

بِسْمِ اللّٰهِ الرَّحْمٰنِ الرَّحِیْمِ

Study of the book

FIQH US-SUNNAH

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The Call to Prayer **الأذان**

ADHAN

- The virtues and rulings of the call to prayer (Adhan)



Definition of Adhan

- A call to inform others in specific words that the time for a prayer has begun.
- It begins with the greatness of ALLAH, pointing to His existence and perfection.
- It mentions His Oneness and the denial of polytheism
- It confers the messengership of Prophet Mohammed (peace be upon him)

The Virtues & Excellence of the Adhan

- Abu Hurairah reported that the Prophet (sallAllahu alayhi wasallam) said, “If the people knew what was in the Adhan and the first row, and they could not get it except by drawing lots, they would draw lots. If they knew the reward for praying the noon prayer early in its time, they would race to it. And if they knew the reward for the night and the morning prayers in congregation, they would come to them even if they had to crawl.”
[Bukhari]
- Muawiyah reported that the Prophet (sallAllahu alayhi wasallam) said, “The callers to prayer will have the longest necks of all people on the Day of Resurrection.” [Muslim, Ahmad, Ibn Majah]
- Al-Barra ibn Aazib reported that the Prophet (sallAllahu alayhi wasallam) said, “Allah and His angels pray upon those in the first rows. And the caller to prayer is forgiven, for as far as his voice reaches and whoever hears him will confirm what he says. He will get a reward similar to those who pray with him.” [Ahmad, Nasa’ee]

How the Adhan was Legislated

The Adhan was made part of the Shari'ah during the first year after the migration to Madinah.

- Nafa' related that Ibn 'Umar said, "The Muslims would gather and calculate the time of prayer, and no one would call them. They spoke about that one day. Some said, 'We should have a bell like the Christians.' Others said, 'We should have a horn like the Jews.' Suggested 'Umar, 'Why don't we have one person call the others to prayer?' The Messenger of Allah said, 'Stand, Bilal, and make the call to prayer.'" [Bukhari, Ahmad]

Wording of the Adhan


- Reported 'Abdullah ibn (Zaid ibn) 'Abd Rabbih, "When the Prophet was to order the use of a bell to call the people to prayer, he disliked it because it resembled the Christian practice. While I was sleeping, a man came to me carrying a bell. I said to him, 'O slave of Allah, will you sell me that bell?' Said he, 'What would you do with it?' I replied, 'I would call the people to prayer with it.' Said he, 'Shall I not guide you to something better than that?' I said, 'Certainly.' Said he, 'You should say, **Allahu akbar, Allahu akbar, Allahu akbar, Allahu akbar. Ashhadu alla ilaha illal-lah, ashhadu alla ilaha illallah, Ashhadu anna Muhammad ar-Rasool-lal-lah, ashhadu anna Muhammadar-Rasool-lal-lah. Hayya 'alas-salah, hayyah 'alassalah. Hayya 'alal-falah, hayya 'alal-falah. Allahu akbar, Allahu akbar. La ilaha illal-lah.**' Then he went a short distance away and said, 'When you stand for the prayer, say, '**Allahu akbar, Allahu akbar. Ashhadu alla ilaha illal-lah, Ashhadu anna Muhammad ar-Rasool-lal-lah Hayya 'alas-salah, hayya 'alal-falah. Qad qaamatis-salah, qad qaamatis-salah. Allahu akbar, Allahu akbar. La ilaha illal-lah.**' When the morning came, I went to the Messenger of Allah to tell him what I had seen. He said, 'Your dream is true, Allah willing. Go to Bilal, tell him what you have seen, and tell him to make the call to prayer, for he has the best voice among you.' I went to Bilal and told him what to do, and he made the call to prayer. 'Umar was in his house when he heard it. He came out with his cloak, saying 'By the One who has raised you with the truth, I saw similar to what he saw.' The Prophet, upon whom be peace, said, 'To Allah is the praise.' [Ahmad, Abu Dawud, Ibn Majah, Ibn Khuzaimah , Tirmidhi]

How the Adhan is Made

There are three ways to make the Adhan

- 1) Make four takbir at the beginning and say the rest of the phrases twice, without any repetition, except for the last statement of la illaha illa-lah.
 - The Adhan would be made up of fifteen phrases, as in the preceding hadith of 'Abdullah.

- 2) Make four takbir and then repeat ashhadu an la ilaha illallah, twice, and ashhadu anna Muhammad ar-Rasool-lal-lah twice, in a low voice, then repeat them again in a louder voice.
 - Abu Mahzhura reported that the Prophet, upon whom be peace, taught him an Adhan consisting of nineteen phrases.
[Related by the five]



3. Make two takbir and repeat the "statements of witness," making the number of phrases seventeen.

- Abu Mahzhurah related that the Prophet, upon whom be peace, taught him the following adhan: Allahu akbar, Allahu akbar. Ashhadu alla ilaha illal-lah, ashadu alla ilaha illal-lah. Ashhadu anna Muhammad ar-Rasool-lal-lah, ashadu anna Muhammad ar-Rasool-lal-lah. Then repeat ashadu alla ilaha illal-lah (twice), ashadu anna Muhammad ar-Rasool-lal-lah (twice), hayya 'alas-salah (twice), hayya 'alal-falah (twice). Allahu akbar, Allahu akbar. La ilaha illal-lah.“ [Muslim]

The Morning Adhan

It is part of the Shari'ah that the caller to prayer say, “As-salaatu khairun min annaum (prayer is better than sleep) in the morning Adhan.


- Abu Mahzhurah asked the Prophet, upon whom be peace, to teach him the Adhan, and he told him, "If it is the morning Adhan, say, **as-salaatu khairun min annaum, as-salaatu khariun min annaum. Allahu akbar, Allahu akbar. La illaha illal-lah.**"

[Ahmad, Abu Dawud]

The Iqamah

There are three ways to perform the Iqamah:


- Saying the first takbir four times and everything else twice, with the exception of the last statement of la ilaha illal-lah.
 - Abu Mahzhura said that the Prophet, upon whom be peace, taught him the iqamah consisting of seventeen phrases: **Allahu akbar (4 times), ashhadu alla ilaha illal-lah (twice), ashhadu anna Muhammad arRasool-lal-lah (twice), hayya 'alas-salah (twice), hayya 'alal-falah (twice), qad qaamatis-salah (twice), Allahu akbar, Allahu akbar. La ilaha illal-lah. [Related by the five]**

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- To say the beginning and ending takbir, and the phrase qad qaamatus-salah twice. Everything else is to be said once, making eleven phrases.
 - This is based on the preceding hadith of 'Abdullah ibn Zaid: "When you stand for the prayer, say "Allahu akbar, Allahu akbar. Ashhadu alla illaha illal-lah, ashadu anna Muhammad ar-RasoolAllah. Hayya 'alas-salah, hayya 'alal-falah. Qad qaamat-issalah, qad qaamatis-salah. Allahu akbar, Allahu akbar. La illaha illal-lah.
 - The same as in the preceding, but Qad qaamatus-salah is said only once, making a total of ten phrases. Imam Malik chose this way, because he found the people of Madinah performing it thus. But says Ibn al-Qayyim, "It is not proven that the Messenger of Allah ever said 'Qad qaamatus-salah' only once." Ibn 'Abdul-Barr is of the view, "In every case, it is said twice."

What is said during the Adhan

It is preferred that whoever is listening to the Adhan repeat it with the caller, except for the two hayya 'alas-salah, hayya 'alal-falah phrases, after which he should say La haula wa la quwatah illa billah (there is no power or might save Allah).

- Abdullah ibn 'Amr related that the Messenger of Allah, upon whom be peace, said, "If you hear the call to prayer, repeat after it. Then supplicate for me, for whoever makes one supplication for me, Allah makes ten for him. Then ask Allah to grant me the place of wasilah. It is a place in Paradise reserved for a slave from among the slaves of Allah. I hope to be him, and whoever asks Allah to grant me the place of wasilah, my intercession becomes permissible for him." [Muslim]

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- Jabir reported that the Prophet said, "Whoever says (after) hearing the call to prayer, 'O Allah, Lord of this complete call and of the established prayers, grant Muhammad the place of wasilah, the most virtuous place and raise him to a praiseworthy position that you have promised him,' will have my intercession made permissible for him on the Day of Judgement. [Bukhari]"

The Du'aa After the Adhan

After the Adhan, one should make individual supplications, as that is the time when they will most likely be accepted.

- Anas reported that the Prophet, upon whom be peace, said, "A supplication made between the Adhan and the iqamah is not rejected." [Abu Dawud, an-Nasae, Tirmidhi]
- Abdullah ibn 'Amr related that a man said, "O Messenger of Allah, the callers to prayer get more virtues than us." He said, "Say what they say and when they finish, ask and it shall be given." [Abu Dawud]

Conditions to be met by the caller to prayer

It is preferred that he meet the following conditions:

- It is a must that he make the Adhan for Allah's sake and not for wages.
- He should be clean from major or minor impurities.
 - Shafiyah: making the call while one is not in a state of cleanliness is permissible although disliked.
 - According to Ahmad, the Hanafiyyah and others, it is permissible and is not disliked.
- He should be standing and facing the Qiblah
- He should turn with his head, neck and chest to the right upon saying "Hayya 'alas-salah" and to the left upon saying Hayya 'alalfalah."

- He should insert his index fingers into his ears.
 - Talking of his practice, Bilal said, "I put my index fingers into my ears and made the Adhan. [Abu Dawud and Ibn Hibban]
- He should raise his voice for the call, even if he is alone in the desert.
 - 'Abdullah ibn 'Abdurahman related from his father that Abu Sa'eed al-Khudri said to him, "I see that you love the sheep and the desert. If you are with your sheep or in the desert, then raise your voice while making the call to prayer, for any jinn, human or thing within hearing distance of your voice will be a witness for you on the Day of Resurrection...I heard the Messenger of Allah say that." [Bukhari, Ahmad, an-Nasa'ee and Ibn Majah]
- He should pause between each phrase during the Adhan and be quick in making the Iqamah.
- He should not speak during the Iqamah. Some scholars dislike that he should even speak during the Adhan, although al-Hasan, 'Ata and Qatadah permit it.

The Adhan before and at the beginning of prayer time

The Adhan is to be made exactly at the beginning of the prayer time, except for the morning prayer, when it may be said before dawn (provided that the people are able to distinguish between the early Adhan and that of the proper time).

- Abdullah ibn 'Umar related that the Prophet, upon whom be peace, said, "Bilal makes the Adhan during the night, so eat and drink until you hear the azhan of Ibn Umm Maktum." [Bukhari and Muslim]
- The wisdom behind allowing the morning Adhan a little earlier is made clear in a hadith recorded by Ahmad and others from Ibn Mas'ud: "None of you should let Bilal's Adhan prevent you from the pre-dawn meal, as he is making the Adhan for those who are praying to stop and for those who are sleeping to get up." But Bilal made his Adhan in exactly the same way as the regular Adhan.

Leaving the Mosque after the Adhan (before the prayer)

It is not allowed to leave the call unanswered or to leave the mosque after it has been made, unless there is some excuse or one has the intention to return for the prayer.

- Abu Hurairah related that the Prophet, upon whom be peace, told them, "If one of you is in the mosque and the call is made, he should not leave the mosque until he prays." [Ahmad]
- It is also related that Abu Hurairah said about a man who left the mosque after the call had been made, "That man has disobeyed Abu al-Qasim (the Prophet, upon whom be peace)." [Muslim]
- Mu'azh at-Jahni related that the Prophet said, "It is the utmost apathy and sign of disbelief and hypocrisy that one who hears the call of Allah to salvation does not respond." [Ahmad and at-Tabarani]

Other related issues

- The Adhan and Iqamah for Those Who Missed the Proper Time of Prayer
- The Adhan and Iqamah for Women
- Entering the Mosque After the Prayer Is Finished
- The Time Between the Iqamah and the Prayer
- The Iqamah of One Who Is Not the Designated Caller
- Extraneous Additions to the Adhan
- Singing the Adhan, Dhikr and Adhan, To say aloud "Peace and blessings upon the Messenger" after the Adhan

QUESTIONS

Jazakum Allah Khayran

May Allah SWT increase our knowledge!
AMEEN