

## Punishments for Those Who Do Not Pray on the Judgment Day

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In the name of God, the Beneficent, the Merciful.

I give thanks to the one who gave me life, the Immortal Majestic King who blesses those who perform their mandatory ritual prayers and punish those who refuse to perform them.

May He bless His prophet, his family, and companions! No creature can count what they ignore.

The son of Saydu Muhammadu shows the lazy person how praying is indispensable.

O Uuruuro Dalaba,<sup>1</sup> an old wiseman can easily make his students understand.

Honesty is fundamental<sup>2</sup> in Islam. Those who are dishonest toward creatures will not be saved by [divine] forgiveness on the Judgment Day.

Allah said: "We only sent a messenger with the tongue of the people so that he may enlighten them."<sup>3</sup>

The beginning of the Islamic faith is the shahada.<sup>4</sup> After this, one must perform the [five] prayers. Praying is an obligation.

Anyone who refuses to pray should stop giving zakat<sup>5</sup> and fasting. The zakat al-Fitr<sup>6</sup> is not required for him.

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<sup>1</sup> *Uuruuro Dalaba* means those whose family name is *Mbalde* called Balde or Ba in Senegal. The *Mbalde*'s origin is Dalaba which is a city in Guinea located in the mount *Fouta Djallon* (or *Fouta Jalon*) about 363 km from the capital, Conakry.

<sup>2</sup> The word *Laabal* used by the author generally means purity but in human relationships. That is the case here. It means honesty and sincerity. The Pular expression *Laabal ko diina* used by the author is strong in this context of praying, since before doing ablution (*saligagol* in Pular) for the prayer (*juulude* in Pular), the Muslim must be clean from any impurity.

<sup>3</sup> Q 14:4.

<sup>4</sup> The *shahada* or *chahada* is the profession of the faith that is essential in Islam. It is the first of the five pillars in Islam.

<sup>5</sup> The *zakaat* or *zakāt* refers here to the mandatory annual charity given to a category of people noted in the Quran (9:60).

<sup>6</sup> There is a particular and mandatory *zakāt* given before the end of Ramadan, i.e., *zakāt al-fitr* (alms given to end the fast). Given to those in greatest need, it is a charity used to purify the sins committed during the month of Ramadan.

He does not need to accomplish either the ḥajj<sup>7</sup> or engage in jihad.<sup>8</sup> No pillar of Islam is required of him.

Prayer is the foundation of all the pillars of Islam. Anyone who refuses to perform it, let him not bother. He will not be able to accomplish anything.<sup>9</sup>

God will bring prayer times to fill up the earth and the sky, to the right and left, nothing will be left, until human beings are submerged. Then, Allah will tell him: "You can pray now! How can creatures tell their Creator they refuse, that they will not pray?"

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The one who refuses to abide by the Creator's word will report to Him one day, and Allah has promised that day which is inescapable!<sup>10</sup>

You use the eight parts of your body when you pray. When you pray, you prostrate these eight parts.

You prostrate with your toes, hands, knees, nose, and forehead when praying.

Children are taught to pray by the age of seven, because it is an obligation.

When they are ten years old, if they refuse to pray, it behooves us to discipline them,

a reasonable punishment until they accept to pray, since praying is an obligation.<sup>11</sup>

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<sup>7</sup> The ḥajj is the annual pilgrimage to Mecca, the fifth pillar of Islam.

<sup>8</sup> The word *jihād* is used several times in the Quran. Most often in the expression *al-jihād bi amwālikum wa anfusikum* (*struggle with your wealth and your souls*). In this context, *jihād* can be defined as the fact of providing material and spiritual effort as recommended by God.

<sup>9</sup> These five pillars of Islam are mandatory for all Muslims: 1) the Profession of faith (*chahada*), 2) the five prayers (*Ṣalat*), 3) mandatory (*Zakāt*), 4) Fasting (*Ṣawm*), and 5) Pilgrimage to Mecca (*Ḥajj*), if one can afford it.

<sup>10</sup> The Judgment Day

<sup>11</sup> *Abū Dāwūd* and *Al-Ḥakīm* reported to 'Amru ibn al-'As, this hadith of Prophet Muhammad: "Command your children to pray from the age of seven, and discipline them if they neglect it from the age of ten and put them in different beds."

This is what Ibn ‘Abbās<sup>12</sup> stated with certitude reporting the words of the best of creatures [Prophet Muhammad].

When he had asked the meaning of daybreak, the best of creatures replied to him: “You have asked an important question. Listen and you will learn!”

Know that daybreak is the name of our prayer time. The one who refuses to pray will go to hell.

Know that daybreak is the name of a fountain in hell whose depth is unfathomable!

It is in this fountain that the rock of hell is placed for people who refused to pray to perform the prayers they missed, for it is obligatory.

We seek protection [in Allah] against this rock of hell like all sons of Adam [human beings] seek permanent protection against hell.

Even if all the human beings on earth and in the sky joined their forces, they would not be able to either move this rock one bit or lift it [due to its heavy weight].

The redness of the rock has never been seen before and will never be seen again. It is made to torment [those who had neglected the prayer times].

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If the number of those who fan the fire [heating the rock] equals one thousand, and they fan with all their strength for days

up to one hundred years, and the rock is pulled out of the fire, guess how it will look!<sup>13</sup>

So, even if all the waters in the sky and on earth fell on the rock, the noise would be heard but the rock would not cool off!

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<sup>12</sup> ‘*Abd Allah ibn ‘Abbās* is the paternal cousin of Prophet Muhammad. He is well respected for his scholarship. He is one of the first experts of the Quran and Sunna (the traditions of Prophet Muhammad).

<sup>13</sup> The author wants to show here the impressive degree of redness and heat of the rock created by the fire.

He [Ibn ‘Abbās] then asked: “Tell us, the Privileged One [Muhammad], who are, then, the people who will go to that rock”? The Privileged One replied to him: “There will dwell tomorrow [on Judgment Day] those who did not perform their obligatory prayers.”

It is on that rock that they will pay<sup>14</sup> Allah’s obligatory prayers!” To those who say the time to pray has passed, they won’t pray,

they will repay every rak ‘a<sup>15</sup> one thousand times. Every prostration will be done one thousand times.

When your body decomposes<sup>16</sup> to become fiery pus, Allah will recreate you in your indestructible image.

You will remain in that state for eternity since you will no longer die, for you said during your lifetime that you don’t pray!

The time[that the one who does not pray will spend in hell] will be immeasurable!

It will be as if all heavens, earths and clouds were removed, and put on the side, then small grains the size of an atom were filled up between the earth and the sky, and then a rooster was asked to feed on them!”<sup>17</sup>

After one thousand years in the afterlife, you can keep counting and recounting one by one these same small grains the size of an atom!<sup>18</sup>

No one can measure the time this count will take to finish!

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<sup>14</sup> They will pray on that rock in hell to perform all the prayers they missed in their lifetime.

<sup>15</sup> A rak ‘a is a unit of prayer in Islam. Each ritual prayer consists of two to four rak ‘as. One rak ‘a is the series, when standing upright, of one inclination of the upper body followed by returning to the upright position, then by a prostration, followed by returning the upright (seated position), then by another prostration identical to the first and a return to the same upright position. Each one of these positions is accompanied by ritual formulas.

<sup>16</sup> After death when the body decomposes in hell.

<sup>17</sup> The rooster will feed until its death but will not finish all the grains because there are too many.

<sup>18</sup> Here the author emphasizes the fact that no one can measure the time that people who do not pray will spend in hell.

Allah does not implore anyone to pray. It is an obligation that prophets did not even delay fulfilling. They did not even dare.

Salomon, the son of Dāvūd [David] once delayed his afternoon prayer time [‘Aṣr] that he never missed.

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This was because of the one thousand chosen horses he was receiving for his crucial holy war.

They were horses of great size, gifts destined to a merciful king who never punished anyone! After he counted nine hundred horses, the sun began setting, and the sunset is irreversible.

Afterwards, he was worried and declared: "Of what use are these horses, if they have prevented me from fulfilling the obligatory prayer of Allah at the proper time? Let them all be returned and be slaughtered as sacrifices, because of them I have delayed the obligatory prayer time!"

If a prophet of Allah did such a thing because he delayed a prayer time, what should you do, you, an ordinary man?

Allah made his prayer an vital obligation for us. Men and women who say they don't pray, if they are ill, Allah requires them to pray as they can, upright or seated. But praying is indispensable!

Whether you are lying on your side or on your back or on your belly, what is important is that you do it before you die.

If you are too lazy to pray while in good health, and you say you won't pray when you are sick, know that you will pray when you die because it has been proven that praying is indispensable.

The one who fulfills some of the mandatory [five] prayers and neglects the rest, let him know that because of the other prayers he neglected voluntarily, he is considered a nonbeliever.

If you are afraid and fleeing from your enemies, who want to kill you, pray before they arrive.

If you are riding [an animal] or are on foot, you can intentionally pray facing your direction!

Do not bow.<sup>19</sup> Do the prostration as you can and count the number of rak'as that you did.

Do not delay the prayer for fear of being killed. Death is a servant of [Allah]. If He does not command it to kill, it will not kill!

It is your Unique Creator [Allah] who created death. Fear the Master of death, if He has not decided your death beforehand, you will not die.

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When your death must arrive, running away will not spare you, for it was prescribed since the beginning. When the time comes, it will not go past it.

It is not allowed to delay the prayer time for lack of water. If because it has some minor or major impurity, the worshipper should pray with it.

For this reason, Allah has authorized dry ablution, if one has no water or if the person cannot use water.<sup>20</sup>

The one who has water before the time to pray has passed, let him use the water and redo his prayer. He will not regret it.

Those who say the time to pray has passed, and they will wait until the next prayer time to do both prayers, they will regret it when regret will be useless!

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<sup>19</sup> *The rukū'* (bowing down) indicates the bowing position of the worshipper's upper body while praying in Islam.

<sup>20</sup> In case of water shortage or when the worshipper should not touch water for medical reasons, the latter can perform dry ablutions (*tayammum*) with sand.

Those who have forgotten and those who were sleeping, if they recall and pray without delay, they will not be judged for their sleep or for their oblivion, because they did not sin voluntarily. Allah is just!

For the man and the woman who voluntarily neglected the prayer times, Allah will serve them [after death] many prayer times that will overwhelm them.

Allah will ask the person to pray now, and to go up front in a rush.

This person will go to the rock of hell to fulfill his prayers, for it is proven that praying is indispensable just like paying one's debts is indispensable.<sup>21</sup>

It is those who insult their teachers and those who insult their parents who will be cursed together with those who do not pray. They will dwell together in the rock of hell.

No one is worse than them between the earth and the sky. They will be cursed in the rock of hell and will never come out of it and will never die!

If you decide to neglect all these prayer times in this world, know that you will find them in the hereafter, they will expect you [at the rock of hell]. It is inevitable!

Imagine all the prayer times of the zenith [Dhuhr] that you have neglected that are expecting you in the hereafter and the early afternoon prayer times [‘Asr] that Allah compels you to pray!

All these prayer times, you will repay them in the hereafter, without exception. Be sure about that!

Be they prayer times you have neglected in the past or those you will neglect or delay voluntarily in the future!

To you who says that prayer time is past, forgetting that you have not prayed it, if you neglect that prayer by praying the next one,

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<sup>21</sup> The neglected mandatory prayers are considered by the Fula as debts towards Allah.

know that a day will come when all the prayer times you have neglected will stand before you. This is inevitable!

May Allah bless His messenger [Muhammad]. Blessed are the believers who fear Allah during their prayers.

Those who are devoutly submissive to Allah and always think of fulfilling their obligations in the right conditions,

anytime a prayer time is respected, Allah will absolve all their sins without exception between the prayer times!<sup>22</sup>

If a lake is in your courtyard and you bathe in it five times a day, your body will not be dirty.<sup>23</sup>

If you have faith and you fulfill the five mandatory prayers every day, this good deed will not go in vain!

The one who prays should keep in mind that the Ka'ab<sup>24</sup> is in front of him, the bridge over hell [al-Sirat] is under his feet when praying.

He should know that the Angel of Death is behind him during all that time and should wonder whether this prayer would be his last!

He should know that paradise is on his right and hell on his left and should wonder which way he might go.

The one who prays this way will be privileged before me [Allah]. He will receive from Allah his inevitable promise.

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<sup>22</sup> This is about the person who respects all mandatory prayer times without neglect.

<sup>23</sup> This metaphor reinforces the former idea. It means that you will be clean (purified), if you respect the five daily prayer times. It is as if you shower five times a day, you will be clean (from any sin). The idea is to encourage people to respect the mandatory prayer times.

<sup>24</sup> *Ka'ba* or *Kaaba* is an edifice covered by a black silk fabric located in the middle of Mecca's grand mosque (*al-Masjid al-Ḥaram*). Muslims around the world face the Kaaba to pray (including when they are within the *al-Masjid al-Ḥaram*) to fulfil their daily prayers.



One who prays must focus on the spot where he prostrates. During the bowing [rukū], he should look at his knees.

During the prostration, do believe that God is present; when you stand back up, you must look only at your knees.

One single prostration that he accurately does while praying is equal to ten thousand years of prostration!

And Allah will promote him by paying him twenty thousand rewards for each prostration performed. He will not reduce the number!

But on the condition to do the prayer as recommended, i.e., fulfilling all the obligations, the requirements and the optional meritorious acts!

Praying is like sowing. Knowledge is the seed! If you sow without harvesting, you've wasted your physical strength!

It is reported in the narrations that a woman once passed away, and when the time to do the mortuary bath came,

people were baffled to see a snake around her, and everyone was dumbfounded and wondered what to do.

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Her father saw the situation and asked the snake to move aside until the body washers finished their job.

The snake stepped aside until they finished and covered her with the shroud. The snake came back to where it was.

People washing the body asked the woman's father about her child, and he replied that she always performed her prayers late!

If someone who performs her prayers late receives such a sanction, what will happen to someone who completely refused to pray?

It is also reported in the stories that a Shaykh who wanted to cross a sea had noticed something strange.

After some investigations, he found that there were one thousand men of his generation who did not pray.

He fetched some sea water to drink and found it bitter. He spat it on the ground.

And the water his spittle turned into poison that dried up all the rivers and streams! This was how that city was cursed because of those who did not pray!

The best of the creatures [the Prophet Muhammad] teaches us that the one who neglects one prayer time will be punished in the rock of hell and will pray there. It is inevitable!

And Allah has said. "[Those who do not pray] will dwell there for successive centuries."<sup>25</sup> It is God who said it. It is then inevitable!

Allah has said "I will fill up hell."<sup>26</sup> The majority of people who will fill it are people who neglected prayers and those who refused to fulfill their mandatory prayers.

The one who wants to be saved, should pray here in this world, and he should pay for the prayer times that he has neglected in his lifetime because praying is indispensable!

If he has neglected many prayer times, and he does not know the number, he should pray the maximum possible until he is sure there is none left.

If he has no idea about the number of prayer times he has neglected, he must pay for them throughout his life!

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<sup>25</sup> Q 78:23.

<sup>26</sup> Q 32:13.

No one should do supererogatory prayers,<sup>27</sup> either by day or by night, if they have a mandatory prayer left to fulfill,

or do supererogatory prayer during the month of Ramadan, much less pray in the evening, because this is worthless!

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All these words are not mine but those of Allah. I am only reporting the words of the Master which are inevitable.

Some people have learned Arabic or have listened to lecturers without understanding, and they don't pray to this day.

Someone who teaches everyone, if he does not enlighten the disciples, they will not understand, because not everyone has the same level of intelligence.

All the foods that see those who do not pray tremble for fear of being eaten by them!

They say, O my Creator, do not give me as nourishment to the people who refuse to pray at your prayer times,

for, if you remove Your mercy and [those who do not pray] eat us, we will only become nothing but filth!

Since it is not allowed to neglect the prayer for food, any food [consumed by people who do not pray] will become incurable poison in their stomach!

Anyone who shares food with someone who does not pray will be hard-hearted, and it is proven that the hard-hearted will go to hell!

May Allah spare my generation so that there are many people who perform their obligatory prayers!

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<sup>27</sup> Supererogatory prayer or *ṣalat al-nāfi'a* is a prayer fulfilled by Muslims in addition to the five mandatory daily prayers, which are part of Islam's five pillars.