they actually start their journey. It is also an act of the Sunnah for pilgrims to combine prayers on the Day of Arafah and in Muzdalifah .

The majority of scholars said that it is permissible to join prayers if there is an excuses or need, such as one who is sick, or if there is rain ,mud or strong cold wind in a dark night, or he is busy with some work that he cannot delay in order to pray, such as a doctor is doing surgery and so on.

But we can't combine Fajr with Dhuhur, or `Asr with Maghrib, or `Ish.

Zakah the Third Pillar of Islam

Zakah (Alms) is the third pillar of Islam. In Arabic the word zakah means both 'purification' and 'growth'. It is not only purifies the property of the contributor but also purifies his heart from selfishness and greed. It also purifies the heart of the recipient from envy and jealousy. Allah Almighty says :-

"Take from their wealth a portion for charity, in order to clean them thereby, and sanctify them".

(Quran 9: 103)

Zakah is mentioned 32 times in the Holy Quran along with prayers (salah) to emphasize the importance of it. In fact it is as a an obligatory worship upon all Muslims who possesses payable amount (Nissab) which is 85 grams of gold or 595 grams of pure silver. If you have the Nissab you must pay 2.5 % of your wealth and assets. It becomes due after the passing of a complete lunar year . Zakah must be paid on different categories of property gold, silver, money, livestock and agricultural produce.

In Islam, the true owner of things is Allah. Allah made a portion of it for the poor and they have a right over one's wealth. Zakah is intended to free Muslims from the love of money.

The Benefits of Zakah

The Qur'an states that wealth increases by giving zakah. And the reward increases according to the sincerity of the Niyah.

Allah Al-Mighty says :

"Allah destroys wealth obtained from interest and gives increase for charity." (Quran 2: 276)

In another Aayah Allah says:

"The likeness of those who spend their wealth in the way of Allah is as the likeness of a grain of corn. It grows seven ears and each ear has a hundred grains. Allah increases manifold to whom He pleases." (Qur'an 2: 261)

These are the benefits:

1. Gaining the pleasure of Allah and his blessings.
2. Increasing the wealth and protects it from losses and the wrath of Allah.
3. Purifying the heart of the payer from the greed of wealth and selfishness.
4. Purifying the heart of the recipient from envy, jealousy and hatred.
5. Purifying the society from corruption.
6. It reduces the sufferings of the needy and poor.
7. It shows the general philosophy of Islam which adopts a moderate course between capitalism and socialism .

Who May Receive Zakah

Zakah is distributed among 8 Asnaf (categories) of people, namely: Allah Al-Mighty says:

"Zakah expenditures are only for the poor and for the needy and for those who employed to collect it and for bringing hearts together [for Islam] and for freeing captives [or slaves] and for those in debt and for the cause of Allah and for the [stranded] traveler –an obligation [imposed] by Allah . And Allah is Knowing and Wise".

(Qur'an9: 60)

- 1.(Faqir/Fuqara)** The very poor one who has neither Material possessions nor means of life.
- 2.(Miskeen)** The needy one with insufficient means of livelihood to meet basic needs.
- 3.(Amileen Alyha)** The collectors of Zakah .
- 4.(Muallaf-at-Quloobuhum)** Those whose hearts are inclined towards or have accepted Islam.
- 5.(wafi-Riqab)** to free slaves or captives.
- 6.Gharmin** - One who is in debt (who borrowed money to meet basic, halal expenditure).
- 7.Fisabillillah-** One who fights for the cause of Allah.
- 8.Ibnus Sabil** - One who is stranded in journey.

The Punishment for not giving Zakah

Allah Al-Mighty says in the Qur'an :

"And those who owned gold and silver and do not spend it in the path of Allah, announce to them a painful punishment (when) on the Day of Qiyamah when it will be heated in the fire of Hell(Jahannum) then they will be branded on their foreheads and their flanks and backs. (It will be said to them) This is the treasure which you hoarded for yourselves, taste then the treasure that you had been hoarding." (Qur'an 9:34)

Sadaqah (voluntary almsgiving)

Sadaqa is an optional charity that you can give whenever you want, as much as you want, to any poor or needy person . It means voluntary almsgiving, the Quran , Hadeeth and actions of the Prophet Muhammad (peace and blessing of Allah be upon him), emphasize Sadaqah for feeding the hungry, clothing the naked, helping those who are in need. The more one gives, the more Allah gives the person.

Fasting Ramadan the Fourth Pillar of Islam

Allah Al-Mighty says:

"O' you who believe, fasting is prescribed for you as it was prescribed for those before you so that you may achieve Taqwa (righteousness, God-fearing)." [Qur'an 2:183]

Fasting Ramadan is the fourth pillar of Islam and Ramadan is the ninth month of the Islamic lunar calendar. The Arabic word for "fasting" (sawm) literally means "to refrain" - not only refraining from food and drink, but also from evil actions, thoughts, and words. During this blessed month, every Muslim who is mentally and physically capable is required to fast from dawn to sunset, "That means abstaining from all food and drink (including water), smoking, and engaging in sexual relations during the daylight". So, it is compulsory for every Muslim who is sane and mature - male or female - to fast.

All-Mighty Allah has promised great reward for those who fast, and severe punishment for those who do not fast. Allah made fasting compulsory so that Muslim become pious, fearing and God-conscious.

The Essential Rules for fasting

A-The requirements for fasting during Ramadan

There are two essential elements for your fast to be valid and accepted.

1.Intention: You must have the intention to fast before fajr (dawn) every night during the month of Ramadan. The intention is an act of the heart, not involve the tongue.

2.Abstaining from acts that nullify the Fast from dawn to sunset.

B-The things That Invalidate Or Nullify The Fast .

1.Intentional Eating or Drinking

2.Intentional Vomiting.

3.The beginning of menstruation or post-childbirth bleeding even in the last moment before sunset. (for women).

4.Intentional Sexual Intercourse.

5.Ejaculation for reasons other than sexual intercourse.

6.Intending to break the fast before sunset because intention is one of the pre-requisites of the validity of fasting.

7. Eating, drinking or having sexual intercourse after dawn on the mistaken assumption that it is not dawn yet. Similarly, engaging in these acts before Maghrib on the mistaken assumption that

it is already sunset. **These things require Qad'a**

(making up the missed fasts)

But Sexual intercourse during fasting requires Qad'a and Kaffarah:

Kaffarah (The penalty)may be given in the following three ways respectively:

(a) Freeing a slave .

(b) Fasting for two months constantly .

(c) Giving food to sixty persons.

C. What is Permissible During Fasting?

These actions are permissible to do while fasting, which will not nullify the fast:

1. Taking a shower or using Perfume.

2. Rinsing the mouth and nose without exaggeration.

3. Using eye drops or taking suppositories.

4. Taking injections which is not nutritional.

5. Accidental consumption such as swallowing the saliva or dust unintentionally.

6. Tasting food with the tongue.

7. Kissing or embracing his wife if he is able to control himself.

8. Drawing blood.

9. Being in a state of Janaabah (wet dreams).

10. Cleaning teeth using a Miswak or a brush.

11. Vomiting unintentionally.

12. If anyone forgets that he is fasting and eats or drinks, he/she should complete his/her fast.

D. Who is exempted from Fasting?

- 1) The insane (who lost his mind)
- 2) Children who are not adolescent yet
- 3) The elderly and chronically ill.
- 4) Pregnant and nursing women and Women during the period of menstruation but they should made up these days later a day for a day.
- 5) The sick and the traveler ,but they should made up these days later a day for a day.

E. The Recommended Acts During Ramadan

There are some acts that are recommended, and if you practice them, you will gain more rewards from Allah such as:

1. Having Suhuur (pre-dawn meal) and delaying it until just before fajr (dawn) time.
2. Breaking the fast immediately at sunset.
3. Breaking the fast by eating an odd number of fresh or dry dates, then drink water .
4. Making supplicating at the time of breaking the fast, as the prophet used to say: Thahab adh-ama wabtallat al-'urooqu, wa thabat al-ajru inshaa'Allaah. Which means, "The thirst has gone, the veins are moistened and Allah willing, the reward is confirmed."
5. Praying Taraaweeh daily after Isha prayer .
6. Reciting and studying the Quran.
7. Making I'tikaf (seclusion) in the last ten nights of Ramadan.

F. The Wisdom of Fasting Ramadan

Indeed Allah does not prescribe any ruling unless there is a great wisdom behind it, which we may understand, or our minds can't understand it.

1-Gaining (Taqwaa): piety is the main purpose of fasting. This has been clearly stated in the Qur'an : Allah Al-Mighty Says :- "O you who have believed, decreed upon you is fasting as it was decreed upon those before you that you may become pious" [Qur'an2: 183]

Taqwaa means to act in obedience to Allah, upon a light (i.e. Iman, faith) from Allah, hoping in the Mercy of Allah. And leaving the acts of disobedience to Allah upon a light from Allah due to the fear of Allah."

Taqwaa prevents us from committing sins. Due to this, the Prophet (peace and blessing of Allah be upon him)said: "Whoever does not abandon false speech, acting upon that (false speech) and (acts of) ignorance (i.e. sins), then Allah has no need of him abandoning his food and drink." (Sahih al-Bukhari No.1903)

2- Acquiring Patience :Ramadan is the month of Patience because it restrains the soul from eating drinking, and sexual desires.

3- controlling our desires: It gives us strength to hold the soul by its bridle and lead it to what is good and what will make it prosper. The Prophet (peace and blessing of Allah be upon him) said: "O young men! Whoever among you can afford to get married, let him do so, for it is more effective in lowering the gaze and protecting one's chastity. Whoever cannot do that, let him fast, for it will be a shield for him".

(Sahih al-Bukhari No.1905)

G-The Benefits of Fasting Ramadan

Ramadhan is the greatest and best month of the year. It is one of the blessings of Allah that He enables us to fast in Ramadhan. Fasting the month of Ramadhan not only offer us with great rewards from Allah but also it gives us many other benefits. These are benefits :

1)Fasting is an ideal method for treatment:

It has the effects to clean out the body; to lower blood pressure and cholesterol and to let the body heals itself.

2)Fasting can bring positive effects to psychological and mental health : It will generate specific hormone which may relieve tension and to make a person to feel better physically and mentally.

3) Fasting makes us feel compassion and empathy towards the poor, because when we fast we taste the pain of hunger for a while, so we remember

those who are in this situation all the time, and we will hasten to do acts of kindness to them and show compassion towards them. Ramadan is a time to increase our sense of unity and brotherhood.

4) Narrowing the passage of the devil: Satan runs in our blood and fasting narrows his passage and lessens his effects. It also reduces our desires and calms our anger. So crime rate and murder rate decline during the holy month of Ramadan.

5) Strengthening our determination:

One, who can tolerate the pain of hunger and thirst and controls himself from having a sexual relation with his wife whilst fasting, will strengthen his determination and willpower.

6) Breaking us out of regular routine:

Some of us lose their temper and become ill-mannered if their meal was delayed from its normal time or if they do not drink their morning coffee or afternoon tea. Such people are slaves to their routine and habits, and fasting helps the person to overcome this behavior.

7) Ramadan is the best time for family and social gathering:

Breaking the fast is a good opportunity for family gatherings. This can strengthen the family institutions and community .

H. The virtues of Fasting Ramadan

1) The gates of Jannah (Paradise) are opened and the gates of Hell are closed. The Prophet (peace and blessing of Allah be upon him) said: "When Ramadan starts, the doors of Heaven are opened, and the doors of Hell are closed and the devils are chained up." (Bukhari and Muslim).

2) The breath of the person fasting is sweeter to Allah than the smell of musk. The Prophet (peace and blessing of Allah be upon him) said: "By Him in Whose Hands my soul is, the smell coming out from the mouth of a person observing sawm (fast) is better with Allah than the smell of musk." (Bukhari, Vol. 3, Hadith 118)

3) The reward for the performance of Umra in the month of Ramadan is equivalent to the performance of Hajj along with the prophet (peace and blessing of Allah be upon him) said: "Umrah during Ramadan is equivalent to performing hajj along with me." (Abu Dawud no.1985)

4) Lylatu Al-Qader in the month of Ramadan is better in reward than one thousand months. Allah Al-Mighty says:

"The Night of Decree is better than a thousand months" [Qur'an 97: 3]

5) The one who fasts has two occasions of happiness and joy. Allah's Messenger (peace and blessing of Allah be upon him) said:

"There are two pleasures for the person observing sawm (fast), one at the time of Iftar [breaking his sawm (fast)], and the other at the time when he will meet his Creator; then he will be pleased because of his sawm (fasting)." (Bukhari, Vol. 3, Hadith 128)

6) Our sins will be forgiven. Allah's Messenger (peace and blessing of Allah be upon him) said: "Whoever prayed at night the whole month of Ramadan out of sincere faith and hoping for a reward from Allah, all his previous sins will be forgiven."

(Bukhari, 3/227)

7) The observer of the fast would be admitted through a special door in: Allah's

Messenger (peace and blessing of Allah be upon him) said: "In Paradise there is a gate which is called Rayyan through which only the observers of fast would enter on the Day of Resurrection. None else would enter along with them.." (Muslim No.2569)

Fitra Charity (Zakat Al- Fitr)

Zakah ul Fitr is a duty which is Wajib (required) of every Muslim, whether slave, freeman , male or female, minor or adult. It must be distributed before Eid Prayer; otherwise it will be considered as ordinary charity. It is to be paid in the form of what is considered as based foods of the community as flour , rice and dates etc.

The quantity or measure of Fitra charity is one Saa which is equivalent(approximately 3kg) .One Saa' is equivalent to four mads. A mad is the amount that can be scooped up when one puts their hands together.

Its purpose is to purify the sins committed in the state of fasting, and to help the poor and needy.

Festival(Eid) in Islam

Eid (festival) is a special Islamic occasion which has been chosen by Allah Almighty for the celebration. Islam has prescribed a simple way to observe this happy day. First of all, many Muslims make a special effort to pray and listen to a sermon at a mosque. They also wear new clothes, visit family members and friends .They may enjoy the day along with others, by some acts of rejoicing and enjoyment. There are two annual festivals In Islam :

1.Eid Al-Fitr is an annual festival for the Muslims at an occasion when they complete a great 'Ibadah, which is fasting the month of Ramadan (on the 1st day of Shawwal) . This happy day is designed by the Shari'ah as a sign of gratefulness by the Muslims on the accomplishment of Ramadan, and as an immediate reward by Allah for those who spent the month of Ramadan in fasting and performing other forms of 'Ibadah . Muslims start their Eid day by paying "Sadaqat-ul-fitr" to the poor of their society

2.Eid Al-Adha is an annual Islamic festival ("Festival of the Sacrifice") and it takes place at the end of the Hajj. It begins on the 10th of Thu'l-Hijja, the last month of the Islamic calendar, and lasts for four days. It is also known as al-'Eid al-Kabir (Major Festival). Eid al-Adha marks the completion of the hajj (pilgrimage) rites at Mina in Makkah to commemorate the willingness of Ibrahim (also known as Abraham) to follow Allah's (God's) command to sacrifice his son Ishmael. Muslims around the world observe this event which represents the animal that Ibrahim sacrificed instead of his son. Today, it is marked by slaughtering animals to feed the poor.

'Eid Prayer

On both occasions (Eid-ul-fitr and Eid al-Adha)a special prayer is usually offered .It consists of two units (Rakah). One of the rulings of Eid is that the prayer comes before the khutbah . Eid prayer can be performed any time between the Ishraq (sun rise)and Zawal. It is preferable that the 'Eid prayer is performed at an open area. However, if it is difficult,it can also be performed in a big mosque. Eid prayer has neither Athan nor Iqamah.

What should you do before Eid Prayer

At the beginning of 'Eid day ,you should do the following acts:

- 1.Take a bath and use perfume.
- 2.Put on the best available clothes.
- 3.Walk to the place of Prayer and Changing the route when you come back.
- 4.Recite Takbeer extensively while proceeding to the place of Prayer

"Allahu akbar, Allahu akbar laa ilah ilaa Allahu wa Allahu Akbar Allahu Akbar wa li lah alhamd."

It means: "Allaah is great, Allaah is great. There is no one worthy of worship but Allaah, for Allaah is great, and all praise be to Him."

How to perform Eid Prayer

Eid Prayer consists of two units (Rakah). In the first rak'ah you should say Takbeerat al-ihraam (say "Allaahu akbar" to start the prayer), then you should recite Al-Fatihah chapter and Surah Al-A'la chapter (Qur'an 87:1-19). In the second rak'ah you should say Takbeer five times, then recite Al-Fatihah chapter and Surah al-Ghaashiyah Chapter (Qur'an.88 1 to 26)

After the prayer, the Imam should preach the people and advise them. and warning them against the things that they should avoid.

Hajj: The Fifth Pillar of Islam

The Hajj (pilgrimage to Makkah) is the fifth and final pillar of Islam. Hajj combines both physical and financial worship. Because it involves travel and more effort than other kinds of worship. It is stated in the Holy Qur'an that every Muslim, male or female, physically and financially able should make the Hajj to the Holy City of Makkah once in his or her lifetime. It occurs from the 8th to 12th of the month of al-Hijjah which is the twelfth month of the Islamic lunar calendar. All pilgrims regardless of wealth, status, class and culture must wear the same clothes (Ihram). Ihram means two, very simple and unsown white garments. All of them stand together and equal before Allah. Muslims from all around the world, of different colors, languages, races, and nationalities come together in a spirit of universal brotherhood and sisterhood to worship the Only True God together. Allah Al-Mighty says :

"Announce Hajj to mankind. They will come to you on foot and on every sort of lean animal, coming by every distant road. " (Qur'an 22:27)

The Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) said : **"Whosoever dies without performing Hajj while he is not under some**

difficult circumstances , whereby it's impossible to go for Hajj - or is not allowed to leave because of an unjust ruler, or is chronically sick - or seriously sick during the Hajj season - then let him die if he wants as a Jew or a Christian." [Reported by ad-Daarimi and al-Bayhaqi]

Preconditions of Hajj

There are **SIX** conditions :

1. **Islam.**
2. **Sanity** he should be mentally fit (not insane).
3. **Ability** he should be physically and financially fit
4. **Adulthood** (He should be physically mature).
5. **Freedom** he should be a free person (not a slave).
6. **Mahram (for woman):** A woman must be accompanied by a trusted Mahram. as her Father, Brother, husband.

Arkan (Pillars) of Hajj

There are **FOUR** Pillars :

1. **Ihraam.**
2. **Tawaaf.**
3. **Sa'y between as-Safaa and al-Marwa.**
4. **Staying in Arafah from Dhuhr to Maghrib.**

Duties (Wajebat) of Hajj.

There are **SEVEN** duties :

- 1.Wearing the Ihram clothes with intention in Miqat.
- 2.Staying in Arafah until sunset.
- 3.Spending the 10th of thu-Alhejjah night in Muzdalifah.
- 4.Spending the 11th and 12th nights in Mina.
- 5.Throwing the pebbles
- 6.Shaving or shortening hair.
- 7.Tawaf Al- wada'.

Types of Pilgrimage

There are **three** Types of Hajj:

Tamattu'-Ifraad-Qiran

1. **Tamattu'**: This is the most common form of pilgrimage and the one recommended by the prophet Muhammad (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) himself. It means that the pilgrim enters the state of Ihram for 'Umrah from the Miqat of his country, completes the 'Umrah, then later

enters the state of Ihram for Hajj from Makkah with the obligation of sacrificing an animal. The pilgrim is then called (Mutamatti') because during the period between 'Umrah and Hajj, he is allowed to enjoy what is normally forbidden due to Ihram, such as wearing normal clothes, perfume, contact with wife.

2. **Ifraad:** This form of pilgrimage involves performing only Hajj without Umrah. It is also the only form that does not require animal sacrifice. Pilgrims performing Ifraad are called Mufrid.
3. **Qiran:** In this option, the pilgrim performs both Umrah and Hajj in one continuous act without taking off the Ihram with the obligation of sacrificing an animal. Pilgrims performing Qiran are called Qaarin.

How to Perform Hajj

(STEP BY STEP)

(Here, we explain Hajj At-Tamattu' as it is the most recommended one). In this type of Hajj, you should perform

1. Umrah during the Hajj months (i.e. Shawwaal, Thul-Qa'dah and the first nine days of Thul-Hijjah).
2. Hajj in the same year during the days of At-Tashreeq (i.e. the 11th, 12th and 13th of Thul-Hijjah). Let us start with Umrah .

Umrah

Umrah is known to be the 'minor Hajj' (pilgrimage) and it is neither imperative (Fard) nor obligatory (wajib), but performing Umrah once in a life time is a Sunnah. However it is recommended by the Quran, as well as within Islamic practice. Umrah can be performed during anytime in the year, there is no fixed month, day or time for Umrah as the case with Hajj. Allah Al-Mighty says in the Qur'an:

"Truly, As-Safa and Al- Marwa are among the landmarks of Allah, therefore anyone who performs the hajj or the umrah he does no harm if he circumambulates them both"

(Qur'an 2:158).

He also says:

"and Fulfill Hajj and Umrah for Allah".

(Qur'an 2: 196)

Arkan (pillars) of Umrah

There are three pillars:

- 1) **Ihraam:** (Intention to enter the state of Umrah).
- 2) **Tawaaff:** (walking around the kabaa 7 times.)
- 3) **Sa'iy:**(walking between AlSafa and Al-Marwa seven times).

How to perform Umrah

You should follow these steps:-

In Miqaat (Specified Place of Worship):

Miqaat is the station where a person can start his Umra by putting on his Ihram (special clothes) and becomes Muhrim. There are Five stations for Miqaat regarding the place you come from:-

- **DHUL-HULAIFAH (Abbyar Ali):** is for those coming from/through Madinah.
- **AL-JUHFAH (Near Rabigh):** is for those coming from/through Syria, Egypt, Morocco.
- **YALAMLAM (Sa'adiyah):** is for those coming from/through Yemen, India, Pakistan.

- **QARN AL-MANAZIL (As-Sail Al-Kabeer)**:is for those coming from/through Najd or Taif.
- **THAT-IRQ**:is for those coming through Iraq.
Anyone who comes across those areas should make Ihraam at those stations and make the intention 'Umrah, but who lives within the area of the Miqat can make Ihraam from his home.

1. In Miqat you should do Two things:

a) Entering into the state of Ihram:

Ihram is the intention to perform either Hajj or 'Umrah, or to perform both.

Desirable & Preferred things to do for Ihram:

- 1.Taking a ghusl - ritual bath - before Ihraam.
- 2.Putting on Perfume on Head & Beard.
- 3.Clipping the nails, trimming the mustache, shaving the hair of the armpits and the hair of the pubic.
- 4.Wearing a white Ihram garment.(For Men)

But for women they should wear their ordinary clothes , without Gloves & Niqaab (Type of veil that reveals the eyes).

In the case of Ihram

Men should wear Two White towels/sheets, one wrapped around the lower part of the body . The other around the upper part of the body and to wear Sandals.



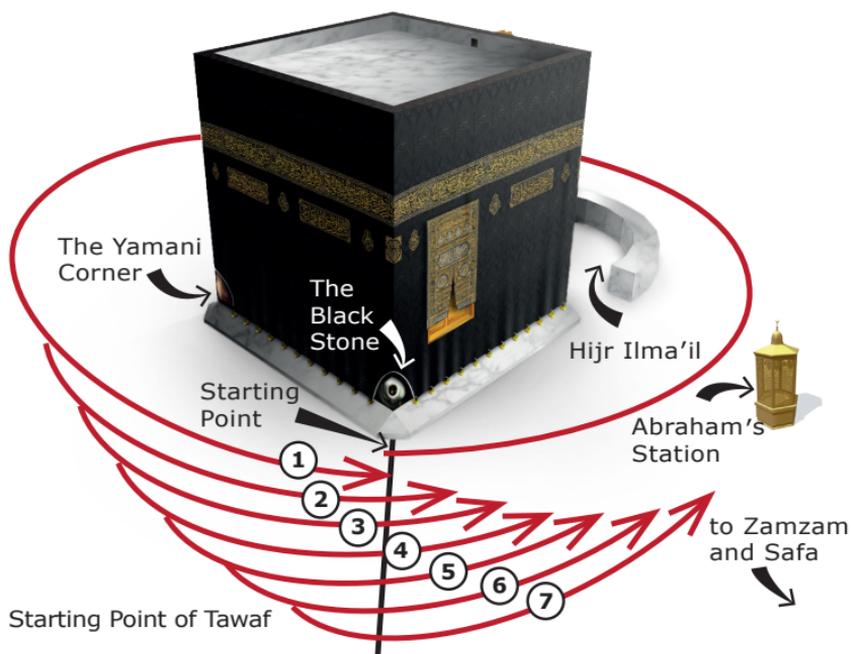
b) Making Talbiyah starts just after Ihraam by saying;- “Labayk Allaahumma ‘Umrah”

The Saying	The meaning
Labbayk,Allahumma Labbayk.	(“In response to your call O Allah I am here to perform ‘Umrah, O Allah.
Labbayk La shareeka laka Labbayk.	In response to Your call. You have no partner.
Innal-hamda wan- n'imata laka wal-mulk. La shareeka lak	In response to Your call. All Praise Blessings, and the Ownership of all that You created is Yours (alone). You have no partner”)

2. When you arrive Al- Masjed Al Haram.

You should do these things:

- a) Making Tawaaff (Circling the Ka'bah seven continual times)



Be careful of the following things during Tawaf:

- Tawaf involves walking around the Ka`bah seven times.
- Each round starts and ends with the Black Stone.
- Uncover the right shoulder for men, and place the cloth underneath the armpit.
- If it is possible to reach the Black Stone, kiss it quietly. If you can't kiss it you just face it and point at it saying "[Bismillah, Allahu Akbar](#)" (In the name of Allah, Allah is the Greatest).
- While doing Tawaf, you can make Du`aa', Tasbeeh, Tahleel, etc. There is no specific

du'aa' for each round. You can make du'aa' (supplication) as you like.

- When you pass by the Rokn Al-Yamaani - the fourth corner of the Ka'abah right before the black stone try to touch it if you can. Supplicate Allah until you reach the Black Stone saying:

(Rabbana a`tina fi ad-dunya hasanatan wa fi al-akhirati hasanatan wa qina `adhaba an-nar).It means (Our Lord! Grant us good in this world and good in the hereafter, and save us from the punishment of the Fire).

- Performing the first three rounds hastily, almost jogging for men who are capable of doing so.Do not try this if there are too many people around.

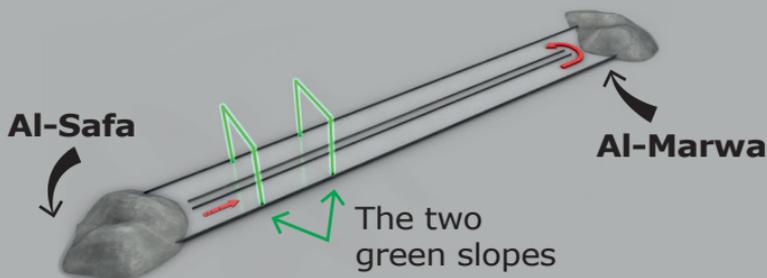
b) After Tawaaf, pray two rak`ahs behind

Maqam Ibrahim (the Station of Ibrahim) or you can perform it any place in the mosque. Recite Surat Al-Kafirun (Surah 109) in the first rak`ah and Surat Al-Ikhlis (Surah 112) in the second rak`ah.

It is recommended that you drink Zamzam water after you have finished Tawaf and the two-rak`ah prayer. The Messenger of Allah (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) said: "The water of Zamzam is for whatever it is drunk for." (Narrated by Ibn Maajah, 3062)

Scholars and righteous people have experienced this . Drink it with the intention of fulfilling some need such as healing from sickness.

C) Sa'iy.(walking between As-Safa and Al-Marwah seven times)



Be careful of the following things:

- Start from As-Safa and say:(INNAS-SAFA WAL-MARWATA MIN SHA'A;IRILLAH)

“Verily, As-Safa & Al-Marwah are among the rites of Allah.” (Quran 2 : 158)

“I start with what Allah started with.”

“ALLAHU AKBAR, (three times) ” “LA LAAHA ILLAL-LAAHU WAHDAHU LA SHAREEKA LAH, LAHUL MULKU WA LAHUL HAMD WA HUWA ‘ALA KULLI SHAY‘IN QADEER” “LA ILAAHA ILLAL-LAAHU WAHDAHU, ANJAZA WA‘DAHU WA NASARA ‘ABDAHU WA HAZAMAL AIHZAABA WAHDAH”

This means:-

“Allah is the most great, (three times) .” “None has the right to be worshiped except Allah alone, without any partners, to him belongs the dominion, to him praise is due, and he has power over all things.” “None has the right to be worshiped except Allah alone, He fulfilled his promise, and made his slave prevail, and he defeated the clans all alone.”

- Having Wudu is highly recommended but not obligatory.
- Walking from Al-Safa to al-Marwah is considered one trip; and from al-Marwah back to Al -Safa is another trip.
- It is preferred during Sa’iy to run between the two green signs.(for male only)
- There is no specific du’aa’ during sa’iy you can make du’aa’, tasbeeh, ta hleel, etc

D) Shaving / Cutting hair .

This is the final step Be careful of the following things:

- For Men: Shaving the head is better than cutting the hair from all sides.
- For Women: Cutting a small piece from their hair is sufficient
- Do not shave your beard.
- Do not take off your Ihram until you have shaved your hair.

Now all Ihram rules are lifted, and your Umrah is completed!!

The forbidden things during Ihram:-

These are the things which are forbidden in the state of ihram. If you commit any of them, You should offer Fidyah (To slaughter a sheep) to compensate for the mistake. They are as follows:

- 1.** Sexual intercourse.
- 2.** Showing love and affection to your wife. such as Kissing or doing any action leading to sexual intercourse.
- 3.** Marriage contract or have an engagement.
- 4.** Using perfume.
- 5.** covering the head (even with the Ihram cloth) (For male only)
- 6.** Wearing regular or any sewn clothes including shoes (For male only)
- 7.** Quarreling ,arguing, or harming others with the hands and the tongue.
- 8.** Cutting hair from any part of the body.
- 9.** Wearing Niqab or gloves. (for female)
- 10.** Hunting the land animal or cutting trees.
- 11.** Clipping fingernails or toenails.

The Permissible acts:

You can do these acts while in the state of Ihram

- 1.** Taking a bath or a shower as well as combing the hair and touching it with the hands.
- 2.** Covering your face when it's windy .
- 3.** Wearing socks . (for female).
- 4.** Bloodletting, or cupping or receiving any medical treatment of a wound, or teeth...etc.,
- 5.** Looking in a mirror.
- 6.** Wearing a belt around the waist.
- 7.** Wearing a watch or a ring.
- 8.** Using an umbrella.
- 9.** Killing harmful insects such as lice, fleas or beetles .
- 10.** Killing harmful and dangerous animals such as snakes, scorpions, rats, or any dangerous wild.

Virtues of Umrah

These are the main virtues of Umrah

1. Performing Umrah clean your soul from past committed sins. Abu Hurairah (may Allaah be pleased with him) narrates that the Prophet(peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) said:

"An Umrah to another Umrah will be redemption of sins for whatever (minor) occurs between them." (Bukhari, Muslim).

2. Like Hajj, the act of Umrah is amongst the best deeds. Ibn Umar (may Allaah be pleased with him) narrated that Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) said:

"The warrior in the cause of Allah, the pilgrim and the one who is performing Umrah are all the delegation of Allah. He called them and they responded and they will ask of His bestowals and He will give it to them." (Ibn Majah)

3. Performing Umrah also protect you from poverty if they make it for the sake of Allah. Ibn Mas'ood (may Allaah be pleased with him) said that the Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) said, *'Follow up the Hajj and Umrah, because they certainly remove poverty and sins as fire separates the impurities from iron, gold and silver.'* (Tirmithi).

4. In Ramadan, the reward of performing Umrah is equal to that of performing Hajj with the Prophet . Ibn Abbas said he heard the Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) said *"Umrah performed in the month of Ramadan will equal (in rewards) to that of Hajj or Hajj performed with Me "* (Bukhari, Muslim)

But it does not substitute the performance of Hajj which is Fard (imperative).

How to perform Hajj

After performing Umrah you should prepare yourself in order to begin Hajj rituals day by day

A-1st day: 8th Thul-Hijjah (Yaum-ut-Tarwiyah)

After Al-Fajr prayer on 8th of Thul- Hijjah, you should reassume your Ihram and pronounce a new Niyyah (intention) to perform Hajj by putting on your Ihraams after taking a bath and say:

"**Labbahkal lahumma bi Hajj**" which means:

Here I am , O Allah, responding to you to perform Hajj.

Then you should depart for Mina and perform Thuhr, Asr, Maghrib, 'Eeshaa and Fajr prayers in the "qasr" mode by shortening them without combining . You should spend that night in Mina

B.2nd day : 9th Thul-Hijjah (Yaum- Arafah)

After sunrise on 9th of Thul- Hijjah, you should leave to Arafat mountain and stay there until the sunset. After settling down in your tent, you should combine & shorten Duhur and Asr Salah. You should spend your time in reading Quran, Talbiyah, and offering supplications to Allah, you may never see this day again in your life.

After sunset on 9th of Thul- Hijjah, you should depart for Muzdalifah. Keep reciting the Talbiyah until you arrive there. In Muzdalifah you

should combine & shorten Maghrib & Esha Salah at the time of Esha. You should spend the night there. You can collect some or all of the seventy pebbles required later for Rummy(stoning) from Muzdalifah. You should leave to Mina after Al-fajr prayer.

c.3rd day: 10th Thul Hijjah, (Yaum-un-Nahr)

In Mina you should perform these rituals:

1. Stoning the big Jamaratul Aqabah (Devil)

with Seven pebbles accompanied by Takbeer.

2. Slaughtering the sacrificial animal, eats some of it, and gives some to the poor .

3.Shaving or trimming the hair. A woman clips her hair the length of a fingertip.

Note : You should have attention to these points

- These three should be done in the above order if convenient, but there is no restriction if one precedes another)
- If the sacrifice is postponed till the next two days, shaving or trimming the hair is also postponed because it comes after the sacrifice.
- After Slaughtering the sacrificial animal and shaving or trimming the hair all the prohibitions of Ihram are permitted except the private relations with your wife.

4. You should go to Al- Masjed Al Haram to perform Twaaf Al-Ifadah and Sa'ey .

5. After Sa'ey is done you should return to Mina and spend the night of the eleventh and twelfth days there .

D- 4th day: 11th Thul Hijjah

On this day you should throw stone on all three Jamarats after Zawaal(Thur prayer) starting from small to the big one. Each one should be stoned with seven pebbles accompanied by Takbeer. You can make supplications facing the Qibla after stoning the first and second Jamarats .

E- 5th day: 12th Thul Hijjah

1. On this day you should throw stone all three Jamarats in the same manner as on (11 th day).

2. If you are in a hurry after stoning on the twelfth day, you should leave Mina before sunset. Otherwise you should spend the night of the thirteenth in Mina and you should stone the three Jamarats afternoon in the same manner as on the twelfth day.

The Final Step Farewell Tawaf:

After you leave Mina and when you intend to return to your country from Makkah, it is Wajib (obligatory) to perform Tawaf-e-Wida (Farewell Tawaf). Its procedure is the same as the first Tawaf.

Visiting The Prophet's Mosque

Visiting Madinah is not a Hajj or Umrah rite, but the unique merits of the Prophet's (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) city, his Mosque and his sacred tomb attract every pilgrim to visit it. There is no Ihram nor Talbiyah for the visit to Madinah or the Prophet's (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) Mosque.

Note : You should have attention to these points :

- 1.** A salah performed in the Prophet's Mosque is better than a thousand salats in any other place except Masjid al-Haram in Makkah.
- 2.** You go to Madinah before or after Hajj with the intention of visiting the Prophet's mosque and praying in it.
- 3-** When you arrive the mosque you should pray two Rakaas of salutation or performs any obligatory prayer that is due.
- 4.** You should visit the grave of the Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) and greet him saying : "May the peace, mercy, and

blessings of Allah be upon you, oh Prophet. May Allah grant you a good reward on behalf of your people. "

5. You should move to the grave of his best companion Abu-Bakr and greet him saying : "May the peace, mercy, and blessing of Allah be upon you. oh Abu-Bakr, Caliph of the Messenger of Allah. May Allah be pleased with you and grant you a good reward on behalf of Muhammad's people."

6. You should move to the grave of the second Khalifa Umar Bin Al-Khatab and greet your saying: "May the peace, mercy and blessings of Allah be upon you, oh Umar, Prince of the believers. May Allah be pleased with you and grant you a good reward on behalf of Muhammad's people."

7. You can go to pray in Qubaa Mosque. And visit Al-Baqee. You can go to Uhud and visit the grave of Hamza (may Allah be pleased with him) and the other martyrs there with him. You greet them and pray to Allah to grant them forgiveness and mercy.

Benefits & Virtues of Hajj

Hajj has great benefits both worldly and religious (spiritual), including the following:

1.The act of Hajj is amongst the best deeds. Our Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) when his companions asked him about the absolute best deed in the eyes of Allah. The Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him)replied "Belief in Allah and His Messenger." Then he was asked: "what else?" He said, "striving and struggling for the sake of Allah" Then he was asked: "what else?" He said, "a Hajj, which is free from vice - accepted and complete."

[Reported by Bukhari & Muslim]

2. Who performs Hajj is known as the guest of Allah and will be fully taken care of by Him. The Prophet Muhammad (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) said :**"The people performing Hajj or 'Umrah are the guests of Allah. If they ask Him something He answers them and if they ask him forgiveness He forgives them."**

[Reported by an-Nassaa'I & ibn Maajah)

- 3.** Who performs Hajj, in its proper and complete form, he will return to his home as a newborn comes into this world; sinless . The Prophet Muhammad (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him)said "[Whoever performs Hajj to this house - Ka'bah- and does not commit any obscenity and wrongdoing, he, or she, will come out as the day he, or she, was born - pure and free from sins.](#)"[Reported by Bukhari & Muslim]
- 4.** The reward for completing a Hajj and having it accepted is nothing less than Paradise itself. The Prophet Muhammad (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him)said " [All-Hajj Al- Mabroor - complete and accepted - has no reward for it but Jannah](#)"[Reported by Bukhari & Muslim]
- 5.**Wordly benefits include trade and business, and other kinds of earnings. as the Muslims may benefit by coming together, and doing business.
- 6.**During Hajj, Muslims from all parts of the world come together , show their love for one another and learn from one another .
- 7.** During Hajj , all Muslims show unity in time, place, actions and appearance. All of them stand in the same place at the same time, doing the same actions, wearing the same clothes with humbleness before Allah. Indeed the virtues of Hajj are priceless to any Muslim and it is the best Journey of lifetime.

References and Resources

- 1.The Glorious Quran**
- 2.Prophetic Sayings (Hadith)**
- 3.The website of Sheikh Bin Baz.**
- 4. The website of Sheikh Bin Othaimeen**
- 5. The website of Sheikh Saleh Al-fuzan.**
- 6.The Website of Islam House**
- 7. Have you Discovered its Beauty. Dr.Naji Alarfaj.**
- 8. The New Muslim Guide . Fahd Bahammam.**
- 9.The Manual of Hajj & Umrah Sheikh Mahmoud R. Mura.**

الصفحة	المحتويات	الصفحة	المحتويات
١٠٣	الركن الرابع - الصوم	٦٨	الركن الثاني - الصلاة
١٠٤	٣٢. متطلبات الصوم	٦٨	١٢. أهمية الصلاة
١٠٤	٣٣. المفطرات	٧٠	١٤. شروط الصلاة
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الاسلام بين يديك
المبادئ الاسلامية الاساسية
للمسلمين الجدد
إعداد
مروان أحمد عبد الحميد سمارة

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