

Lesson 41

Topic: **Salat al-Ayat / Fasting**

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## **Salat al-Ayat**

### **Occasions of its obligation**

1. Sun eclipse,
2. Moon eclipse,
3. Earthquake...
4. Thunder, lightning, thunderbolt, fierce black and red winds, and suchlike if most people fear them.

If a number of events take place that necessitate the salat-al-ayat to be performed, then it is mandatory to perform one salat al-ayat for each one.

### **Immediate requirement**

It is mandatory for one to perform salat al-ayat immediately.

### **Procedure of Salat al-Ayat**

Salat al-ayat consists of two rak'ah, in each rak'ah there are five rukoo's... one surah before each rukoo'.

### **Dividing the surah**

In salat al-ayat it is permissible to divide the surah in five and recite each part before one rukoo'.

### **Combination of complete and divided surah**

It is mostahab in salat al-ayat to say instead of adhan and iqamah, "al-salah" three times.

Every one of the rukoo's in salat al-ayat is a rukn, and thus salat al-ayat is rendered void if they are increased or reduced deliberately or inadvertently.

### **Doubt in salah**

Case: If one doubts in salat al-ayat as to how many rak'ah he has performed, and one does not reach a conclusion, one's salah is void.

## **Part four: Fasting**

Fasting is to abstain from acts (*muf'tir*) that break the fast, from the time of the Fajr adhan to that of Maghrib.

Fasting the holy month of Ramadan is obligatory for every sane Muslim individual who has reached the age of adolescence (*bolooah*).

Fasting is forbidden on the days of Eid al-Fitr and Eid al-Adha.

It is makrooh to fast on the day of 'Ashura'.

Fasting is mostahab on various occasions.

### Those for whom fasting is not mandatory

- An individual who cannot fast, or if fasting is very difficult because of old age, then fasting is not obligatory for him/her.

... but it is mandatory for the individual concerned to give to the poor *one modd* of food (wheat) for every day not fasted.

- One who cannot bear being very thirsty, fasting is not obligatory for him and it is mandatory for him to give to the poor one *modd* of food for every day.

It is mandatory for him to perform the *qada'* of the fasting he has missed if he were able to do so afterwards.

- The fasting of the month of Ramadan is not obligatory for a pregnant or a breastfeeding woman if doing so would constitute harm to pregnancy or breastfeeding.

Furthermore, it is not mandatory for her to perform the *qada'* [of the fasting] if her condition continued to the month of Ramadan of the following year.

However it is mandatory for her to give *fidyah* to the poor of *two modd* of food for every day not fasted; one for not fasting and the other for not performing the *qada'*.