



A GUIDE FOR MUSLIM FAMILIES

# A Happy Muslim Family

The obligatory and recommended practices of husband, wife and children — from the marriage contract, through living the pillars of Islam and the personal obligations together, to performing hajj as a family

وَمِنْ آيَاتِهِ أَنْ خَلَقَ لَكُمْ مِنْ أَنْفُسِكُمْ أَزْوَاجًا لِتَسْكُنُوا إِلَيْهَا وَجَعَلَ بَيْنَكُمْ مَوَدَّةً  
وَرَحْمَةً ...

## How to use this book

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This book follows the journey of a Muslim family: from the day of the marriage contract, to bringing all five pillars of Islam and the personal obligations (fardh ain) to life with the children, to the day when husband, wife and children stand together in the Holy Land. Each stage is one chapter.

In every chapter, practices are divided into two: **WAJIB** (obligatory, or fardh), which is sinful to leave without a valid excuse, and **SUNNAH** (recommended), which is rewarded when done and is not sinful if left. Each practice also states for whom it is: the husband, the wife, the children, or the whole family.

The rulings in this book follow the Shafi'i school as practised in Malaysia. Where there is a significant difference of opinion between the schools, it is mentioned briefly. Qur'anic verses are cited by surah and verse, and every hadith has been checked for its content against the [deen2u.com](http://deen2u.com) hadith collection: Sahih al-Bukhari and the Sunan collections by number, and Sahih Muslim by the name of its book (kitab).

Some practices are popular in the community but their evidence is weak or disputed. This book states this honestly and with an open mind, together with the views of the scholars, so that your family can practise with confidence.

Do not try to do everything at once. Start with what is obligatory, then add one recommended practice at a time. The checklists in Appendices A–I can be printed and put up at home.

This book is a general reference, not a fatwa. For fiqh questions about your own situation, consult the mufti's office or your state Islamic religious office; for zakat and hajj procedures, check the current rules with your state zakat centre and Lembaga Tabung Haji (the Pilgrims Fund Board).

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Each chapter separates what is OBLIGATORY (wajib) from what is RECOMMENDED (sunnah) for husband, wife and children. Printable checklists for every stage are in Appendices A–I. Further reference at [mypolygyny.com](http://mypolygyny.com).

# 01

## CHAPTER 1 · BEGINNINGS

# The journey begins: intention and purpose

Why we marry, where we want to go together, and how to read this book.

وَمِنْ ءَايَاتِهِ أَنْ خَلَقَ لَكُمْ مِنْ أَنْفُسِكُمْ أَزْوَاجًا لِتَسْكُنُوا إِلَيْهَا وَجَعَلَ  
بَيْنَكُمْ مَوَدَّةً وَرَحْمَةً إِنَّ فِي ذَلِكَ لَآيَاتٍ لِقَوْمٍ يَتَفَكَّرُونَ ﴿٢١﴾

*"And among His Signs is this, that He created for you mates from among yourselves, that ye may dwell in tranquillity with them, and He has put love and mercy between your (hearts): verily in that are Signs for those who reflect."*

Surah ar-Rum 30:21 · tr. Abdullah Yusuf Ali

## It all begins with intention

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The Prophet ﷺ said that the reward of every deed depends on the intention, and that each person will have what he intended (Sahih al-Bukhari 1). That hadith speaks specifically of the man who emigrated for the sake of a woman he wished to marry, a sign that marriage too is judged by its intention.

A good intention for marriage is more than simply wanting to live together. It is the intention to guard oneself, to build a home that is obedient to Allah, to bring up righteous children, and to help one another towards Paradise. With that intention, ordinary things such as working to earn a living, cooking and putting a child to sleep become acts of worship.

The Prophet ﷺ said that what a man spends on his family, seeking reward from Allah, is a charity for him (Sahih al-Bukhari 55), so that even the morsel he puts into his wife's mouth is rewarded (Sahih al-Bukhari 56).

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- Renew your intention together on important days: wedding anniversaries, the birth of a child and the beginning of Ramadan.
- 
- Intention lies in the heart. But talking about your shared goals strengthens that intention.

## Sakinah, mawaddah and rahmah

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Surah ar-Rum 30:21 names three purposes of marriage. **Sakinah** is tranquillity: the home becomes a place where the soul rests. **Mawaddah** is love, shown through gentle words, touch and time together. **Rahmah** is compassion: being patient and forgiving when your spouse is weak, ill or makes a mistake.

The three do not come by themselves. They are built through daily practice: praying together, eating together, speaking kindly and helping one another. The Prophet ﷺ himself, when at home, would always help with his family's needs, and when the time of prayer came he went out to pray (Sahih al-Bukhari 676).

The final purpose reaches further than this world. Allah promises that believers whose descendants followed them in faith will be gathered together with their descendants (Surah at-Tur 52:21), and that the Gardens of 'Adn are entered together with righteous parents, spouses and children (Surah ar-Ra'd 13:23).

## A map of the family journey



### **The marriage contract and the home**

Dower, maintenance, good treatment, registration and the walimah. Chapter 2.



### **The Shahadah and creed**

Tawhid at home, taught to children from an early age. Chapter 3.



### **Prayer**

The five daily prayers, praying in congregation at home, and teaching children from the age of seven. Chapter 4.



### **Personal obligations (fardh ain)**

Purification, menstruation and postnatal bleeding, awrah, halal food. Chapter 5.



### **Zakat and charity**

Zakat al-fitr, zakat on wealth, charity as a habit. Chapter 6.



### **Fasting**

Ramadan, voluntary fasts, the pre-dawn meal and breaking the fast together. Chapter 7.



### **Children**

Tahnik, naming, aqiqah, circumcision, the Qur'an and puberty. Chapter 8.



### **Daily rights and the calendar**

Rights within the family, ties of kinship, worship through the year. Chapters 9–10.



### **Hajj and umrah**

The obligation, planning, and performing it together. Chapters 11–12.

## Obligatory and recommended: two layers of practice

### OBLIGATORY (WAJIB / FARDH)

- ✓ Rewarded when done; sinful when left without a valid excuse
- ✓ Examples: the five daily prayers, fasting in Ramadan, zakat, hajj for those who are able, maintenance of the family
- ✓ **Fardh ain**: obligatory on every individual, such as prayer and basic religious knowledge
- ✓ **Fardh kifayah**: obligatory on the community; it falls from the others once some people perform it, such as the funeral prayer

### RECOMMENDED (SUNNAH)

- Rewarded when done; no sin if left
- **Sunnah mu'akkadah**: strongly emphasised and regularly practised by the Prophet ﷺ, such as the two rak'ahs before Fajr (Sahih al-Bukhari 1163)
- **Sunnah ghayr mu'akkadah**: encouraged, but not practised by him continuously
- Voluntary prayers make up for shortcomings in the obligatory prayers on the Day of Resurrection (Sunan at-Tirmidhi 413)

## Frequently asked questions

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### **We have been married for a long time. Is this book still for us?**

Yes. Each chapter can be started at any time. Choose one obligatory practice that is still weak and one easy recommended practice, and begin this week.

### **What if my spouse is not yet ready to practise all this?**

Begin with yourself, gently. The most effective invitation is example. Remind about what is obligatory with wisdom; do not force what is recommended. The Prophet ﷺ said: "Gentleness is not found in anything but that it adorns it" (Sahih Muslim, Book of Righteousness, Ties of Kinship and Good Manners (Kitab al-Birr wa as-Silah wa al-Adab)).

### **Why does this book follow the Shafi'i school?**

Because it is the school officially practised in Malaysia. The opinions of other schools are mentioned briefly where the difference is significant and affects practice.

# 02

## CHAPTER 2 · THE MARRIAGE CONTRACT

### Starting the home

Rights and practices from the day of the marriage contract: dower, maintenance, good treatment, registration, the walimah and supplication.

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... وَعَاشِرُوهُنَّ بِالْمَعْرُوفِ ۚ فَإِنْ كَرِهْتُمُوهُنَّ فَعَسَىٰ أَنْ تَكْرَهُوا شَيْئًا  
وَيَجْعَلَ اللَّهُ فِيهِ خَيْرًا كَثِيرًا ﴿١٩﴾

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*"...live with them on a footing of kindness and equity. If ye take a dislike to them it may be that ye dislike a thing, and Allah brings about through it a great deal of good."*

Surah an-Nisa' 4:19 · tr. Abdullah Yusuf Ali

## What is obligatory and recommended from the marriage contract onwards

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### OBLIGATORY (WAJIB / FARDH)

- ✓ **Husband:** paying the dower (Surah an-Nisa' 4:4)
- ✓ **Husband:** providing maintenance (nafkah) — food, clothing, shelter — according to his means (Surah at-Talaq 65:7)
- ✓ **Husband and wife:** living together on a footing of kindness and fulfilling each other's rights (Surah an-Nisa' 4:19)
- ✓ **Wife:** obeying her husband in what is right, and guarding herself and the trust of the home (Sahih al-Bukhari 5200)
- ✓ **Husband and wife:** registering the marriage, which is compulsory under the law (Islamic Family Law (Federal Territories) Act 1984 (Act 303) s.25)

### RECOMMENDED (SUNNAH)

- Holding a walimah (wedding feast), however modest (Sahih al-Bukhari 5167)
- Praying for the couple: "Barakallahu laka..." (Sunan Abu Dawud 2130)
- Reciting the supplication before intimacy (Sahih al-Bukhari 5165)
- Praying together in congregation as a couple (Sahih al-Bukhari 645)
- Waking one another for the night prayer (Sunan Abu Dawud 1308)
- Keeping the dower and the celebration simple

## The dower: the wife's right, a sign of sincerity

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Allah says: "And give the women their dower as an obligatory gift (nihlah)..." (Surah an-Nisa' 4:4). The dower belongs to the wife herself, not to her family. It may be paid in cash or deferred as a debt that must be settled.

Islam does not impose hardship. The Prophet ﷺ told a man to look for even an iron ring, and finally married him on the dower of teaching the surahs of the Qur'an that he had memorised (Sahih al-Bukhari 5135). In Malaysia, the rate of the dower is set by the Islamic religious council or department of each state; check the current rate with your state Islamic religious office.

The law requires the Registrar to record the value of the dower and gifts, as well as any part that was promised but not yet paid, together with its date (Act 303 s.21). If the dower is deferred, make sure the amount and the date are written down.

## Maintenance: the husband's duty, an act of worship for the family

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Maintenance of the wife and children is the husband's duty according to his means: "Let the man of means spend according to his means; and the man whose resources are restricted, let him spend according to what Allah has given him..." (Surah at-Talaq 65:7).

Maintenance ordinarily covers food, clothing, shelter and other basic needs, in a reasonable manner. Act 303 s.59 allows the court to order maintenance for a wife, and s.72 makes a man liable to maintain his children. The Prophet ﷺ allowed Hind bint 'Utbah to take from the property of her stingy husband "what is sufficient for you and your child, in a reasonable manner" (Sahih al-Bukhari 5364).

A wife is not obliged to bear the family's maintenance, even if she has an income. If she chooses to help with her own money, that is her kindness and charity, not an obligation.

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- Discuss and record the family budget together every month.
  - Set a fixed amount for the wife's needs so that she does not have to ask.
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## “The best of you are those who are best to their families”

خَيْرُكُمْ خَيْرُكُمْ لِأَهْلِهِ وَأَنَا خَيْرُكُمْ لِأَهْلِي

*“The best of you are those who are best to their families, and I am the best of you to my family.”*

Sunan at-Tirmidhi 3895 · sahih

Good treatment (mu'asharah bil ma'ruf) is the duty of both parties, not merely an ornament. The Prophet ﷺ also said: “The believers most complete in faith are those with the best character, and the best of you are those who are best to their wives” (Sunan at-Tirmidhi 1162; sahih).

In practice it means speaking gently, showing appreciation, concealing your spouse's faults, helping with housework and not giving the silent treatment. The wife, for her part, guards her own honour, property and the secrets of the home, and obeys her husband in what is right, for “there is no obedience in sin; obedience is only in what is right” (Sahih al-Bukhari 7257).

## Register your marriage

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Act 303 s.25: the marriage of every person resident in the Federal Territories, including those living abroad, **must be registered**. Each state's enactment has a corresponding provision. Before the marriage contract, each party applies to the Registrar for permission to marry (s.16), and no marriage may be solemnised without that permission (s.19).

Registration does not make a marriage valid that is not valid, and the absence of registration does not invalidate a marriage that is valid according to Hukum Syarak (Islamic law) (s.34). But without registration, every right has to be **proved first** before it can be claimed: maintenance, lineage and the registration of a child's birth, matrimonial property (harta sepencarian) and shares of inheritance (faraid).

Registering the marriage is therefore part of keeping the trust: it protects the rights of the wife and children. The section numbers in your state may differ; check with your state Islamic religious office.

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- Keep the marriage certificate and the taklik certificate in a safe place, with digital copies.
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- Read the taklik pronouncement on your own certificate; the conditions differ between states.

## The walimah, supplication and a blessed beginning

In the Shafi'i school, the walimah is sunnah mu'akkadah. The Prophet ﷺ said to 'Abd al-Rahman ibn 'Awf, who had just married: "Hold a walimah, even if with a single sheep" (Sahih al-Bukhari 5167). Its size depends on your means; do not go into debt to show off. Attending a walimah invitation is also encouraged (Sahih al-Bukhari 5173).

The supplication for a newly married couple: "Barakallahu laka, wa baraka 'alaika, wa jama'a bainakuma fi khair" — may Allah bless you, shower blessings upon you, and bring the two of you together in goodness (Sunan Abu Dawud 2130; Sunan at-Tirmidhi 1091).

Before intimacy, the husband recites the supplication taught by the Prophet ﷺ, which means: "In the name of Allah. O Allah, keep Satan away from us, and keep Satan away from (the child) You grant us" (Sahih al-Bukhari 5165).

- Many people pray two voluntary rak'ahs together after the marriage contract. It is reported as a practice of the Companions, not as a saying of the Prophet ﷺ; do it as an ordinary voluntary prayer without regarding it as obligatory.

## Frequently asked questions

### **Can the dower be paid in instalments?**

Yes, by agreement. The unpaid part is a debt owed by the husband to the wife; record the amount and the date in the register (Act 303 s.21).

### **My wife works. Is maintenance still obligatory?**

Yes. The duty of maintenance does not lapse because the wife has an income. A wife's income is her own right; if she helps, that is her kindness.

### **We cannot afford a large walimah. Should we wait?**

No. The walimah can be kept simple. At one of the Prophet's ﷺ walimahs, the food was only dates, dried cheese and ghee (Sahih al-Bukhari 5387).

# 03

CHAPTER 3 · THE FIRST PILLAR OF ISLAM

## The Shahadah: creed at home

The two declarations that are the foundation of all of life — understood, lived and taught to children.

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وَإِذْ قَالَ لُقْمَانُ لِابْنِهِ وَهُوَ يَعِظُهُ يَا بُنَيَّ لَا تُشْرِكْ بِاللَّهِ إِنَّ الشِّرْكَ لَظُلْمٌ عَظِيمٌ ﴿١٣﴾

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*"Behold, Luqman said to his son by way of instruction: "O my son! join not in worship (others) with Allah: for false worship is indeed the highest wrongdoing."*

Surah Luqman 31:13 · tr. Abdullah Yusuf Ali

## Islam is built on five

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The Prophet ﷺ said that Islam is built on five things: bearing witness that there is no god but Allah and that Muhammad is the Messenger of Allah, establishing prayer, paying zakat, performing hajj, and fasting in the month of Ramadan (Sahih al-Bukhari 8). This book follows those five pillars one by one, as the life of a family.

The Shahadah is the door and the foundation. It is more than a phrase; it is a declaration that carries three things: believing with the heart, saying it with the tongue and proving it by deeds.

The content of the Shahadah is the six articles of faith: belief in Allah, the angels, the scriptures, the messengers, the Last Day, and the divine decree (qada' and qadar). All are mentioned in the well-known hadith of Jibril (Sahih Muslim, Book of Faith (Kitab al-Iman); see also Sahih al-Bukhari 50).

# Obligatory and recommended: creed in the family

## OBLIGATORY (WAJIB / FARDH)

- ✓ **Everyone who has reached puberty:** believing in the six articles of faith and avoiding shirk (Surah Luqman 31:13)
- ✓ **Parents:** teaching children the basics of creed — Allah is the One God, Muhammad ﷺ is His messenger
- ✓ **Husband and wife:** protecting themselves and their families from the Fire (Surah at-Tahrim 66:6)
- ✓ **Everyone:** avoiding practices that contradict tawhid, such as believing in amulets

## RECOMMENDED (SUNNAH)

- Memorising Surah al-Ikhlās, al-Falaq and an-Nas together with the children
- Telling stories of the prophets at bedtime
- Teaching simple remembrance (dhikr): Subhanallah, Alhamdulillah, Allahu Akbar
- Teaching children to ask of Allah alone (Sunan at-Tirmidhi 2516)
- Pointing out the signs of Allah's greatness in nature: rain, stars and plants

## “Young man, be mindful of Allah”

يَا غُلَامُ إِنِّي أُعَلِّمُكَ كَلِمَاتٍ أَحْفَظِ اللَّهَ يَحْفَظَكَ أَحْفَظِ اللَّهَ تَجِدْهُ تُجَاهَكَ إِذَا  
سَأَلْتَ فَاسْأَلِ اللَّهَ وَإِذَا اسْتَعَنْتَ فَاسْتَعِنْ بِاللَّهِ

*“Young man, I will teach you a few words: Be mindful of Allah (His commands) and He will protect you. Be mindful of Allah and you will find Him before you. When you ask, ask of Allah; and when you seek help, seek help from Allah...”*

**Sunan at-Tirmidhi 2516 • sahih**

Ibn 'Abbas (may Allah be pleased with him) was still young when he was riding behind the Prophet ﷺ and heard this advice. This is how the Prophet ﷺ taught creed to a young person: briefly, close to the heart, and in words that are easy to remember.

Mu'adh ibn Jabal (may Allah be pleased with him) was asked by the Prophet ﷺ while riding behind him on a donkey: do you know what is Allah's right over His servants? The answer: that they worship Him and do not associate anything with Him (Sahih al-Bukhari 2856). A question like this, on a journey or at the dining table, is the most effective lesson in creed.

## Teaching tawhid according to age

1

### From birth

Every child is born upon the fitrah (Sahih al-Bukhari 1385). Let the word the child hears most often be the name of Allah: supplications, remembrance and Qur'an recitation at home.

2

### Ages 2–4

Teach the names of Allah and the Prophet Muhammad ﷺ, the declaration of tawhid, Bismillah before eating and Alhamdulillah afterwards. Use songs and repetition.

3

### Ages 5–7

Teach Surah al-Fatihah, al-Ikhlās, al-Falaq and an-Nas, and the articles of faith and pillars of Islam in brief. Tell the stories of the prophets.

4

### Ages 8–12

Explain the meaning of the Shahadah, the basic attributes of Allah, and why we ask only of Allah. Answer the child's questions patiently.

5

### Teenagers

Discuss the big questions honestly: the existence of Allah, divine decree, and why there are trials. Provide reliable reading material and bring your teenager to religious classes.

## Frequently asked questions

### **My child asks questions about Allah that I cannot answer.**

Say honestly that you too need to learn, then find the answer together from a teacher or a trustworthy book. That honesty is itself a lesson in creed: we refer to knowledge rather than guess.

### **When must a child believe and practise?**

The religious obligation begins when a child reaches puberty and is of sound mind (Sunan Abu Dawud 4403). But education begins much earlier, so that by the day of puberty, faith and practice have already become habit.

### **There are family traditions I am doubtful about. What should I do?**

Weigh them with knowledge and be gentle with your family. What clearly contradicts tawhid is left; what is unclear, refer to the mufti's office or your state Islamic religious office.

# 04

## CHAPTER 4 · THE SECOND PILLAR OF ISLAM

# Prayer: the pillar of the home

The five obligatory prayers, the recommended prayers that bring the home to life, and how to teach children from the age of seven.

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وَأْمُرْ أَهْلَكَ بِالصَّلَاةِ وَاصْطَبِرْ عَلَيْهَا لَا نَسْأَلُكَ رِزْقًا نَحْنُ نَرْزُقُكَ  
وَالْعَاقِبَةُ لِلتَّقْوَى ﴿١٣٢﴾

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*"Enjoin prayer on thy people, and be constant therein. We ask thee not to provide sustenance: We provide it for thee. But the (fruit of) the Hereafter is for righteousness."*

Surah Taha 20:132 · tr. Abdullah Yusuf Ali

# Obligatory and recommended: prayer in the family

## OBLIGATORY (WAJIB / FARDH)

- ✓ **Everyone who has reached puberty and is of sound mind:** the five daily prayers at their times, in a valid state of purity
- ✓ **Adult men:** the Friday prayer, except those with a valid excuse (Sunan Abu Dawud 1067)
- ✓ **Parents:** telling children to pray from the age of seven and being firm at ten (Sunan Abu Dawud 495)
- ✓ **Husband:** commanding his family to establish prayer (Surah Taha 20:132)
- ✓ **A wife in menstruation or postnatal bleeding:** leaves the prayer, and does not need to make it up

## RECOMMENDED (SUNNAH)

- Praying in congregation at home or in the mosque (Sahih al-Bukhari 645)
- The regular voluntary prayers (rawatib), especially the two rak'ahs before Fajr (Sunan at-Tirmidhi 415)
- Remembrance after the prayer (Sahih Muslim, Book of Mosques and Places of Prayer (Kitab al-Masajid wa Mawadi' as-Salat))
- Waking one another for tahajjud (Sunan Abu Dawud 1308)
- Performing some of the voluntary prayers at home (Sahih al-Bukhari 432)
- The witr prayer before sleeping

## Teaching prayer from the age of seven

مُرُوا أَوْلَادَكُمْ بِالصَّلَاةِ وَهُمْ أَبْنَاءُ سَنِينَ وَاضْرِبُوهُمْ عَلَيْهَا وَهُمْ أَبْنَاءُ عَشْرِ سِنِينَ وَفَرِّقُوا بَيْنَهُمْ فِي الْمَضَاجِعِ

*“Command your children to pray when they are seven years old, and strike them (for neglecting it) when they are ten years old, and separate them in their beds.”*

**Sunan Abu Dawud 495 · sahih**

Between the ages of seven and ten there are more than five thousand prayer times. That is the period of patient education: thousands of gentle reminders before any firmness.

The scholars explain that “strike” here means firmness for the sake of education, not to hurt: not on the face, not causing injury and not in anger. Many parents choose other forms of firmness that are just as effective. What matters is that the child knows that prayer is obligatory and not negotiable.

Before the age of seven, teach the child to make wudu' and let him or her stand beside you during prayer. The Prophet ﷺ once prayed while carrying his granddaughter Umamah, putting her down when he prostrated and lifting her when he stood (Sahih al-Bukhari 516).

## A home alive with congregational prayer

The Prophet ﷺ said: “Prayer in congregation is superior to prayer alone by twenty-seven degrees” (Sahih al-Bukhari 645). For men, praying in the mosque in congregation is strongly encouraged. At home, a husband may lead his wife and children in prayer, especially for the prayers he cannot reach the mosque for.

Anas ibn Malik (may Allah be pleased with him) reported that the Prophet ﷺ led the prayer in his house: Anas and an orphan boy stood behind him, and his mother Umm Sulaim behind them (Sahih al-Bukhari 727). That is the arrangement of the family rows.

The Prophet ﷺ also said: “Perform some of your prayers in your houses, and do not make your houses like graves” (Sahih al-Bukhari 432). Voluntary prayers at home allow children to see their parents praying.

- Set one time each day for family congregational prayer, for example Maghrib or Isha.
- Give the boys a turn to call the adhan or iqamah at home.
- After the salam, one minute of remembrance together and one supplication recited by a child.

## Recommended prayers that adorn the day

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**Rawatib.** The Prophet ﷺ said that whoever prays twelve rak'ahs in a day and night, a house will be built for him in Paradise: four before Zuhr, two after it, two after Maghrib, two after Isha and two before Fajr (Sunan at-Tirmidhi 415; sahih).

**Remembrance.** Glorifying (tasbih), praising (tahmid) and magnifying (takbir) Allah thirty-three times each after every obligatory prayer (Sahih Muslim, Book of Mosques and Places of Prayer (Kitab al-Masajid wa Mawadi' as-Salat)).

When Fatimah (may Allah be pleased with her) asked for a servant because she was tired from working at home, the Prophet ﷺ taught her and 'Ali (may Allah be pleased with him) to say takbir 34 times, tahmid 33 times and tasbih 33 times before sleeping, and said that it was better than a servant (Sahih al-Bukhari 3113).

**Friday.** The Friday prayer is obligatory on every Muslim man, except slaves, women, children and the sick (Sunan Abu Dawud 1067; sahih). Bathing before going to the Friday prayer is recommended (Sahih al-Bukhari 877). Take your sons to the mosque so that he is accustomed to it before puberty.

## Waking one another for the night prayer

رَحِمَ اللَّهُ رَجُلًا قَامَ مِنَ اللَّيْلِ فَصَلَّى وَأَيَّقَظَ امْرَأَتَهُ فَإِنْ أَبَتْ نَضَحَ فِي وَجْهِهَا  
الْمَاءَ رَحِمَ اللَّهُ امْرَأَةً قَامَتْ مِنَ اللَّيْلِ فَصَلَّتْ وَأَيَّقَظَتْ زَوْجَهَا فَإِنْ أَبَى  
نَضَحَتْ فِي وَجْهِهِ الْمَاءَ

*"May Allah have mercy on a man who gets up at night and prays and wakes his wife; if she refuses, he sprinkles water on her face. May Allah have mercy on a woman who gets up at night and prays and wakes her husband; if he refuses, she sprinkles water on his face."*

**Sunan Abu Dawud 1308 • sahih**

This hadith mentions husband and wife in the same words: both may take the initiative, and both are prayed for with mercy. The sprinkling of water is gentle and affectionate, not coercion; if your spouse is tired or has an excuse, let him or her rest.

Allah descends to the lowest heaven in the last third of the night and says: who calls upon Me, that I may answer him; who asks of Me, that I may give him; who seeks My forgiveness, that I may forgive him (Sahih al-Bukhari 1145). Start by getting up ten minutes before the Fajr adhan for two rak'ahs, once a week, then add gradually.

## Frequently asked questions

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### **My wife often misses Fajr because she is nursing the baby at night. What should we do?**

Help her. The husband gets up first and wakes her gently, or takes care of the baby for a while so that she can pray. The obligatory prayer remains obligatory; this cooperation is what living together on a footing of kindness means.

### **Can a wife lead the children in prayer?**

A wife may lead women and girls in prayer. The Prophet ﷺ commanded Umm Waraqah (may Allah be pleased with her) to lead the people of her household (Sunan Abu Dawud 592; hasan), and the majority of scholars understood this as leading women. In the Shafi'i school, male followers, including boys, do not pray behind a woman.

### **My child is ten years old but is still reluctant to pray.**

Review the basics: does he or she know how, and does he or she see you praying? Use encouragement, a timetable and a prayer companion. Firmness is needed, but without causing injury and without shaming the child.

# 05

## CHAPTER 5 · OBLIGATORY KNOWLEDGE

# The personal obligations (fardh ain) every family needs to know

Purification, menstruation and postnatal bleeding, awrah, halal food and the basics of the fiqh of worship — with a learning plan by age.

يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ ءَامَنُوا قُوا أَنْفُسَكُمْ وَأَهْلِيكُمْ نَارًا وَقُودُهَا النَّاسُ وَالْحِجَارَةُ ...



*"O ye who believe! save yourselves and your families from a Fire whose fuel is Men and Stones..."*

Surah at-Tahrim 66:6 · tr. Abdullah Yusuf Ali

## What fardh ain means

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Fardh ain is the knowledge and practice that is obligatory on every accountable (mukallaf) Muslim individually: correct creed, how to purify oneself and pray, fasting, zakat and hajj when they become obligatory, and what is halal and haram in daily life. The measure is simple: whatever you are obliged to do, you are obliged to know how to do correctly.

The commentators explain that protecting one's family from the Fire (Surah at-Tahrim 66:6) means teaching them what is obligatory, enjoining what is good and forbidding what is wrong.

The Prophet ﷺ said: "The best of you are those who learn the Qur'an and teach it" (Sahih al-Bukhari 5027). The home is the first school: parents learn, then teach.

- 
- Parents who are not yet confident in the basics of fardh ain can join classes at a nearby mosque or surau. No age is too late to learn.
- 
- Religious classes at school and in the mosque help, but they do not replace the role of parents.

## Purification: wudu' and the obligatory bath

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The Prophet ﷺ said: “The prayer of one who has broken wudu' is not accepted until he performs wudu'” (Sahih al-Bukhari 135). In the Shafi'i school, the essential acts of wudu' are six: intention, washing the face, washing both hands up to the elbows, wiping part of the head, washing both feet up to the ankles, and doing them in order (Surah al-Ma'idah 5:6).

The obligatory bath (ghusl) is required, among other occasions, after intercourse even without ejaculation, when semen is emitted, after menstruation and postnatal bleeding stop, and after childbirth. Its essential acts are two: intention and washing the whole body with water. The sunnah method is as described by 'A'ishah (may Allah be pleased with her): washing the hands, performing wudu', running water through the roots of the hair, then pouring water over the whole body (Sahih al-Bukhari 248).

Teach children wudu' before the age of seven, so that when they are told to pray they already know how to purify themselves. A step-by-step guide is on the Wudu' and Obligatory Bath guide page at [mypolygyny.com](http://mypolygyny.com).

## Menstruation and postnatal bleeding: the basics for husband and wife

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A wife in menstruation or postnatal bleeding does not pray and does not fast. Missed Ramadan fasts must be made up, but prayers need not be. 'A'ishah (may Allah be pleased with her) said: "We were commanded to make up the fasts and were not commanded to make up the prayers" (Sahih Muslim, Book of Menstruation (Kitab al-Haid)).

Husband and wife may not have intercourse during menstruation and postnatal bleeding (Surah al-Baqarah 2:222), but other forms of closeness remain permitted; the Prophet ﷺ said: "Do everything except intercourse" (Sahih Muslim, Book of Menstruation (Kitab al-Haid)). In the Shafi'i school, the prohibition on intercourse continues until the wife has taken the obligatory bath after her bleeding stops.

In the Shafi'i school, the shortest period of menstruation is a day and a night and the longest is fifteen days; postnatal bleeding lasts at most sixty days. Blood outside these periods has its own ruling (istihadah). If your situation is unclear, consult the mufti's office or your state Islamic religious office.

- 
- Teach daughters about menstruation before it happens, usually by the mother, in calm language that does not shame.
  - Teach sons about wet dreams and the obligatory bath before puberty.
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## Awrah and boundaries within the home

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In the Shafi'i school, a man's awrah is between the navel and the knees. A woman's awrah in front of men who are not her mahram is the whole body except the face and both palms. Allah commands believing men to lower their gaze (Surah an-Nur 24:30), and believing women to lower their gaze, guard their chastity and draw their head-coverings over their chests (Surah an-Nur 24:31).

At home, teach children to ask permission before entering their parents' room at three times: before Fajr, at midday when clothes are put off, and after Isha (Surah an-Nur 24:58). When children reach puberty, they ask permission at all times (Surah an-Nur 24:59).

Separate the children's beds when they are ten years old (Sunan Abu Dawud 495). Teach them that their bodies are a trust: no one may touch their private parts, and they can tell their parents without fear.

## Halal food and good provision

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Allah says: “O mankind! Eat of what is on earth, lawful and good; and do not follow the footsteps of Satan, for he is to you an avowed enemy” (Surah al-Baqarah 2:168).

The Prophet ﷺ said that Allah is Good and accepts only what is good. Then he mentioned a traveller, dishevelled and dusty, raising his hands to the sky and saying, “O my Lord, O my Lord,” while his food is haram, his drink is haram and his clothing is haram — so how can his supplication be answered? (Sahih Muslim, Book of Zakat (Kitab az-Zakah)).

For a family, halal begins with the source of the husband's and wife's income, then the food that is bought and how it is prepared. Accustom children to check for a recognised halal logo, say Bismillah, eat with the right hand and eat from what is near them, as the Prophet ﷺ taught 'Umar ibn Abi Salamah when he was a boy (Sahih al-Bukhari 5376).

# A learning plan for fardh ain by age

| Age       | Creed and manners                                                                                            | Worship                                                                                 | Who teaches                            |
|-----------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------|
| 0–3       | Hearing remembrance, supplications and the Qur'an; Bismillah and Alhamdulillah                               | Seeing parents pray                                                                     | Mother and father                      |
| 4–6       | The Shahadah; the articles of faith and pillars of Islam; manners of eating, sleeping and entering the house | Al-Fatihah and short surahs; how to make wudu'                                          | Parents; kindergarten                  |
| 7–9       | The basic attributes of Allah; stories of the prophets; telling the truth                                    | The five daily prayers with their recitation; complete wudu'; fasting half a day        | Father leads the prayer; mother checks |
| 10–12     | The meaning of the Shahadah; common halal and haram                                                          | Prayer in order and on time; full fasting; menstruation (girls) and the obligatory bath | Mother for daughters; father for sons  |
| Puberty   | Personally responsible for sins and rewards                                                                  | Everything obligatory on adults; covering the awrah properly                            | The child, guided by parents           |
| Adulthood | Knowledge before marriage: spouses' rights and maintenance                                                   | Basics of transactions (muamalat); zakat on wealth; the rites of hajj                   | Pre-marriage course; mosque classes    |

Age is a guide, not a rule. Every child is different; what matters is that each stage is mastered before puberty.

## Frequently asked questions

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### **Are parents sinful if their children do not know fardh ain?**

Parents are responsible for teaching, or for making sure the child is taught (Surah at-Tahrim 66:6; Sahih al-Bukhari 5200). After puberty, the child is personally obliged to learn. What matters is that both sides make an effort.

### **I only learned to pray properly after I married. I am embarrassed to ask.**

There is no shame in seeking religious knowledge. Learn together with your spouse; it also strengthens your bond. Adult classes at mosques and surau exist precisely for situations like this.

# 06

CHAPTER 6 · THE THIRD PILLAR OF ISLAM

## Zakat and charity: wealth that purifies

Zakat al-fitr for every member of the family, zakat on wealth, and charity as the habit of the whole household.

خُذْ مِنْ أَمْوَالِهِمْ صَدَقَةً تُطَهِّرُهُمْ وَتُزَكِّيهِمْ بِهَا وَصَلِّ عَلَيْهِمْ إِنَّ صَلَاتَكَ  
سَكَنٌ لَهُمْ وَاللَّهُ سَمِيعٌ عَلِيمٌ ﴿١٠٣﴾

*"Of their goods, take alms, that so thou mightest purify and sanctify them; and pray on their behalf. Verily thy prayers are a source of security for them: And Allah is One Who heareth and knoweth."*

Surah at-Taubah 9:103 · tr. Abdullah Yusuf Ali

## Obligatory and recommended: the family's wealth

### OBLIGATORY (WAJIB / FARDH)

- ✓ **Head of the family:** zakat al-fitr for himself and for everyone he is obliged to maintain, such as his wife and children (Sahih al-Bukhari 1503)
- ✓ **Every owner of wealth, husband or wife:** zakat on wealth when the conditions are met — savings, gold, business, income and others
- ✓ Zakat al-fitr is paid before the Eid prayer
- ✓ Zakat is paid through the Islamic religious council or the state zakat centre, and distributed to the eight categories of recipients (asnaf) (Surah at-Taubah 9:60)

### RECOMMENDED (SUNNAH)

- Daily charity, even half a date (Sahih al-Bukhari 1417)
- Beginning charity with those in one's care (Sahih al-Bukhari 1427)
- A family charity box at home
- Feeding those who break their fast, neighbours and guests
- Endowments (waqf) and ongoing charity in the family's name (Sahih Muslim, Book of Bequests (Kitab al-Wasiyyah))

## Zakat al-fitr: every soul in the family

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The Messenger of Allah ﷺ made zakat al-fitr obligatory on every Muslim, slave or free, male or female, young or old, and commanded that it be paid before people go out to the Eid prayer (Sahih al-Bukhari 1503).

In the Shafi'i school, zakat al-fitr is obligatory on a Muslim who is alive at the end of Ramadan and the beginning of Shawwal, and who has a surplus beyond the needs of himself and his dependants on the day and night of Eid. The husband pays for himself, his wife and the children in his care. A baby born before sunset on the last day of Ramadan is also paid for.

In the time of the Prophet ﷺ, it was paid as one sa' of staple food. In Malaysia, its rate in ringgit is set each year by the Islamic religious council or state zakat centre. Check the current rate with your state zakat centre.

- 
- Make paying zakat al-fitr a family event: bring the children to the counter or pay together online, and explain whom the money is for.
- 
- The most excellent time is on the morning of 1 Shawwal before the Eid prayer. In the Shafi'i school, paying it earlier, from the beginning of Ramadan, is permitted.

## Zakat on wealth: a trust for husband and wife

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Zakat on wealth is obligatory on the owner of the wealth, not on the family collectively. If the wife has her own savings or gold that meet the conditions, paying its zakat is the wife's responsibility; the husband may help to pay it with her consent.

Common types of zakat for families in Malaysia include zakat on savings, gold and silver, income, business, shares and investments, and agriculture. The general conditions are that the wealth is fully owned, reaches the nisab (minimum threshold), and has completed the haul (one year) for the types that require it.

Zakat is administered by the state Islamic religious council through the state zakat centre. The nisab, rates and method of calculation are set by each state and change from time to time. This book does not list figures; check the current rules with your state zakat centre.

- 
- List all the family's assets once a year, for example every Ramadan, and calculate zakat together.
- 
- Zakat is distributed to the eight categories of recipients (asnaf) named in Surah at-Taubah 9:60.

## Charity: the habit of the whole household

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The Prophet ﷺ said: “Protect yourselves from the Fire, even by (giving) half a date in charity” (Sahih al-Bukhari 1417). He also said: “Charity does not decrease wealth” (Sahih Muslim, Book of Righteousness, Ties of Kinship and Good Manners (Kitab al-Birr wa as-Silah wa al-Adab)).

Charity begins at home: “The upper hand is better than the lower hand; and begin with those you are responsible for” (Sahih al-Bukhari 1427). A wife who gives food from her husband's house in charity without wasting it receives a reward, and her husband also receives a reward (Sahih al-Bukhari 1440).

A smile in the face of your brother is also charity (Sunan at-Tirmidhi 1956; sahih). Teach children that charity is not only money: time, effort, kind words and helping a neighbour are also charity.

## Building a family habit of charity

1

### **A family box**

Keep a box at home. Every member of the family, including small children, puts in a little every Friday.

2

### **The children choose the recipient**

Once a month, discuss together where the money should go: the mosque, orphans or a neighbour in need.

3

### **Given by the child's hand**

Let the child hand over the charity personally, so that he or she experiences the joy of giving.

4

### **Ramadan: feeding those who break their fast**

Prepare food for neighbours or the mosque as a family project.

5

### **Ongoing charity (sadaqah jariyah)**

When you are able, endow something lasting, such as copies of the Qur'an or a contribution to education. The reward of ongoing charity continues after death (Sahih Muslim, Book of Bequests (Kitab al-Wasiyyah)).

## Frequently asked questions

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### **My wife has gold jewellery. Is zakat obligatory on it?**

In the Shafi'i school, the preferred opinion is that jewellery worn for permissible and non-excessive use is not subject to zakat; the Hanafi school makes it obligatory. The states in Malaysia set a customary limit (uruf) for wearing, and gold above it or kept in storage is subject to zakat. Check the uruf limit with your state zakat centre.

### **Can zakat be given to my own parents?**

Zakat cannot be given to those you are obliged to maintain, such as poor parents and your children, because their maintenance is already your responsibility. For other eligible relatives, consult your state zakat centre.

### **We cannot afford to give much in charity.**

Charity is measured by sincerity, not by amount. The Prophet ﷺ mentioned half a date. A smile, kind words and helping others are also charity.

# 07

CHAPTER 7 · THE FOURTH PILLAR OF ISLAM

## Fasting: Ramadan as a family

The obligatory fast, voluntary fasts through the year, the pre-dawn meal and the breaking of the fast together, and how to teach children to fast step by step.

يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ ءَامَنُوا كُتِبَ عَلَيْكُمُ الصِّيَامُ كَمَا كُتِبَ عَلَى الَّذِينَ مِن قَبْلِكُمْ  
لَعَلَّكُمْ تَتَّقُونَ ﴿١٨٣﴾

*"O ye who believe! Fasting is prescribed to you as it was prescribed to those before you, that ye may (learn) self-restraint,"*

Surah al-Baqarah 2:183 · tr. Abdullah Yusuf Ali

# Obligatory and recommended: fasting in the family

## OBLIGATORY (WAJIB / FARDH)

- ✓ **Everyone who has reached puberty, is of sound mind and is able:** fasting the month of Ramadan (Surah al-Baqarah 2:183–185)
- ✓ **Everyone:** making the intention to fast Ramadan during the night and avoiding what breaks the fast
- ✓ **Wife:** making up the fasts missed because of menstruation or postnatal bleeding (Sahih Muslim, Book of Menstruation (Kitab al-Haid))
- ✓ **The sick or travellers:** may break the fast and must make it up on other days (Surah al-Baqarah 2:185)
- ✓ **Parents:** training children to fast when they are able, as with prayer

## RECOMMENDED (SUNNAH)

- Eating the pre-dawn meal (sahur), however small (Sahih al-Bukhari 1923)
- Hastening to break the fast (Sahih al-Bukhari 1957)
- Fasting on Mondays and Thursdays (Sunan at-Tirmidhi 747)
- Fasting the white days: the 13th, 14th and 15th of each Hijri month (Sunan at-Tirmidhi 761)
- The six days of Shawwal; the Day of Arafah; Tasu'a and Ashura
- Reviving the last ten nights of Ramadan with the family (Sahih al-Bukhari 2024)

## Ramadan: the month of the whole household

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The Prophet ﷺ said that whoever fasts Ramadan out of faith and seeking reward, his past sins are forgiven (Sahih al-Bukhari 38); and whoever stands in prayer during the nights of Ramadan out of faith and seeking reward, his past sins are forgiven (Sahih al-Bukhari 37).

When the last ten nights began, the Prophet ﷺ would tighten his waist-wrapper (strive earnestly), revive his nights and **wake his family** (Sahih al-Bukhari 2024). Ramadan is not a solitary act of worship; it is a project for the whole household.

'A'ishah (may Allah be pleased with her) asked what she should say if she knew which night was Laylat al-Qadr. The Prophet ﷺ taught her: "Allahumma innaka 'afuwwun tuhibbul 'afwa fa'fu 'anni" — O Allah, You are Most Forgiving, You love to forgive, so forgive me (Sunan at-Tirmidhi 3513; sahih).

- 
- Pray tarawih together at the mosque or at home; small children can join for a few rak'ahs.
- 
- Complete a recitation of the whole Qur'an as a family by dividing the juz' among its members.
- 
- In the last ten nights, reduce other commitments and revive the nights together.

## Teaching children to fast, step by step

1

### **From early childhood: join the pre-dawn meal**

Wake the child for sahur even though he or she is not yet fasting, so that he or she experiences the atmosphere of Ramadan.

2

### **Fasting half a day**

A small child can try fasting until Zuhr, then extend it by a few more hours as he or she becomes able.

3

### **A full fast on holidays**

Next, try a full fast on a day off when the parents are at home.

4

### **Training that brings joy**

In the Shafi'i school, a child is told to fast from the age of seven if able, as with prayer. The Companions trained their children to fast and gave them toys made of wool to distract them until it was time to break the fast (Sahih al-Bukhari 1960).

5

### **Obligatory at puberty**

After puberty, the Ramadan fast is fully obligatory. By then it should already be a habit, not a surprise.

## Voluntary fasts through the year

**Monday and Thursday.** The Prophet ﷺ said: “Deeds are presented on Mondays and Thursdays, and I like my deeds to be presented while I am fasting” (Sunan at-Tirmidhi 747; sahih). When asked about fasting on Monday, he said: “That is the day on which I was born and the day on which revelation came to me” (Sahih Muslim, Book of Fasting (Kitab as-Siyam)).

**The white days.** Fasting on the 13th, 14th and 15th of each Hijri month (Sunan at-Tirmidhi 761; sahih). **The six days of Shawwal.** Whoever fasts Ramadan and then follows it with six days of Shawwal, it is as if he fasted for a whole year (Sahih Muslim, Book of Fasting (Kitab as-Siyam); Sunan at-Tirmidhi 759).

**The Day of Arafah** (9 Dhul Hijjah) for those not performing hajj: the Prophet ﷺ hoped that it would expiate the sins of the year before and the year after (Sunan at-Tirmidhi 749). **Ashura** (10 Muharram) expiates the sins of the previous year (Sunan at-Tirmidhi 752), and he resolved to fast the ninth day, Tasu'a, as well (Sahih Muslim, Book of Fasting (Kitab as-Siyam)).

- A wife observes a voluntary fast while her husband is at home with his permission (Sahih al-Bukhari 5195); the husband, for his part, should be generous in giving permission.
- Anyone who still has Ramadan fasts to make up should hasten to do so. As to combining the intention of a make-up fast with the six fasts of Shawwal, the scholars differ; consult your state mufti's office.

## Pre-dawn meal and breaking the fast together

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The Prophet ﷺ said: “Eat the pre-dawn meal, for in the pre-dawn meal there is blessing” (Sahih al-Bukhari 1923), and people remain in goodness as long as they hasten to break the fast (Sahih al-Bukhari 1957). He would break his fast with a few fresh dates before praying; if there were none, with dried dates; if there were none, with a few sips of water (Sunan Abu Dawud 2356; sahih).

When breaking the fast, he would say: “Dhahabaz-zama'u wabtallatil-'uruq wa thabatal-ajru in sha Allah” — the thirst has gone, the veins are moist, and the reward is confirmed, if Allah wills (Sunan Abu Dawud 2357; hasan).

The table at sahur and iftar is the best place to share stories: the verse recited that day, whom you helped, and the supplication you want to make. A child who is tired from fasting listens most easily while happily breaking the fast.

## Frequently asked questions

### **My eight-year-old cannot manage a full fast. Should I force him or her?**

No. Before puberty, a child's fast is training. Encourage the child to continue as far as he or she can, and allow the child to break the fast if tired or unwell. The child's health comes first.

### **My wife is pregnant or nursing. Is she obliged to fast?**

A pregnant or nursing woman who fears for herself or her child may break the fast. In the Shafi'i school, if she breaks the fast out of fear for herself, she only makes it up; if out of fear for her child alone, she makes it up and pays fidyah. Seek medical advice, and consult your state Islamic religious office for the rate of fidyah.

### **We are travelling in Ramadan with our children.**

A traveller who meets the conditions may break the fast and make it up later (Surah al-Baqarah 2:185). In the Shafi'i school, if fasting is not a hardship, fasting is better. For the conditions on distance, consult your state Islamic religious office.

# 08

CHAPTER 8 · OFFSPRING

## Children: from birth to adulthood

Tahnik, naming, aqiqah, circumcision, nursing, the Qur'an, manners and puberty — each practice with the grade of its evidence.

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﴿وَالْوَالِدَتُ يُرْضِعْنَ أَوْلَدَهُنَّ حَوْلَيْنِ كَامِلَيْنِ لِمَنْ أَرَادَ أَنْ يُتِمَّ الرَّضَاعَ﴾

﴿٢٣٣﴾ ...

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*"The mothers shall give such to their offspring for two whole years, if the father desires to complete the term..."*

Surah al-Baqarah 2:233 · tr. Abdullah Yusuf Ali

## Birth practices and the grade of their evidence

| Practice                                                                                     | Ruling (Shafi'i)                           | Evidence                                                            | Grade                                      |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------|
| Tahnik: rubbing the roof of a newborn's mouth with a softened date, and praying for blessing | Sunnah                                     | Sahih al-Bukhari 5467                                               | Sahih                                      |
| Giving a good name                                                                           | Sunnah                                     | Sahih Muslim, Book of Manners (Kitab al-Adab); Sunan Abu Dawud 2838 | Sahih                                      |
| Aqiqah on the seventh day: two goats for a boy, one for a girl                               | Sunnah mu'akkadah                          | Sunan Abu Dawud 2838, 2834                                          | Sahih                                      |
| Shaving the hair and giving silver equal to its weight in charity                            | Sunnah                                     | Sunan at-Tirmidhi 1519                                              | Hasan                                      |
| Circumcision                                                                                 | Obligatory, for boys and girls             | Sahih al-Bukhari 5889                                               | Sahih                                      |
| Nursing for up to two years                                                                  | The child's right; recommended to complete | Surah al-Baqarah 2:233                                              | Qur'an                                     |
| The adhan in the baby's ear                                                                  | Sunnah according to the Shafi'i school     | Sunan Abu Dawud 5105; Sunan at-Tirmidhi 1514                        | Disputed — see the next page               |
| The iqamah in the left ear                                                                   | Practised by some communities              | Not found in Sahih al-Bukhari, Sahih Muslim or the four Sunan       | Very weak according to the hadith scholars |

## Aqiqah: a sign of gratitude for a birth

كُلُّ غُلَامٍ رَهِيْنَةٌ بِعَقِيْقَتِهِ تُذَبِّحُ عَنْهُ يَوْمَ سَابِعِهِ وَيُحْلَقُ وَيُسَمَّى

*"Every child is held in pledge for his aqiqah; (an animal) is sacrificed for him on the seventh day, his head is shaved and he is named."*

**Sunan Abu Dawud 2838 • sahih**

The Prophet ﷺ mentioned two equivalent goats for a boy and one for a girl (Sunan Abu Dawud 2834; sahih). He performed the aqiqah for al-Hasan with one goat, and told Fatimah (may Allah be pleased with her) to shave his hair and give silver equal to its weight in charity (Sunan at-Tirmidhi 1519; hasan). So one goat for a boy is sufficient for those with less means.

In the Shafi'i school, aqiqah is sunnah mu'akkadah for the person who maintains the child. The seventh day is most excellent; if you cannot yet afford it, it may be done later. The duty on the father continues until the child reaches puberty; after that the child may perform the aqiqah for himself or herself. It is recommended that the meat be cooked before it is given in charity.

The Prophet ﷺ named Abu Musa's son Ibrahim (may Allah be pleased with him), performed tahnik with a date and prayed for blessings upon him (Sahih al-Bukhari 5467). The names most beloved to Allah are 'Abdullah and 'Abd al-Rahman (Sahih Muslim, Book of Manners (Kitab al-Adab)); choose a name with a good meaning.

## The adhan in a baby's ear: the grade of its evidence

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Many families in Malaysia call the adhan in a baby's right ear and the iqamah in the left. The intention is good: that the first words the baby hears are the words of Allah. But it is good for us to know honestly where the evidence stands.

The evidence is the hadith of Abu Rafi' (may Allah be pleased with him): "I saw the Messenger of Allah ﷺ call the adhan (of prayer) in the ear of al-Hasan ibn 'Ali when Fatimah gave birth to him" (Sunan Abu Dawud 5105; Sunan at-Tirmidhi 1514). At-Tirmidhi graded it hasan sahih. However, both reports go through one narrator, 'Asim ibn 'Ubaidullah, who was judged weak by many hadith critics. For this reason, some hadith scholars, including al-Albani in his later assessment, graded this hadith weak.

The report of the iqamah in the left ear is not found in Sahih al-Bukhari, Sahih Muslim or the four Sunan, and the hadith scholars graded it very weak.

The Shafi'i school still regards the adhan in a baby's ear as recommended (an-Nawawi, al-Majmu'), and it is widely practised. So: **it may be done, but do not regard it as obligatory**, and do not blame families who do not do it. Practices with sound evidence — tahnik, a good name, aqiqah and a supplication for blessing — deserve greater attention.

## Circumcision and nursing

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**Circumcision.** The Prophet ﷺ said that among the practices of the fitrah are circumcision, shaving the pubic hair, clipping the nails and trimming the moustache (Sahih al-Bukhari 5889). In the Shafi'i school, circumcision is obligatory for males and females; it must be done before puberty and it is recommended to hasten it in childhood. For girls, the method must not cause harm; seek medical advice, and consult your state mufti's office.

**Nursing.** Allah says that mothers nurse their children for two whole years for those who wish to complete the nursing, and the father must provide the mother's food and clothing in a reasonable manner (Surah al-Baqarah 2:233). Nursing is the child's right, and meeting the needs of the nursing mother is the father's duty.

The same verse allows the parents to stop nursing before two years by mutual consent and consultation, and allows the child to be nursed by someone else for a reasonable payment. The decision is made together — an example of consultation (shura) in the home.

- 
- If a child is nursed by another woman, a mahram relationship through nursing may be formed. Consult your state mufti's office before making a decision.

## The Qur'an, manners and affection

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The Prophet ﷺ said: “The best of you are those who learn the Qur'an and teach it” (Sahih al-Bukhari 5027). Begin with listening, then recognising the letters, reading with tajwid, and memorising short surahs. Set a fixed time every day, even if only ten minutes.

Manners are taught by example. The Prophet ﷺ corrected the young 'Umar ibn Abi Salamah gently: “Young man, mention the name of Allah, eat with your right hand, and eat from what is near you” (Sahih al-Bukhari 5376).

Affection is part of upbringing. When al-Aqra' ibn Habis said that he had ten children and had never kissed any of them, the Prophet ﷺ said: “Whoever does not show mercy will not be shown mercy” (Sahih al-Bukhari 5997). Treating children justly is also required: “Fear Allah and be just among your children” (Sahih al-Bukhari 2587).

## Puberty: the day a child becomes accountable

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The Prophet ﷺ said that the pen is lifted (deeds are not recorded as sins) from three people, among them a child until he reaches puberty (Sunan Abu Dawud 4403; sahih). After puberty, all the religious obligations apply to the child personally: prayer, fasting, covering the awrah and avoiding major sins.

In the Shafi'i school, the signs of puberty are the emission of semen (through a dream or otherwise) for males and females, menstruation for females, or completing fifteen years by the Hijri calendar if there is no other sign. Ibn 'Umar (may Allah be pleased with him) was not allowed to take part in the Battle of Uhud at the age of fourteen, but was allowed to take part in the Battle of the Trench (Khandaq) at the age of fifteen (Sahih al-Bukhari 2664).

Prepare the child before that day: teach the signs of puberty, the obligatory bath, covering the awrah and the limits of interaction, and that he or she is now personally responsible before Allah. Welcome puberty as a mark of maturity, not something to be ashamed of.

## Frequently asked questions

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### **We cannot afford an aqiqah on the seventh day.**

The aqiqah may be done later when you are able. It is recommended, not obligatory; do not go into debt for it. One goat for a boy is also sufficient.

### **Can aqiqah be combined with qurban?**

The scholars differ about combining the intention of aqiqah and qurban in one animal or one share. Consult your state mufti's office; if in doubt, do them separately.

### **Can a child be given a Malay or other-language name?**

Yes, as long as the meaning is good and does not contradict Islam. What is prohibited is a name with a bad meaning or one that indicates servitude to anyone other than Allah.

# 09

CHAPTER 9 • THE HOME EVERY DAY

## Rights and responsibilities in daily life

Husband and wife, parents to children, children to parents, and ties of kinship with relatives.

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... وَأَعْبُدُوا اللَّهَ وَلَا تُشْرِكُوا بِهِ شَيْئًا<sup>ط</sup> وَبِالْوَالِدَيْنِ إِحْسَانًا وَبِذِي الْقُرْبَىٰ  
وَالْيَتَامَىٰ وَالْمَسْكِينِ وَالْجَارِ ذِي الْقُرْبَىٰ وَالْجَارِ الْجُنُبِ وَالصَّاحِبِ  
بِالْجُنُبِ ... ﴿٣٦﴾

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*"Serve Allah, and join not any partners with Him; and do good- to parents, kinsfolk, orphans, those in need, neighbours who are near, neighbours who are strangers, the companion by your side..."*

Surah an-Nisa' 4:36 • tr. Abdullah Yusuf Ali

## Husband and wife: their respective rights

### The wife's rights (the husband's duties)

- ✓ Dower and maintenance: food, clothing and shelter (Surah an-Nisa' 4:4; Surah at-Talaq 65:7)
- ✓ Good treatment and gentle words (Surah an-Nisa' 4:19)
- ✓ Intimate rights and time together: "your wife has a right over you" (Sahih al-Bukhari 5199)
- ✓ Being taught the religion and guided (Surah at-Tahrim 66:6)
- ✓ Having her dignity and secrets protected (Sahih Muslim, Book of Marriage (Kitab an-Nikah))

### The husband's rights (the wife's duties)

- To be obeyed in what is right; there is no obedience in sin (Sahih al-Bukhari 7257)
- The wife guards herself, and her husband's property and home, as a trust (Sahih al-Bukhari 5200)
- Not allowing anyone whom the husband has not permitted to enter the house (Sahih al-Bukhari 5195)
- Not refusing her husband's invitation without an excuse (Sahih al-Bukhari 5193)
- Asking permission for a voluntary fast while the husband is at home (Sahih al-Bukhari 5195)

## The spirit behind rights

Rights are not a list to be demanded, but a trust to be fulfilled. The Prophet ﷺ himself helped with his family's affairs at home (Sahih al-Bukhari 676), and he rebuked a Companion who fasted and stood in night prayer so much that he neglected his family: "your wife has a right over you" (Sahih al-Bukhari 5199).

If there is something in your spouse's character you dislike, look at the other qualities. The Prophet ﷺ said that a believing man should not hate a believing woman; if he dislikes one trait in her, he will be pleased with another (Sahih Muslim, Book of Suckling (Kitab ar-Radha')).

A good word is charity (Sahih al-Bukhari 2989), and whoever believes in Allah and the Last Day should speak good or keep silent (Sahih al-Bukhari 6018).

- Five minutes every night without phones to ask how your spouse is.
- Say thank you for the small things.
- Do not let a disagreement drag on until tomorrow if it can be settled tonight.

## Parents to children

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The Prophet ﷺ said: “Each of you is a shepherd and is responsible for his flock... a man is the shepherd of his family, and a woman is the shepherd of her husband's house and his children” (Sahih al-Bukhari 5200). The child's rights include maintenance (Act 303 s.72), religious education, affection, a good name and fair treatment.

The Prophet ﷺ showed affection to children openly. 'A'ishah (may Allah be pleased with her) told of a woman who divided the only date she had between her two daughters without eating any herself. The Prophet ﷺ said that whoever is tested with daughters and treats them well, they will be a shield for him from the Fire (Sahih al-Bukhari 1418).

He also said: “Gentleness is not found in anything but that it adorns it” (Sahih Muslim, Book of Righteousness, Ties of Kinship and Good Manners (Kitab al-Birr wa as-Silah wa al-Adab)). Be firm about what is obligatory, gentle in the way.

## Children to parents: birr al-walidayn

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Allah joins the command to worship Him with kindness to parents: “Your Lord has decreed that you worship none but Him, and that you be kind to parents. If one or both of them reach old age with you, do not say “ugh” to them, do not scold them, but speak to them in noble words” (Surah al-Isra' 17:23).

A man asked who was most deserving of good treatment. The Prophet ﷺ replied: your mother, then your mother, then your mother, then your father (Sahih al-Bukhari 5971). Disobedience to parents is mentioned together with shirk among the greatest sins (Sahih al-Bukhari 5976).

Parents teach birr al-walidayn by showing it: visiting grandparents, keeping in touch with them, and supporting them when they are in need. Children learn from what they see more than from what they hear.

## Ties of kinship: the wider family

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The Prophet ﷺ said: “Whoever would like his provision to be expanded and his life prolonged, let him maintain the ties of kinship” (Sahih al-Bukhari 5986).

Marriage joins two families. Husband and wife help each other maintain relations with each other's parents and relatives: visiting them at Eid, visiting the sick, attending gatherings and helping those in difficulty. Priorities and methods are discussed together so that no one feels neglected.

It is not lawful for a Muslim to shun his brother for more than three nights; the better of the two who have fallen out is the one who begins with the greeting of peace (Sahih al-Bukhari 6077).

- 
- List the closest relatives you rarely contact, and call one every week.
  - Take the children to visit relatives so that they know their family.
-

## Frequently asked questions

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### **My mother and my wife disagree. Whom should I put first?**

They have different rights: a mother has the right to be respected and helped; a wife has the right to maintenance, good treatment and suitable housing. Fulfil both, do not wrong one to please the other, and reconcile them wisely. If you reach a deadlock, seek family counselling at your state Islamic religious office.

### **May a wife work?**

Yes, by mutual consent, as long as the work is halal, her awrah is protected, and her responsibilities to the family are not neglected. Her income is her own. Discuss it honestly, because every family's situation differs.

### **My parents are old and in difficulty. Who is obliged to support them?**

A child who is able, male or female, is obliged to maintain poor parents. The husband does so from his own wealth for his own parents; a wife who has wealth is likewise obliged to support her own parents.

# 10

CHAPTER 10 · THROUGH THE YEAR

## The family worship calendar

Daily, weekly, monthly and yearly practices, following the Islamic months.

إِنَّ عِدَّةَ الشُّهُورِ عِنْدَ اللَّهِ اثْنَا عَشَرَ شَهْرًا فِي كِتَابِ اللَّهِ يَوْمَ خَلَقَ  
السَّمَوَاتِ وَالْأَرْضَ مِنْهَا أَرْبَعَةٌ حُرُمٌ ذَلِكَ الدِّينُ الْقَيِّمُ فَلَا تَظْلِمُوا فِيهِنَّ  
أَنفُسَكُمْ ... ﴿٣٦﴾

*"The number of months in the sight of Allah is twelve (in a year)– so ordained by Him the day He created the heavens and the earth; of them four are sacred: that is the straight usage. So wrong not yourselves therein..."*

Surah at-Taubah 9:36 · tr. Abdullah Yusuf Ali

# Every day and every week

| When                | Practice                                                                                                                                                    | Ruling                                           | Who                           |
|---------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Every prayer time   | The five obligatory prayers; praying in congregation as a family at least once a day                                                                        | Obligatory / recommended                         | Everyone; children from seven |
| After the prayer    | Tasbih, tahmid and takbir, 33 times each                                                                                                                    | Recommended                                      | Everyone                      |
| Morning             | Two rak'ahs before Fajr; the supplication on leaving the house: "Bismillah, tawakkaltu 'alallah, la haula wa la quwwata illa billah" (Sunan Abu Dawud 5095) | Recommended                                      | Everyone                      |
| Daytime             | Seeking halal provision; charity, however small                                                                                                             | Obligatory (maintenance) / recommended           | Husband; everyone             |
| Evening             | Qur'an with the children, 10–15 minutes                                                                                                                     | Recommended                                      | Parents and children          |
| Night               | Eating and talking together; witr; remembrance before sleeping (Sahih al-Bukhari 3113)                                                                      | Recommended                                      | Everyone                      |
| Monday and Thursday | Voluntary fast (Sunan at-Tirmidhi 747)                                                                                                                      | Recommended                                      | Those who are able            |
| Friday              | Bathing; the Friday prayer; sending blessings on the Prophet in abundance (Sunan Abu Dawud 1047)                                                            | Obligatory (Friday prayer for men) / recommended | Adult men; everyone           |
| Weekend             | A 15-minute family halaqah; visiting relatives                                                                                                              | Recommended                                      | Everyone                      |

# The Islamic months (1): Muharram to Sha'ban

| Month          | Main practices                                                                                                                                                         | Ruling                                |
|----------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Every month    | Fasting the white days, the 13th, 14th and 15th (Sunan at-Tirmidhi 761); reviewing the family budget and charity                                                       | Recommended                           |
| Muharram       | A sacred month (Surah at-Taubah 9:36). Fasting on Ashura, 10 Muharram (Sunan at-Tirmidhi 752), and Tasu'a, 9 Muharram (Sahih Muslim, Book of Fasting (Kitab as-Siyam)) | Recommended                           |
| Safar          | No specific practice. The Prophet ﷺ denied the belief in bad omens in the month of Safar (Sahih al-Bukhari 5757)                                                       | —                                     |
| Rabi' al-Awwal | A good time to study the life of the Prophet ﷺ (sirah) with the family                                                                                                 | Recommended (seeking knowledge)       |
| Rajab          | A sacred month: increase righteous deeds and avoid sin (Surah at-Taubah 9:36)                                                                                          | Recommended                           |
| Sha'ban        | Fast more; the Prophet ﷺ fasted voluntarily most often in this month (Sahih al-Bukhari 1969). Complete any Ramadan fasts still owed                                    | Recommended; make-up fasts obligatory |

# The Islamic months (2): Ramadan to Dhul Hijjah

| Month             | Main practices                                                                                                                             | Ruling                                   |
|-------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------|
| Ramadan           | Fasting; tarawih; tadarus (reciting the Qur'an together); the last ten nights (Sahih al-Bukhari 2024); zakat al-fitr before the Eid prayer | Obligatory (fasting, fitr) / recommended |
| Shawwal           | The Eid prayer; the six fasts; visiting family (Sahih Muslim, Book of Fasting (Kitab as-Siyam))                                            | Recommended                              |
| Dhul Qa'dah       | A sacred month; preparation for those who will perform hajj                                                                                | Recommended                              |
| 1–9 Dhul Hijjah   | Righteous deeds in the first ten days (Sahih al-Bukhari 969); fasting on those days (Sunan Abu Dawud 2437)                                 | Recommended                              |
| 9 Dhul Hijjah     | Fasting on the Day of Arafah for those not performing hajj (Sunan at-Tirmidhi 749)                                                         | Recommended                              |
| 10–13 Dhul Hijjah | The Eid al-Adha prayer; qurban (Sahih al-Bukhari 5558); takbir                                                                             | Sunnah mu'akkadah (qurban)               |
| All year round    | Zakat on wealth when the haul is complete; hajj and umrah when able                                                                        | Obligatory                               |

## Popular practices that need to be weighed

Some yearly practices have become tradition. This book does not reject tradition, but distinguishes what is established from the Prophet ﷺ from what is not, so that the family practises with confidence.

**Supplications at the beginning and end of the year.** There is no sound hadith establishing a specific supplication on the first or last night of the Hijri year. Making supplication for good at any time is permitted; what should be avoided is regarding a particular wording or reward as coming from the Prophet ﷺ.

**The night of Nisf Sha'ban.** Some scholars accept the merit of this night on the basis of several reports whose grading is disputed. But a special prayer with a set number of rak'ahs on that night is not established; an-Nawawi in al-Majmu' called it a reprehensible innovation (bid'ah). Reviving the night with ordinary voluntary prayer, supplication and seeking forgiveness is not a problem.

**Bad omens in the month of Safar.** The Prophet ﷺ denied this belief (Sahih al-Bukhari 5757). If you are unsure about any practice, consult your state mufti's office.

## Frequently asked questions

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### **How will we remember all this?**

Stick the timetable on the wall. Choose three practices for this month only. Each time a new Hijri month begins, read this page again together as a family.

### **We cannot afford to perform qurban every year.**

In the Shafi'i school, qurban is sunnah mu'akkadah for those who are able, not obligatory. Sharing one share of a cow with others is permitted.

# 11

CHAPTER 11 · THE FIFTH PILLAR OF ISLAM

## Hajj and umrah: the obligation and the planning

Who is obliged, what "able" means, planning as a family, the wife's hajj and the mahram, children, and hajj on behalf of another (badal).

---

... وَلِلَّهِ عَلَى النَّاسِ حِجُّ الْبَيْتِ مَنِ اسْتَطَاعَ إِلَيْهِ سَبِيلًا ... ﴿٩٧﴾

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*"...Pilgrimage thereto is a duty men owe to Allah,- those who can afford the journey..."*

Surah Ali 'Imran 3:97 · tr. Abdullah Yusuf Ali

## Obligatory and recommended: hajj and umrah

### OBLIGATORY (WAJIB / FARDH)

- ✓ **Every Muslim who has reached puberty, is of sound mind, free and able:** hajj once in a lifetime (Surah Ali 'Imran 3:97; Sahih Muslim, Book of Pilgrimage (Kitab al-Hajj))
- ✓ **Umrah:** obligatory once in a lifetime in the Shafi'i school (in the Hanafi and Maliki schools: sunnah mu'akkadah)
- ✓ **Husband:** leaving sufficient maintenance for the family for the whole period of his absence
- ✓ **Those about to depart:** settling or arranging their debts, and learning the pillars and obligatory acts of hajj

### RECOMMENDED (SUNNAH)

- Performing hajj together with one's spouse (Sahih al-Bukhari 3006)
- Bringing children: their hajj is valid and the parents are rewarded (Sunan Abu Dawud 1736)
- Umrah in the month of Ramadan (Sahih al-Bukhari 1782)
- Saving for hajj from early in the marriage
- Performing hajj on behalf of parents who are unable, after one's own hajj (Sunan Abu Dawud 1811)

## What "able" means (istita'ah)

---

Allah has made hajj obligatory on whoever is able to reach the House (Surah Ali 'Imran 3:97). The Prophet ﷺ gave a sermon: "O people, Allah has made hajj obligatory upon you, so perform hajj." When asked whether it was every year, he was silent, and then said that if he had said yes, it would have become obligatory every year and they would not be able to do it (Sahih Muslim, Book of Pilgrimage (Kitab al-Hajj)).

In the Shafi'i school, being able means having a body healthy enough to travel; having the travel expenses and provisions for going and returning; having transport; a safe journey; and all this **in excess of** debts and the maintenance of the family left behind during that period. For women, there are also conditions of safety and company, explained below.

In Malaysia, the opportunity to go also depends on turns and quotas. Many families save and register through the Pilgrims Fund Board (Lembaga Tabung Haji). The conditions of registration, turns, costs and current regulations must be checked directly with Lembaga Tabung Haji.

## Planning hajj as a family

1

### **Intention from the marriage contract**

Make performing hajj together a family goal from early in the marriage, and mention it in your daily supplications.

2

### **Save regularly**

Keep your hajj savings separate from other savings: a little, but steadily. Check how to save and register with Lembaga Tabung Haji.

3

### **Register early**

Because the waiting turns are long, many couples register as early as possible. Check the current registration conditions with Lembaga Tabung Haji.

4

### **Put the obligatory first**

In the Shafi'i school, hajj is obligatory on every person who is able with his or her own wealth. A husband is not obliged to fund his wife's hajj, but enabling her to perform it is a great kindness.

5

### **Learn the rites together**

Attend the hajj course together with your spouse, review at home, and tell the children.

6

### **Arrange what you leave behind**

Prepare maintenance, a guardian for the children, a will and a list of debts before departing.

## The wife's hajj and the mahram

---

The Prophet ﷺ said: “A man must not be alone with a woman, and a woman must not travel except with a mahram.” A man then said that he had enrolled for a military expedition while his wife had set out to perform hajj. The Prophet ﷺ said: “Go, and perform hajj with your wife” (Sahih al-Bukhari 3006).

This hadith shows the merit of a husband accompanying his wife to the Holy Land. In the Shafi'i school, for the obligatory hajj, a woman may travel with her husband, a mahram, or a group of trustworthy women when the journey is safe. The Hanafi and Hanbali schools are stricter and require a husband or mahram.

Current regulations on women travelling without a mahram are set by the Saudi Arabian authorities and may change. Check the current rules with Lembaga Tabung Haji before planning. As for the husband's permission for his wife's hajj, discuss it together; if a dispute arises, consult the mufti's office or your state Islamic religious office.

- 
- If the wife has her period during hajj, she performs all the rites of hajj except tawaf until she is pure. The Prophet ﷺ consoled 'A'ishah (may Allah be pleased with her), who was weeping because of her period: “This is something that Allah has decreed for the daughters of Adam” (Sahih al-Bukhari 305).

## Children in the Holy Land

فَقَالَتْ يَا رَسُولَ اللَّهِ هَلْ لِهَذَا حَجٌّ قَالَ نَعَمْ وَلَكَ أَجْرٌ

*A woman lifted up her small child and asked: "O Messenger of Allah, does this child have a hajj?" He replied: "Yes, and for you there is a reward."*

Sunan Abu Dawud 1736 · sahih

A child's hajj is valid and is a reward, but in the Shafi'i school it does not replace the obligatory hajj; the child must perform hajj again after puberty when able. For a child who is not yet able to discern (mumayyiz), the guardian makes the intention of ihram for him or her and takes the child through the rites of hajj.

Consider carefully the safety, weather, crowding and current regulations on pilgrims' ages before bringing a small child; check with Lembaga Tabung Haji.

**Hajj on behalf of another (badal).** A woman of the Khath'am tribe asked about her father, who was very old and unable to sit on a mount; the Prophet ﷺ allowed her to perform hajj for her father (Sahih al-Bukhari 1513). The one who performs it on another's behalf must have performed hajj for himself first: "Perform hajj for yourself first, then for Shubrumah" (Sunan Abu Dawud 1811; sahih). In the Shafi'i school, if a person dies after hajj had become obligatory on him, the hajj is performed on his behalf from his estate.

## Frequently asked questions

### **We only have enough money for one of us. Who should go first?**

Hajj is obligatory on the one who is able with his or her own wealth. If the money belongs to the husband, the husband is obliged first; if the wife has sufficient wealth of her own, hajj is obligatory on her too. Discuss the registration options and turns with Lembaga Tabung Haji.

### **May we go into debt to perform hajj?**

Hajj is not obligatory on someone who is not able, and going into debt to perform hajj is not required. If you are confident the debt can be repaid without affecting the family's maintenance, consult your state Islamic religious office on the ruling.

### **We have not yet had the chance to perform hajj. Is our intention in vain?**

No. The Prophet ﷺ said that whoever intends to do a good deed but does not get the chance to do it, Allah records it as one complete good deed (Sahih al-Bukhari 6491). Keep saving and praying.

# 12

CHAPTER 12 · THE CULMINATION OF THE JOURNEY

## To the Holy Land together

Following in the footsteps of the family of the Prophet Ibrahim (peace be upon him): husband, wife and children before the Kaaba.

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وَإِذْ يَرْفَعُ إِبْرَاهِيمُ الْقَوَاعِدَ مِنَ الْبَيْتِ وَإِسْمَاعِيلُ رَبَّنَا تَقَبَّلْ مِنَّا إِنَّكَ أَنْتَ  
السَّمِيعُ الْعَلِيمُ ﴿١٢٧﴾

---

*"And remember Abraham and Isma'il raised the foundations of the House (With this prayer): "Our Lord! Accept (this service) from us: For Thou art the All-Hearing, the All-knowing."*

Surah al-Baqarah 2:127 · tr. Abdullah Yusuf Ali

## Hajj is the story of a family

---

Every rite of hajj leads us to a family. The Prophet Ibrahim (peace be upon him) settled his wife Hajar and their small son Isma'il in a valley with no vegetation, beside the Sacred House, praying that they would establish prayer and that people's hearts would incline towards them (Surah Ibrahim 14:37).

When the water ran out, Hajar ran between the hills of Safa and Marwah seven times, looking for anyone who could help. The Prophet ﷺ said: "That is the origin of the sa'i that people perform between the two" (Sahih al-Bukhari 3364). Later, father and son together raised the foundations of the Kaaba, praying, "Our Lord, accept this from us" (Surah al-Baqarah 2:127), and asked that their descendants be a community submitting to Allah (Surah al-Baqarah 2:128).

When a Muslim family performs sa'i, they retrace the steps of a mother. When they perform tawaf, they circle a house built by a father together with his son. Hajj is the story of an obedient family, and your family is now becoming part of it.

## The promised reward

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The Prophet ﷺ said: “Whoever performs hajj for the sake of Allah, and does not engage in obscene speech and does not commit wrongdoing, returns (free of sin) as on the day his mother bore him” (Sahih al-Bukhari 1521).

“Umrah to umrah is an expiation for what is between them, and an accepted hajj has no reward but Paradise” (Sahih al-Bukhari 1773). When 'A'ishah (may Allah be pleased with her) asked about jihad, the Prophet ﷺ said: “The best jihad (for you, the women) is an accepted hajj (hajj mabrur)” (Sahih al-Bukhari 1520).

The verse on hajj itself teaches the manners of a group of pilgrims: no obscene speech, no wrongdoing and no quarrelling during hajj, and the best provision is taqwa (Surah al-Baqarah 2:197). For husband and wife, this is the real test: being patient with tiredness, crowds and each other's ways.

## Together at every step

1

### Before departure

Forgive one another, settle debts and write a will. Invite the children to pray for their parents.

2

### Ihram and talbiyah

Make the intention together and remind each other of the prohibitions of ihram. A woman in ihram does not cover her face and does not wear gloves (Sahih al-Bukhari 1838).

3

### Tawaf and sa'i

Look after your spouse in the crowds. The husband protects his wife; the wife helps her husband to be patient. Pray for the children by name, one by one.

4

### Standing at Arafah

The Prophet ﷺ said: "Hajj is Arafah" (Sunan at-Tirmidhi 889). Pray for your family, parents and descendants, including the supplication "Rabbana hab lana min azwajina wa dhurriyyatina qurrata a'yun" (Surah al-Furqan 25:74).

5

### After returning

An accepted hajj is seen after returning: prayers better kept, a gentler tongue, and a calmer home.

## For those still waiting their turn

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Not every family can go together, and many wait for years for their turn. The atmosphere of hajj can still be brought to life at home while waiting.

In the first ten days of Dhul Hijjah, righteous deeds are more beloved to Allah than on other days (Sahih al-Bukhari 969). Fast on the Day of Arafah (Sunan at-Tirmidhi 749), say the takbir, and perform qurban at Eid al-Adha — the Prophet ﷺ himself slaughtered two rams with his own hand, mentioning the name of Allah and saying the takbir (Sahih al-Bukhari 5558).

Umrah in the month of Ramadan is equal in reward to a hajj (Sahih al-Bukhari 1782). Its story is also about a family: an Ansari woman could not join the hajj because her husband and son had taken the only camel they had for riding, and the Prophet ﷺ cheered her with this news.

- 
- Keep a picture of the Kaaba and a map of the Sacred Mosque at home, and tell the children about them.
- 
- A sincere intention is recorded even if one has not arrived (Sahih al-Bukhari 6491). Keep saving and praying.

## What a wonderful life this is

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Picture this journey from the beginning: a nervous young couple on the day of the marriage contract. Then the first congregational prayer in their little home. The firstborn who was given tahnik with a date. The first half-day fast, and the child's happy face at iftar. Zakat al-fitr placed by those small hands. Years of saving little by little.

Then, one day, the family stands together at Arafah, raising their hands and asking for one another. That is the fruit of thousands of small acts, obligatory and recommended, done together, day after day.

The journey does not end in the Holy Land. Allah promises that believers whose descendants followed them in faith will be gathered together with their descendants (Surah at-Tur 52:21), and that the angels will enter upon them from every gate (Surah ar-Ra'd 13:23). A household that began with a marriage contract in this world, God willing, continues in Paradise.

## A. Checklist: starting a home

Tick the box when a practice has become a habit. In the Reference column: “al-Bukhari” means Sahih al-Bukhari; “Muslim” means Sahih Muslim (with the name of the book); “Abu Dawud” and “at-Tirmidhi” mean the Sunan of each.

| Obligatory (wajib)                                                                              | Recommended (sunnah)                                                                             | Who              | Reference                       |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------|---------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Paying the dower                                                       |                                                                                                  | Husband          | An-Nisa' 4:4                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Providing maintenance according to means                               |                                                                                                  | Husband          | At-Talaq 65:7; Act 303 s.59     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Living together on a footing of kindness                               |                                                                                                  | Husband and wife | An-Nisa' 4:19                   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Obedience in what is right; guarding oneself and the trust of the home |                                                                                                  | Wife             | al-Bukhari 5200, 7257           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Registering the marriage                                               |                                                                                                  | Husband and wife | Act 303 s.25                    |
|                                                                                                 | <input type="checkbox"/> A walimah according to means                                            | Husband          | al-Bukhari 5167                 |
|                                                                                                 | <input type="checkbox"/> The supplication for the newlyweds and the supplication before intimacy | Husband and wife | Abu Dawud 2130; al-Bukhari 5165 |
|                                                                                                 | <input type="checkbox"/> Praying in congregation as a couple                                     | Husband and wife | al-Bukhari 645                  |
|                                                                                                 | <input type="checkbox"/> A monthly family budget                                                 | Husband and wife | —                               |

## B. Checklist: the Shahadah and creed

| Obligatory (wajib)                                              | Recommended (sunnah)                                                        | Who                              | Reference                             |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Believing in the six articles of faith |                                                                             | Everyone who has reached puberty | Muslim, Kitab al-Iman (Book of Faith) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Avoiding shirk and superstition        |                                                                             | Everyone                         | Luqman 31:13                          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Teaching children the basics of tawhid |                                                                             | Parents                          | At-Tahrim 66:6                        |
|                                                                 | <input type="checkbox"/> Memorising al-Ikhlās, al-Falaq and an-Nas together | Parents and children             | —                                     |
|                                                                 | <input type="checkbox"/> Stories of the prophets at bedtime                 | Parents                          | —                                     |
|                                                                 | <input type="checkbox"/> Teaching children to ask of Allah alone            | Parents                          | at-Tirmidhi 2516                      |
|                                                                 | <input type="checkbox"/> Questions of faith at the dining table             | Parents                          | al-Bukhari 2856                       |

## C. Checklist: prayer

| Obligatory (wajib)                                                                       | Recommended (sunnah)                                                | Who                              | Reference                                                                           |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> The five daily prayers                                          |                                                                     | Everyone who has reached puberty | Taha 20:132                                                                         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> The Friday prayer                                               |                                                                     | Adult men                        | Abu Dawud 1067                                                                      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Telling children to pray from the age of seven; firmness at ten |                                                                     | Parents                          | Abu Dawud 495                                                                       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Separating the children's beds from the age of ten              |                                                                     | Parents                          | Abu Dawud 495                                                                       |
|                                                                                          | <input type="checkbox"/> Family congregational prayer once a day    | Everyone                         | al-Bukhari 645, 727                                                                 |
|                                                                                          | <input type="checkbox"/> The twelve rak'ahs of rawatib              | Everyone                         | at-Tirmidhi 415                                                                     |
|                                                                                          | <input type="checkbox"/> Tasbih, tahmid and takbir after the prayer | Everyone                         | Muslim, Kitab al-Masajid wa Mawadi' as-Salat (Book of Mosques and Places of Prayer) |
|                                                                                          | <input type="checkbox"/> Waking one another for tahajjud            | Husband and wife                 | Abu Dawud 1308                                                                      |
|                                                                                          | <input type="checkbox"/> Voluntary prayers at home                  | Everyone                         | al-Bukhari 432                                                                      |

## D. Checklist: personal obligations (fardh ain)

| Obligatory (wajib)                                                                  | Recommended (sunnah)                                                        | Who                                 | Reference           |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|---------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Knowing how to perform wudu' and the obligatory bath       |                                                                             | Everyone who has reached puberty    | al-Bukhari 135, 248 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Knowing the rulings on menstruation and postnatal bleeding |                                                                             | Wife, daughters; also the husband   | Al-Baqarah 2:222    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Covering the awrah                                         |                                                                             | Everyone who has reached puberty    | An-Nur 24:30-31     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Halal food and income                                      |                                                                             | Everyone; the husband (maintenance) | Al-Baqarah 2:168    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Teaching children the personal obligations before puberty  |                                                                             | Parents                             | At-Tahrim 66:6      |
|                                                                                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Adult religious classes at the mosque or surau     | Husband and wife                    | al-Bukhari 5027     |
|                                                                                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Children asking permission to enter at three times | Children                            | An-Nur 24:58        |

## E. Checklist: zakat and charity

| Obligatory (wajib)                                                    | Recommended (sunnah)                                        | Who                 | Reference                                    |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------|----------------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Zakat al-fitr for every member of the family |                                                             | Head of the family  | al-Bukhari 1503                              |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Zakat on wealth when the conditions are met  |                                                             | Owner of the wealth | At-Taubah 9:103                              |
|                                                                       | <input type="checkbox"/> Daily charity, however small       | Everyone            | al-Bukhari 1417                              |
|                                                                       | <input type="checkbox"/> A family charity box               | Everyone            | al-Bukhari 1427                              |
|                                                                       | <input type="checkbox"/> Ongoing charity and waqf           | Husband and wife    | Muslim, Kitab al-Wasiyyah (Book of Bequests) |
|                                                                       | <input type="checkbox"/> Feeding those who break their fast | Everyone            | —                                            |

## F. Checklist: fasting

| Obligatory (wajib)                                           | Recommended (sunnah)                                                      | Who                              | Reference                                                      |
|--------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fasting Ramadan                     |                                                                           | Everyone who has reached puberty | Al-Baqarah 2:183                                               |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Making up missed fasts              |                                                                           | Wife; the sick or travellers     | Al-Baqarah 2:185; Muslim, Kitab al-Haid (Book of Menstruation) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Training children to fast when able |                                                                           | Parents                          | al-Bukhari 1960                                                |
|                                                              | <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-dawn meal and breaking the fast together     | Everyone                         | al-Bukhari 1923, 1957                                          |
|                                                              | <input type="checkbox"/> Fasting on Mondays and Thursdays                 | Those who are able               | at-Tirmidhi 747                                                |
|                                                              | <input type="checkbox"/> Fasting on the 13th, 14th and 15th of each month | Those who are able               | at-Tirmidhi 761                                                |
|                                                              | <input type="checkbox"/> The six days of Shawwal                          | Those who are able               | at-Tirmidhi 759                                                |
|                                                              | <input type="checkbox"/> Arafah, Tasu'a and Ashura                        | Those who are able               | at-Tirmidhi 749, 752                                           |
|                                                              | <input type="checkbox"/> Reviving the last ten nights together            | Everyone                         | al-Bukhari 2024                                                |

## G. Checklist: children

| Obligatory (wajib)                                                             | Recommended (sunnah)                                                   | Who                  | Reference             |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------|-----------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Maintenance of children                               |                                                                        | Father               | Act 303 s.72          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Circumcision before puberty                           |                                                                        | Parents              | al-Bukhari 5889       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Teaching prayer, fasting and the personal obligations |                                                                        | Parents              | Abu Dawud 495         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Preparing children for puberty                        |                                                                        | Parents              | Abu Dawud 4403        |
|                                                                                | <input type="checkbox"/> Tahnik and a supplication for blessing        | Parents              | al-Bukhari 5467       |
|                                                                                | <input type="checkbox"/> A good name; aqiqah on the seventh day        | Father               | Abu Dawud 2838        |
|                                                                                | <input type="checkbox"/> Shaving the hair and giving silver in charity | Parents              | at-Tirmidhi 1519      |
|                                                                                | <input type="checkbox"/> Nursing for up to two years                   | Mother               | Al-Baqarah 2:233      |
|                                                                                | <input type="checkbox"/> The Qur'an every day                          | Parents and children | al-Bukhari 5027       |
|                                                                                | <input type="checkbox"/> Justice and affection                         | Parents              | al-Bukhari 2587, 5997 |

## H. Checklist: daily rights

| Obligatory (wajib)                                                                  | Recommended (sunnah)                                                   | Who                        | Reference                    |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------|------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Maintenance and good treatment of the wife                 |                                                                        | Husband                    | At-Talaq 65:7; An-Nisa' 4:19 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Obedience in what is right; guarding the trust of the home |                                                                        | Wife                       | al-Bukhari 5200, 7257        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Being good to parents                                      |                                                                        | Husband, wife and children | Al-Isra' 17:23               |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Supporting poor parents                                    |                                                                        | Children who are able      | Shafi'i fiqh                 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Not cutting off ties of kinship                            |                                                                        | Everyone                   | al-Bukhari 5986              |
|                                                                                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Helping with housework                        | Husband                    | al-Bukhari 676               |
|                                                                                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Being first to give salam after a falling-out | Everyone                   | al-Bukhari 6077              |
|                                                                                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Visiting relatives together with the children | Everyone                   | —                            |

# I. Checklist: hajj and umrah

| Obligatory (wajib)                                                                                                        | Recommended (sunnah)                                                    | Who                  | Reference                        |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------|----------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hajj once in a lifetime when able                                                                |                                                                         | Everyone who is able | Ali 'Imran 3:97                  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Umrah once in a lifetime (Shafi'i school)                                                        |                                                                         | Everyone who is able | Shafi'i fiqh                     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sufficient maintenance for the family left behind                                                |                                                                         | Husband              | —                                |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Learning the rites before departure                                                              |                                                                         | Those going for hajj | —                                |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Performing hajj on behalf of a deceased person on whom it was obligatory, from his or her estate |                                                                         | Heirs                | al-Bukhari 1513; Abu Dawud 1811  |
|                                                                                                                           | <input type="checkbox"/> Saving and registering for hajj early          | Husband and wife     | Check with Lembaga Tabung Haji   |
|                                                                                                                           | <input type="checkbox"/> Performing hajj together with one's spouse     | Husband and wife     | al-Bukhari 3006                  |
|                                                                                                                           | <input type="checkbox"/> Bringing children for hajj, if suitable        | Parents              | Abu Dawud 1736                   |
|                                                                                                                           | <input type="checkbox"/> Umrah in the month of Ramadan                  | Everyone             | al-Bukhari 1782                  |
|                                                                                                                           | <input type="checkbox"/> Fasting on Arafah and qurban for those at home | Everyone             | at-Tirmidhi 749; al-Bukhari 5558 |

## CLOSING

# What a wonderful life this is

A happy family is not a family without trials. It is a family in which every member helps the others return to Allah, day after day.

Begin with what is obligatory, adorn it with what is recommended, and be patient with yourselves and with one another. May Allah gather us together with our families in His Paradise.

وَالَّذِينَ يَقُولُونَ رَبَّنَا هَبْ لَنَا مِنْ أَزْوَاجِنَا وَذُرِّيَّاتِنَا قُرَّةَ أَعْيُنٍ وَاجْعَلْنَا  
لِلْمُتَّقِينَ إِمَامًا ﴿٧٤﴾

*"And those who pray, "Our Lord! Grant unto us wives and offspring who will be the comfort of our eyes, and give us (the grace) to lead the righteous.""*

Surah al-Furqan 25:74 · tr. Abdullah Yusuf Ali

mypolygyny.com · A general reference, not a fatwa. Rulings follow the Shafi'i school as practised in Malaysia. For your own situation, consult the mufti's office or your state Islamic religious office; for zakat and hajj, check the current rules with your state zakat centre and Lembaga Tabung Haji (the Pilgrims Fund Board).