

The Fundamentals of *Fiqh*



Chapter 4: *Adhan* (Call to Prayer)

Lesson 6: The virtues and legal rulings of the
Adhan

Rizwan Hussain Al Azhari

Quran & Hadith



وَإِذَا نَادَيْتُمْ إِلَى الصَّلَاةِ اتَّخَذُوهَا هُزُوءًا وَلَعِبًا ۗ ذَٰلِكَ بِأَنَّهُمْ قَوْمٌ لَا يَعْقِلُونَ

- And when you make the call to prayer, they take it in ridicule and amusement. That is because they are a people who do not understand. (5:58)
- It is reported by Malik Ibn al Huwayrith that the Prophet ﷺ said: “Whenever the prayer (time) comes, one of you should make the call to prayer yourselves, and the eldest among you should lead” (Sahih al Bukhari, Book of Adhan, Chapter 17)

Definition of *Adhan*



❧ Literally, *Adhan* means ‘to make an announcement’, based of the statement of Allah:

❧ وَأَذَانٌ مِّنَ اللَّهِ وَرَسُولِهِ إِلَى النَّاسِ يَوْمَ الْحَجِّ الْأَكْبَرِ

❧ *And [it is] an announcement from Allah and His Messenger to the people on the day of the greater pilgrimage (9:3)*

❧ However, in Islamic terminology it refers to ‘the announcement with specific words, of the arrival of the time of prayer’. It was initiated in the first year after the migration and has been prescribed for this *ummah* only.

Virtue of Adhan



- ❧ There are many *ahadith* regarding the virtues of the *adhan* and the *mu'adhin* (caller).
- ❧ And the Prophet ﷺ said: "*If the people knew what (reward) is in the call (Adhan) and the first row, and they found no other way to get that except drawing lots, then they would draw lots.*" (Bukhari)
- ❧ Uqbah ibn Aamir reports; "I heard the Messenger of Allah ﷺ say: '*Your Lord is pleased with a shepherd high in the mountains who calls the Adhan for the prayer and prays. Allah says: 'Look at this slave of Mine; he calls the Adhan and Iqamah for the prayer and fears Me. I have forgiven My slave and admitted him to Paradise.'*'" (Sunan an Nasa'i)

Legality of the *Adhan*



- ❧ The *adhan* is an emphatic *sunnah* upon a communal (*kifayah*) basis for those of one locality.
- ❧ Even if one is praying on his own, he should still try to do the *adhan*. However, it is not incumbent upon him to do so, as the *adhan* of the locality shall suffice.
- ❧ There is no *adhan* for the prayers of funeral, *eid*, the solar and lunar eclipse, *taraweeh*, *witr*, *sunnah* or *nafl*.

The words of the Adhan



☆ اللَّهُ أَكْبَرُ ☆ اللَّهُ أَكْبَرُ ☆	☆ اللَّهُ أَكْبَرُ ☆ اللَّهُ أَكْبَرُ ☆
☆ أَشْهَدُ أَنْ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ ☆	☆ أَشْهَدُ أَنْ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ ☆
☆ أَشْهَدُ أَنَّ مُحَمَّدًا رَسُولُ اللَّهِ ☆	☆ أَشْهَدُ أَنَّ مُحَمَّدًا رَسُولُ اللَّهِ ☆
☆ حَيَّ عَلَى الصَّلَاةِ ☆	☆ حَيَّ عَلَى الصَّلَاةِ ☆
☆ حَيَّ عَلَى الْفَلَاحِ ☆	☆ حَيَّ عَلَى الْفَلَاحِ ☆
☆ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ ☆	☆ اللَّهُ أَكْبَرُ اللَّهُ أَكْبَرُ ☆

🌀 In the fajr prayer, the following words are added after '*Hayya alal falah*';

☆ الصَّلَاةُ خَيْرٌ مِنَ النَّوْمِ ☆ الصَّلَاةُ خَيْرٌ مِنَ النَّوْمِ ☆

Recommendations



☞ It is recommended for the *mu'adhdhin*:

1. To be in a state of wudu
2. To be pious and righteous as he is a trustee
3. To know the *sunnahs* of *adhan* and the start time of prayers
4. To insert the tips of both index fingers into the ears in order to promote the voice. Alternatively, he may cover his ears with his hands.

Additional Sunnahs



- The *Mu'addhin* should stand on a raised platform to extend his voice.
- He should call the *adhan* whilst standing.
- He should turn his face toward the right when saying '*Hayya ala salah*', and to the left when saying '*Hayya alal falah*'.
- He should call the *adhan* slowly because the Prophet ﷺ said to Bilal: "When you call the *adhan*, say it slowly, but when you call the *iqamah*, say it quickly." (Tirmidhi, Book of salah, chapter 29)
- He should face the *quiblah*

Undesirable (makruh) aspects of the adhan



- ❧ There are 5 people whose *adhan* is detested; if it is called, it must be repeated. They are;
- ❧ The child who does not comprehend
- ❧ The woman
- ❧ The insane
- ❧ The intoxicated
- ❧ The major ritually impure (*junub*)

Miscellaneous issues



- The caller should never talk during the *adhan* and *iqamah*, even if it as reply to a *salaam*, or response to someone sneezing.
- If he misses a line, he must go back and repeat that phrase and then continue without recalling anew.
- One should sit between the *adhan* and *iqamah* to such an extent that the regular worshippers may assemble in the masjid. *Maghrib* is the only exception.
- The *mu'addhin* should say the *iqamah* if he is present. If someone else says the *iqamah* and he does not consent, then it is makruh.

Iqamah



- ❧ The *iqamah* is the announcement for the commencing of the prayer and is called with the same words as the *adhan* with the addition of '*Qad qaama tis salah*' (the prayer has begun), after saying '*hayya alal falah*'. The *iqamah* must be said at a quicker pace than the *adhan*,
- ❧ The *Mu'addhin* does not have to place the fingers in the ears nor stand on a raised platform.

Answering the *adhan*



- ❧ It is narrated by Sayyiduna Abu Sa'id al Khudri that's Allah's messenger ﷺ said: *"When you hear the call, then say the same as what the muaddhin says"*. (Tirmidhi, book of salah, chapter 27)
- ❧ Answering the *adhan* is incumbent upon the listener and he/she must stop doing whatever they are doing and pay attention. The should repeat after the mu'addhin and say *'Laa hawla wa laa quwwata illaa billah'* after *'hayya ala salah'* and *hayya alal falah'*. Also, after hearing *'as salaatu khairun minan nawm'* in fajr, the listener should say *'sadaqta wa bararta'* (you have spoken the truth and done good).

Supplication after the Adhan



- ❧ Anas ibn Malik reports that Allah's messenger ﷺ said: *"Supplication is not rejected between the adhan and iqamah"* (Tirmidhi, book of salah, chapter 45)
- ❧ It is reported by Abdullah ibn Amr that a man said: *"Oh messenger of Allah! Verily, the Mu'adhins supersede us by virtue of their adhan"*. Allah's messenger ﷺ said to him: *"Say as they say, and when you have finished, then ask and you shall be granted"* (Musnad Ahmad)

Dua



DUA AFTER ADHAN

اللَّهُمَّ رَبَّ هَذِهِ الدَّعْوَةِ التَّامَّةِ وَالصَّلَاةِ الْقَائِمَةِ آتِ مُحَمَّدًا الْوَسِيلَةَ
وَالْفَضِيلَةَ وَابْعَثْهُ مَقَامًا مَحْمُودًا الَّذِي وَعَدْتَهُ

Oh Allah! Lord of this perfect call and this prayer to be established, grant Muhammad Al-wasilah (a high and special place in Jannah) and Al-fadheelah (a rank above the rest of creation) and raise him to a praised platform which You have promised him.

Salawaat upon the Prophet



- ☞ To convey blessings upon the Prophet ﷺ following the *adhan* is legally established without any dispute, irrespective of whether it is recited by the mu'adhin or someone else, for it is narrated that the Prophet said:
- ☞ *“When you hear the mu'adhin, say the same as what he says, and then send blessings upon me”*. (Muslim)