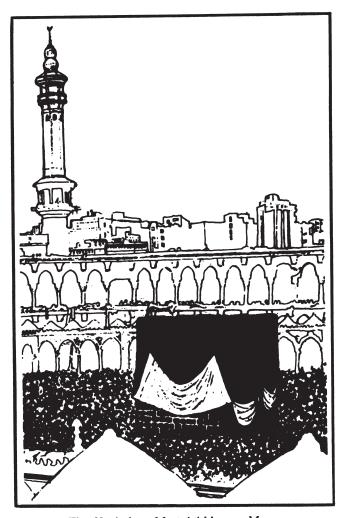


Come Closer to Allah

Come Closer to Allah



The Kaabah in Masjid-il-Haram, Mecca



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NOTE ABOUT ARABIC PRONOUNCIATION

Dear Reader,

Since Arabic word-sounds are difficult to transliterate in a way that will convey their correct pronounciation, we have resorted to the spelling system that is now commonly used in transliterations of Arabic texts. For your guidance, the spellings are given below:

Arabic	Spelling	Pronounced
ث	TH	THA
ما & ح	<u>H</u> & H	<u>HA</u> & HA
خ ذ	KH	KHA
	DZ	DZAL
ش ص	SY	SHIM
	SH	SHAD
ض	DH	DHAD
ت & ط	<u>T</u> & T	<u>TA</u> & TA
ز & ظ	<u>Z</u> & Z	<u>ZA</u> & ZAI
ع	•	'AIN
ع غ	GH	GHAIN
ق	Q	QAFF

Double vowels such as "AA II UU" indicate double length of sound.

We would advise, however, that the best way to learn the correct pronounciations is to listen to the recording and practice pronouncing the sounds until you get them right. Remember the saying "Practice makes perfect". As you listen to the recording, look closely at the texts. In this way you will be familiar with the spelling system used so that as you come across a word you will know exactly how to pronounce it.

If you persist in the exercise, you will find that Arabic words are not that difficult to pronounce, Insya-Allah!

The Publishers



INTRODUCING ISLAM

Allah has sent His Teaching to our world through His Messengers at different periods in our History. He gave to David (Daud) 'Zabur' (the Psalms), and to Moses (Musa) the 'Taurat' (the Hebrew Scriptures) and still later He gave 'Injil' — (parts of the News Testaments) to Jesus (Isa).

Some centuries later Allah gave His final Teaching, in the Holy Quran through His last Messenger, Muhammad, to be a guide to all people until the end of the world. The Prophet Muhammad was born in Mecca in the year 571 in the Christian era, and he died and was buried in Medina in the year 632 A.D.

Those who accept this final revelation are known as Muslims.

All Muslims are required to accept and obey five basic duties: these are often known as the Five Pillars of Islam.

The First of these is to make a Declaration of Faith before becoming a Muslim. This Declaration, which must be repeated in Arabic, in the presence of a Muslim, is as follows:

'Ash-hadu allaahilaaha illallah, Wa-ash-hadu-anna Muhammadar Rasulullah'. This means: 'I proclaim that there is no other Allah but Allah. And I proclaim that Muhammad is Allah's Messenger'.

أَشْرِكُ دُانَ لَا إِلْـ أَوْلَاللَّهُ وَأَشْرِكُ أَنَّ عُلَّار سُولُ اللَّهِ

Belief in One Allah means belief in His existence and that He is Almighty, Eternal, the Creator of the world and the Universe, that He knows and sees everything, that He has no partner and cannot be divided, and that He is most Merciful, most Just and most Wise.

All Muslims worship Allah, but no representation of Allah in any form is allowed to be made.

Muslims believe that Muhammad was a human being, but that he was the last Prophet, — the last Messenger, — sent by Allah. No representation of him in any form is allowed to be drawn or made.

The Second of the Five Duties is to Pray to Allah five times a day. Prayer is compulsory to every Muslim who has reached puberty and should Pray regardless of place and condition. There are two principal types of Prayer in Islam: one called 'Salat', the other 'Doa'. 'Salat' refers to the daily prayers which a Muslim is required to offer to Allah: 'Doa' refers to the personal prayers which an individual Muslim may make to Allah before or after he has recited the 'Salat'.

The other Three Principal Duties of a Muslim are: Thirdly, to give a small part of his or her income to help the poor, once a year. This is called 'Zakat'.

Zakat is divided into two categories.

(i) ZAKAT FITRAH:

is collected by Muslim officials at the end of the fasting month.

(ii) ZAKAT MALI:

meaning ZAKAT PROPERTY. A Muslim who has surplus wealth must pay $2\frac{1}{2}\%$ of it every year.

Fourthly, to Fast between dawn and sunset for one month in the year, during the month of Ramadan.

Fifthly, to go on a Pilgrimage to Mecca, once in a lifetime, if the individual has the means to do so.

MUSLIM PRAYER

The main object of this book is to provide detailed information about the second of the Five Pillars — Muslim Prayer.

This will be given under five headings:

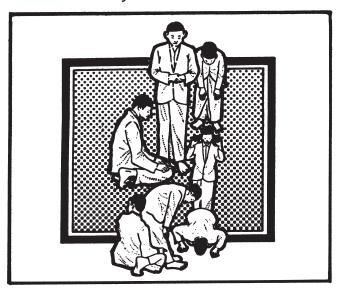
Preparing to Pray.

Times of Daily Prayer.

How to Pray.

The Words used in Daily Prayers 'Salat'.

The Call to Prayer.



PREPARING TO PRAY

Islam teaches us that Personal Cleanliness is most important. Therefore, before a Muslim begins to pray to Allah, his or her body and the clothes he or she wears must be clean and the place where he or she prays must also be clean.

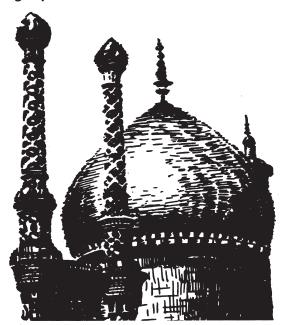
The body is considered to be subject to two major types of uncleanliness:

- a) that which occurs when there has been an emission of foul body waste (solid, liquid or gaseous) through either one of the two natural channels. To remove this uncleanliness one must first wash the affected part of the body thoroughly with clean water: this type of uncleanliness is known in Malay as 'Hadath Kecil'.
- b) that type of uncleanliness which occurs when there has been a sexual act, or a menstrual discharge or emission of semen or the discharge after delivery of a baby. To remove this type of uncleanliness one must bath the whole body, including the head and hair, with clean water, washing all parts of the body. This is called 'Mandi Junub' in Malay. This type of uncleanliness is known in Malay as 'Hadath Besar'.

In both of these types we must follow the cleansing process with a simple ritual washing of certain exposed parts of the body, which will be described below.

In Islam all these simple acts must be accompanied by a silent recital of our Intention 'Niat' in Malay in which we state that we are cleansing our body as our Duty to Allah.

Whether we take a bath or not, before we pray 'Salat' to Allah, we are required to wash carefully those parts of the body which are normally exposed, namely the face, the forearms, the hands and the feet. This routine washing is called Wudhuk'. This washing must be carried out in the following sequence:







'B is mill a hir-Rahmanir-Rahim'.

In the name of Allah, the Beneficient, the Merciful.

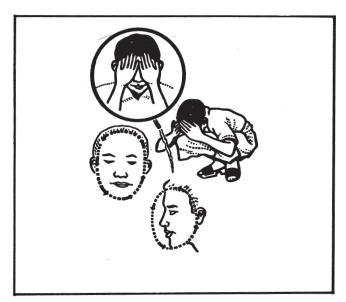
(1) first the hands, beginning with the right hand, starting from the wrist to the tips of the fingers: three times,



 $\begin{tabular}{ll} \end{tabular} \begin{tabular}{ll} \end{tabular} \beg$



(3) next the nostrils: rinse them three times,

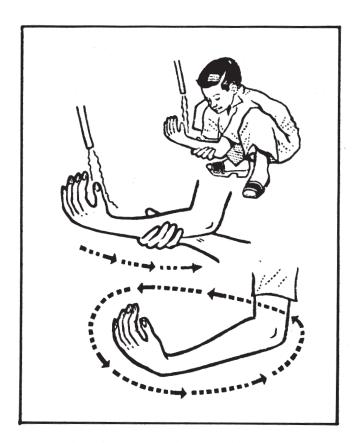


نؤيَّتُ مَ فِعَ الْحَدَثِ الْأَصْغَرِ بِللْمِ تَعَالَى

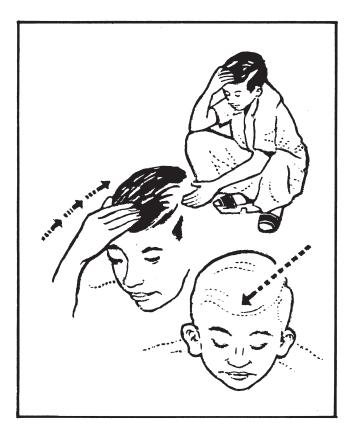
'Nawaitu raf'al Hadathil aswghari lillahi ta'aala'.

I intend to remove the minor impurities in obedience to Allah.

(4) then the face: use both hands, washing the face from the forehead to the chin, including the ears: three times,



(5) then the right fore-arm including the elbow and after that the left fore-arm including the elbow is washed: three times,



(6) then the top of the head and hair: wet the palms of both hands and then wipe the top of the head and hair with them: three times,



(7) then the ears: wipe the inner and outer sides of your ears with your wet fore fingers and thumbs: three times,



(8) finally, wash both your feet starting from the ankle down to the tip of the toes, beginning with the right foot: three times.

When you have completed these acts you are clean and can proceed to recite your prayer 'Salat' and this state of cleanliness may continue for several hours. But this ritual washing — Wudhuk — ceases to be valid if any of the following acts occur:

- The emission of body waste, (solid, liquid or gaseous).
- ii) Touching the skin of a person of the opposite sex whom you could marry: this does not apply to children below the age of puberty.
- iii) Touching with either hand the private parts of either a male or a female, including children.
- iv) Losing consciousness as a result of illness, fainting or intoxication.
- v) Sleeping in any posture except if seated with the body upright and without moving the buttocks.

When a male Muslim prays he must wear clothing which covers at least that portion of the body from the navel to below the knees.

When a woman prays she must cover her whole body, including her head and hair. Only the face and the palms of the hands may be exposed.

Before starting to pray to Allah a Muslim must face towards Mecca: this direction is known as the 'Kiblat'.

DAILY PRAYERS (Salat)

A Rakaat. In his daily prayers a Muslim follows a sequence of postures accompanied by a set of words (in Arabic), which include praise, requests and thanks. The postures include Standing Erect, Bending Forward, Kneeling and Sitting. Together the words and postures form One Rakaat.

TIMES OF DAILY PRAYERS

The times of each of the five daily prayers are related to the rising and setting of the sun. These vary in different parts of the world.

The following prayer periods are observed in Malaysia and can be taken as a guide:

SUBUH : From Dawn until just before Sunrise: Two

Rakaat.

ZUHUR : From noon to a point in time half way

between Noon and Sunset: Four Rakaat.

ASAR : Following Zuhur. In the late afternoon, until

just before Sunset: Four Rakaat.

MAGHRIB: From Sunset until about one hour

later: Three Rakaat.

ISYAK : From about one hour after Sunset until just

before the next Dawn: Four Rakaat.

AZANThe Call to Prayer

Every daily or congregational prayer should be preceded by 'Azan' (the call to prayer) said in a loud voice by any Muslim present (Muazzin), standing with the face towards Mecca. The Azan consists of the following:

الله اكبر. الله اكبر الله اكبر. الله اكبر الشهدان لا اله الآالله الشهدان أن اله الآالله الشهدان مُحدًا مرسول الله الشهدان مُحدًا مرسول الله حَرَّ عَلَى الصَّلاة حَرَّ عَلَى الصَّلاة حَرَّ عَلَى الفَلاح حَرَّ عَلَى الفَلاح الله الدائم الله الفائدة الله الكالله الله الفائدة الله الكالله الله الله المنه الصنار

- Allahu Akbar Allaahu Akbar.
 Allaahu Akbar Allaahu Akbar.
- 2. Ash-hadu al-laa ilaaha illallaah. Ash-hadu al-laa ilaaha illallaah.
- 3. Ash-hadu anna Muhammadar Rasulullah. Ash-hadu anna Muhammadar Rasulullah.
- 4. Haiya 'alasw-swalaah. Haiya 'alasw-swalaah.
- 5. Haiya 'alal falaah. Haiya 'alal falaah.
- 6. Allahu Akbar Allaahu Akbar.
- 7. Laa ilaaha illallah.
- 1. Allah is the Greatest, Allah is the Greatest. (Repeat)
- 2. I bear witness that there is none worthy of worship except Allah. (Repeat)
- 3. I bear witness that Muhammad is a Messenger of Allah. (Repeat)
- 4. Hurry to prayer. (Repeat)
- 5. Hurry to success. (Repeat)
- 6. Allah is the Greatest, Allah is the Greatest.
- 7. There is none worthy of worship except Allah.

The following sentence is added in the call to Subuh (dawn prayer) after No. 5.

As-salatu khairum minan naum. (Twice) (Prayer is better than sleep).

IQAMAT

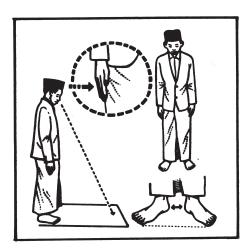
When the people have assembled and are ready to begin the congregational prayer, the Muazzin stands up and recites the sentences of the Azan only once in a lower tone of voice and in the same order. The following sentence is added after No. 5 and it is said twice:

- 1 Allaahu Akbar Allaahu Akbar
- 2. Ash-hadu al-laa ilaaha illallaah
- 3. Ash-hadu anna Muhammadar Rasulullaah
- 4. Haiya 'alasw-swalaah
- 5. Haiya 'alal falaah
- 6. Qadqaamatisw-swalaah Qadqaamatisw-swalaah
- 7. Allaahu Akbar Allaahu Akbar
- 8. Laa ilaaha illalaah
- 1. Allah is the Greatest, Allah is the Greatest.
- 2. I bear witness that there is none worthy of worship except Allah.
- 3. I bear witness that Muhammad is a Messenger of Allah.
- 4. Hurry to prayer.
- 5. Hurry to success.
- 6. The prayer is about to begin. (Repeat)
- 7. Allah is the Greatest, Allah is the Greatest.
- 8. There is none worthy of worship except Allah.

If you are praying alone, you should repeat softly the following Intention 'Niat' just before you begin to say your prayer Salat: 'I am performing the (SUBUH) prayer — (two) Rakaat — as my duty to Allah'. Insert the name of the particular Prayer and the number of Rakaat, at different times of the day.

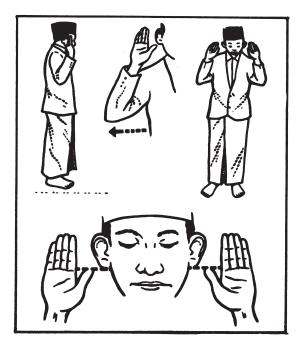
HOW TO PRAY

When you are ready to pray to Allah, before you begin one of the five periods, you should observe the following sequence:



Posture One. Stand Erect:

Think carefully what you intend to say and do. Make sure that your breast and face are directed towards Mecca. Look down at the place where your forehead will touch the prayer mat, when you are kneeling (Sujud). Place your arms close to the hips with the hands and fingers extended, pointing to the floor. Concentrate on your Intention to pray to Allah and do not let your mind wander.



Posture Two. Takbiratul Ihram:

Raise your arms and hands with palms facing the front, until the tips of your thumbs are level with the lobes of your ears: then say aloud

Allaahu Akbar

Allah is the Greatest.



Posture Three. Qiam:

Continue to stand erect, but lower your hands and arms to the level of your navel. Then place the left hand, palm inwards, a little above your navel and your right palm over your left. اللهُ أكْبُ رُكِينِيرًا وَأَكَدُ بِنَهِ كَتِنِيرًا وَسُبُحَانَ اللهِ بُكَرَةً وَاصِيلًا . وَجَوْتُ وَجَهِي لِلّذِي فَطَرَالسَّمُواتِ وَالْأَرْضَ حَنِيْفًا مُسْلِمًا وَمَا أَنَامِنَ الْمُسْرِكِيْنَ . إِنَّ صَلَاقِيْ وَنُسُكِيّ وَتَحْيَايَ وَمَا يَقِي بِنَهِ رَبِّ الْعَالَمِيْنَ . لَا شَرِيْكَ لَهُ وَبِذَلِكَ الْمُرْتِكُ وَأَنْكَامِنَ الْمُسْلِمِيْنَ

Allaahu akbaru kabiiraw-walhamdulillaahi kathiiraw wasubhaanallaahi bukratawwa-aswiila. Wajjahtu wajhiya lilladzii fatwaras samaawati wal-ardha Haniifam muslimaw wamaa ana minal mushrikiin. Inna swalaati wanusukii wamahyaaya wamamaati lillaahi rabbil 'aalamiin. Laa shariikalahuu wabidzaalika umirtu wa ana minal muslimiin

Allah is the Greatest; Much praise be to Allah, and glory be to Him morning and evening. I turn my face towards Him Who created the heavens and the earth, being away from prejudice and being a Muslim; and I am not of the polytheists. Verily my worship, my devotion, my life and my death are for Allah, Lord of the Worlds. There is no partner unto Him and so have I been commanded and I am among those who submit to Him.

Al-Fatihah. You repeat the words in Arabic. NOTE: A prayer is not valid without *Al-Fatihah*. They are as follows:

بِسْسِمِ اللهِ الرَّمْ إِن الْتَّحْ الْرَائِيْةِ فِي الْتَحْفِي الْتَحْفِي الْتَحْفِي الْمُعْلِينَ مَا لَكُونُ الْتَحْفِي الْمَالِينَ مَا لَكُونُ الْتَحْفِينَ مَا لَكُونُ الْمَالِينَ الْعَمْدَ وَمَا اللّهِ اللّهِ اللّهُ اللللّهُ اللّهُ الللّهُ الللّهُ اللّهُ اللّهُ اللّهُ الللّهُ اللّهُ اللّهُ اللّهُ اللّهُ

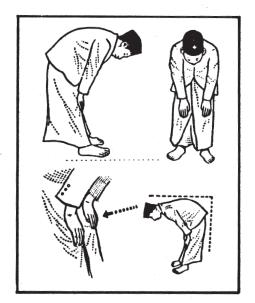
Bismillahir-Rahmanir-Rahim

Alhamdu lillaahi rabbil 'aalamiin. Arrahmaanir rahiim. Maaliki yaumiddin. Iyyaka na'budu wa iyyaka nasta'iin. Ihdinasw-swiraatwal-mustaqiim. Swiraatwal ladziina an'amta 'alaihim ghairil maghdhuubi 'alaihim waladh-dhaalliin.

In the name of Allah, the Beneficient, the Merciful. All praise is due to Allah, Lord of the Worlds. The Beneficient, the Merciful. Master of the Day of Judgement. Thee (alone) do we worship; and Thee (alone) do we seek support from; Guide us towards the straight path. The path of those on Whom Thou hast favoured, not (the path) of those who have incurred Thine anger nor of those who go astray.

Maintaining the standing position the following prayer called "Iftitah".

This is the principal Muslim prayer and is repeated in every Rakaat. It is also recited on many other occasions.



Posture Four. Rukuk:

When you have recited Al-Fatihah, you say 'Allaahu Akbar' and then bend forward, so that your back is at right angles with your legs. Move the palms of your hands down to your knees, so that the palms cover the knee caps. As you do so, say



Subhaana rabbiyal 'adziimi wabihamdih (3 times) Glorious is my Lord, the Magnificient. Praise be to Him.

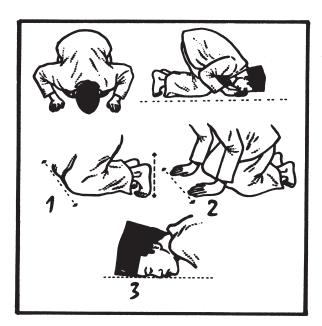


Posture Five. I'tidal:

You than raise your body to an upright position. Stand upright, for a moment, then raise your arms and hands to the same position as Posture Two,

سَمِعَ اللَّهُ لِلنَّاحِدَهُ رَبَّتَ الكَ الْمُسَمَّدُ

and say 'Sami'allahu liman hamidah' (Allah hears him who gives praise to Him) and 'Rabbanaalakal-hamd' (O Lord, thine is the praise).



Posture Eight. The Second Sujud:

You then say 'Allaahu Akbar' and place your forehead, nose and the palms of your hands on the ground again, and repeat the same three words,

سُبْعُانَ رَجِي الْأَعْلَى وَبِحَـمْدِهِ

Subhaana rabbiyal a'laa wabihamdih (3 times)

Glorious is my Lord, the Most High; Praise be to Him.

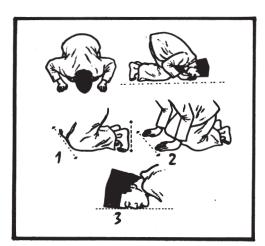


Posture Seven. Sitting between two Sujud:

You then say 'Allaahu Akbar' and raise your head from the ground and sit back on your heels. The hands, with palms downwards, are placed on your knees with fingers and thumbs extended. While in this position, you say the following prayer:

Rabbighfirlii warhamnii wajburnii warfa'nii warzuqnii wahdinii wa'afinii wa'fu ' annii.

O my Lord pardon my sins, have mercy upon me, help me in my misery, exalt me, grant me sustenance, guide me, keep me in good health, and pardon $m_{\tilde{\epsilon}}$



Posture Six. Sujud:

You then say 'Allaahu Akbar' and kneel down, placing both knees on the ground together (not one after another). Then place the palms of your hands and your forehand on the ground, so that the forehead and the tip of your nose touch the ground, but not the rest of your face. This is called Sujud. While you are in this position you recite, silently, the following words (three times),



Subhaana rabbiyal a'laa wabihamdih (3 times)

Glorious is my Lord, the Most High; Praise be to Him.

You have now completed One Rakaat (one set of prayers). You now return to Posture No. Three and say 'Allaahu Akbar' and then begin the Second Rakaat. But before you do so, you must remember which of the five daily prayers you are reciting, because you adopt a different posture at the end of the Last Rakaat. (The SUBUH prayer consists of only Two Rakaat: the Maghrib prayer consists of Three Rakaat, the other Three prayers consist of Four Rakaat).

Posture Nine. Tawarruk:

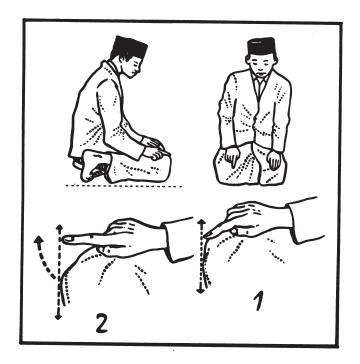
After the Second Sujud in the Last Rakaat you adopt a different sitting posture. As you start to sit back on your heels, fold your left leg sideways and inwards from the knee underneath your right shin. Your left buttock rests on the floor.

Your left foot rests on its outer edge: your right leg and foot are extended backwards, so that the right foot points directly to your rear, with the toes of the right foot bent under the foot. (see the picture of Posture Nine).

The palms of your hands rest on your knees, as in Posture 8. But the fingers of the right hand are closed, except the Index finger which is extended downwards.

In this position you recite the Prayer known as 'Tashahhud', in Arabic. (A prayer is not valid without "Tashahhud")

But the Index finger of the right hand is raised to an angle of 45 degrees from the floor when you recite the words: "Ashhaadu allaa ilaaha-illaallaah the index finger is then lowered again. With this movement of the Index finger you emphasise that there is only One God.



النِّيَّاتُ الْبُارَكَاتُ الصَّلُوَاتُ الطَّلِيَّاتُ لِلَهِ . السَّلَامُ عَلَيْنَا ثَ لِلْهِ . السَّلَامُ عَلَيْنَا وَعَلَيْنَا أَنَّهُ . السَّلَامُ عَلَيْنَا وَعَلَيْنَا النَّبِيُّ وَرَحْمَةُ اللهِ وَبَرَكَاتُهُ . السَّلَامُ عَلَيْنَا وَعَلَى عَلَيْ اللهُ اللهُ اللهُ وَعَلَى اللهُ اللهُ اللهُ اللهُ وَعَلَى اللهُ اللهُ عَلَى عَلَى عَلَى اللهُ عَلَى عَلَى اللهُ اللهُ اللهُ عَلَى اللهُ ال

Attahiyaatul mubaarakaatusw-swalawaatutw twaiyibaatu lillaah. Assalaamu 'alaika aiyuhan nabiyyu warahmatullaahi wabarakaatuh. Assalaamu 'alainaa wa'alaa ibaadillaahisw-swaalihiin. Ash-hadu al-laa ilaaha illalaah. Wa ash-hadu anna Muhammadar Rasulullaah. Allaahumma swalli 'alaa Muhammad wa'alaa aali Muhammad. Kamaa swallaita 'alaa Ibrahiima wa'alaa aali Ibraahiim. Wabaarik 'alaa Muhammad wa'alaa aali Muhammad. Kamaa baarakta 'alaa Ibraahiima wa'alaa aali Ibraahiim. Fil 'aalamiina innaka Hamidum Majid.

All blessed offerings, the regards that are excellent are due to Allah. May the peace, the Mercy and Blessings of Allah be upon you, O Prophet. May peace be upon us, and upon the righteous servants of Allah. I bear witness that there is none

worthy or worship except Allah and I bear witness that Muhammad is a Messenger of Allah. O Allah, shower Your Grace upon Muhammad and his followers, as you have showered Your Grace upon Ibrahim and upon his descendents. Do shower Your Blessings upon Muhammad and upon his followers as You have showered Your Blessings upon Ibrahim and his descendents. For you are indeed the Most Praiseworthy and the Most Noble.



Posture Ten. Taslim:

The final prayer in the last Rakaat is followed by the 'Salawat':



Assalaamu 'alaikum warahmatullaah.

May the Peace and Mercy of Allah be upon all of you.

As the 'Salawat' is repeated you turn your head first to the right and then to the left, so that you include all those on either side of you in this greeting.

This concludes the set prayers, and you can now stand up, and if you are alone in your room, you put away your prayer mat and continue your normal life.

APPENDIX

"Qunut" Prayer (Optional)

In the position of I'tidal or standing erect after Rukuk' in the Second Rakaat of the Dawn prayer (Subuh), the following prayer called "Qunut" is recited:



اَللهُ مَا هَدِينَ فِيمُنَ هَدَيْتُ . وَعَافِينَ فِيمُنَ عَافَيْتَ. وَتَافِينَ فِيمُنَ عَافَيْتَ. وَتَالِثُ لِي فِيكُمَا أَعْطَلَيْتَ. وَتَالِثُ لِي فِيكُمَا أَعْطَلَيْتَ. وَقَالِنُ لِي فِيكُمَا أَعْطَلَيْتَ. وَقِينَ تَتَرَّمُنْ وَلَا يُعْصَلَى عَلَيْكَ. وَإِينَّهُ لَا يَسْتِذُكُ مَنْ عَادَيْتَ. وَلَا يَعِبِزُكُمَنْ عَادَيْتَ. وَلَا يَعِبِزُكُمَنْ عَادَيْتَ. وَلَا يَعِبِزُكُمَنَ عَادَيْتَ. وَلَا يَعِبِزُكُمَنْ عَادَيْتَ. وَلَا يَعِبِزُكُمَنَ عَادَيْتَ. وَلَا يَعِبِزُكُمَنَ عَادَيْتَ. وَلَا يَعِبِزُكُمَنَ عَادَيْتَ. وَلَا يَعِبُونَكُمْ لَا مُعْمَلِكُمْ اللّهُ عَلَى سَيِّدِنَا وَلَا يَعْرُبُ إِلَيْكَ . وَمُعَلِي اللهُ عَلَى سَيِّدِنَا مُعْمَلِكُمْ اللّهُ عَلَى سَيِّدِنَا لِنَالِهُ عَلَى اللّهُ وَسَعَمْ إِلَى اللّهُ عَلَى اللّهُ ال

Allaahum-mahdinii fiiman hadait. Wa'aafinii fiiman 'aafait. Watawallanii fiiman tawallait. Wabaariklii fiimaa a'twait. Waqinii sharramaa qadhait. Fainnaka taqdhii walaa yuqdhaa alaik. Wa-innahuu laa yadzillu man waalait. Walaa ya'izzuman 'aadait. Tabaarakta rabbanaa wata'aalait. Falakalhamdu 'alaa maa-qadhait. Wa astaghfiruka waatuubu ilaik. Wa-swallallaahu 'alaa saiyidinaa Muhammadinin nabiyyil ummiyyi wa'alaa aalihii waswahbihii wasallam.

O Allah, make me amongst those whom You have guided. Make me amongst those You have made healthy. Let me be amongst those You have befriended. Bless that which You have granted me. And protect me from the evil that exists by Your decree. For You alone can pass judgement and none can pass judgement upon You. Surely whosoever You befriend is never disgraced. And he who earned your wrath will never be honoured. O Lord, You are the most exalted, the most High, and to You all praises are due for all that You have decreed. I beseech Your forgiveness and I repent for my sins. May the Grace of Allah be upon our leader Muhammad the unlettered prophet and on his family and his companions and may peace be upon them.

FRIDAY PRAYERS (Sembahyang Jumaat)

Every Muslim who has reached the age of puberty, is not seriously ill or on a long journey, is required to attend Friday Prayers. Attendance is optional for women.

Friday Prayers consist of Two Rakaat, preceded by two short sermons (*Khutbah*). The time of commencement of Friday Prayers is usually about 1 pm. in Malaysia, but the time varies a little from time to time.

It is advisable to arrive at the Mosque sometime before the Imam enters. This will give you time to say your own personal prayers and to prepare your mind to take advantage of the Community Prayers.

When you enter the Mosque and are making your way to a vacant space, do not step over, or cross immediately in front of anyone who is in the act of praying. As soon as you reach a vacant space, where you intend to sit, first remain standing and pray Two Rakaat. These are 'Sunat' (optional) but most people do so, before sitting down. Do not forget to express your silent Niat before you recite these Two Rakaat.

If you enter the Mosque when the Bilal has started to repeat the 'Azan'—the Call to Prayer'—you must stand still until the Bilal completes the 'Azan'. You can then move forward to a vacant space.

As soon as the 'Azan' has been completed everyone will stand upright and repeat Two Rakaat each taking their own time. You then take your seat on the floor, and wait until the Imam enters, the Friday Prayers then begin.

Before the Imam begins his sermon, the Bilal will warn all those present not to speak during the sermon.

As soon as the Imam completes the second Sermon, he will come down from the Mimbar, take up a position a few steps in front of the front row of worshippers and lead the congregation in the Friday Prayers.

The congregation follows the movements of the Imam, during these Prayers. If you cannot see the Imam, you can follow the person in front of you.

At the end of the Second Rakaat, the Imam will recite a number of the other prayers in Arabic, and ends with the 'Salawat'.

That is the end of "Friday Prayer".

Any adult Muslim who is unable to attend Friday Prayers owing to illness or for some other unavoidable cause, must pray the usual Zuhur Prayers (4 Rakaat) at home or in some other suitable place.

If a number of adult Muslims are present together, in a house or other private place, when the time of one of the Five Daily Prayers occurs they will normally say their Prayers (Salat) together.

The male Muslim who is the best qualified will lead the Prayers: the other (Ma'mum) sit or stand behind the leader. The leader (Imam) recites the prayers: the followers must follow the movements of the Imam as closely as possible.