

"You shall seek help through steadfastness and the Contact Prayer (Salaat/Namaaz). This is difficult indeed, but not so for the reverent, who believe that they will meet their Lord; that to Him they ultimately return" (The Holy Qur'an, Chapter 2, Verse 46)

ARCHITECTURE

2nd PILLAR - CONTACT Prayer

 SALAAT : SALAAH/NAMAAZ/CONTACT-PRAYER 



Do you know one very interesting fact about Muslim's Prayer?

Well have it known.

Muslim's prayer is the only prayer which keeps on going round the clock throughout the globe, without any break for twenty-four hours.

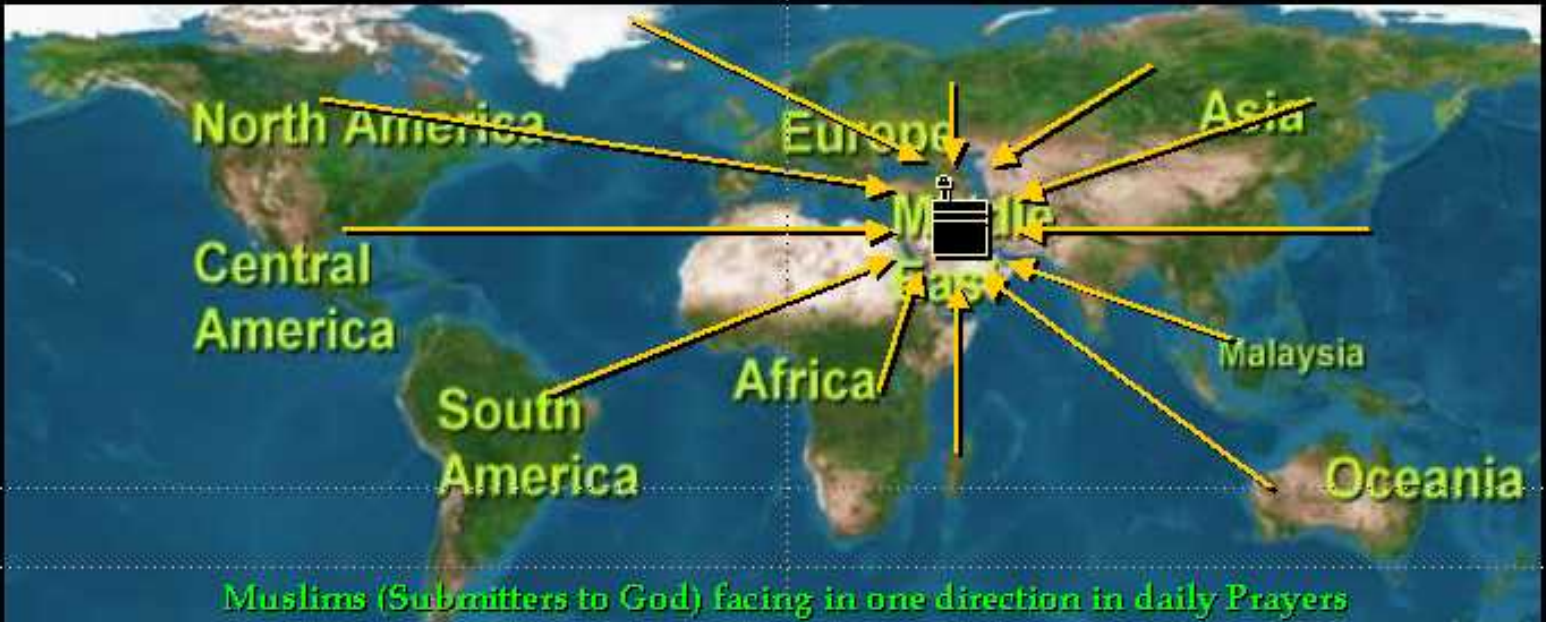
In shorts, Muslims are the only people on the surface of the earth because of whom Praise of God's NEVER stops on this planet.

For 24 hours throughout the year, God Almighty's name is regularly being Praised for fice times a day, since fourteen centuries.

But how?

Have a quick look below..

This is our globe...



Muslims' first prayer is the dawn prayer and the last is the Night prayer.

We know that the Sun rises from the east.

When people of far-east, say like Japan or Oceania as shown above are performing their **Dawn prayer**, people in North America, where there is still night are performing their **Night prayer**.

Thus people living in South America will be praying the **Dusk Prayer**, and people living in the region where Africa falls will be busy praying the **Afternoon Prayer**.

While they are busy with their afternoon prayer, people living in Middle East are Parsing God's name and praying the **Noon-Prayer**.

As Sun declines towards the west from the east, the prayer time differs few minutes from one city to another, ending up from one longitude to the other, thus covering the entire globe.

See below...

...and People within this Longitudes are performing their Isha (Night Prayer).							People within this Longitudes are performing Magrib (Dusk Prayer),							People within this Longitudes are performing Asr (After Noon Prayer),								...People within this Longitudes perform Dohar (Noon Prayer),								When people are praying Fajr (Dawn Prayer) in these Longitudes							
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The bottom line is...

The only people on the surface of the earth responsible to keep praising God's name without any pause for 24 hours, since 14 centuries on this planet are the only the Muslims...

" The only people who truly believe in our revelations are those who fall prostrate upon hearing them. They glorify and praise their Lord, without any arrogance."

(The Holy Qur'an, Chapter 32, Verse 15)



All praise is due to Him in the heavens and the earth, throughout the evening, as well as in the middle of your day.

(The Holy Qur'an, Chapter 30, Verse 18)

Therefore, be patient in the face of their utterances, and praise and glorify your Lord before sunrise and before sunset. And during the night glorify Him, as well as at both ends of the day, that you may be happy.

(The Holy Qur'an, Chapter 20, Verse 130)

...and why shouldn't we be glorifying God as Muslims do as...

 *Glorifying God is everything in the heavens and everything on earth. To Him belongs all kingship, and to Him belongs all praise, and He is Omnipotent.* 

(The Holy Qur'an, Chapter 64, Verse 1)

The Muslims Prayer starts with the 'call for the prayer' which one hears from the Minaret.

The call for the prayer is called "Azaan" or "Adaan"

Which English translation is as follows..

God is Great (repeated 4 times)

I bear witness that there is no god beside God (repeated twice)

I bear witness the Muhammad is the Messenger of God (repeated twice)

Come towards prayer (repeated twice)

Come towards victory (repeated twice)

God is Great (repeated twice)

I bear witness that there is no god beside God



FIVE DAILY CONTACT PRAYERS {SALAAT}



The five daily Contact Prayers are very important aspects of Submission.

They are constant reminders for us of our Creator throughout the day by bowing and prostrating before Him.

God does not need any of our prayers. It is we who need these practices to redeem ourselves and to attain certainty. Observing the contact prayers are among the traits of the believers.



"..Those who are too arrogant to worship God, the Most Gracious, are the ones who refuse to prostrate before Him.."



(The Holy Qur'an, Chapter 25, Verse 60)



"..You have no idea how much joy and happiness are waiting for you as a reward for your (righteous) works..."



(The Holy Qur'an, Chapter 32, Verse 17)

WHY IS PRAYER A DUTY : BECAUSE IT'S A COMMANDMENT

Direct Commandment for Prayer & Charity



"And establish regular prayer and practice regular charity and bow down with those who bow

down." 



(The Holy Qur'an, Chapter 2, Verse 23)

Commandment of Specific times for prayer

 *"The Contact Prayers must be observed at specific times during the day "* 



(The Holy Qur'an, Chapter 4, Verse 103)

Commandment of Preparation for the prayer

 *" O ye who believe, when ye rise up for prayer, wash your faces, and your hands up to elbows, and lightly rub your heads, and wash your feet up to ankles, and if ye are unclean purify yourselves[...]"* 

(The Holy Qur'an, Chapter 5, Verse 6)



Where to turn your face for worship ?

 *"turn thy face towards the inviolable place of worship."* 

(The Holy Qur'an, Chapter 2, Verse 149)


Commandment of **Dawn** Prayer (First Prayer)

1. The Dawn prayer (**Fajar**) must be observed during two hours before sunrise.

 *" Establish worship at the two ends of the day and some watches of the night[...]"* 

(The Holy Qur'an, Chapter 11, Verse 114)

Commandment of Reciting the Qur'an at Dawn



 .. and (the recital of) the Qur'an at dawn. Lo! (the recital of) the Qur'an at dawn is ever witnessed"



(The Holy Qur'an, Chapter 17, Verse 78)

Commandment of **Noon** Prayer (Second Prayer)


2. The Noon prayer (**Zohr**) is due when the sun declines from its highest point at noon.


 "Yea, to Him be praise, in the heavens and on earth; and in the late afternoon and when the day begins to decline." 

(The Holy Qur'an, Chapter 30, Verse 18)

Commandment of **Afternoon** Prayer (Third Prayer)

3. The Afternoon prayer (**Asr**) can be observed from mid afternoon until prior to sunset.

 "Guard strictly your (habit of) prayers, especially the Middle Prayer; and stand before God in a devout

(frame of mind)" 

(The Holy Qur'an, Chapter 2, Verse 238)

Commandment of **Sunset** Prayer (Fourth Prayer)



4. The Sunset prayer (**Maghrib**) must be performed quickly after sunset.

"And establish regular prayers at the two ends of the day and at the approaches of the night"  

(The Holy Qur'an, Chapter 11, Verse 114)

Commandment of **Night** Prayer (Fifth Prayer)



5. The night prayer (**Isha**) can be observed after the twilight disappears from the sky.

"O ye who believe! let those whom your right hands possess, and the (children) among you who have not come of age ask your permission (before they come to your presence), on three occasions: before morning prayer; the while ye doff your clothes for the noonday heat; and after the late-night prayer.."  

(The Holy Qur'an, Chapter 24, Verse 58)



Commandment of **Friday** Prayer (Week Prayer)

On Fridays, the Congregational Prayer (Salaat Al-Jumu`ah) replaces the noon prayer. A two-part khutbah (sermon) is followed by a prayer of two units. The Friday prayer is obligatory for all believers, men and women.

 *"O ye who believe! When the call is proclaimed to prayer on Friday (the Day of Assembly), hasten earnestly to the Remembrance of God, and leave off business (and traffic): That is best for you if ye but knew!"* 



(The Holy Qur'an, Chapter 62, Verse 9)

Commandment not to pray with unconscious mind & impure body

 *".. O ye who believe! approach not prayers with a mind befogged, until ye can understand all that ye say, nor when ye are polluted, except when journeying upon the road, till ye have bathed[...]"* 

(The Holy Qur'an, Chapter 4, Verse 43)

Commandment not to pray in pleasing tone

 *"..Neither speak thy prayer aloud, nor speak it in a low tone, but seek a middle course between. And say: Praise be to Allah, Who hath not taken unto Himself a son, and who hath no partner in Sovereignty, nor hath He any protecting friend through dependence. And magnify Him with all magnificence."* 

(The Holy Qur'an, Chapter 17, Verse 110-111)

 **ORIGIN OF CONTACT PRAYERS {SALAAT}** 



Divinely Preserved


 *"Who would forsake the religion of Abraham, except one who fools his own soul?"* 

(The Holy Qur'an, Chapter 2, Verse 130)

We learn from the Qur'an that all religious practices of Submission (Islam) were given to Abraham.

Therefore, these practices, Salaat (Contact Prayers), Zakaat, (obligatory charity), fasting, and Hajj pilgrimage, were already established before the revelation of the Qur'an to Prophet Muhammad.

Recall that Abraham said,

 *"My Lord, make this a peaceful land, and protect me and my children from worshipping idols.*

My Lord, they have misled so many people. As for those who follow me, they belong with me.


As for those who disobey me, You are Forgiver, Most Merciful. Our Lord, I have settled part of my family in this plant less valley, at Your Sacred House.

Our Lord, they are to observe the Contact Prayers (Salaat), so let throngs of people converge upon them, and provide for them all kinds of fruits, that they may be appreciative.

Our Lord, You know whatever we conceal and whatever we declare—nothing is hidden from God on earth, nor in the heavens.

Praise be to God for granting me, despite my old age, Ismail and Isaac.

My Lord answers the prayers. My Lord, make me one who consistently observes the Contact Prayers (Salaat), and also my children.

Our Lord, please answer my prayers." 

(The Holy Qur'an, Chapter 14, Verse 35-40)

In fact, according to the Qur'an, Submission is called the religion of Abraham (Ibrahim), and Muhammad was a follower of Abraham. So were Isaac, Ismail, Jacob, Moses, Aaron, Jesus, and other messengers of God.

"Abraham was indeed an exemplary vanguard in his submission to God, a monotheist who never worshiped idols. Because he was appreciative of His Lord's blessings, He chose him and guided him in a straight path. We granted him happiness in this life, and in the Hereafter he will be with the righteous. Then we inspired you (Muhammad) to follow the religion of Abraham, the monotheist; he never was an idol worshiper."

(The Holy Qur'an, Chapter 16, Verse 120-123)

The practices of Islam have been preserved in their basic form since the time of Abraham despite the efforts of corruption and distortion by idol worshipers and disbelievers.

Each messenger who came after Abraham purified and followed these practices in accordance with God's will, making sure that all practices are devoted to God alone.

SALAAT WAS MADE A DUTY UPON PEOPLE EVEN BEFORE MUHAMMAD

Salaat (Prayer) and Charity, Ismail

"..And mention in the scripture Ismail. He was truthful when he made a promise, and he was a messenger prophet. He used to enjoin his family to observe the Contact Prayers (Salaat) and the obligatory charity (Zakaat); he was acceptable to his Lord.."



(The Holy Qur'an, Chapter 19, Verse 54-55)

Salaat (Prayer) and Charity, Moses

"..We inspired Moses and his brother. "Maintain your homes in Egypt for the time being, turn your homes into synagogues, and maintain the Contact Prayers (Salaat). Give good news to the believers."



(The Holy Qur'an, Chapter 10, Verse 87)

Salaat (Prayer) and , Mother Mary

 *"O Mary (Mariam), you shall obey your Lord, and shall prostrate and bow down with those who bow down." 3:43* 

(The Holy Qur'an, Chapter 3, Verse 43)



Salaat (Prayer) and Charity, Jesus Christ

 *"...She pointed to him. They said, "How can we talk with an infant in the crib?" (The infant [Jesus] spoke and) said, "I am a servant of God. He has given me the scripture, and has appointed me a prophet. He made me blessed wherever I go, and enjoined me to observe the Contact Prayers (Salaat) and the obligatory charity (Zakaat) for as long as I live..."* 



(The Holy Qur'an, Chapter 19, Verse 29-31)

ALL THE PROPHETS WHO CAME SINCE ADAM WERE MONOTHEISTS (SUBMITTING TO ONE GOD; MUSLIMS), SO IT'S NOT SURPRISING THAT THE SALAAT WAS DUE FOR THEM.

In fact, according to the Qur'an, there is only one acceptable religion to God : Submission to His will (Islam).

 *"...Anyone who accepts other than Submission as his religion, it will not be accepted from him, and in the Hereafter, he will be with the losers..."* 

(The Holy Qur'an, Chapter 3, Verse 85)

 *"..The only religion approved by God is "Submission" . Ironically, those who have received the scripture are the ones who dispute this fact, despite the knowledge they have received, due to jealousy. For such rejecters of God's revelations, God is most strict in reckoning..."* 

(The Holy Qur'an, Chapter 3, Verse 19)

 **UNITS OF CONTACT PRAYERS** 



There is no dispute concerning the number of units (rak`ahs) in all five daily prayers enjoined by God for Abraham and his followers.

They are universally accepted to be 2, 4, 4, 3, and 4 units, respectively, for the above prayers listed.

These are considered as the obligatory units ordained by God. Other additional units practiced by the traditional Muslims are disputed and vary according to different sects, from none to as many as 10 units per prayer.

These extra prayers are considered Sunnah, something that Prophet Muhammad was claimed to have done.

However, establishing religious rites that are not authorized by God is a gross offense.


Prophet Muhammad or any messenger of God would never disobey God by adding or even slightly changing anything that God had enjoined them to do. People who follow these practices not only disobey God, but they also make the religion difficult for themselves, and for their children. God tells us in the Qur'an that He does not want hardship for us:

 *"He has chosen you and placed no hardship on you in practicing your religion..."* 

(The Holy Qur'an, Chapter 22, Verse 78)

But the compulsory rites are obligatory.

 *"You shall hold fast to the rope of God, all of you, and do not be divided..."*

Let there be a community of you who invite to what is good, advocate righteousness, and forbid evil. These are the winners. 

(The Holy Qur'an, Chapter 3, Verse 103-104)



THE EFFECTS OF SALAAT



We often find ourselves complaining of various afflictions that have fallen upon us. It is clear that many of these trials are a direct result of our own sinfulness or negligence in our adherence to Islamic practices and principles in every aspect of our lives.

If we were to analyze the situation closely we would likely find that the root of our problem lies with the fact that so many of us have neglected what should be a fundamental and firm practice.

Allah, the One free and far removed from all defects, says:

 *"Verily, Salaah prevents one from shameful and evil deeds."* 

(The Holy Qur'an, Chapter 29, Verse 45)

For example, after performing the dawn prayer as you are physically and spiritually clean you won't try to do any shameful or evil act as you know that within approx. 7 hours you again have to attend before GOD for the Noon Prayer.

Same takes place from Noon Prayer to the Afternoon prayer which is an approx. span of 3 hours, then 4 hrs then 2 hrs etc.

In this way the Prayer keeps your BODY and MIND away from any Shameful and EVIL deed throughout the day and guards your Modesty.

So Allah, the Most High, explains in this Aayah that the Salaah done with humility and attentiveness, and performed correctly must certainly lead the person away from wickedness and evil actions, and lead him to doing good. Therefore you will find those who pray in the mosques are the best of the people, despite any faults they may have, and any faults they do have or sins they commit, then this will be found to a far greater degree in others.

However if the Salaah does not prevent us from wickedness and evil actions then we must carefully examine what is going wrong and how to correct it. Indeed the Salaah must be rectified and prayed with full humility and attentiveness. So let us look closely at the causes and strive to find the cure. Just as we seek to treat our bodies from illness, then it is even more appropriate that we should seek to find the cure

for our souls. This will help us to understand the saying of the Prophet (sallallahu 'alaihi wa sallam):

"The first thing for which the person will be accountable on the Day of Resurrection is the Salaah. So if it is in order, then the rest of his actions will be in order. But if it is defective then the rest of his actions will be defective." [Reported by At-Tabaraani in Al-Awsat and Ad-Diyaa, from Anas (radiallahu 'anhu), and it is found in Saheehul-Jaami (no.2570).

If the Salaah is corrected then the rest of the actions will be corrected, since it is like the head with regard to the rest of the body.

Furthermore, the closest that a servant is to his Lord is when he is in Salaah, calling upon his Lord, seeking His forgiveness, turning to Him and weeping before Him.

Then the Salaah cannot be corrected unless one's 'aqeedah (creed and belief) is corrected, and what that comprehends: being mindful of Allah, the Most High, and fearing Him, and remembering that one will have to stand before Him for the Reckoning, and being terrified of His Fire. So that when he is tempted to commit sins he finds in his heart the ability to repel and reject them, since he looks at the present and temporary pleasure, and at the bliss which never ends and the happiness which never ceases, and he prefers the lasting good to that which will perish and pass away.

The Salaah of a person is ruined by his failing to be mindful of Allah, the Most High, and by weakness of taqwaa, thus this person does not have such fear as will prevent him from committing sins. As occurs in the hadeeth:

"Indeed there is in the body a piece of flesh which if it is sound then the whole body is sound and if it is corrupt then the whole body is corrupt. Indeed it is the heart." [Al-Bukhaari and Muslim]

This asserts that the soundness of the whole body depends on the soundness of the heart, and if the heart is corrupt then the whole body shall be corrupt. If the heart is sound then the hand shall be sound and shall not steal, nor reach for that which is forbidden nor commit fornication by the forbidden touch. The feet also shall be sound and so shall not walk to that which is forbidden. The ear shall be sound and so shall not listen to music, to tale carrying, nor to backbiting. The tongue shall be in good condition and shall not speak except good. But if the heart is corrupt then it shall not lead the rest of the body except in corruption.

The heart will be rectified or corrupted through the Salaah, so if the Salaah is perfect and correct then this shows that the heart is benefiting and is sound, but if not then it indicates that it is not benefiting properly and that it is corrupted, so that it manifests evil which covers the rest of the body.

Know that each Salaah that is prayed with humility and attentiveness incites the heart towards righteous actions and good deeds, just as every good deed outside the Salaah increases ones humility and attentiveness in it. There occurs in the hadeeth:

"Perform the Night Salaah (Qiyaamul-Layl), since it was the practice of the pious before you, and draws

one near to Allah, the Most High, and is a prevention of evil deeds, and an expiation of sins." [Ahmed, At-Tirmidhee and others]

So the Prophet (sallallahu 'alaihi wa sallam) made clear that the Night Salaah (Qiyaamul-Layl) is a prevention of evil deeds, since it forbids a person from sin and evil and commands him to good. So we must observe and increase in Salaah, and must observe the Night Salaah, standing fearfully and humbly before Allah, the One free and far removed of all defects, weeping from our hearts due to our failings and shortcomings, and hoping for the mercy of our Lord, the Most High, supplicating Him that He should make us firm upon the truth, and to make our Salaah and our standing at night of benefit to us.

It was said to the Prophet (sallallahu 'alaihi wa sallam): So and so prays all the night, but in the daytime he steals! So he replied: What you say will prevent him, or he said: His Salaah will prevent him. [Ahmad, Al-Bazzaar]

If the servant's Salaah reaches its required level as prevention from sins, then it will be written for the person in the register of righteous deeds in the seventh heaven ('Iliyyoon) as occurs in the hadeeth:

"Salaah followed by Salaah with no idle talk between them is recorded in 'Iliyyoon."

[Abu Dawood]

"When one of you is going to leave his house then let him pray two rak'ahs, they will prevent you going out to evil and when you enter your house then pray two rak'ahs, they will prevent you from entering upon evil." [Al-Bazzaar, Al-Bayhaqi]

We seek refuge in Allah and beg Him to help us all to avoid hypocrisy and the abandonment of prayer. We ask that He make the salaah dear to us and a prime motivating positive force in our lives and that He bless us with understanding of religion, Ameen.

Alphonse de LaMartaine in 'Histoire de la Turquie,' Paris, 1854.

"If greatness of purpose, smallness of means, and astonishing results are the three criteria of a human genius, who could dare compare any great man in history with Muhammad? The most famous men created arms, laws, and empires only. They founded, if anything at all, no more than material powers which often crumbled away before their eyes. This man moved not only armies, legislations, empires, peoples, dynasties, but millions of men in one-third of the then inhabited world; and more than that, he moved the altars, the gods, the religions, the ideas, the beliefs and the souls.



Mysteries Unfold



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