

This is Islaam 1

اللغة الإنجليزية

THE PILLARS OF ISLAAM

أركان الإسلام



By

Dr. Ahmad Al-Mazyad

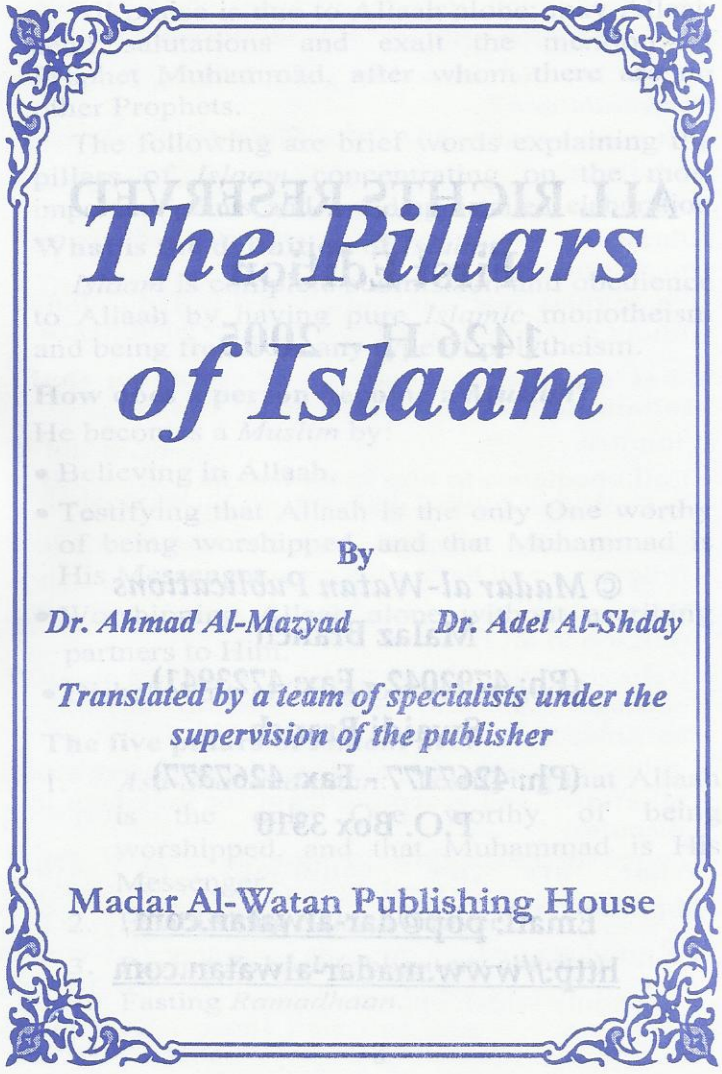
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Madaar Al-Watan



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Madar Al-Watan Publishing House

All praise is due to Allaah alone; may Allaah send salutations and exalt the mention of Prophet Muhammad, after whom there are no other Prophets.

The following are brief words explaining the pillars of *Islaam* concentrating on the most important points, and avoiding detailed elaboration.

What is the definition of *Islaam*?

Islaam is complete submission and obedience to Allaah by having pure *Islamic* monotheism and being free from any type of polytheism.

How does a person become a *Muslim*?

He becomes a *Muslim* by:

- Believing in Allaah.
- Testifying that Allaah is the only One worthy of being worshipped, and that Muhammad is His Messenger.
- Worshipping Allaah alone without ascribing partners to Him.
- Disbelieving in *Taaghoot* (false gods).

The five pillars of *Islaam* are:

1. *Ash-Shahaadataan*: Testifying that Allaah is the only One worthy of being worshipped, and that Muhammad is His Messenger.
2. Establishing *Salaah* (prayer).
3. Paying *Zakaah* (obligatory charity).
4. Fasting *Ramadhaan*.

5. Performing *Hajj* (pilgrimage) when capable.

The first pillar: *Ash-Shahaadataan*

What is the meaning of *Ashad* in *Ash-Shahaadataan*?

It means that one testifies, firmly believes and submits to.

What are the implications of testifying that Allaah is the only One worthy of being worshipped?

It implies that one must worship Him alone without ascribing partners to Him.

What are the implications of testifying that Muhammad is the messenger of Allaah?

It implies,

- Full obedience to him in all that he commands, and refraining from that which he prohibits.
- Loving him, his religion and his righteous followers, and hating his enemies.
- Supporting him, his *Sunnah* (way) and his religion in all fields of life.
- Believing him in all that he informed about, because one who belies him in anything becomes a disbeliever.
- Adhering to the legislations he came with in all affairs, and accepting them for judgment in disputes.

What are the conditions of *Ash-Shahaadataan*?

- Knowledge which opposes ignorance.
- Certainty which opposes doubt.

- Acceptance which opposes rejection.
- Complete submission.
- Belief which opposes belying.
- Sincerity which opposes association.
- Love which opposes hatred.
- Disbelief (Rejection of) in all that is worshipped besides Allaah.

The second pillar: *Salaah*

What is *Salaah*?

It is a set of words and actions which start with reciting *Takbeer* (*allaahu akbar*) and conclude with *Tasleem* (*as-salaamu 'alaykum wa rahmatullaah*).

What is the ruling regarding *Salaah*?

Salaah is an obligation upon each *Muslim* (male and female) and must be performed at its prescribed time.

What is the number of obligatory prayers during every twenty-four hours?

There are five obligatory prayers during every twenty-four hours,

Fajr (dawn) Two *Rak'ahs*.

Thuhur (after noon) Four *Rak'ahs*.

<i>Asr</i> (late noon)	Four <i>Rak'ahs</i> .
<i>Maghri</i> (sunset)	Three <i>Rak'ahs</i> .
' <i>Ishaa</i> ' (night)	Four <i>Rak'ahs</i> .

What is the virtue of *Salaah* in *Islaam*?

Salaah is considered a great virtue in *Islaam*; it purifies a person from sins, broadens the chest, illuminates the heart and makes the person tranquil, calm and attains peace of mind. Establishing *Salaah* causes the love of Allaah and winning His Paradise.

What is *Wudhoo*' (ablution)?

Wudhoo' is washing four limbs of the body; the face, the palms, the head and the feet with the intention of performing ablution as an act of worship (and not solely for cleanliness). This is mandatory before *Salaah*, *Tawaaf* (circumambulation around the *Ka'bah*) and touching the *Qur'aan*.

How is *Wudhoo*' performed for *Salaah*?

- Utter *bismillaah* (in the name of Allaah).
- Wash the hands up to the wrists three times.
- Rinse your mouth and nose (by sniffing water then expelling it) three times.
- Wash the face three times.
- Wash the arms up to the elbows three times starting with the right side.
- Wipe the head including the ears.
- Wash the feet up to the ankles three times starting with the right side.

What are the preconditions for *Salaah*?

There are nine preconditions for *Salaah*,

- *Islaam*; it will not be accepted from a disbeliever.
- *Sanity*; it is not obligated upon a mentally ill person.
- *Discretion*; it is not obligatory upon a child until he reaches the age of discretion.
- *Major and minor purity*; minor impurity obligates *Wudhoo'*, and major impurity obligates bathing.
- *Purity of clothes*.
- *Covering the 'Awrah* (parts of the body which must be covered); *Salaah* is not accepted from a naked person.
- *Performing it at the prescribed time*; it is not accepted before its time.
- *Facing the direction of the Qiblah* (the *Ka'bah*).
- *Intention*, which is in the heart; it is the determination (resolution) to perform *Salaah*.

What is the ruling of leaving out one of these preconditions?

Leaving out any of these nine preconditions, whether intentionally or forgetfully, nullifies the *Salaah* and it is not accepted.

What are the pillars of *Salaah*?

There are fourteen conditions of *Salaah*,

- *Standing* when capable (in obligatory *Salaah* only).
- *Uttering the initiating takbeer* (*allaahu akbar*).
- *Reciting chapter Al-Faatihah* in every *Rak'ah*.
- *Rukoo'* (bowing).
- *Rising up from Rukoo'*.
- *Standing up straight after Rukoo'*.
- *Sujood* (prostrating).

- Rising from *Sujood*.
- Sitting between the two *Sujoods*.
- Tranquility during all pillars of *Salaah*.
- The final *Tashahhud*.
- *Tasleem* (concluding *Salaah* by saying *as-salaamu 'alaykum wa rahmatullaah*).
- Sitting during *Tashahhud* and *Tasleem*.
- Performing the pillars of *Salaah* in the correct sequence.

What is the ruling of leaving out one of these pillars?

Leaving out any of these fourteen preconditions, whether intentionally or forgetfully, nullifies the *Salaah* and it is not accepted.

What are the Compulsory acts of *Salaah*?

There are eight Compulsory acts of *Salaah*,

- Uttering all *Takbeer* other than the initiating one.
- Uttering *subhana rabbiyal 'atheem* at least once whilst in *Rukoo*'.
- Uttering *subhana rabbiyal 'alaa* at least once whilst in *Sujood*.
- Uttering *Sami'allaahu liman hamidah* after rising from *Rukoo*' (in the case of one leading the *Salaah* or praying alone).
- Uttering *Rabbanaa wa lakalhamd* after rising from *Rukoo*' (in the case of one leading the *Salaah*, praying alone or praying with the congregation).
- Supplicating between the two *Sujood*, saying

'*rabbighfir li, rabbighfir li*' (O my Lord forgive me).

- The first *Tashahhud*.
- Sitting during the first *Tashahhud*.

What is the ruling of leaving out one of these Compulsory acts?

If any one of these eight Compulsory acts is forgetfully left out one should perform two *Sujood* of forgetfulness to compensate.

Which acts nullify the *Salaah*?

Performing any of the following nullifies the *Salaah*:

- Eating or drinking intentionally.
- Talking intentionally.
- Leaving out one of the pillars while being able to perform it.
- Laughing audibly.
- Neglecting the sequence of *Salaah* like praying *Asr* before *Thuhur*.
- Not facing in the direction of the *Qiblah*.
- Passing wind or other nullifiers of *Wudhoo*'. (or other actions which invalidate the *Wudhoo*')
- Excessive movement.
- Preceding the *Imaam* (one leading the *Salaah*).

The Third pillar: *Zakaah*

What is *Zakaah*?

It is an obligatory portion from a person's wealth and property to be spent on the poor, needy and those who are eligible.

What is the ruling of *Zakaah*?

Zakaah is an obligation upon each *Muslim* (male and female) who possesses the *Nisaab* (the minimum amount of property), and has possessed it for a full lunar year.

What is the wisdom behind legislating *Zakaah*?

- Purification of the believer's soul and cleansing it from miserliness and stinginess.
- Fulfills the requirements of the poor and needy Muslims.
- Joins disparate hearts in belief and Islam.
- Purification and increase of wealth.
- Spreads the spirit of solidarity and love between community members.

What are the preconditions of *Zakaah*?

There are four preconditions of *Zakaah*,

- *Islaam*; it will not be accepted from a disbeliever or an apostate.
- Possessing *Nisaab*; the minimum amount of property.
- Possessing it for a *Hawl* (full lunar year).
- Having full control over the property and freedom in its usage.

What is the type of wealth on which *Zakaah* is required?

Zakaah is required on four things:

First: Produce of the earth, grain, fruits, minerals, and buried treasures

Second: Gold, silver and money.

Third: Goods of any type which are owned in order to be sold, like real estate, animals or shops.

Fourth: Livestock, which are camels, cattle, sheep or goats (those free grazing only).

What is the *Zakaah* amount on wealth once it reaches the *Nisaab*?

Zakaah is 2.5%.

The Fourth pillar: *Siyaam*

What is *Siyaam*?

It is abstaining from food, drink, sexual intercourse and everything that nullifies the fast from dawn until sunset with the intention of drawing closer to Allaah.

What is the ruling of *Siyaam*?

Siyaam is an obligation upon each *Muslim* (male and female) who reaches the age of puberty, is sane and capable of observing the fast.

What is the wisdom behind legislating *Siyaam*, and what are its benefits?

- *Siyaam* is one of the greatest ways of pleasing Allaah and gaining reward.
- It weakens the sexual desire, and trains people to be patient and determined.
- It organizes and trains a person to give up for the sake of others and to be compassionate towards the poor.
- It has many medical benefits, like cleansing the intestines, improving the condition of the

stomach, and clearing the system from accumulated waste.

- Empties the heart and enables it to ponder upon the greatness of Allaah.

What nullifies *Siyaam*?

There are eight things which nullify *Siyaam*:

- Sexual intercourse during the day in *Ramadhaan*.
- Ejaculation caused by kissing, hugging or any other method short of intercourse.
- Intentional eating or drinking.
- Anything which replaces food and drinks, like I.V.
- Cupping (blood-letting).
- To induce vomiting intentionally.
- Menstruation and post-partum bleeding.
- Apostasy.

What conditions allow a person to break his fast during *Ramadhaan*?

It is allowed for a sick person and a traveler but they have to make up for these days later.

What are the etiquettes and *Sunnah* during *Siyaam*?

There are many etiquettes and acts of *Sunnah* during *Siyaam*, such as:

- Hasten to *Iftaar* (break the fast) immediately after sunset.
- Eat *Suhoor* (food eaten just before dawn).
- Shun sexual relations with spouse, deceitful speech and all prohibitions.
- Open the fast *Iftaar* with dates, otherwise with water.

- Supplicate at the time of *Iftaar*, because a fasting person has a supplication which Allaah will not reject.
- Do not exaggerate in eating, drinking and sleeping.
- Spend generously in charity and feed and comfort the poor.
- Recite and learn the *Qur'aan* abundantly.
- Guard the *Taraaweeh* (night prayer) with the congregation.
- Increase the acts of worship during the last ten nights of *Ramadhaan*.
- Perform *I'tikaaf* (residing in the mosque) during these last ten days and nights.

The Fifth pillar: *Hajj*

What is *Hajj*?

It is going to the sacred house of Allaah in *Makkah* to perform pilgrimage in a specific fashion (manner) clarified in the *Qur'aan* and the *Sunnah*.

What is the ruling of *Hajj*?

Hajj is one of the five pillars of *Islaam*, and an obligation upon each *Muslim* (male and female) who is capable, once in their life time.

What are the preconditions of *Hajj*?

There are four preconditions of *Hajj*,

- *Islaam*; it will not be accepted from a disbeliever.
- Sanity; it is not obligated upon a mentally ill person.

- Puberty; it is not obligatory upon a child until he reaches the age of puberty.
- Freedom; it is not compulsory upon a slave.

1. Physical and financial capability.

- Having a *Mahram* for women (i.e. a male who is allowed *Islamically* to accompany her during travel, like the father, son, brother, uncle or father-in-law).

What are the Pillars of *Hajj*?

Hajj has four pillars, the omission of any one of which will nullify ones *Hajj*:

- Articulating ones intention then assuming *Ihraam* (the state in which one is prohibited to practice certain deeds that are lawful at other times) while performing the ceremonies of 'Umrah or *Hajj*.
- Standing within the boundaries of 'Arafat on the designated day.
- *Tawaaf Al-Ifaadha* (circumambulating the *Ka'bah* after staying in *Muzdalifah*)
- *Sa'i* (Going to and fro seven times between the mountains of *Safaa* and *Marwah*).

What are the Compulsory acts of *Hajj*?

Hajj has seven associated compulsory acts the omission of any one of which will not nullify ones *Hajj*, but will necessitate expiation by sacrificing an animal and distributing it amongst

the poor and needy in the sacred area of *Makkah*.

- Assuming *Ihraam* from the *Meeqaat* (places where *Ihraam* is assumed during specific times).
- Standing in the area of '*Arafaat* until sunset.
- Spending the night in *Muzdalifah* the night of 'Eed.
- Spending the night in *Minaa* during the days of *Tashreeq* (11th & 12th of *Thul Hijjah*) for those who hasten, and the night of the 13th for those delay.
- Stoning the *Jamaraat* (pebbles) on the day of 'Eed on the days of *Tashreeq*.
- Shaving or cutting ones hair for men, but only shortening the hair for women.
- *Tawaaf Al-Wadaa'* (farewell *Tawaaf*).

What are the prohibitions of *Ihraam*?

- To cut any hair from any part of ones body.
- To cut ones nails, unless done unintentionally or part of a nail breaks off by itself.
- It is forbidden to cover the head with something that touches it, such as a hat or turban.
- It is forbidden to wear tailored and fitted clothes over any part of the body, like shirts, vests, trousers, underpants, socks or anything else.
- It is impermissible for women to cover the face with anything such as a *Niqaab* or a *Burqu'* which is tied to the face or to wear gloves.

- It is forbidden to use any type of perfume or anything else that is scented, regardless of whether it is used on the body or on the clothes.
- It is forbidden to have sexual relations with ones spouse, or anything leading to it.
- It is forbidden to get married or conduct a marriage ceremony.
- It is forbidden to hunt game, with the exception of fishing.

What are the etiquettes during *Hajj*?

A Person intending to perform *Hajj* should learn how to perform it, the description of the rituals and its etiquettes; he should not perform *Hajj* using ill-gotten or doubtful money; he should maintain sincerity and avoid boasting; take extra provisions so as to share with the poor or needy he meets during *Hajj*; adhere to all obligations and refrain from all prohibitions; pray all the prayers on time; maintain noble manners and shun harshness and iniquitous morals.

We ask Allaah to enable us to learn and act upon what we learn, *Aameen*.