

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

Basic Teachings of Islam

Salah – Prayer

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The conditions of prayer

- The following conditions must be fulfilled before offering a prayer:
- **1. Clean Body**
 - You must have a clean (purified) body
 - You must have Wudu
- **2. Clean Clothes & Place**
 - Your clothes must be clean
 - The place of prayer where you are standing and prostrating must be clean

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The conditions of prayer

- **3. Minimum covering of the body**

- When standing before Allah, Muslims should wear appropriate clothes, covering the whole body.
- For men the minimum covering of the body is:
 - from under the navel to the bottom of the knees
- for women the minimum covering of the body is:
 - all the body except the face, the hands and the feet

- **4. Timing of prayer**

- Fard prayer cannot be offered before its specific time has started (e.g. Maghrib prayer can only be performed after sunset)
- Prayer is not valid if offered before its time has started

The conditions of prayer

- **5. Facing the Qibla (Ka'ba in Makkah sharif)**
 - When praying, we must face towards Qibla
 - If we don't know the direction of Qibla, we should face in the direction that we think it is most likely to be in
 - If afterwards we find the correct direction we don't need to repeat the prayer
 - However if during the prayer we discover the correct direction, we should rotate so that we are facing it correctly

The conditions of prayer

- **6. Intention**
- *The intention of performing any action is very important*
- A person must make the intention of offering the prayer at the beginning of the prayer
- Intention can be pronounced in any language
- Intention words can be uttered with tongue OR just thought in the mind

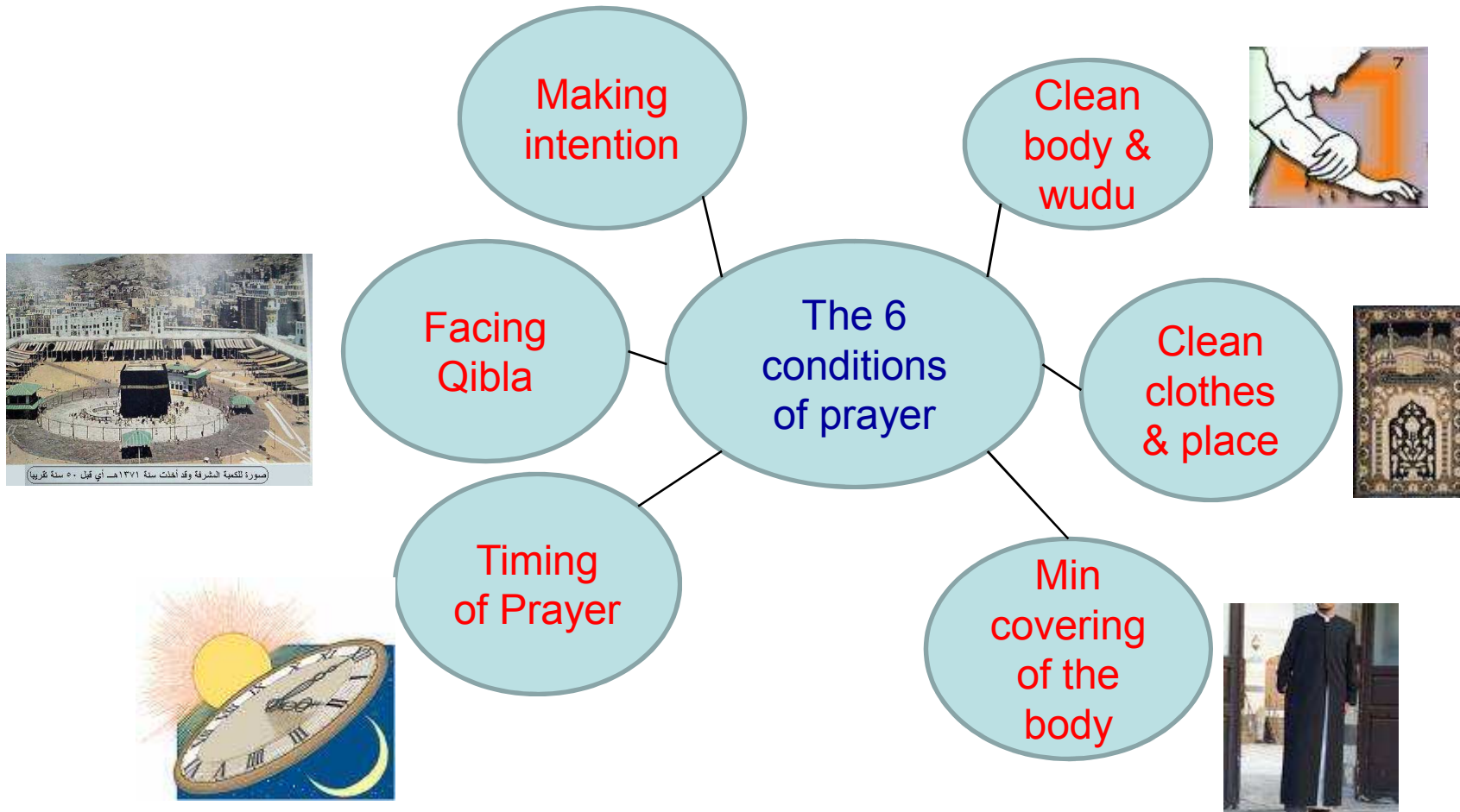
The conditions of prayer

- If a person intends to pray Zuhr but his tongue slips and says:
 - ‘I intend to pray Asr’
 - this does not invalidate the prayer because the person knows that he is going to pray Zuhr.
- The verbal pronunciation of the intention is there to help one concentrate attention on the prayer
- A slip of tongue does not matter if the intention is correct

The conditions of prayer

- **How to make the intention**
- For example for Zuhr Prayer this is how you would pronounce your intention:
 - 1. I intend to say four units of Sunnah of today's Zuhr for Allah (swt), following the Blessed Prophet, facing the direction of Ka'bah.
 - 2. I intend to read four rakat of Fard of today's Zuhr for Allah (swt), facing the direction of Ka'bah, following this Imam (if he is in congregation)

The conditions of prayer



Elements of prayer

- Every act of worship (Salah, Sawm, Hajj) consist of different elements:
 - Fard
 - Wajib
 - Sunnah
 - Nafil

Elements of prayer

- **Fard**

- Fard elements of a worship must be performed.
- If you miss fard, whole act of worship is nullified.

- **Wajib**

- If you miss a wajib in an act of worship, you must compensate for it afterwards (e.g. giving charity).
- Missing a wajib AND not compensating for it afterwards, will invalidate an act of worship.

Elements of prayer

- **Sunnah**

- If you miss a sunnah element in an act of worship, our worship will still be accepted
- But we will miss out on considerable reward from Allah Almighty
- Missing a sunnah without any concrete reason is very undesirable.

Elements of prayer

- **Nafil**
 - Nafil aspects of an act of worship are very desirable.
 - It makes our worship perfect and must not be missed.
- The more sunnah and nafil aspects of any worship we perform, the more reward we receive from Allah Almighty.
- The more reward we receive, the better it is for us in this world and in the Hereafter.