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حكمة فرضية الصلاة

THE RATIONALE AND BENEFITS OF

SALÂT

(Islamic Prayers)

By
Dr. Norlain Dindang Mababaya

Published by
DARUSSALAM
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Riyadh, Saudi Arabia



(In the Name of Allâh, Most Gracious, Most Merciful)

THIS IS FOR YOU, O ALLÂH

***"Truly my prayer and my service of sacrifice, my life and my death, are (all) for Allâh, the Rabb (Only God, Cherisher and Sustainer) of the Worlds."* (6:162)**

***"Our Rabb! Accept (this service) from us. Verily, You are the All-Hearing, the All-Knowing."* (2:127)**

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Publisher's Note

The prayer (*Salât*) is one of the basic precepts of Islam. After the testimony (*Shahâdah*), it provides religious identity to the Muslims as Allâh said:

﴿وَأَقِيمُوا الصَّلَوٰةَ وَلَا تَكُونُوا مِنَ الْمُشْرِكِينَ﴾ [الروم: ٣١].

"...And perform the prayer and be not of the disbelievers." (30:31)

The Prophet ﷺ said:

«بَيْنَ العَبْدِ وبَيْنَ الكُفْرِ تَرْكُ الصَّلاةِ».

"The convenant between us (Muslims) and them (non-Muslims) is the prayer. Whoever abandons it, he is a disbeliever." (Mu'atta Imâm Malik)

Its significance may be viewed from the following *Hadîth*:

قَالَ رَسُولُ اللهِ ﷺ : «أَوَّلُ مَا يُحَاسَبُ بِهِ الْعَبْدُ يَوْمَ الْقِيَامَةِ يُنْظَرُ فِي صَلَاتِهِ، فَإِنْ صَلَحَتْ فَقَدْ أَفْلَحَ وَإِنْ فَسَدَتْ فَقَدْ خَابَ وَخَسِرَ».

"The first act that the slave (of Allâh) will be accountable on the Day of Judgement will be prayer. If it is good, then the rest of his acts will be good, And if it is evil, then the rest of his acts will be evil." (Tabarâni)

The present book, compiled by the famous scholar, Dr. Norlain Dindang Mababaya, explains the rationale of the prayer and the necessity to perform it properly, humbly and sincerely according to the Prophet's *Sunnah* at the specified times. The author has frequently given proofs from the Qur'ân and *Ahadîth* to this effect. We are pleased to bring about the book for the readers hoping they will benefit from it and adhere to the performance of the prayer in the manner as required.

May Allâh bless us with the guidance and salvation. *Ameen*.

Abdul Malik Mujahid
General Manager

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I pray to Allâh to accept this humble effort purely for His sake. May He be pleased with it and bless it as a source of enlightenment to all Muslims and non-Muslims alike. May they hold on to the commandment of Allâh to worship Him Alone and follow the way His Messenger ﷺ performed *Salât*. *Ameen*.

N. D. Mababaya
25 January, 1997 (16 Ramadan, 1417 H)
Riyadh, Saudi Arabia

INTRODUCTION

Islam, which means complete and peaceful submission to the Will of Allâh (God) and obedience to His Law, is the perfect religion and the complete way of life for all mankind. One of the very significant *Ayât* (Qur'ânic verses) that Allâh finally revealed to Prophet Muhammad ﷺ (may the peace and blessings of Allâh be upon him), clearly states that Islam is perfect. Allâh, the (only) God in heaven and on earth (43:84) and our Creator (2:21), says in the Glorious Qur'ân:

﴿ ٱلْيَوْمَ أَكْمَلْتُ لَكُمْ دِينَكُمْ وَأَتْمَمْتُ عَلَيْكُمْ نِعْمَتِي وَرَضِيتُ لَكُمُ ٱلْإِسْلَٰمَ دِينًا ﴾

[المائدة: ٣]

"...This day I have perfected your religion for you, completed My favor upon you, and have chosen for you Islam as your religion..." (5:3)

Islam provides us complete guidance for every aspect of our life. It solves all sorts of problems facing humanity now and in the future, be it physical, material or economic, socio-cultural, political, legal, religious and spiritual, and the like. Everything it enjoins us to do is for our own benefit. An example of this is the performance of *Salât* (Islamic prayers) — particularly the five compulsory daily prayers. Allâh commands us to perform *Salât* (2:110; 4:103; 20:14) for our own benefits and not because He needs it as He is free of any need. He does not depend on anyone. Allâh alone possesses all power. He is the All-Knowing, the Powerful (42:50), the Almighty, the Wise (59:24). When He desires a thing He only says 'Be' and it is (36:82). In other words, nothing is impossible to Him. He is the Cherisher and Sustainer of the Worlds (1:2). All creatures depend on Him (11:6). To Him belongs the dominion of the heavens and the earth. He creates what He wills (42:49). He enlarges and restricts provisions to whom He wills (49:12). True prayer is due to Him Alone (13:14). We have to worship Allâh Alone (6:102, 103;

11:1-2) because He commands us to worship Him. Allâh says:

﴿ذَٰلِكُمُ ٱللَّهُ رَبُّكُمْ لَآ إِلَٰهَ إِلَّا هُوَ خَٰلِقُ كُلِّ شَيْءٍ فَٱعْبُدُوهُ وَهُوَ عَلَىٰ كُلِّ شَيْءٍ وَكِيلٌ ○ لَّا تُدْرِكُهُ ٱلْأَبْصَٰرُ وَهُوَ يُدْرِكُ ٱلْأَبْصَٰرَ وَهُوَ ٱللَّطِيفُ ٱلْخَبِيرُ﴾ [الأنعام: ١٠٢-١٠٣]

"That is Allâh your *Rabb*! There is no God but He, the Creator of all things: so worship Him: and He has power to dispose of all affairs. No vision can grasp Him, but His Grasp is over all vision; He is Subtle, Well-Aware." (6:102-103)

﴿يَٰٓأَيُّهَا ٱلنَّاسُ ٱعْبُدُوا رَبَّكُمُ ٱلَّذِى خَلَقَكُمْ وَٱلَّذِينَ مِن قَبْلِكُمْ لَعَلَّكُمْ تَتَّقُونَ﴾ [البقرة: ٢١].

"O mankind! Worship your Guardian *Rabb*, Who created you and those who came before you that you may become righteous." (2:21)

﴿مَا تَعْبُدُونَ مِن دُونِهِۦٓ إِلَّآ أَسْمَآءً سَمَّيْتُمُوهَآ أَنتُمْ وَءَابَآؤُكُم مَّآ أَنزَلَ ٱللَّهُ بِهَا مِن سُلْطَٰنٍ ۚ إِنِ ٱلْحُكْمُ إِلَّا لِلَّهِ ۚ أَمَرَ أَلَّا تَعْبُدُوٓا۟ إِلَّآ إِيَّاهُ ۚ ذَٰلِكَ ٱلدِّينُ ٱلْقَيِّمُ وَلَٰكِنَّ أَكْثَرَ ٱلنَّاسِ لَا يَعْلَمُونَ﴾ [يوسف: ٤٠].

"Whatever you worship apart from Him is nothing but name which you have named. You and your fathers, for which Allâh has sent down no authority: the command is for none but Allâh. He has commanded that you worship none but Him. That is the right religion, but most men do not know." (12:40)

﴿إِنَّنِىٓ أَنَا ٱللَّهُ لَآ إِلَٰهَ إِلَّآ أَنَا۠ فَٱعْبُدْنِى وَأَقِمِ ٱلصَّلَوٰةَ لِذِكْرِىٓ﴾ [طه: ١٤].

"Verily, I am Allâh: There is no god but I: so serve Me (only), and establish regular prayer for My remembrance." (20:14)

THE RATIONALE OF PERFORMING *SALÂT*

The performance of *Salât* (i.e., the five compulsory daily prayers) is the second pillar of Islam. It constitutes the physical, mental, and spiritual submission to Allâh which starts by pronouncing Allâh's greatness and ends with *Salâm* (salutation of peace). The performance of *Salât* serves as the foundation of Islam. Without it there is no Islam. It is the concrete proof of our submission to Allâh. It fulfills our very purpose of creation. Allâh makes it very clear in the Glorious Qur'ân that the very purpose why He has created us is to worship Him throughout our lives. He tells us:

﴿وَمَا خَلَقْتُ ٱلْجِنَّ وَٱلْإِنسَ إِلَّا لِيَعْبُدُونِ ○ مَآ أُرِيدُ مِنْهُم مِّن رِّزْقٍ وَمَآ أُرِيدُ أَن يُطْعِمُونِ ○ إِنَّ ٱللَّهَ هُوَ ٱلرَّزَّاقُ ذُو ٱلْقُوَّةِ ٱلْمَتِينُ﴾ [الذاريات: ٥٦-٥٨]

"I have created not the *jinn* and men except that they should worship Me (Alone). I seek not any provision from them nor do I ask that they should feed Me. Verily, Allâh is the All-Provider, Owner of Power, Most Strong." (51:56-58)

﴿فَسَبِّحْ بِحَمْدِ رَبِّكَ وَكُن مِّنَ ٱلسَّٰجِدِينَ ○ وَٱعْبُدْ رَبَّكَ حَتَّىٰ يَأْتِيَكَ ٱلْيَقِينُ﴾ [الحجر: ٩٨-٩٩]

"So glorify the praises of your *Rabb* and be of those who prostrate themselves (to Him). And worship your *Rabb* until there comes unto you the Hour that is certain (i.e., death)." (15:98-99)

The performance of *Salât* (prayer) was "the first act of worship" that Allâh made obligatory for all believers (in Allâh and His Messenger ﷺ). Prophet Muhammad ﷺ received the revelation to perform *Salât* during his ascension to heaven. In a *Sahîh*

(authentic) *Hadîth* (teaching of the Prophet ﷺ) Anas ﷺ reported:

«فُرِضَتْ عَلَى النَّبِيِّ ﷺ لَيْلَةَ أُسْرِيَ بِهِ الصَّلَوَاتُ خَمْسِينَ، ثُمَّ نُقِصَتْ حَتَّى جُعِلَتْ خَمْسًا، ثُمَّ نُودِيَ: يامُحَمَّدُ! إِنَّه لَا يُبَدَّلُ الْقَوْلُ لَدَيَّ، وَإِنَّ لَكَ بِهٰذِهِ الْخَمْسِ خَمْسِيْنَ».

"The prayers were made obligatory on the Prophet ﷺ the night of his ascension to heaven. At first, they were fifty in number, but were reduced several times until they were five. Then it was proclaimed, 'O Muhammad, the order is not changed. These five are (equivalent) to the fifty.'" (Ahmad, An-Nasâi, and Tirmidhi)

Salât is obligatory to all Muslim believers who are sane and who reach the age of *Tameez* (begins at the age of seven years when a child is able to distinguish between right and wrong). The Prophet ﷺ said:

«رُفِعَ القَلَمُ عَنْ ثَلَاثَةٍ: عَنِ النَّائِمِ حَتى يَسْتَيْقِظَ، وَعَنِ الْمُبْتَلَى حَتَّى يَبْرَأَ، وَعَنِ الصَّبِيِّ حَتَّى يَكْبُرَ».

"The pen is raised for three (meaning: there is no obligation upon three): one who is sleeping until he awakens, the child until he becomes an adult, and one who is insane until he becomes sane." (Abû Dâwûd, Ahmad, and Hakim)

«مُرُوا أَوْلَادَكُمْ بِالصَّلَاةِ وَهُمْ أَبْنَاءُ سَبْعِ سِنِينَ، وَاضْرِبُوهُمْ عَلَيْهَا وَهُمْ أَبْنَاءُ عَشْرِ سِنِينَ، وَفَرِّقُوا بَيْنَهُمْ فِي الْمَضَاجِعِ».

"Order your children to pray at the age of seven, hit them to do so at the age of ten, and separate them (the boys from the girls) in their beds." (Ahmad)

Allâh made it obligatory for us to perform *Salât* at its specified time. Our Creator says:

﴿فَإِذَا قَضَيْتُمُ الصَّلَوٰةَ فَاذْكُرُوا اللَّهَ قِيَامًا وَقُعُودًا وَعَلَىٰ جُنُوبِكُمْ ۚ فَإِذَا اطْمَأْنَنتُمْ فَأَقِيمُوا الصَّلَوٰةَ ۚ إِنَّ الصَّلَوٰةَ كَانَتْ عَلَى الْمُؤْمِنِينَ كِتَابًا مَّوْقُوتًا﴾ [النساء: ١٠٣]

"When you have finished the prayers, remember Allâh, standing, sitting down, and lying down on your sides. But when you are free from danger, set up regular prayers, for such prayer, are enjoined on believers at stated times." (4:103)

Aside from praying on time, our Creator commands us to guard our prayers and to pray with devotion. He also requires us to pray at all conditions whether we are traveling or not, or while we are in fear or in safe. He says:

﴿حَافِظُوا عَلَى الصَّلَوَاتِ وَالصَّلَوٰةِ الْوُسْطَىٰ وَقُومُوا لِلَّهِ قَانِتِينَ ۝ فَإِنْ خِفْتُمْ فَرِجَالًا أَوْ رُكْبَانًا ۖ فَإِذَا أَمِنتُمْ فَاذْكُرُوا اللَّهَ كَمَا عَلَّمَكُم مَّا لَمْ تَكُونُوا تَعْلَمُونَ﴾ [البقرة: ٢٣٨-٢٣٩]

"Guard strictly your (habit of) prayers. Especially the middle prayer. And stand before Allâh in a devout (frame of mind). If you fear (an enemy), pray on foot, or riding (as may be most convenient). But when you are in security, celebrate Allâh's praises in the manner He has taught you, which you knew not (before)." (2:238,239)

Furthermore, Allâh guides us how we should pray even in times of war or in peace (4: 102-103). All these show how imperative for us is to worship Him. A person who abandons the prescribed compulsory prayers is not considered a Muslim. Why? Because a Muslim is one who peacefully and completely submits to the Will of Allâh and obeys His Law. The Prophet ﷺ said:

«بَيْنَ الْعَبْدِ وَبَيْنَ الْكُفْرِ تَرْكُ الصَّلَاةِ».

"Between a person and disbelief is the discarding of prayer." (Muslim, Abû Dâwûd, Tirmidhi, Ibn Mâjah and Ahmad)