



Muslimah Gems

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Bismillah ar'Rahman ar'Raheem (In the name of Allah, the most Gracious, the most Merciful)

1 March 2008

Volume 1, Issue 2

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"There is no greater force to live by than faith. Prayer gives us vision, courage, strength, and endurance. Prayer dissolves our prejudices, banishes our narrow-mindedness, and melts away our judgmental tendencies by expanding our hearts, minds, and spirits. We pray to God on our knees - but we also pray in peace, and joy, love, and laughter. Life is prayer."

Salaat and Sujuud Sahw



The Prophet (saw) said, "If a person had a stream outside his door and he bathed in it five times a day, would they have any filth left on them?" The people said, "No filth would remain on them whatsoever." The Prophet (saw) then said, "That is like the five daily prayers; Allah (swt) wipes away the sins by them."

- Bukhari

Salah is the name for the obligatory prayers that are performed five times a day, and are a direct link between the worshipper and God. There is no hierarchical authority in Islam and there are no priests. Prayers are led by a learned person who knows the Qur'an and is generally chosen by the congregation.

Prayers are said at dawn, mid-day, late-afternoon, sunset and nightfall, and thus determine the rhythm of the entire day. These five prescribed prayers contain verses from the Qur'an, and are said in Arabic, the language of the Revelation. Personal supplications, however, can be offered in one's own language and at any time.

Forgetfulness Prostrations (Sujuud Sahw)

As human beings we are by nature subject to mistakes and errors. If a person fails to perform any of the pillars of the prayer and/or necessary duties, the person is required to mend the error by com-

(Continued on page 5)

Fatimah bint Muhammad (RA)

Fatimah was the fifth child of Muhammad and Khadijah. She was born at a time when her noble father had begun to spend long periods in the solitude of mountains around Makkah, meditating and reflecting on the great mysteries of creation.

The Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) loved her and honored her. She was patient, devoted to Islam, generous, chaste, devout and thankful to Allah.

When the Messenger of Allah (peace and blessings

of Allah be upon him) died, she grieved and wept for him, and said, "O my father, to Jibreel we tell the news of his death, O my father, he answered the call of his Lord, O my father, in Paradise is his eter-

(Continued on page 5)

From the Editors

Bismillah ar'Rahman ar'Raheem (in the name of Allah, the Most Gracious, the Most Merciful).

As'salamu alaikom wa rahmatullahi wa barakatuhu (May peace, mercy and blessings be upon you).

We have exciting news! This is the second edition of our newsletter! Not only is that exciting, but our forum members have increased and have been very helpful in contributing useful information and stories from which we can all learn. The number of visitors to the main website, www.muslimahonline.org, has grown and continues to grow every day.

The Prophet sallallahu `alayhi wa sallam said: "Indeed, there is a piece of flesh in the body; if it is sound, then all the body is sound. However, if it is diseased, then all the body is

diseased. Truly that is the heart." [Al-Bukhari 1/126, Muslim 1599 from Nu`maan ibn Basheer radhiallahu `anhumaa].

Our website was launched on October 21, 2007, with the intention of creating a community and resource center for Muslim women and anyone interested in learning about Islam. We hope to provide information that is accurate and helpful.

We thank you all for your support and contributions. We will continue to look forward to your feedback and welcome your suggestions on how to better serve our community as we continue on our path, setting new goals and striving for more.

If there is a topic you would like to see on our website or have us explore in one of our newsletters, please email us



at: muslimah@muslimahonline.org.

As'salamu 'ala man ittaba 'al'huda (Peace be upon him who has followed the guidance).

Layla and Meryem



*The Prophet
used to perform
a complete
ablution with just
two handfuls
of water.*

Bukhari, Muslim

The Purpose of Salat

The purpose of salat is primarily to act as an individual's communion with Allah. It enables one to stand in front of God, thank and praise Him, and ask for Him to show one the "right path" (as mentioned in surah Al-Fatiha which is recited in every prayer). In addition, the daily ritual prayers serve as a constant reminder to Muslims that they should be grateful for God's blessings. It ensures that every Muslim prioritizes Islam over all other concerns, thereby revolving their life around God and submitting to His will. Prayer also serves as a formal method of remembering God.

The importance of the prayer in Islam cannot be understated. It is the first pillar

of Islam that the Prophet (pbuh) mentioned after mentioning the testimony of faith, by which one becomes a Muslim. It was made obligatory upon all the prophets and for all peoples.

Allah has declared its obligatory status under majestic circumstances. For example, when Allah spoke directly to Moses, He said, "And I have chosen you, so listen to that which is inspired to you. Verily, I am Allah! There is none worthy of worship but I, so worship me and offer prayer perfectly for My remembrance." [Taha 13-14]

Sarah

(Ref: <http://en.wikipedia.org>)

How To Advise a Fellow Muslim

In the name of Allah most Gracious Most merciful. From Ibn Hazem Al-Andalusi: When you give advice, do not give it only on condition that it will be taken. Do not intercede only on the condition that your intercession is accepted; do not make a gift only on the condition that you will be recompensed. Do it only in order to practice virtue, and to do what you should do when giving advice, interceding and being generous.

The definition of advice is that the man giving it feels bad about what harms his friend, whether the latter feels good or bad about it, and he feels happy about what is good for him, whether his friend is happy or unhappy about it. This is the added factor which a counselor has which goes beyond the limit of simple friendship.

Certain kinds of advice are difficult to distinguish from slander for anyone who hears a man criticizing someone else unjustly or unfairly and conceals it from the person who is the object of this unjust and wicked statement, by doing this is so unjust and to be blamed. Moreover, if he breaks it to

him bluntly, he may bring more trouble upon the spiteful critic than the latter really deserved. This would be unfair to him, for it is not fair to punish ill-doers beyond the measure of their unjust deed. It is difficult for anyone except a very intelligent man to cope with this situation.

When you give advice, find a private place and speak gently. Do not say that somebody else has said the criticisms that you address to your companion, that would be to speak ill. If your phrase your advice bluntly, you will annoy and discourage. "Speak to him courteously," the Almighty has said: "And speak unto him a gentle word." [Qur'ân 20:44] And the Prophet – peace be upon him – said: "Do not discourage him." If you are advising someone, and you insist on seeing your advice taken, you are doing wrong since you could be mistaken and you would be insisting on him accepting your error and rejecting the truth.

Adding my own words to that, I think one should be careful and sincere in their intention when advising fellow Muslims. Do it for Allah's sake, not for

worldly gain. Choose the right approach so that you can get the effect you want. Some might use others' secrets and slander them thinking that it's a way to make them stop doing the wrong, but then The Messenger of Allah (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) said: "Whoever conceals (the fault of) a Muslim, Allah will conceal him on the Day of Resurrection."

Islam wants Muslim bonds to be strong so we should pray and make dua for each other after prayers. We should all turn to the House of Him (Kabaa) to witness His (swt) Oneness, to show Muslim unity. To provide this, we should be patient and tolerant with our Muslim siblings, and approach them with the best ways to correct each other's mistakes.

Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) said: "There should be neither harming nor reciprocating harm."

Nawal

(Ref: Ibn Hazem Al-Andalusi, Al-Akhlâq) wa'l-Siyar (Morals and Behaviour))

Why Do We Pray Five Daily Prayers?

One calm night in Makkah, one year before the migration to Medinah the roof of the Prophet Muhammad's (saw) house was opened while he was sleeping, and the noble Angel Gabriel came towards him. He opened his abdomen, removed his heart, and washed it with Zamzam water. He then brought a vessel made of gold containing wisdom and faith. He emptied the vessel into the noble chest of the Prophet Muham-

mad (saw), and then closed it up. Gabriel woke the Prophet (saw) and took him by his hand to the gate of the sacred Ka'bah.

There, the Prophet (saw) saw a white creature smaller than a mule and larger than a donkey, with wings on each side of its hind legs. The Prophet (saw) mounted the creature and they took off North to Bayt Al-Maqdis in Jerusalem. This part of the journey is referred to

as Al-Isra'a.

"I was brought al-Burg who is an animal white and long, larger than a donkey but smaller than a mule, who would place his hoof at a distance equal to the range of vision. I mounted it and came to the Temple (Bait-ul Maqdis in Jerusalem), then tethered it to the ring used by the

(Continued on page 7)

Pray Before They Pray On You...

Here, I'm questioning my own nafs along with yours so forgive me if I sound harsh.

Why don't you pray? Don't you have time? Well, did you know that ashab did not have time to pray either at the time of Al-Handak war, but they did so by taking turns? They did not cancel prayers while in the middle of a war. Are you in a worse situation?

There were no televisions at that time, right? No mobile phones, no computers, no internet... Is this your only reason to not pray? Even if you had the time, you wouldn't find a place, would you? You're not home so where would you pray, right? What about tens of Muslims praying in Abu-Gharib Prison and in many other prisons over the world? They aren't even able to find water for wudhu, and being insistent on prayers... Is it harder than this for you to find a place to pray?

This did not work either so you need another excuse. You may be on the way traveling from place to place or you might be ill. Did you forget you can pray anywhere, anytime by ima' (mimics)? What else? Maybe you're overworking and don't have a minute to pray. Have you ever thought of what you are spending your time for? Money? A better life? Who is able to bring more than a piece of cloth to his grave? Don't you know that prayers are the first things

you will be asked about in the hereafter? What will you answer? You cannot say, "I did not have time. I could not find a place. I had things to do." So what will you say? Maybe you will say, "I was not expecting death that early otherwise I would make up all my missed prayers."

You're still young, aren't you? So you will have a lot of time when you get older. But what if you never do? What is people prey on you before you do? But hey, why would you pray? You



have a clean heart, don't you? It should be enough.

Our Prophet (pbuh) was praying day and night until his feet were aching. Was this because he did not have a clean heart? Astaghferullah! He (pbuh) was the purest. So this did not work either. Don't you have any other excuse?

It's hard to wake up early in the morning for fajr but what if you see an announcement saying a market will give you \$100,000 if you can be there at 4

am? You would spend the night in front of the market to be able to get the money, would you not? As for dhur, you have a lot of work this time of day so how can you find time for it? Can you pass the day without eating lunch? You have to eat, but it's okay if you don't pray? How are you going to thank the Creator who created the things you just ate? Then there's isha, you feel very sleepy by this time of day. But if there is a new episode of Lost, Prison Break, Heroes or another TV series you would not

feel sleepy, would you? You're a Muslim, aren't you? Then prove it!

Open your eyes and look around you. Thank Allah by your prayers for all the things He (swt) has given you then pray for your oppressed Muslim siblings if there is nothing else you can do.

Don't forget, "The obligation and pact between us and them (the munafiqeen, the hypocrites) is the

prayer, so whoever abandons it has indeed committed kufr (i.e. become a kaafir, a non-believer)." Tirmidhi, hadeeth # 2621

Prayer (salah) is the heart of Islam, key to Paradise and ascension of Muslims. Hayyal asSalah! Hayal alFalah! Let's pray and save our deen and dunia!

Meryem

The Prophet (saw) prohibited prayer in seven places:

Dunghills ✧ Slaughterhouses ✧ Graveyards ✧ In the middle of roads
Bathhouses ✧ Roof of Ka'bah ✧ Places where camels drink and rest

Salaat and Sujuud Sahw (cont. from page 1)

ing up with two prostration at the end of the prayer known as "Sujuud Sahw" i.e. forgetfulness prostration, although, where a pillar(s) is omitted a repetition of the missed pillar(s) is necessary.

There are some disagreements between religious jurists regarding this subject as to whether it should be performed before or after the words of peace (Tasleem). What seems to be a fair solution, however, is that if a person made an addition to the prayer, then, the two prostration of forgetfulness should be performed after reciting the Tasleem. While, if a deduction is made from the prayer, then, the two prostration of forgetfulness should be performed before reciting the Tasleem. However, where both an addition and a deduction may have been made in the course of the prayer, then, in this case, the forgetfulness prostration can be performed before the recitation of the words of peace (Tasleem).

Various Instances Where "Sujuud Sahw" Becomes Apparent

A. Where a Pillar of the Prayer is Omitted:

1. Where, for example, a person forgets to recite the "Al-Fatihah" but remembers the same before Rukuu or in the process of bowing, then, the person is required to resume a proper

standing position and read the "Al-Fatihah" and some other verses from the Holy Qur'an as usual. If this omission occurred in the first rakaat and the person remembers the omission while in the course of the second rakaat, then, the person should count the second rakaat as being the first rakaat and treat the first one in which he/she missed to recite the "Al-Fatihah" as null and void. The person should then proceed to perform one more rakaat to complete his/her Salaat and at the end, recite the



"Tasleem" (words of peace) after which, the person comes up with the two prostration of forgetfulness and again, recites the Tasleem.

2. If, however, while sitting for the final "At-Tashahud", (the words of witness), a person remembers that he missed a prostration, then the person should immediately come up with the missed prostration and sit back again to repeat a recitation of the At-Tashahud. The person would then say the Tasleem to conclude the prayer, but would thereafter come up with the

two prostration of forgetfulness before once again reciting the Tasleem. The above are some examples where errors are committed in performing FARAIDH (i.e. Pillars) of the Salaat, wherein, the person is not only required to repeat the missed act, but also, to come up with the two prostration of forgetfulness.

B. Where a Necessary Duty is Omitted:

However, where someone misses a "WAJIB" (Necessary Duty) of the prayer, the mere coming up with the

two prostration of forgetfulness will suffice without the need for repeating the missed act. Thus, if a Wajib act is missed and the person remembers it after starting another action of the prayer, then, he is not required to repeat the forgotten act but would proceed to complete the rest of the Salaat and at the end just before the Tasleem, the person comes up with the two prostration of forgetfulness.

ness.

C. Where a Preferred Act is Omitted:

As for SUNNANS (Preferred Acts) of the prayer which may be missed, neither is it a requirement to repeat them nor is the forgetfulness prostration needed.

Almaha

(Source:www.islambasics.com)

Fatimah bint Muhammad (RA) *(cont. from page 1)*

nal abode.”

Fatimah’s speech most closely resembled that of the Messenger of Allah (swt) (peace and blessings of Allah (swt) be upon him). It was narrated that ‘Aa’ishah (may Allah be pleased with him) said: “I never saw anyone whose speech more closely resembled that of the Messenger of Allah (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) than Fatimah. When she entered upon him, he would stand up to greet her, kiss her and welcome her, and she would do the same for him.”

Fatimah lived for six months after the death of the Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him). She was buried at night. Al-Waaqidi said: this is the most correct view. He said, al-‘Abbaas prayed (the funeral prayer) for her, and he, ‘Ali and al-Fadl lowered her into her grave. Her sons were al-Hasan and al-Husayn (may Allah be pleased with them) and her daughters were Umm Kulthoom, who was wed by ‘Umar ibn al-Khattaab (may Allah be pleased with him), and Zaynab who was wed by ‘Abd-Allah ibn Ja’far ibn Abi Taalib.

It was narrated from Masrooq that ‘Aa’ishah (may Allah be pleased with her) said: “Fatimah came walking in the manner of the Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him). The Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) said, ‘Welcome, O my daughter.’ Then he seated her to his right or to his left, then he said something privately to her and she wept. I said to her, ‘Why are you weeping?’ Then he said something privately to her and she smiled. I said, ‘I have

never seen anything like that which I have seen today, of joy so close to grief.’ I asked her what he had said, and she said, ‘I would not disclose the secret of the Messenger of Allah (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him).’ When the Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) passed away, I asked her and she said, ‘He told me, “Jibreel used to review the Qur’aan with me once every year, but this year he has reviewed it with me twice, so I know that my appointed time (of death) is approaching. And



you will be the first of my family to join me.” So I wept. Then he said, “Would it not please you to be the leader of the women of Paradise or the women of the believers?” So I smiled.” (Narrated by al-Bukhari, al-Manaaqib, 3353)

Among the things that prove her virtue is that which was reported in al-Saheehayn from ‘Abd-Allah ibn Mas’ood, that the Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) used to pray at the Ka’bah, and Abu Jahl

and his companions were sitting there. They said to one another, ‘Who will bring the intestines of the camel of So and so and put it on Muhammad’s back when he prostrates?’ So the most wretched of people went and brought it and waited until the Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) prostrated, then he put it on his back, between his shoulders. I was watching but I could not help him because I did not have any power. They started laughing and leaning against one another (because of their laughter), and

the Messenger of Allah (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) was prostrating and did not raise his head until Fatimah came and removed it from his back. Then the Messenger of Allah (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) raised his head, and said, ‘O Allah, deal with Quraysh,’ three times. They became worried when he prayed against them, because they used to believe that du’aa’s made in that land would be answered...”

(Narrated by al-Bukhari, 233; Muslim, 3349)

Among her virtues was also that which was narrated in al-Saheehayn, that the Messenger of Allah (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) said: “Fatimah is a part of me, and whoever angers her, angers me.” (Narrated by al-Bukhari, 3437; Muslim, 4483)

And Allah knows best.

See Nuzhat al-Fudalaa’ Tahdheeb Siyar A’laam al-Nubalaa’, 1/116

Sheikh Muhammad Salih Al-Munajjid (www.islam-qa.com)

Why Do We Pray Five Daily Prayers? *(cont. from page 3)*

prophets. (Sahih Muslim, Vol. 1, p. 101)."

Glory be to Him (Allah) who took His slave (Muhammad) one night from Al-Haram Mosque (in Makkah) to Al-Aqsa Mosque (in Jerusalem), whose vicinity we have blessed, in order that we may show him (Muhammad) some of Our signs. Surely He is the All-Hearer, the All-Seer.
Chapter 17, verse 1

After dismounting the creature, the Prophet (saw) entered Al-Aqsa Mosque and prayed two units. He then saw the Prophets Moses, Jesus and Abraham (pbut) and was instructed to lead them in prayer.

Next, Muhammad (saw) mounted the creature again, and set off shooting out of the solar system into the heavens. This ascension is known as Al-Mi'raj.

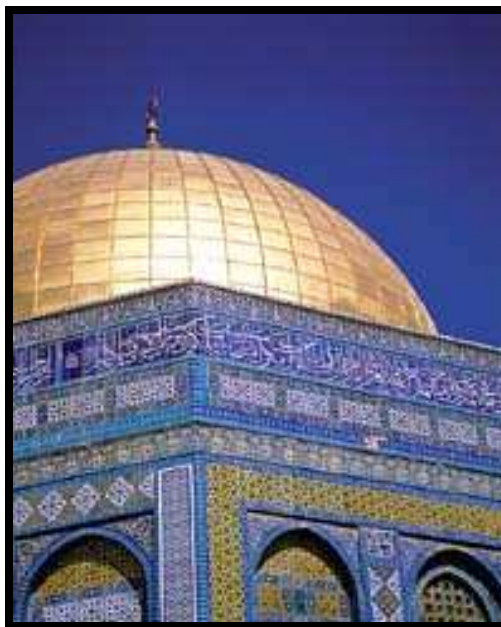
Gabriel led the Prophet (saw) to the Lote tree. At this point of the journey, Allah (swt) spoke to him directly and revealed to him the last two verses of Al-Baqarah.

It is during this miraculous journey that Allah (swt) made the daily prayers compulsory, initially fifty daily prayers for the Prophet (saw) and his followers.

After the Prophet (saw) received these instructions from Allah (swt), he came down until he passed Moses (saw), who asked him about the acts of wor-

ship Allah (swt) had prescribed for him. When the Prophet (saw) informed him about the fifty prayers, Moses said, "Your people will not be able to perform fifty prayers each day. I tried the people before you - I had to deal with the children of Israel - and it was very difficult for me. Go back to your Lord and ask him to reduce the burden on your people."

The Prophet (saw) did so and Allah (swt) reduced it by ten, but when he



came by Moses again, he suggested that he return and request a further reduction for the same reason, so he returned.

Muhammad (saw) continued to go back and forth between his Lord and Moses until Allah (swt) said, "There will be five prayers every day, each being rewarded as ten, thus making it equivalent to fifty daily prayers."

The Prophet (saw) passed by Moses once more and informed him of the five daily prayers. Moses repeated

that he should go back again, however the Prophet (saw) said, "I have asked my Lord till I am too shy to face Him. I will accept this and submit to Him."

On this journey, the Prophet (saw) was taken to Paradise, where he saw dwellings made of pearls and their soils made of musk. He was also taken to Hell, where Allah (swt) revealed to him scenes from the future. He saw people receiving terrible punishments for different sins. The Prophet (saw) then returned home to find his bed still warm.

The heart of Muhammad did not lie about what he saw. So will you dispute with him what he saw? And he certainly saw him (Gabriel) in another descent. At the Lote Tree of the Utmost Boundary. Near it is the Paradise of Abode. When there covered the Lote Tree that which covered it. The sight of Muhammad did not swerve, nor did it transgress its limit. He certainly saw of the greatest signs of his Lord. Chapter 53, An-Najm 11-18

To this day, more than 1400 years later, over 1.6 billion people all over the world perform these five daily prayers as revealed to the Prophet Muhammad (saw) by his Lord.

Layla

(Ref: 1islam.net)

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If you would like to contribute to our website or newsletter, send your articles, questions, comments, news to: muslimah@muslimahonline.org.

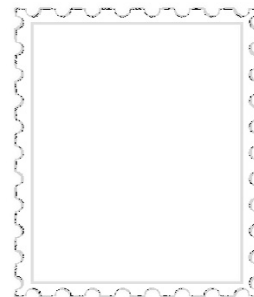
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Say: He Is Allah, The One And Only. Allah, The Eternal, Absolute. He Begetteth Not, Nor Is He Begotten. And There Is None Like Unto Him. [Holy Qu'ran, Surat 112]



To:



Hygiene in Islam

“The Prophet (saw) said, “The key to Paradise is prayer and the key to prayer is cleanliness (Ablution).”” Tirmidhi

“Surely Allah loves those who turn to Him in repentance and loves those who keep themselves pure and clean.” Ch 2 Al-Baqarah verse 222

General Hygiene

- Fingernails and toenails should be clipped. Pubic hair and armpit hair should be removed at least once every forty days.
- After one uses the toilet, the private parts should be cleaned free of filth using water, if available. Any traces of filth must be washed from the body and clothes before prayer. If one is going to pray with his/her shoes on, they should check and remove any trace of filth from beneath them before they pray in them.
- One should smell pleasant and generally keep a neat and tidy appearance.