

Ṣalāt al-Layl (Tahajjud)

THE NIGHT PRAYER

Merits of the Night Prayer in Qurʾān and Ḥadīth

“And during a part of the night, pray tahajjud (as well) beyond what is incumbent on you; maybe your Lord will raise you to a position of great glory.” (Holy Qurʾān 17:79).

Prophet (ﷺ) said, “You must get up for the night prayer, for verily it was the devoted practice of all righteous people before you, and verily the night vigil is a means of proximity to Allāh and a prevention from sin.”

Imām al-Sādiq (ʿa) said, “Every single good deed that the servant carries out has a reward mentioned for it in the Qurʾān except for the night prayer, for verily Allāh has not expressed its reward because of the great significance it holds with Him...”

Method of performing the Night Prayer

The best time to pray Ṣalāt al-Layl is just before Ṣalāt al-Fajr. The prayer is made up of 11 rakʿah divided as follows:

1. Nāfilah of Night – Four prayers of two rakʿah each

The four prayers of two rakʿah each are recited like Ṣalāt al-Fajr, with the Niyyah of Nāfilah of Night.

2. Ṣalāt of Shafʿa – One prayer of two rakʿah

One prayer of two rakʿah to be recited like Ṣalāt al-Fajr. In the first rakʿah, after Sūrah al-Ḥamd (# 1), recite Sūrah al-Nās (# 114). In the second rakʿah, after Sūrah al-Ḥamd (# 1), recite Sūrah al-Falaq (# 113). One can also recite Sūrah al-Tawḥīd (# 112) as the second sūrah in both rakʿah. There is no Qunūt in this prayer.

3. Ṣalāt of Witr – One prayer of one rakʿah

One prayer of one rakʿah to be recited as follows:

- Recite Sūrah al-Ḥamd (# 1)
- Recite Sūrah al-Tawḥīd (# 112) thrice
- Recite Sūrah al-Falaq (# 113) once
- Recite Sūrah al-Nās (# 114) once
- Qunūt (details below)
- Complete the prayer as usual

Then recite Tasbīh-e Zahra.

If there is not enough time before Ṣalāt al-Fajr to recite the entire eleven rakʿah, it is recommended to recite the last three rakʿah (Ṣalāt of Shafʿa & Ṣalāt of Witr), or simply the last rakʿah (Ṣalāt of Witr).

Qunūt of Ṣalāt of Witr

1. Recite the following du`ā:

لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ الْحَلِيمُ الْكَرِيمُ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ الْعَلِيُّ الْعَظِيمُ سُبْحَانَ اللَّهِ رَبِّ
السَّمَاوَاتِ السَّبْعِ وَرَبِّ الْأَرْضِينَ السَّبْعِ وَمَا فِيهِنَّ وَمَا بَيْنَهُنَّ وَرَبِّ
الْعَرْشِ الْعَظِيمِ وَالْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ رَبِّ الْعَالَمِينَ

Lā ilāha illa-llāhul ḥalīmul karīm. Lā ilāha illa-llāhul `aliyyul `azīm. Subḥānallāhi rabbi-s
samāwāti-s sab`i wa rabbi-l arḍina-s sab`i wa mā fihinna wa mā baynahunna wa
rabbu-l `arshil `azīm. Wa-l ḥamdu lillāhi rabbil `ālamīn.

There is no god but Allāh, the Forbearing, the Noble. There is no god but Allāh, the
High, the Mighty. Glory be to the Lord of the seven heavens and the Lord of the seven
earths, and what is in them, and what is between them, Lord of the Mighty throne.
And all praise is for Allāh, the Lord of the worlds.

2. Then ask for the forgiveness of forty believers, men or women, living or dead. If
needed, you may hold a tasbīh (rosary) in your right hand to help with the count.

اللَّهُمَّ اغْفِرْ لِي

Allāhumma-ghfirli _____ (mention the name of the believer)
O Allāh, forgive _____

3. Then recite the following 70 times (or preferably 100 times):

أَسْتَغْفِرُ اللَّهَ رَبِّي وَأَتُوبُ إِلَيْهِ

Astaghfiru-llāha rabbī wa atūbu ilayh
I seek forgiveness of Allāh, my Lord, and I turn to Him.

4. Then recite seven times:

هَذَا مَقَامُ الْعَاذِبِ بِكَ مِنَ النَّارِ

Hādhā maqāmu-l `ā'idhi bika mina-n nār
This is the state of one who seeks refuge in You from the fire [of hell].

5. Then recite 300 times:

الْعَفْوِ

Al-`afwa
I ask for [Your] pardon