

that one pronounce the words, such that one can hear oneself.<sup>30</sup> The follower does not recite Qur'ān in group prayers, regardless of whether the *imām* is reciting aloud or not, though he does say all the invocations and supplications of the prayer

- II. For the *imām* to recite aloud in the Fajr (dawn), Maghrib (sunset), and 'Ishā' (evening) prayers. The one praying alone has the choice of reciting aloud or quietly, as in supererogatory night prayers.

### Performing the Prayer

For the prayer to be valid, certain conditions have to be met. Before one starts one must:

1. Be in a state of ritual purity, whether through the ritual bath or ritual ablution
2. Ensure purity of body, clothing, and place of prayer
3. Cover one's nakedness
4. Face the *qibla*
5. Ensure that the time of prayer has entered
6. Intend the specific prayer that one is performing and intend following the *imām* if praying in congregation.

### A Complete Description of the Prayer

- I. Stand, with your feet slightly apart,<sup>31</sup> and utter the opening invocation.<sup>32</sup> This is obligatory. It is necessary (*wājib*) to say, "Allāhu akbar."<sup>33</sup> This invocation (*Allāhu akbar*) is repeated, without raising the hands, with each movement of the prayer

except when rising from the bowing (*rukūʿ*). The one leading others utters it aloud. It is recommended to keep one's gaze lowered throughout the prayer, in order to avoid distraction. When standing, this entails looking at your place of prostration.

2. Raise your hands (until level with the ears for men and to the shoulders for women) just before uttering the opening invocation, keeping the head upright throughout, and lower the hands as one pronounces the invocation. It is recommended to keep one's hands normally open, with the palms facing the *qibla*.
3. Place your right hand over your left hand (under the navel for men and on the chest for women).
4. In the first *rakʿa* only, quietly recite the opening supplication (*thanāʾ*).
5. Seek refuge from the Devil (*taʿawwudh*) quietly, in the first *rakʿa* alone, if reciting the Qurʾān in prayer. The one leading others and the one praying alone do so—as they must recite. When praying in congregation do not recite this—as one does not recite the Qurʾān behind the *imām*—unless one has missed one or more *rakʿats*, in which case one recites this when one gets up to make up the *rakʿats* missed.
6. Recite at least one verse of the Qurʾān when leading others, or praying alone. This is obligatory. When praying behind an *imām* one does not recite any Qurʾān, not even the Fātiʿa, in both loud and quiet prayers.<sup>34</sup>

It is necessary (*wājib*) for the one reciting to recite the Fātiʿa, in two *rakʿats* of obligatory prayers and in all *rakʿats* of other