

# INVALIDATORS OF PRAYER

## مبطلات الصلاة

### Objectives >>>

#### Students should:

- Have a good understanding of invalidators of prayer
- Understand why the daily prayers have certain rules and appreciate that it is a form of communication with Allah (SWT)
- Learn more of the actions that invalidate prayer
- Know when prayers can be broken
- Know the Makrūh acts in prayers

### JURISPRUDENCE

### LEVEL 5

### INVALIDATORS OF PRAYERS

### REVIEW QUIZ

In the quiz below, the situations given are those occurring during your prayer. Some invalidate prayers and some do not. Using the knowledge you have gained from previous lessons, place a tick in the appropriate columns on the right. On completion, ask you teacher for the answers and give yourself a score out of 10.

| SITUATION IN PRAYER                                    | INVALIDATES PRAYER | DOES NOT INVALIDATE PRAYER |
|--|--------------------|----------------------------|
| 1. I reply to Salāmun 'Alaykum                         |                    |                            |
| 2. Wearing a shirt that I had stolen                   |                    |                            |
| 3. Forgetting both sajdahs of the same rak'ah          |                    |                            |
| 4. Crying due to fear of Hell                          |                    |                            |
| 5. My feet are not facing Qiblah                       |                    |                            |
| 6. Only eating half an apple while in Qiyām (standing) |                    |                            |
| 7. Sleeping for only thirty seconds while in sajdah    |                    |                            |
| 8. Crying because I failed my exam                     |                    |                            |
| 9. Forgetting tashahhud of the second rak'ah           |                    |                            |
| 10. Laughing loudly and uncontrollably                 |                    |                            |

## WHY DO WE HAVE TO BEHAVE IN A PARTICULAR MANNER WHEN PRAYING?

As Muslims we get an opportunity to communicate with Allah (SWT) throughout the day by praying. This is not an ordinary opportunity but a very special one because we are talking to the Lord of the Worlds, The Most Powerful. Allah (SWT), The Unique, Who sees, listens and pays attention to us when we stand for prayer. For this reason we have to be very careful that we do not show negligence and inattentiveness towards Him because that, in the least, is to be ungrateful. In this regard, Imam al Reḍā (as) says:

“Stand in from of your Lord as a slave appears before his master. Keep your feet in order and your stature (body) firm. Do not look here and there. Be as if you could see Him, and if you do not see Him, He sees you”

Eating and laughing loudly whilst talking to Him are few things that are not supposed to be done whilst praying to Him and they thus invalidate our prayer. Even if you stand in the presence of an important person and act in a rude manner, he will not accept your request or he will be unhappy with you. Similarly, we have to be very careful to avoid all things that our Prophets and Imams have taught us that are rude and inappropriate to do when standing in front of Allah (SWT).

Further to this, it is important that prayers are said in a place where there is minimal distraction from our surroundings. As such, it is not recommended to pray in a crowded or noisy area.

## NOW LET US LOOK AT MORE ACTS THAT INVALIDATE OUR PRAYERS:

### 1. Folding hands before the body

The Prophet (saw) did not fold his hands during prayer. This was something introduced by others later and has no Islamic basis. Therefore, it is forbidden to do this during prayer and one must stand with their hands by their side or resting on their thighs.

### 2. Saying ‘Āmīn’ after Surah-al Fātiḥa

This is another thing that was introduced after the Prophet and has no real Islamic basis. The word ‘āmīn’ is not even a word from the Qur’an. Therefore, we cannot and should not say it in our prayer.

### 3. Doubts

- Doubt about the number of rak’ah in a 2 or a 3 rak’ah prayer
- Doubts about the number of rak’ah arising in the first 2 rak’ah of a 4 rak’ah prayer.

The details of this have been explained in other lessons.

### 4. Loss of the pre-requisites for prayer

- *Tahārah*. If one for instance discharges urine during prayer
- The place of prayer and the clothes of prayer have to be *Mubaḥ* i.e. permissible to use or not stolen.

### 5. Loss of Wuḍū’

If one exits the state of Wuḍū’, such as by passing gas, then the prayer becomes invalid.

## Review of Other Invalidators of Prayer

1. Eating and Drinking
2. Laughing
3. Speaking words other than the words of prayer
4. Missing out or adding acts of prayer. The detailed rules of this have been explained in other lessons.

## WHEN CAN PRAYERS BE BROKEN?

It is ḥarām to break prayers under any circumstances except in the four below:

1. In order to protect property or to escape from financial or physical harm, or from any worldly or religious purpose crucial to the person.
2. If a person whom you owe money to approaches you and demands payment and if is not possible to pay him while praying AND also if there is sufficient time to pray again, then the prayers should be broken.
3. If a person remembers during prayer that he has not recited adhān and Iqāmah before the prayers, then it is mustaḥab to break it and recite them.

4. If a person praying realises that the mosque is najis, and if he cannot make it ṭāhir during prayer AND he has sufficient time to pray again, then he should break his prayer.

### THINGS WHICH ARE MAKRŪH DURING ṢALĀT

- Turning the face slightly towards the left or right
- To shut the eyes
- To play with one's hands or beard
- To look at the writing of the Qur'ān or some other book
- To become silent in order to listen to a conversation
- Any other such act that disturbs the humility and attention of the person praying is makrūh

### Review Questions

#### 1. Why is it important to have rules of prayer?

- a. So we can have a routine and pray as a habit

---

### <sup>i</sup> References

- eHAWZA- lectures on prayer and its invalidators

- b. To maintain humility and respect for the communication with Allah (SWT)
- c. To make it look professional

#### 2. To clap your hands in prayer out of excitement

- a. Breaks the prayer
- b. Is makrooh
- c. Has no consequence

#### 3. If a person is doing taqiyyah and is forced to fold his arms in prayer, this:

- a. Invalidates the prayer and he has to pray again at home
- b. Is permissible
- c. Is Makrūh

- Islamic Laws-Sayed Sistani