

# LESSON 6



# PERFECT YOUR PRAYER

How to perform the ritual prayer (Salah)



**CIL**  
Certificate of Islamic Learning

# LESSON 6

## *We shall learn about:*

- *Acts which invalidate the prayer*
- *Acts which are disliked in the prayer*
- *Acts which are permissible in the prayer*
- *Breaking or abandoning the prayer*

# ACTS WHICH INVALIDATE THE PRAYER



The following things invalidate the ritual prayer:

1. To utter a word [of human speech, as opposed to words of the prayer], even if out of forgetfulness
2. Excessive movement
3. To eat, even if a little
4. To drink
5. To clear one's throat [such that letters are uttered], without an excuse
6. To cry out loud [such that letters are uttered] or to moan, out of pain or due to a calamity, as opposed to remembrance of Paradise or the Fire [which is excused];
7. To say salaam to someone with the intention of greeting him
8. To shake someone's hand
9. To respond to someone's statement by saying 'La ilaha ilia 'Llah', or the like
10. To turn one's torso away from [the direction of] the qibla
11. To make supplication (dua) using words that resemble our [normal human] speech
12. To elongate the letter hamza in the takbir;

# ACTS WHICH INVALIDATE THE PRAYER

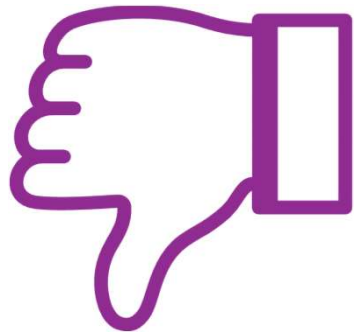


The following things invalidate the ritual prayer:

13. For one's nakedness [at least one-fourth of a limb] to be uncovered for the length of time it takes to perform an integral of the prayer
14. [For the follower] to precede the imam by an integral [or completely miss one] which the imam does not perform afterwards with the follower, or which the follower does not repeat [afterwards]
15. To carry an unexcused amount of filth
16. To miss an integral of the prayer and not make it up later before the end of the prayer.

All of the above invalidate the prayer if done before sitting, in the final sitting position, for the length of time it takes one to recite the Tashahhud.

# ACTS WHICH ARE DISLIKED IN THE PRAYER



The following things are disliked in the prayer (Makruhat):

1. To deliberately omit any necessary (wajib) or Sunnah act
2. To fiddle around (abath) with one's garment or body, without excessive movement [as excessive movement also invalidates the prayer]
3. To wipe away pebbles on the ground, except once for prostration
4. To crack one's knuckles
5. To place one's hands on one's hips
6. To turn one's neck
7. To sit with one's knees up
8. To lay one's forearms on the ground during prostration
9. To roll up one's sleeves
10. [For men] to pray in only a lower garment· [that covers his nakedness], while having the ability to cover the whole body
11. To gather one's garment close to the body before going into prostration
12. To place a shawl on one's head or shoulders, letting its ends hang down below
13. To close one's eyes

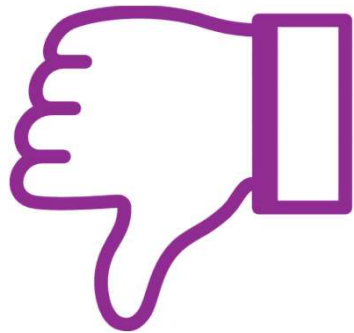
# ACTS WHICH ARE DISLIKED IN THE PRAYER



The following things are disliked in the prayer (Makruhat):

14. To yawn
15. To stretch [one's arms, exposing the chest]
16. To cover one's nose and mouth [except when yawning]
17. To prostrate with the forehead covered
18. To prostrate on a picture [of an animate creature]
19. To pray in a road, lavatory, or graveyard
20. To pray near filth
21. To pray on stolen property, in a stolen garment, or after having made wudu from stolen water
22. To pray while having the urge to urinate or defecate, or while needing to relieve oneself from gas
23. To pray in work clothes
24. To pray in a garment on which there is a picture [of an animate creature]
25. To pray with one's head uncovered, unless done out of humility

# ACTS WHICH ARE DISLIKED IN THE PRAYER



The following things are disliked in the prayer (Makruhat):

26. To pray when food has been served
27. To pray in the presence of a picture' [of an animate creature]
28. To pray around that which would distract the person
29. To pray in a congregation while standing alone in a row
30. To pray in front of a furnace or ember
31. To pray in front of people sleeping
32. To wipe dirt [or sweat] off of one's face that does not distract him, during the prayer.

# ACTS WHICH ARE PERMISSIBLE IN THE PRAYER



It is recommended for one to place a barrier in front of him when praying. If someone passes in front of him, he may take the dispensation of saying 'SubhanAllah' or gesturing [in order to ward off the passer by]. If someone passes in front of a woman praying, she may ward him off, yet without raising her voice.

The following things are permissible in the prayer:

1. To fasten one's belt around the waist;
2. To strap a sword or the like on the belt, as long as its movement is not distracting
3. To pray facing a copy of the Qur'an, a sword, the back of someone sitting, even if speaking [quietly], a candle or a lamp
4. To kill a snake or scorpion, if one fears their harm, with no more than two strikes, even with turning away from the qibla.

It is acceptable for one to pray on carpets or rugs.



# BREAKING & ABANDONING THE PRAYER

## Breaking the prayer:

It is permissible to break the ritual prayer [even an, obligatory prayer] if one is being robbed of something worth one dirham or mote, even if it belongs to someone else. A shepherd may also break the prayer out of fear of a wolf for his sheep.

It is mandatory (wajib) to break the ritual prayer if one hears a call for help from someone in an emergency, or if one fears [with reasonable likelihood] that a blind person will fall into a well or the like.

A midwife may delay her ritual prayer, even until after the time expires, out of fear for the baby or the mother in delivery. The same ruling applies to a traveller who fears highway robbers.

## Abandoning the prayer:

One who abandons the ritual prayer altogether on purpose, out of laziness, is to be beaten until he bleeds, and then imprisoned until he resumes praying.

The same ruling applies to one who does not fast in Ramadhan. He is not killed, however, unless he denies the obligation of something obligatory; or belittles it.