

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

In the name of Allah, most Kind, most Merciful



Surat an-Nisa, 4:103

فَإِذَا قَضَيْتُمُ الصَّلَاةَ  
فَاذْكُرُوا اللَّهَ قِيَامًا وَقُعُودًا وَعَلَىٰ جُنُوبِكُمْ  
فَإِذَا أَطْمَأْنَنْتُمْ فَأَقِيمُوا الصَّلَاةَ  
إِنَّ الصَّلَاةَ كَانَتْ عَلَىٰ الْمُؤْمِنِينَ كِتَابًا مَّوْقُوتًا

When you have finished the *salah*, remember Allah, standing, sitting, and lying down, and when you feel secure, perform the [complete] *salah*; indeed, *salah* is a timed instruction for the believers.

### Learning Objectives

- To list occasions when *salah* becomes *wajib*.
- To describe the method of *salat al-ayat*.
- To describe how *mustahabb salah* can help us remember Allah

### Key Words

خَوْفٌ	Khawf fear
مَيِّتٌ	Mayyit dead body
آيَاتٌ	Ayat signs



## FIQH FACTS

### Ruling 1470

*Salat al-ayat* becomes *wajib* when the following three events occur:

- 1 Solar eclipse.
- 2 Lunar eclipse.
- 3 Earthquake (based on *ihtiyat al-wajib*), even if one is not frightened by it.

And, based on *ihtiyat al-mustahabb*, *salat al-ayat* should be performed when thunder and lightning, gales that make the sky look black or red, and other similar natural events of the sky occur, provided that most people are frightened by them.

Similarly, *salat al-ayat* should be performed when natural events of the ground occur that cause most people to fear, such as sink-holes and rock-slides.

## Salah for special occasions

Allah has recommended us to pray as much as possible so that we are always connected to Him. We already know that *salah* is the most important act of *ibadah* in Islam. It is through the actions and words of *salah* that we connect to Allah and have the opportunity to improve our character, and stay on the right path.

Our bodies need food to survive and grow. Similarly, our souls also need to be fed. *Salah* is food for the soul. It is through the remembrance of Allah via *salah* that the soul is fed and kept healthy.

Allah has made certain *salahs* *wajib* on us to help us reach happiness and perfection in this world and the Hereafter. But we can reach higher levels of perfection and nearness to Allah by remembering Him more often through *mustahabb* *salahs*.

## Wajib salah

There are six types of *salah* that are *wajib*:

- 1 Five daily *salahs*.
- 2 *Salat al-ayat*.
- 3 *Salat al-mayyit*.
- 4 *Qadha salah* of one's father (this is just on eldest son based on *ihtiyat al-wajib*).
- 5 *Salah* after performing *wajib tawaf* of the Holy Ka'bah.
- 6 *Salah* that becomes *wajib* through an oath (*nadhr*).



## FIQH FACTS

### Ruling 1495

The *salah* of *Eid al-fitr* and *Eid al-adha* is *wajib* during the presence of Imam al-Mahdi (a), and must be performed in *jama'ah*. In the current time, when the Imam is in *ghaybah*, this *salah* is *mustahabb*, and can be performed in *jama'ah* or on one's own.





## HIGHER LEVEL

Pick one of the *mustahabb salahs* shown in the brainstorm listed opposite and explore it further. Note down when and how it should be prayed:

Name of *salah*:

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When prayed:

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Method:

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### DID YOU KNOW?

*Salat al-mayyit* is the only *wajib salah* for which *wudhu* is not required and it has no *ruku* or *sajdah* because it is not a *salah* but a kind of *du'a*.

## Mustahabb Salah

There are a number of *mustahabb salahs* through which we can remember Allah. Some of these are shown below; do you recognise any of them?

- *Salat al-layl*

The night prayer. The faces of those who wake up in the middle of the night to remember Allah with this *salah* are beautiful and shine with *nur*!

- *Salat ash-shukr*

A prayer of thankfulness and gratitude!

- *Salat al-walidayn*

This is a special *salah* you can pray for your parents. Whether they are alive or have passed away, this is a beautiful gift from you to them!

- *Salat al-Nawafil*

There are 34 *rak'at* of *nawafil salah* that can be prayed daily.



Rasulullah (s) had a son called Ibrahim who died when he was a baby. At the same time, there was an eclipse. Some people at the time began to say that the eclipse happened due to the death of Ibrahim.

Rasulullah (s) could have used this to his advantage and could have remained silent, letting the people believe it. But, he wanted to remove this incorrect belief.

He announced: 'O people! The sun and the moon are among the signs of Allah. They run on their courses by His command and they are obedient to Him. Eclipses do not take place on account of the death or life of anyone. So, if both or one of them get caught in an eclipse, you offer a *salah*.'

He then offered *salat al-ayat*.

## Salat al-ayat

*Salat al-ayat* literally means ‘the prayer of signs’. By turning to Allah in times of rare natural phenomenon, we acknowledge that He is the All-Powerful Creator and possesses Supreme Authority over the earth and sky.

The Arabic word *ayat* means ‘signs’. The sun, the moon, wind, water, and all of the creation are signs of Allah. The *ayat* of Allah are supposed to make us realise that He created them, and He controls them.

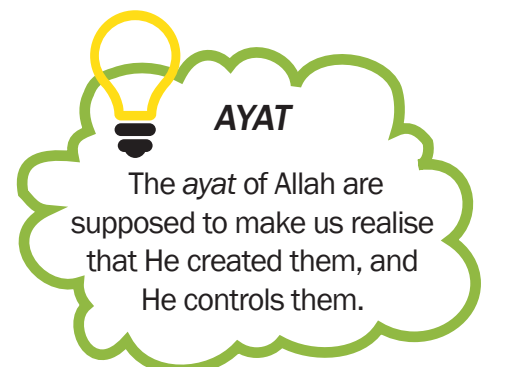
Imam al-Ridha (a) said: Surely prayers for an eclipse has been ordained because it is amongst the signs of Allah. It is not known whether it is a mercy or a punishment. Therefore, the Prophet (s) liked for his *ummah* to turn towards its Creator.



### FIQH FACTS

#### Ruling 1471

If more than one natural event occurs at the same time, *salat al-ayat* must be performed for each one of them. So if a solar eclipse occurs at the same time as an earthquake, then a person must perform *salat al-ayat* twice.



### ACTIVITY ...

In pairs, perform a live demonstration of the method of *salat al-ayat*. Observe your partner and using the flowchart as a guide, correct him or her where necessary.



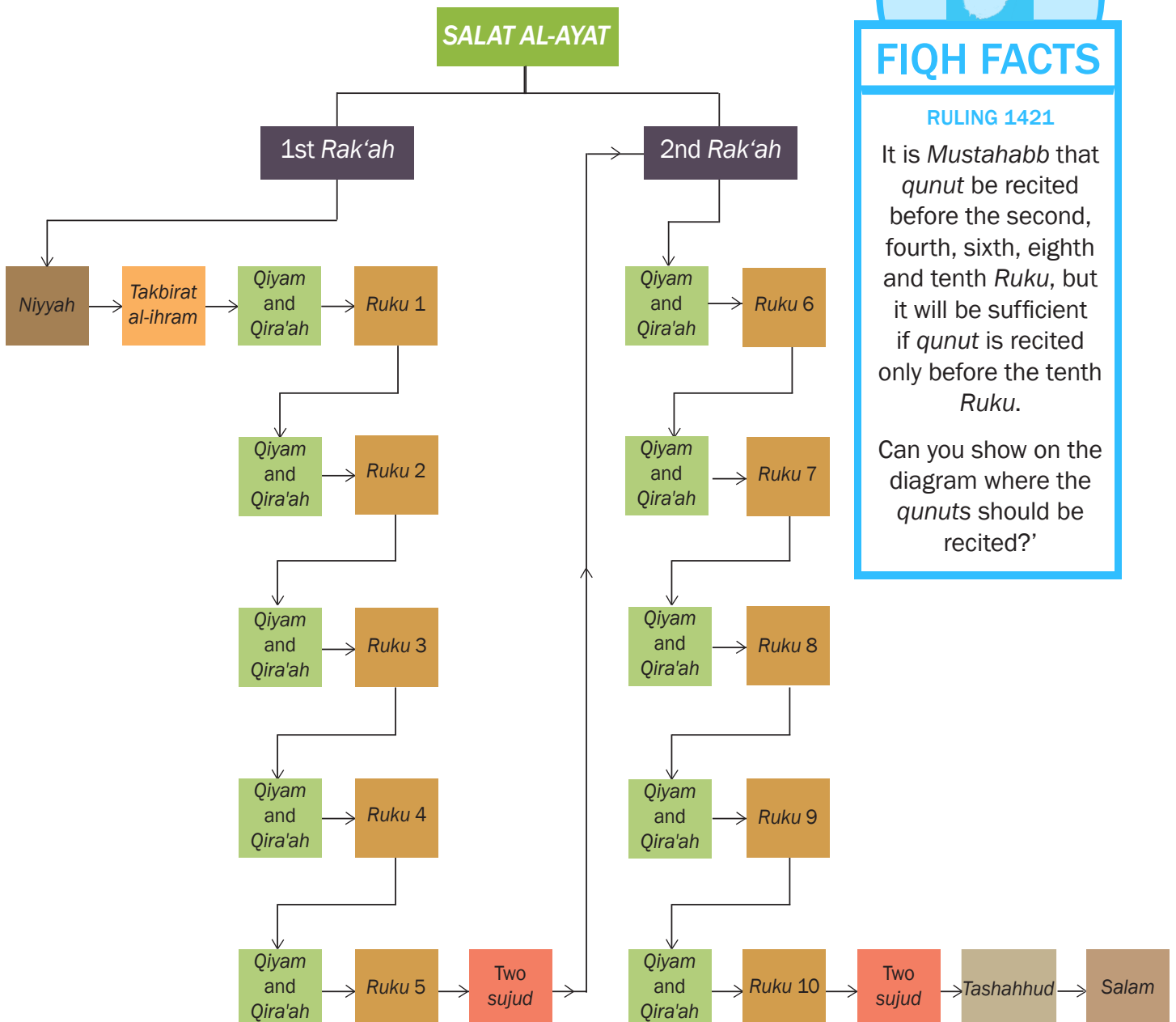
## Method of *Salat al-ayat*

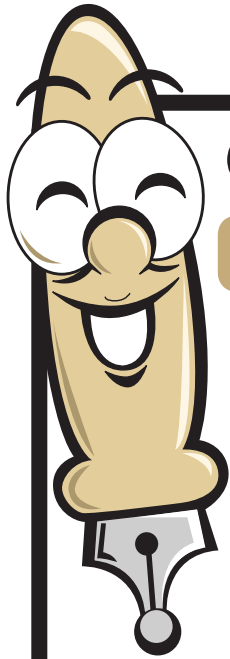
*Salat al-ayat* is only *wajib* on the people that live in the town or area in which these natural events occur.

During an eclipse, the time for *salat al-ayat* begins as the eclipse starts, and lasts until the eclipse ends. If a person does not pray *salat al-ayat* within this time, then he must pray it with the *niyyah* of *qadha*. If a person did not know there was an eclipse in his or her town and later finds out, he/she should still pray the *qadha* if it was a total eclipse. If it was a partial eclipse, and they hear about it after it is over, they do not have to pray the *qadha*.

During an earthquake, *salat al-ayat* must be prayed immediately, in a way that people would not consider it as being delayed; and if it is delayed in such a way, then based on *ihtiyat al-mustahabb*, it should be performed without making an intention of either *ada* (offered in time) or *qadha*.

*Salat al-ayat* has two *rak'ah*, with five *rukus* in each *rak'ah*.





## KEYPOINTS

- 1 *Salah* makes us remember Allah at all times; *wajib salahs* make sure we remember Allah daily.
- 2 *Salah* also makes us remember Allah at times of death (*salat al-mayyit*) and signs (*salat al-ayat*).
- 3 Through *mustahabb salahs* we can increase our remembrance of Allah and remain connected to Him.
- 4 *Salat al-ayat* is performed when there is an eclipse, earthquake, or certain natural events that create fear in people.



## Faith in Action

Check your Islamic calendar for the next occasion of a solar or lunar eclipse. Mark this date on your calendar or diary and put your faith in action by praying *salat al-ayat* on that day.



1 *Salat al-* \_\_\_\_\_ is the prayer of signs.

2 Name two occasions when *salat al-ayat* must be prayed.

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3 The Arabic word for fear is \_\_\_\_\_

4 Can you describe the method of *salat al-ayat*?

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5 Name three *mustahabb salahs*.

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