How Do I Pray?

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Imam Mohamed Baianonie
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Salah is the second pillar of Islam. It refers to the compulsory daily prayers. Salah is offered five times a day individually or in congregation.

We offer Salah to remember Allah and bring us closer to Him. Allah says in the Noble Qur'an, what can be translated as, “Establish Salah to remember Me (Allah).” (Qur'an, 20:14)

Salah is proof of our faith in Allah and Islam. It has been made compulsory at certain times of the day. Allah says in the Noble Qur'an, what can be translated as, “Salah at fixed times has been enjoined on the believers.” (Qur'an, 4:103)

The five daily prayers are: Fajr, Dhuhr, Asr, Maghrib and Isha'.
Preparation to Perform *Salah*

To perform your *Salah* you must be clean and pure. *Allah* says in the Noble *Qur'an*, what can be translated as, “Surely *Allah* loves those who turn to Him and those who care for cleanliness.” (2:222)

إن الله يحب التوابين ويحب المتطهرين

Cleanliness of the body, clothing, and the places where the prayer is performed is called *Taharah* (purification).

Some impurities that must be removed before performing *Salah*:

1. Human urine.
2. Human Excrement.
3. *Wadi*: A thick white secretion that might be discharged after urination.
4. *Mathi*: A white sticky prostatic fluid, (other than sperm or semen).
5. Menstrual blood.
6. Defecation and urine of animals whose meat is not permissible to eat (carnivores, such as lions).
7. Dog saliva.
8. Water remaining after a carnivore has drunk from it.

**HOW TO PURIFY THINGS**

In general, water can purify anything that is impure.

One must remove all impurities from his/her private parts by using any pure matter (i.e. toilet tissue) three times, or by using water, or both.
1. **Purifying the body and clothing:**
   This is performed by washing them with water until they are cleansed of impurities. This is especially important in the case where the impurity is visible, such as menstrual blood. If there are some difficult stains that remain after washing, they can be overlooked. If the impurity is not visible, such as urine, it is sufficient to wash it once, but preferable to wash it three times.

2. **Purifying clothing from a male infant’s urine:**
   This is performed by sprinkling water on the stained clothing. If it is stained by the urine of a female infant, then it must be washed.

3. **Purifying the bottom of shoes:**
   This is performed by rubbing them against the ground until the remains of *Najassah* (impurity) are removed.

4. **Purifying the ground:**
   (a) Pour water over the impurity on the ground (soil or sand).
   (b) Allowing the ground (soil or sand) to dry from the impurity (such as urine) will make the area pure, only if there are no visible traces of the impurity left.

5. **Purifying utensils if they were touched by dog saliva:**
   This is performed by washing the utensil seven times with water. The first cleansing should be mixed with soil. However, if the saliva has touched the body or clothing, then only one cleansing is needed.

   The body must also be free of *Hadath* (ritual impurities).

**There are two kinds of Hadath:**

1. **Minor Hadath:**
   This requires *Wudu* (ablution). It happens after one or more of the following occurs: natural discharges like urine, excrement, passing gas, falling asleep, or unconsciousness of any kind.
2. **Major Hadath:**
This requires washing the whole body. It could be caused by unconscious ejaculation (e.g. in one's sleep), intercourse, menstruation or post-childbirth bleeding. This type of washing requires bathing the whole body, including, the head with pure water.
**WUDU (Ablution)**

Before we perform *Salah* we must first prepare ourselves. This preparation includes making sure that we are clean from any physical impurities and performing *Wudu*.

*Wudu* (ablution) is required for performing *Salah*. We cannot offer our *Salah* without first making *Wudu*. Here are the steps to take:

1. First, make the *Niyyah* (intention) in your heart that this act of *Wudu* is for the purpose of preparing for *Salah*, and say: "*Bismillah*" (in the name of *Allah*).

2. Wash both hands up to the wrists (starting with the right hand) three times, making sure that water has reached between the fingers.

3. Take water with your right hand, put it into your mouth and rinse thoroughly three times.
4. Take water with your right hand, splash it into your nose and blow it out three times. (Use the left hand if necessary to help blow it out).

5. Wash your whole face three times repeatedly. (The whole face includes: the right ear to the left ear, and the forehead to the bottom of the chin).

6. Wash the right arm thoroughly from wrist to elbow three times, and make sure that no part of the arm has been left unwashed. Repeat with the left arm.
7. Move the palms of the wet hands lightly over the head, starting from the top of the forehead to the back of the head, and passing both hands over the back of the head to the neck, and then bringing them back to the forehead.

8. With the same water, rub the grooves and holes of both ears with the wet index fingers, while also passing the wet thumbs behind the ears from the bottom upward.
9. Finally, wash both feet to the ankles three times, starting with the right foot. Make sure that water has reached between the toes and covered the rest of the foot.

At the end of the above steps recite: "Ashhadu alla ilaha illallahu, wa ash-hadu anna muhammadan abduhu wa rasuluhu."

"أشهد أن لا إله إلا الله وحده لا شريك له، و أشهد أن محمدًا عبده و رسوله"

This means:
“I bear witness that there is no deity worthy of worship except Allah alone, and I bear witness that Muhammad is His servant and His messenger.”

**What Nullifies Wudu:**

1. Natural discharges: urine, stool, gas, etc.
2. Falling asleep.
3. Unconsciousness of any kind.
Note: If you put on your socks, shoes, or sandals (only those that cover most of the foot) while you have a valid *Wudu*, it is not necessary to take them off every time you need to renew your *Wudu*. You can leave them on and wipe the top of each covered foot once with wet hands in place of washing the entire foot. You may do this up to twenty-four hours, or for three days if you are on travel.
**Ghusl (Bathing)**

Ghusl is bathing the whole body with water. You must clean your body from any impurities, if any.

Make the Niyyah (intention) in your heart that this act of Ghusl is for the purpose of preparing for Salah. It is recommended to make Ghusl in the following order: make Wudu, wash the head including the hair, wash the right side of your body from the shoulder to the foot three times, and finally wash the left side of the body. Ghusl is required for performing Salah in the following cases:

1. **Janabah** (major ritual impurities): The discharge of seminal secretions or sexual intercourse.
2. At the end of a menstrual period.
3. At the end of postpartum bleeding.

**Tayammum (Dry Ablution)**

You may perform your Salah by preceding it with Tayammum as a substitute for Wudu or Ghusl when:

1. A person cannot find water, or the amount available is insufficient.
2. A person has no access to water.
3. A person is saving the water for later use.
4. A person is sick and cannot use water.
5. The use of water is likely to do harm, cause or worsen an illness, or delay the cure.
6. The performance of Wudu will cause the person to miss a funeral or Eid prayer that cannot be made up.
In any of these instances it is permissible to make *Tayammum*, which is performed as follows:

1. First, make *Niyyah* (intention) in your heart that this act of *Tayammum* is for the purpose of preparing for *Salah*, and say: "*Bismillah.*"

2. Strike both hands slightly on pure earth, sand, stone, or concrete.

3. Shake off hands to remove debris and wipe the whole face.
4. Repeat step #2 and wipe the right arm down to the elbow (or only to the wrist) with the left hand and the left arm down to the elbow (or only to the wrist) with the right hand.
What *Tayammum* Makes Permissible:

After performing *Tayammum* a person is pure and may do any of the acts requiring ritual purification, such as prayer.

What Nullifies *Tayammum*:

Everything that nullifies an ablution nullifies *Tayammum*. If a person prays after performing *Tayammum* and then finds water, he does not need to repeat his prayer even if there is time left to do so. However, once there is no longer a valid excuse for *Tayammum*, the person must make *Wudu* before offering the next prayer.
The Time of the Five Daily Prayers:

- **Fajr**: From dawn until just before sunrise.
- **Dhuhr**: After the sun’s zenith until late afternoon.
- **Asr**: From late afternoon until just before sunset.
- **Maghrib**: From sunset until just before twilight (when the sky turns completely dark).
- **Isha’**: From twilight until dawn.

All these prayers must be prayed at the times mentioned above. However, there are exceptions for when it is permissible to combine prayers. For example, *(Dhuhr and Asr)* or *(Maghrib and Isha’)* may be prayed right after each other. You can combine these two prayers when you are traveling, if you are sick, very sleepy, very tired, or if you cannot control your schedule (classes or work). These are the exceptions and should not become the norm.

If you are praying at the *Masjid* (mosque) in a congregation, and there are bad weather conditions, like rain, snow, ice, etc., then it is permissible to combine these pairs of prayers. You can pray the earlier prayer at the time of the later prayer or vice versa.

**Adhan: (The Call to Prayer)**

The *Adhan* is an announcement of the prayer times and it is used to call Muslims to the prayers. The person who gives the *Adhan* is called the *Mu'adhin* ( Caller). It is preferred that the *Mu'adhin* has a beautiful voice. While calling for prayer, he stands facing the *Qiblah* and raises his hands to his ears, and calls out:

"*Allahu Akbar* This means: *(Allah is the Greatest)*

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Ashhadu alla ilaha illallah
This means: (I bear witness that there is no god but Allah)

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Ashhadu anna muhammadar rasulullah
This means: (I bear witness that Muhammad is Allah's messenger)

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Hayya alas Salah
This means: (Rush to prayer)

Hayya alas Salah
This means: (Rush to prayer)

Hayya alal Falah
This means: (Rush to success)

Hayya alal Falah
This means: (Rush to success)

Allahu Akbar
This means: (Allah is the Greatest)

Allahu Akbar
This means: (Allah is the Greatest)

La ilaha illallah"
(There is no god but Allah)"

The first Adhan for Fajr Salah should be shortly before Fajr time to help awaken the people. The following is added after "Hayya alal Falah":

"Assalatu khayrum minan naum"
This means: (Salah is better than sleep)

"Assalatu khayrum minan naum"
This means: (Salah is better than sleep)
However, there is no need for this addition in the second Adhan, which should be made at the beginning of Fajr time.

It is strongly recommended that whenever possible, Muslim males should offer their Fard (compulsory) prayers in congregation at the Masjid (mosque).

**Iqamah:**

*Iqamah* is another call to prayer that is said just before the actual start of Salah. *Iqamah* is exactly like the Adhan, except that after "Hayya alal Falah" the following is added:

"Qad qamatis Salah"  
(The prayer has begun)  
This means:  
قد قامت الصلاة

"Qad qamatis Salah"  
(The prayer has begun)  
This means:  
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*Iqamah* is said in a lower voice and much faster than the Adhan. It is also directed to the group that is already present for the prayer.

**Fard (compulsory) Salah:**

A Muslim must pray five times a day. The compulsory prayers are called *Fard* in Arabic. Each unit of a prayer is called a Rak'ah. The Fard prayers are:

- **Fajr**  2 Rak'ahs
- **Dhuhr**  4 Rak'ahs
- **Asr**  4 Rak'ahs
- **Maghrib**  3 Rak'ahs
- **Isha'**  4 Rak'ahs

*Jumu'ah..... 2 Rak'ahs (in place of Dhuhr on Fridays)*
Shortening Prayers:
If you are traveling, then you should shorten the 4 Rak'ah prayer to a 2 Rak'ah prayer (Dhuhr, Asr, and Isha'). Also Dhuhr and Asr can be prayed right after each other, as well as, Maghrib and Isha'.

Sunnah (optional) Salah:

Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) performed extra prayers voluntarily in addition to Fard prayers. These prayers are called Sunnah prayers. Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) always prayed two Rak'ahs before the Fard of Fajr and three Rak'ahs after the Fard of Isha even when on a journey. The one, three, five, seven, or nine Rak'ahs after Isha are called Witr (odd number).

The Sunnah prayers are as follows:

- **Fajr**: 2 Rak'ahs before Fard.
- **Dhuhr**: 4 Rak'ahs before Fard and 2 Rak'ahs after.
- **Asr**: 4 Rak'ahs (less recommended) before Fard.
- **Maghrib**: 2 Rak'ahs after Fard.
- **Isha'**: 4 Rak'ahs (less recommended) before Fard
  - 2 Rak'ahs after Fard.
  - 1, 3,5,7, or 9 Rak'ahs of Witr.

The Sunnah prayers are normally offered individually and no Adhan or Iqamah is needed for those extra prayers.

**HOW TO PERFORM SALAH**

Having cleansed yourself by Wudu, you may proceed to perform Salah. Wudu is a ritual cleansing. Before you begin your Salah, however, you must make sure that you have a clean body, a clean place to pray, and that you are wearing clothing free of impurities. The minimum clothing required during Salah is:
A. For males: Any clothing that covers from the naval to the knees. It is preferable to cover the shoulders.

B. For females: Any clothing that covers all of the body (including the head) except the face, hands, and according to Imam Abu-Hanifah the toes and a portion of the front of the feet.

The way to offer Salah is:

1. Stand upright facing the direction of Al-Ka'bah. This position is called Qiyaam and the direction is called Qiblah in Arabic. The Qiblah in North America is towards the east with a slight angle towards the north.

2. Make Niyyah (intention) in your heart for the prayer you want to pray.

3. Raise your hands to your ears and say: "Allahu Akbar." This means: (Allah is the Greatest). This is called Takbiratul Ihram.

4. Now place your right hand on top of your left hand on the chest and look downward to the place where your forehead will touch the ground in the Sujood (prostration) and recite silently:
"Subhanaka allahumma wa bi hamdika wa tabara kasmuka wa ta'ala jadduka wa la ilaha ghairuka."

This means: “O Allah, how perfect You are and praise be to You. Blessed is Your name, and exalted is Your majesty. There is no god but You.” [Only recite this supplication, Subhanaka, at the beginning of the first Rak'ah]

Then recite silently: "A'udhu billahi minash shaitanir rajim."

أعوذ بِالله من الشيطان الرجيم
This is called Ta'awwudh, and it means: “I seek shelter in Allah from the rejected Satan.”

بسم الله الرحمن الرحيم
Then recite: "Bismillahir rahmanir rahim."

This is called Tasmiyah, and it means: “In the name of Allah, the most Gracious, the most Merciful.”

5. After this, recite Suratul Fatihah (the opening chapter) of the Noble Qur'an:


This means:

الحمد لله رب العالمين، الرحمن الرحيم، مالك يوم الدين، إياك نعبد وإياك نستعين، اهدنا الصراط المستقيم، صراط الذين أنعمت عليهم غير المغضوب عليهم ولا الضلال

>
"All praises and thanks be to Allah, the Lord of the worlds, the most Gracious, the most Merciful; Master of the Day of Judgment. You alone we worship, from You alone we seek help. Guide us along the straight path - the path of those whom You favored, not of those who earned Your anger or went astray."

You must recite Surat Al-Fatihah in each unit (Rak’ah) of the prayer, if you pray alone. However, if praying behind an Imam and he recites loudly, then it is not necessary for you to recite it.

6. Now recite any other passage from the Noble Qur’an. For example: "Bismillahir rahmanir rahim Qul hu wal lahu ahad, allahus samad, lam yalid wa lam yulad, wa lam ya kul lahu kufuwan ahad."

This means: "In the name of Allah, the most Gracious, the most Merciful. Say, He is Allah, the One. Allah is Eternal and Absolute. He begets not, nor was He begotten. And there is none co-equal unto Him."

7. Now bow down saying: "Allahu Akbar" and place your hands on your knees and say silently: "Subhana Rabbial Adhim." This means: (How Perfect is my Lord, the Supreme) three times. This position is called Rukoo’. Keep your head in line with your back, and look downward to the place of Sujood. (See step 9)
8. Stand up from the bowing position saying: "Sami'Allahu liman hamidah" (Allah hears those who praise Him) "Rabbana lakal hamd." This means: (Our Lord, praise be to You).

9. Prostrate on the floor saying: "Allahu Akbar" with your forehead, nose, palms of both hands, your knees, and toes all touching the floor. Then recite silently:

"Subhāna Rabbiyal 'A'la."
(How Perfect is my Lord, the Highest) three times. This position is called Sujood. Keep your arms away from the sides of the body and the ground.

10. Sit up from the floor saying Allahu Akbar. Sit upright with your knees bent and palms placed on them and say: "Rabbīghfir li."

This means:
"O my Lord! Forgive me."
Say "Allahu Akbar" and again prostrate in the Sujood position. Recite "Subhana Rabbial A’la" three times. Sit up from this position saying "Allahu Akbar"

This completes the first Rak’ah or unit of Salah. Now stand up for the second Rak’ah and perform it in the same way, except that you do not recite Subhanaka at the beginning, and after the second Sujood (prostration) you sit on the left leg while keeping the right foot upright and put your right hand on the right thigh, with all fingers together in a fist except the index finger. Stick the index finger straight out. Put your left hand on the left thigh. Now recite Tashahhud silently:

"At-Tahiyyatu lillahi was- Salawatu wat-Tayyibatu. As-Salamu ‘alaika ayyuhannabiyyu wa rahmatullahi wa barakatuhu. Assalamu ‘alaina wa’ala ibadil-Lahis -Salihin ash hadu al-La ilaha il-Lal lahu wa ash hadu anna Muhammadan abduhu wa rasuluhu." This means: “Greetings, prayers and goodness belong to Allah. Peace be on you, O Prophet and the mercy of Allah and His blessings. Peace be on us and on the righteous servants of Allah I bear witness that there is no god but Allah, and bear witness that Muhammad is His servant and Messenger.”
In a three-Rak'ah Salah (as in Maghrib) or a four-Rak'ah Salah (Dhuhr, Asr, and Isha) you stand up for the remaining Rak'ahs after you have done Tashahhud. For a two-Rak'ah Salah you remain seated after Tashahhud and then recite silently Assalatul-Ibrahimiyah:

"للهم صل على محمد وعلى آل محمد, كما صليت على إبراهيم وعلى آل إبراهيم, وبارك على محمد وعلى آل محمد, كما باركت على إبراهيم وعلى آل إبراهيم, في العالمين إنك حميد مجيد."

"Allahumma salli 'ala Muhammadin  "O Allah, let Your mercy come upon Muhammad and the family of Muhammad as You let it come upon Ibrahim and the family of Ibrahim.

Wa 'ala ali Muhammadin as You blessed Muhammad and the family of Muhammad.

Kama sallaita 'ala Ibrahima and the family of Ibrahim.

wa 'ala ali Ibrahima Truly You are Praised and Glorious.

wa barik 'ala Muhammadin as You blessed Ibrahim and the family of Ibrahim.

Kama barakta 'ala Ibrahima Truly You are Praised and Glorious.

Wa 'ala ali Ibrahima

Fil a'lamina Innaka

hamidun Majid."

After this say silently: "Allahumma inni a'udhu bika min adhabi jahanam wamin adhabil qabri wamin sharri fitnatil mahya wal mamat wamin sharri fitnatil masihid dajjaal. Rabbi-ghfir li waliwalidayya, rabbi-rhamhuma kama rabbayani saghira."

"للهم إني أعوذ بك من عذاب جهنم, و من عذاب القبر, و من فتنة المحيا و الممات, و من فتنة المسيح الدجال, رب اغفر لي و لوالدي ربي ارحمهما كما ربياني صغيرا.

This means: “O Allah! I seek refuge in You from the torment of the Hellfire, from the torment of the grave, from the trials and afflictions of life and death, and from the deception of the False-
Christ. O my Lord! Grant me and my parents forgiveness, and
bestow Your mercy upon them, just as they brought me up when I
was small.”

11. Now turn your face to the right saying: "Assalamu alaikum
wa rahmatullah" (peace and the mercy of Allah be on you) and
then to the left repeating the same words.

This completes the two-Rak'ah Salah.

In the three or four-Rak'ah prayers (Dhuhr, Asr, Maghrib, and
Isha) the whole procedure is repeated in the remaining Rak'ah(s),
except after Tashahhud, you say "Allahu Akbar" and stand up
and only recite Surat Al-Fatiha in Fard prayers and no other
Surah, then continue doing the rest of the actions as you have
done before (Rukoo’, rising, Sujood). Then stand again for the
fourth Rak'ah.

Also, in the last Rak'ah of any prayer, after you have made your
Sujood, sit up and silently recite both Tashahhud and Salatul
Ibrahimiyyah. At the end of any prayer, you must finish by
making Tasleem.
When to Recite Aloud or Silently:
During obligatory Fajr prayers, you recite the Qur'an aloud in both Rak'ahs. You also recite the first two Rak'ahs of the obligatory prayers of Maghrib and 'Isha aloud as well.

However, the third and fourth Rak'ahs are always recited silently during obligatory prayers. Also, in the Dhuhr and Asr prayers, the recitation is always silent for all four Rak'ahs.

Furthermore, the one who leads Jumu'ah prayers (Friday prayer in place of Dhuhr) will recite the Qur'an aloud.

Salatul Witr:

The Witr (odd number) prayer is extra prayers that the Prophet practiced and highly encouraged Muslims to practice as well. He (pbuh) never left it even when traveling. You can offer Witr prayers anytime after 'Isha' until the time for Fajr prayer. You may choose to pray one, three, five, seven, or nine Rak'ahs.

In Witr prayers, recite Suratul Fatihah and some other verses from the Qur'an. Before or after Rukoo' of the last Rak'ah raise your hands high up to the level of the shoulders and supplicate the following Du'a (supplication) with your hands raised towards the
This Du'a is called Du'a al-Qunut:

"Allahumma Ihdeni Fiman Hadayt, Wa A'feni Fiman A'fayt, Watawallani Fiman Tawallayt, Wabarek li Fima A'atayt, Waqeni Sharra Ma Qadayt, Fainaka Taqdi WalaYuqda 'Alayk, Wainnahu La Yadhilu Man Walayt, Tabarakta Rabbana Wat'alayt."

This means: “O Allah, guide me among those whom You have guided. Grant me safety among those whom You have granted safety. Take me into Your charge among those whom You have taken into Your charge. Bless me in what You have given me. Protect me from the evil that You have decreed, for You decree and nothing is decreed for You. And there is no humiliation for whom You take as a ward. Blessed and exalted are You, our Lord.”

After this, say: "Allahu Akbar" and bow down and complete the rest of prayer like other prayers.

It is good to ask for forgiveness and mercy from Allah at the end of your Salah. You can say this in your own words and in your own language. But it is better for you to memorize some Du'as (supplications prayers) from the Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) in Arabic.
What Invalidates *Salah*:

1. Willful negligence of any essential posture of *Salah* like *Rukoo’, Sujood, etc.*
2. Talking.
3. Laughing.
4. Eating or drinking.
5. Uncovering parts of the body that should be covered.
6. Diverging from the direction of the *Qiblah*.
7. Excessive movement, which is not part of *Salah*.
8. Anything that nullifies *Wudu*.

What is permissible to do during *Salah*:

- To carry a baby during prayer, if the need arises
- To pray with shoes on, if the shoes are free from any impurities
- To take a few steps while keeping shoulders facing the *Qiblah*, if needed
- To move your palm slightly to return a greeting
- To say *SubhanAllah* for males, and to clap for females, to indicate to the Imam that a mistake occurred and needs to be corrected
- To correct and help the Imam if he has made a mistake in his recitation
- To make necessary movements when needed such as: wiping the nose, scratching, etc.
If any emergency arises during prayer and you must leave prayer you should make one *Tasleem* to the right side only, take care of the matter quickly, and complete the prayer from where you ended. If the matter takes a long time, then redo the prayer from the start.

**What to do when you miss Salah:**
If you miss a prayer you have to make it up as soon as you wake up or remember. Prayers must be made up in chronological order. For example, if you missed *Asr* prayer, and it is now *Maghrib* time, then you must pray *Asr* first, then *Maghrib*.

**What to do when praying in a congregation:**
When you pray in a congregation you will get rewarded more than if you pray alone.

If you are praying with another person, you should stand next to that person on the right, but never ahead. If there are two or more people praying with the Imam, then they should line up behind him.

We should also line up behind the Imam in straight rows. Men should pray in front, with men only. Women should pray behind the men, with women only. If a man and a woman are praying together, the woman should stand directly behind the man, not to his right.

We should follow the Imam's actions and statements, and make sure never to get ahead of him.

All gaps should be filled by connecting shoulders to shoulders and feet to feet. Your legs should be spread the same width as your shoulders.

We should not cross in front of a person who is praying.
Pray closer to a wall if possible. If not, place a barrier (chair, books, etc.) in front of you. If you are praying behind the Imam, then he must place a barrier in front of him, which would suffice for everyone praying behind him.

If you have come late to prayer and you catch the Imam before he has risen from the position of Rukoo’, then you may count that Rak’ah as if you have prayed it.

However, if you have caught the Imam after he has risen from Rukoo’, then you must follow the Imam until Tasleem. Do not make Tasleem; instead, get up and make-up the Rak’ah(s) that you missed.

If you are in doubt about how many Rak’ahs you prayed, then just take the lower number. For example, if you are in doubt about whether you prayed two or three Rak’ahs, then just count that you prayed only two Rak’ahs and make Sujood As-Sahu in the end of the prayer.

**Sujood As-Sahu (The prostration of forgetfulness):**

These are two extra Sujoods that are made at the end of prayer when you have forgotten an essential act. Sujood As-Sahu is done by making two extra Sujoods just before or after Tasleem. If you do it after Tasleem, then make the Sujoods and then make Tasleem again. These Sujoods are just like the ones done in any prayer. Performing these Sujoods will make up for your mistake.

You make these extra Sujoods if you have done one or more of the following:

- If you forgot to do the first Tashahhud
- If you added an extra Rak’ah
- If you doubted how many Rak’ahs you prayed
- If you made Tasleem before completing your prayer, complete your prayer and then make Sujood As-Sahu in the end, and then make Tasleem again.
The Excellence of Salat

Allah the Exalted says what can be translated as, "Verily, As-Salat (prayer) prevents from Al-Fahsha (great sins) and Al-Munkar (evil and wicked deeds)." (Qur'an, 29:45)

The Prophet Muhammad, peace be upon him, once asked his companions, "Tell me, if there were a stream at the door of one of you in which he takes a bath five times a day, would any filth remain upon his body?" They replied, "No dirt would remain." He (pbuh) said, "Similar is the case of the five (obligatory) Salats (prayers). Allah obliterates all sins as a result of offering them." [Reported by Imam Bukhari and Muslim]

We ask Allah the Exalted to make us among the people who perform their prayers on time, accept it from us, and grant us a great reward in this life and the Hereafter. Ameen.

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