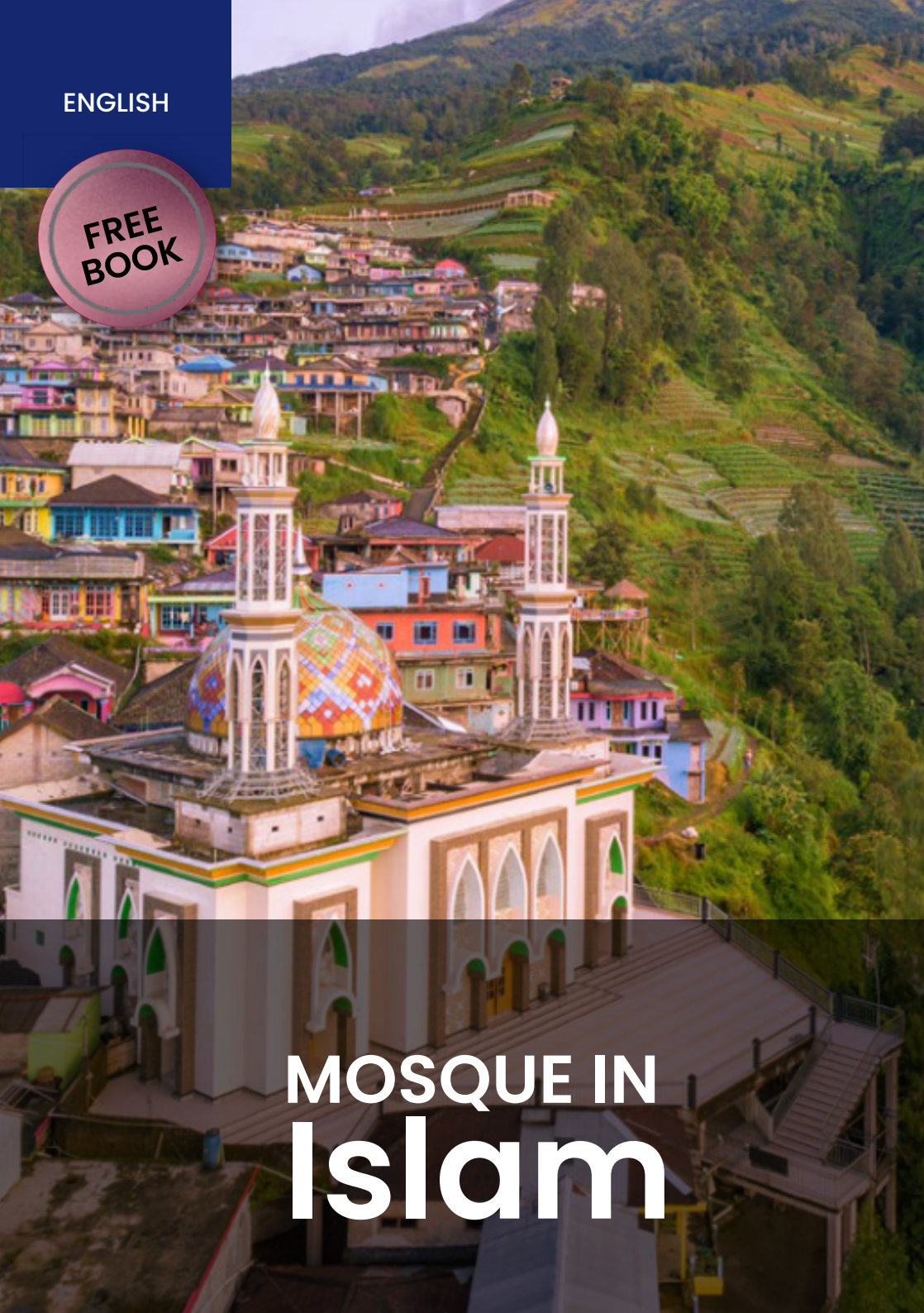


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MOSQUE IN Islam



Bismillah!

In the Name of Allah, the Most Gracious, the Most Merciful

Mosques in Islam are the Houses of Allah, the Exalted, on earth. Allah, the Exalted, says in the Holy Qur'an (meanings) {And [He revealed] that the Masjids (mosques) are for Allah, so do not invoke with Allah, anyone.} [72:18]

The Masjids are the most liked places to

upon him) said:

"The most beloved place to Allah are the Masjids." [Muslim]. The Masjids are the most purified places on earth. One's status at the Masjid is changed from misfortune to happiness and distress to prosperity. At Masjids, mercy comes down, angels encircle worshippers, and people vie in doing goodness.

The Role that the Masjid Plays in Our Life

The Masjid is a place that is devoted to establishing and performing Islamic Rites such as the Five Daily Prayers and the Friday Prayer. When the Prophet Muhammad (Blessings and peace of Allah be upon him) arrived Al-Madinah Al-Munawwarah (City the Radiant), he started by building the Masjid. The Masjid was a center for Fatwa and consultation in different affairs, for holding meetings with delegations, dispute resolution, and an abode for the poor. At the same time and place, Women shared in activities at the Masjid: performing the prayers, learning the Holy Qur'an and attending knowledge sessions, wearing their full Hijab and even with children.



Functions of the Masjid in the Muslim Society: A Place for Establishing the Congregational Prayers

The Masjid has a vital role in making Muslims united, so they become like a building whose different parts enforce each other, each other supporting the other. That is why the Messenger of Allah (Blessings and peace of Allah be upon him) supported such a concept, i.e. performing the five daily prayers in a congregation.

A Place for Education

The Masjids have been taking the role of learning and teaching. Al-Sahabah (The Prophet's Companions – may Allah be pleased with them) gained knowledge and learned how to recite Qur'an at the Prophet's Masjid. Thus, the Masjid becomes the minaret of knowledge and a facility for scholars. Then, the Masjids all over the Muslim countries became the first and only refuge for learning and teaching.

A Place for Establishing Social Brotherly Relations among Muslims

The Masjid became the best place for Muslims to perform the five daily prayers and meet one another, which may lead to making Muslims one Ummah (community) without any form of discrimination among all of them.

A Place for Establishing Self-Discipline

The Masjids are the best places for educating Muslims, strengthening brotherly ties, and implanting faithful equality in the Muslims' hearts, wherein they meet in one place, perform the prayers in congregation, with no discrimination among all of them, rulers and subjects, the poor and rich, scholars and learners, lineage and position; there is superiority between them except based on personal piety and righteousness.

Establishing the Congregational Prayers is the most vital act that Muslims Do at the Masjid

Performing the prayers in a Congregation at the Masjid ranks high in Islam for the following points:

- Gaining the great reward since each and every step taken in walking to the Masjid grants the Muslim a higher degree, a good deed in his record, and obliterates one of his misdeeds. Performing the prayers in a Congregation doubles the doer's good deeds; Prayer in congregation is equivalent to twenty-five prayers offered alone at home or any other place saving the Masjids.
- Earning the habit of those who remember Allah frequently while walking "to and fro" to the Masjid, i.e. practising different forms of Zikr (Remembrance) as mentioned in the Prophetic Sunnah.
 - Guiding the Muslim to organize his time and to follow practical time management, since he becomes careful about performing the five daily prayers at the Masjid. Thus,

time management will be part and parcel of his daily conduct and character.

- Preserving and increasing one's Iman (faith).

Allah, the Exalted, says in the Qur'an (meanings) { The mosques of Allah shall be visited and maintained by such as believe in Allah and the Last Day } [9:18]

- Allah, the Exalted, will shade the Muslim whose heart is attached to the Masjid on the Day of Resurrection.

The Messenger of Allah (Blessings and peace of Allah be upon him) said: "Seven people Allah will give them His Shade on the Day when there would be no shade but the Shade of His Throne..... a person whose heart is attached to the Masjids. "

- Earning the reward of Qiyam Al-Lail (spending the night in different types of worship)

The Messenger of Allah (Blessings and peace of Allah be upon him) said: "One who performs 'Isha prayer in a congregation is as if he has performed Salah (prayers) for half of the night. And one, who performs the Fajr prayer in congregation, is as if he has performed Salah the whole night."

The Prophet's and the Righteous Predecessors' Compliance with the Congregational Prayer:

- The Messenger of Allah (Blessings and peace of Allah be upon him) used to perform the Five Daily Prayers at the Masjid even during the time his last illness before breathing his last saving in the last days – due to his inability – so, he ordered Abu Bakr to lead the Muslims in prayer. Then, he (Blessings and peace of Allah be upon him) shared in the congregational prayer with the support of two men.

Sa'id Ibn Al-Musayeb (an honourable follower of the Prophet) said: 'I used to attend the congregational prayer for thirty years before calling the Azan.'

- Sulaiman Ibn Mahraan used to attend the congregational prayer at its very start for around seventy years in the first row. Woman and the Masjid!

Women are allowed to join all activities at the Masjid provided that:

- To be wholly covered, without adoration or perfumes.
The Messenger of Allah (Blessings and peace of Allah be upon him) said:

"Do not prevent the female servants of Allah from visiting the mosques of Allah, and their homes are better for them, but they may go out (to the mosque) having no perfumed themselves."

At the same time, children are allowed to join their parents to go to the Masjids, but their parents should teach them how to behave at the Masjids.

Abu Hurairah (may Allah be pleased with) reported that: 'we were praying with Allah's Messenger (Blessings and peace of Allah be upon him), and when he prostrated, Al-Hasan and Al-Husain jumped over his back, and when he raised his head he took them by hand gently and put them on the floor, and at the end of his prayers made them sit on his thighs.'

Our Last Call is:

**All Praises and Thanks are Due to Allah
the Lord of the Worlds.**

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