

# BEFORE YOU PRAY

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**Maktaba Dar-us-Salam**

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## PUBLISHER'S NOTE

Dear Readers,

We are presenting you a book which is, though, very small in size but is very big in its concept.

*Salât* is the first obligation upon a Muslim after his testification of Allah's Oneness and Muhammad's صلى الله عليه وسلم Messengership. *Salât* is the contentment of the heart of a Muslim and the eminence of a Believer. *Salât* is much more emphasized in Qur'ân than any other act.

You may have seen many books on *Salât* but this small book, which has a specific mention in relation with the matters before the *Salât*, is very useful and effective. The original book is in Arabic and is written by our friend Captain Pilot Anas bin Abdul-Hameed Al-Gawz. More than 30,000 copies of this book have reached in the hands of the people, who appreciated it very much. The English translation of this book has been made by Mr. Abdul Karim Shah, former translator of Pakistan Embassy in Riyadh, for which I am thankful to him.

Dar-us-Salam feels great pleasure and honour in publishing the book according to its high traditions and standards. I am specially thankful to Mr. Shakil Ahmed As-Salafi, Hafiz Abdul Matin Rashid, Mr. Azmat Ullah, and Mr. Saeed-ud-Din for the special tasks of composing, proofreading and checking it with the original Arabic book.

Now this beautiful and valuable present is in your hands, please read it and pray for us all.

**Abdul Malik Mujahid**

**SOME AHĀDITH  
(PROPHETIC TRADITIONS)  
ABOUT THE SALĀT (PRAYER)**

Once Allah's Messenger صلى الله عليه وسلم passing by his Companions asked:

«هَلْ تَدْرُونَ مَا يَقُولُ اللَّهُ - عَزَّ وَجَلَّ - ؟ إِنَّهُ يَقُولُ وَعِزَّتِي  
وَجَلَالِي لَا يُصَلِّيَهَا أَحَدٌ لَوْ قَتَبَهَا إِلَّا أَدْخَلْتُهُ الْجَنَّةَ وَمَنْ  
صَلَّاهَا بغيرِ وَقْتِهَا إِنْ شِئْتُ رَحِمْتُهُ وَإِنْ شِئْتُ عَذَّبْتُهُ»

[حسن / الطبراني]

“Do you know what the Almighty Allāh says? He says, ‘I swear by My Honour and Glory, there is no one who performs the *Salāt* at its stated time, but I admit him to the Paradise. But for who performs it without observing its prescribed time, I may have mercy upon him if I like or punish him if I like’ ”.(*Tabarāni*)

Allah's Messenger صلى الله عليه وسلم said:

«إِنَّ اللَّهَ تَبَارَكَ وَتَعَالَى لَيُعْجَبُ مِنَ الصَّلَاةِ فِي الْجَمْعِ» .

“Allah, the Blessed and Exalted is certainly pleased by *Salāt* in congregation”.

**My Muslim brother,**

Read this booklet,  
before you offer the *Salāt* (prayer) at home

..... and .....

read this booklet, whenever you feel laziness about  
going to the Mosque to perform the *Salāt* in  
congregation!

«إِذَا حَزَبَهُ أَمْرٌ فَرَعَ إِلَى الصَّلَاةِ».

[صحيح - أخرجه الإمام أحمد وأبو داود]

“Whenever Allah’s Messenger صلى الله عليه وسلم encountered a serious matter, he hurried to the *Salât*”. (Ahmad, Abu Da’ûd)

Imâm Ibn Qayyim رحمه الله عليه said in his book *Zad Al-Ma’âd*:

### The *Salât* ...

- Attracts good livelihood
- Improves health
- Staves off harm
- Keeps away diseases
- Strengthens the heart
- Brightens the face
- Delights the soul
- Takes away laziness
- Invigorates the organs
- Replenishes energies
- Refreshes the heart
- Nurtures the spirit
- Enlightens the mind
- Preserves the boon
- Prevents adversity — Punishment
- Brings the blessings
- Drives away Satan
- Draws closer to the Almighty Allah.

Allah’s Messenger صلى الله عليه وسلم said:

«أَوَّلُ مَا يُحَاسَبُ بِهِ الْعَبْدُ يَوْمَ الْقِيَامَةِ الصَّلَاةَ فَإِنْ صَلَحَتْ، صَلَحَ سَائِرُ عَمَلِهِ، وَإِنْ فَسَدَتْ فَسَدَ سَائِرُ عَمَلِهِ».

“The first thing that a person would be called to account for on the Day of Judgment is the *Salât*. If it is performed properly, all his deeds become in order, and if it is improper then all his deeds are in vain”.

Allah’s Messenger صلى الله عليه وسلم said:

«الصَّلَوَاتُ الْخَمْسُ، وَالْجُمُعَةُ إِلَى الْجُمُعَةِ، وَرَمَضَانَ إِلَى رَمَضَانَ، مُكْفَرَاتٌ لِمَا بَيْنَهُنَّ إِذَا اجْتَنِبَتِ الْكَبَائِرُ».

[صحيح - رواه مسلم]

“All the sins between five daily *Salât* (prayers); one Friday prayer to the next Friday prayer; and also between (the fasting of) one Ramadan to the next Ramadan are wiped off if one avoids the major sins.” (Muslim)

“Whoever said when he hears the Call, ‘O Allah! Lord of this perfect Call and of the regular *Salât* which is going to be established. Kindly give Muhammad the right of intercession and superiority and send him to the best and the highest place in Paradise which You promised him,’ he becomes eligible for my intercession on the Day of Judgment” (*Bukhâri*)

You may imagine the great reward when you supplicate according to that *Hadîth* to become eligible for the intercession of the Noble Prophet صلى الله عليه وسلم. Not only this, but your sins too are forgiven when you repeat after the *Mu'adhdhin* (Call-maker), as is narrated in the *Hadîth*:

«مَنْ قَالَ حِينَ يَسْمَعُ الْمُؤَدِّنَ: أَشْهَدُ أَنْ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ  
وَحْدَهُ لَا شَرِيكَ لَهُ وَأَنَّ مُحَمَّدًا عَبْدُهُ وَرَسُولُهُ، رَضِيَتْ  
بِاللَّهِ رَبًّا وَبِمُحَمَّدٍ رَسُولًا غُفِرَتْ ذُنُوبُهُ وَإِنْ كَانَتْ مِثْلَ زَبَدِ  
الْبَحْرِ»  
[صحيح - رواه مسلم]

“Whoever said when he hears the *Mu'adhdhin* (Call-maker), ‘I testify that none has the right to be worshipped except Allah. He is Alone and has no partners with Him, and indeed Muhammad is His slave and His Messenger. I am pleased with Allah, as my Lord and with Muhammad as the Messenger.’ All his sins are forgiven even his sins are greater than the surf in the ocean.” (*Muslim*)

## THE *SALÂT* (PRAYER)

How much have you learnt about the *Salât* so far? You should realise that it is of paramount importance for you. If you find yourself somewhat lazy in condition about performing it in congregation, then you should read the following *Ahâdith* of the Noble Prophet صلى الله عليه وسلم that contain an impetus to urge you and an encouragement that will persuade you to perform it. Especially when you know that you are deprived of the great reward when you miss even a single congregational *Salât* in the Mosque.

### AT THE TIME OF CALL TO *SALÂT* (*ADHAN*)

My Muslim brother, when you hear *Adhân* — the Call to *Salât*, you should realise that this Call is addressed to you. So you should get up, give up your amusement and respond to Allah's Call which tells you: Come fast to the *Salât*, come fast to the Success . . . and remember the saying of the Prophet صلى الله عليه وسلم :

«مَنْ قَالَ حِينَ يَسْمَعُ النِّدَاءَ اللَّهُمَّ رَبِّ هَذِهِ الدَّعْوَةُ التَّامَّةُ  
وَالصَّلَاةُ الْقَائِمَةُ، آتِ مُحَمَّدًا الْوَسِيلَةَ وَالْفَضِيلَةَ وَابْعَثْهُ  
مَقَامًا مَحْمُودًا الَّذِي وَعَدْتَهُ، حَلَّتْ لَهُ شَفَاعَتِي يَوْمَ  
الْقِيَامَةِ.»

[رواه البخاري]

## AT THE TIME OF *WUDU* (ABLUTION)

Imagine that you wash away the sins from your body through the ritual of *Wudû* (ablution) just as you wash out dirt and dust from it. The Noble Prophet صلى الله عليه وسلم has said:

«إِذَا تَوَضَّأَ الْعَبْدُ الْمُسْلِمُ - أَوْ الْمُؤْمِنُ - فَغَسَلَ وَجْهَهُ  
خَرَجَتْ مِنْ وَجْهِهِ كُلُّ خَطِيئَةٍ نَظَرَ إِلَيْهَا بِعَيْنَيْهِ مَعَ الْمَاءِ  
أَوْ مَعَ آخِرِ قَطْرِ الْمَاءِ، فَإِذَا غَسَلَ رِجْلَيْهِ خَرَجَتْ كُلُّ  
خَطِيئَةٍ مَشَتْهَا رِجْلَاهُ مَعَ الْمَاءِ أَوْ مَعَ آخِرِ قَطْرِ الْمَاءِ،  
حَتَّى يَخْرُجَ نَقِيًّا مِنَ الذُّنُوبِ» . [صحيح - رواه مسلم]

“When a Muslim or a Believer washes his face (in the course of *Wudû*) every sin that he contemplated with his eyes is washed away from his face along with water, or with the last drop of water; when he washes his hands, every sin they wrought is effaced from his hands with the water, or with the last drop of water; and when he washes his feet, every sin toward which his feet have walked is washed away with the water, or with the last drop of water until he comes out pure from all sins”. (*Muslim*)

Do not forget, my Muslim brother, the great supplication following the *Wudû* that will open for you all the eight gates of Paradise to enter by whichever of them you wish, as the Prophet صلى الله عليه وسلم said:

«مَا مِنْكُمْ مِنْ أَحَدٍ يَتَوَضَّأُ فَيَبْلُغُ - فَيَسْبِغُ الْوُضُوءَ - ثُمَّ

And above all, remember that your supplication is never turned down between the *Adhân* and the *Iqâmat* (the Call for starting the congregational *Salât*), as is narrated in the *Hadîth* reported by *Abu Daud* that Allah’s Messenger صلى الله عليه وسلم said:

«الدُّعَاءُ لَا يُرَدُّ بَيْنَ الْأَذَانِ وَالْإِقَامَةِ» .

[حديث حسن - رواه أبو داود والترمذي]

“The supplication between *Adhân* and *Iqâmat* is never turned down”. (*Abu Da’ûd, Tirmidhi*)

So you may imagine the extent of magnanimity and mercy. Can there be a gesture of generosity beyond that?

