

Salatul-Ayat

Salatul-Ayat¹

1. This *Salat* becomes *Wajib* when some natural event happens causing fear, such as abnormal yellow and black wind, thunderbolts etc.
2. It also becomes *Wajib* when there is an earthquake, a solar or a lunar eclipse², total or partial, causing fear or not.

How to Perform Salatul-Ayat

How to perform *Salatul-Ayat*³

Salatul-Ayat consists of two *Rak'ahs*, like *Salatus-Subh*, with the difference that in *Salatus-Subh* we do one *Ruku* in each *Rak'ah*, while in *Salatul-Ayat* we have five *Rukus* in each *Rak'ah*. So, this *Salat* consists of two *Rak'ahs* with ten *Rukus*, to be performed as follows:

1. We make the *Niyah*, the *Takbiratul-Ihram*, recite *SuratulFatihah* and a *Surah*, and we go to the *Ruku*.
2. We return to *Qiyam*, recite *Al-Fatihah* and a *Surah*, and go to the *Ruku*.
3. We return to *Qiyam* for the third time and recite *Al-Fatihah*, and a *Surah*, then we go to the *Ruku*.
4. We stand up for the fourth time, recite *Al-Fatihah*, and a *Surah*, then we go to the *Ruku*.
5. We stand up for the fifth time, recite *Al-Fatihah*, and a *Surah*, and it is *Mustahabb* to do the *Qunut* here, then we go to the *Ruku*.
6. After raising our heads from the fifth *Ruku* we go down to perform the two *Sajdahs*, then we stand up, recite and repeat the five *Rak'ahs* as before, it is also *Mustahabb* to do the *Qunut* before the fifth *Ruku*. Then we go down, make the two *Sajdahs*, then recite the *Tashahhud* and finish by the *Raslim*.

Rules to be Observed in Salatul-Ayat

There are certain rules concerning this *Salat* which must be observed in order to carry out our duties as best as we can.

1. All the conditions required for the daily *Salats* are to be observed here, such as *Taharah*, orientation towards the *Qiblah*, etc.
2. The time assigned for performing the *Salat* because of the lunar or solar eclipse starts with beginning of the eclipse till its end.
3. For the *Salatul-Ayat* to become *Wajib*, the natural event must happen in the country of the *Mukallaf*. If it happens in another country, the *Salat* would not be *Wajib* upon him.
4. As regarding the natural incidents, such as earthquakes, thunderbolts, storms, etc., of which we are not informed until they are finished, like when an earthquake takes place while we are asleep and we know nothing about the event, the *Qada* of *Salatul-Ayat* is to be performed, after being informed about it.
5. In cases of the lunar and solar eclipses, of which we are not informed until they are over, if they were total eclipses, the *Salatul-Qada* would be *Wajib* upon us, but it would not be *Wajib* if the eclipses were partial.

Discussion

Q1. Explain what your religious duty would be in the following cases:

- a. If it was broadcast that an earthquake had happened in a foreign country, would it be *Wajib* upon you to perform *Salatul-Ayat* or not?
- b. When you witness a partial solar eclipse in your country.
- c. A total lunar eclipse takes place in your country, but you learn about it the next day.

Q2. Compare between *Salatus-Subh* and *Salatul-Ayat*.

Q3. Is it necessary to be *Tahir* and to face the *Qiblah* in *Salatul-Ayat*?

1. Our respected brother teachers are requested to demonstrate this *Salat* to the students.
2. The Hanafis, the Shafi'is, the Malikis, and the Hanbalis say that the eclipse *Salat* is a recommended tradition, not *Wajib*.
3. It has no specific form in the opinion of the Hanafis, except that it is two *Rak'ahs*, each with a single *Qiyam* and a single *Ruku*, and one may perform two, four or more *Rak'ahs*. According to the Hanbalis, the Shafi'is and the Malikis, it is two *Rak'ahs*; each *Rak'ah* has two *Qiyams* and two *Rukus*. In the first *Rak'ah*, the *Musalli* should say first the *Takbir*, recite the *Al-Fatihah* and a *Surah*, then do the *Ruku*, and the *Qiyam*, recite *Al-Fatihah* and a *Surah*, do the *Ruku* and the *Sujud*, then stand for the second *Rak'ah* to do or repeat the same acts and recitation as he did in the first.

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