

## The Daily Salats [Prayers]

Allah, the Exalted, has enjoined upon us that we should perform the *Salat* five times a day as follows:

1. *Salatus-Subh*, consisting of 2 *Rak'ahs*.
2. *Salatuz-Zuhr*, consisting of 4 *Rak'ahs*.
3. *Salatul-Asr*, consisting of 4 *Rak'ahs*.
4. *Salatul-Maghrib*, consisting of 3 *Rak'ahs*.
5. *Salatul-Isha*, consisting of 4 *Rak'ahs*.

### Some Conditions of the Validity of the Salat

The *Salat* which we perform must meet certain conditions in order to be correct and acceptable. These conditions are:

1. The body and the clothes of the *Musalli* must be ritually pure and cleansed from any *Najasah*.
2. Making the *Taharah* from the *Hadath* before performing the *Salat*, as it would not be valid without *Taharah*. So, we have to perform the *Wudu* to attain the *Taharah* from *Al-Hadathul-Asghar*, or we have to perform the *Ghusl* to attain the *Taharah* from *Al-Hadathul-Akbar*, such as the *Hayd* or the *Janabah*, if needed.
3. The ground on which we place our forehead for the *Sujud* must be *Tahir*<sup>1</sup>. So, in order that our *Salat* be correct, we must prostrate on a *Tahir* place, such as a *Tahir* ground, a *Tahir* mat made of straw, and the like.
4. The spot on which we perform the *Salat* must be *Mubah* (permissible), as to perform it on a usurped land makes it *Batil*.<sup>2</sup>

5. We know that stealing and usurping the properties of the people is *Haram*, according to the Islamic teachings. So, if somebody has usurped or stolen a dress, or if he has usurped some money or stolen it and bought with it a dress, his *Salat*, in that dress, would be incorrect and *Batil*.<sup>3</sup>

6. The *Qiblah*. In a correct *Salat* we must stand facing *Al-Baytul Haram*, the *Qiblah* [in Mecca]. All *Salats* are to be performed, while facing the *Qiblah*:

7. Covering the private parts.

8. The men are not allowed to wear a natural silk<sup>4</sup> dress during the *Salat*, nor are they allowed to wear anything made of gold. As to the women, they are allowed to wear both natural silk and gold jewellery.

## A Woman's Dress in the Salat

The dress of a woman in the *Salat* must cover her body, head, hair and neck, with the exception of her face, hands and feet.<sup>5</sup>

## Discussion

Q1. How many *Rak'ahs* are *Salatus-Subh* and *Salatul-Asr*?

Q2. If a woman performed her *Salat* bare-headed, would her *Salat* be correct or *Batil*?

Q3. Fill in the blank: In all our *Salats* we must stand facing the....

Q4. Count briefly, the conditions for the correct *Salat*.

<sup>1.</sup> The four sects say that the place for the *Salat* must be *Tahir* from the *Najasah*. The *Shafi'is*, say that everything which touches the body or the dress of the *Musalli* must be *Tahir*. The *Hanafis* say that only the places of the feet and the forehead must be *Tahir*.

<sup>2.</sup> The four sects say that the *Salat* on a usurped place is correct but the *Musalli* would be committing a sin.

<sup>3.</sup> The four sects say that the *Salat* would be correct.

<sup>4.</sup> The *Shafi'is* say that if the *Musalli* wore a pure silk dress or performed the *Salat* on it, his *Salat* would be correct, but he would be committing a sin.

<sup>5.</sup> The *Hanafis* say: A woman has to cover the outer part of her hands and the sole of her feet. The *Shafi'is* and the *Malikis* say, a woman is allowed to uncover her face, her hands and feet during her *Salat*. The *Hanbalis* say: She is allowed only to uncover her face.

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