

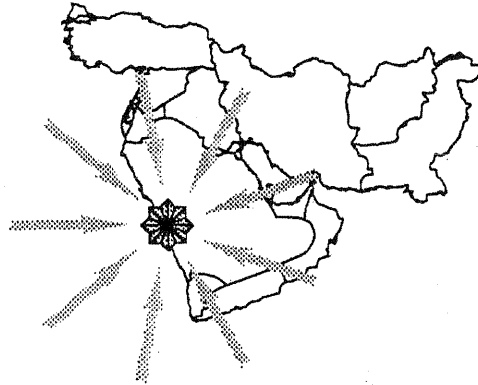


CLOTHING, CUSTOMS, AND PRAYER - 2

Islamic prayer

Muslims pray five times a day facing the holy city of Makkah. Prayer may be recited at a mosque, at home, or even on the street. Preparations include ritual washing and the removal of shoes.

... the Muslim prays five times a day facing the holy city of Makkah: at first light, noon, mid-afternoon, sunset, and total darkness.



Steps in prayer Prayer time is before daybreak, shortly after the sun's zenith, mid afternoon, just after sunset, and at night before retiring. Two to four rakaats (prostrations of prayer in Arabic and postures) are performed.

Prayer rug Many use small prayer rugs laid so the design points to Makkah, but any clean cloth or surface will do.

Clothing Prayer requires modest, clean, clothing that is free from impurities.

The fatiha The opening sura (chapter) in the Qur'an that is recited at every daily prayer either silently or aloud, depending on the time of day that prayer is performed. All Muslims offer prayers in Arabic regardless of their native language:

This translation of the fatiha is by Abdallah Yusuf Ali.

"In the name of God, Most Gracious,
Most Merciful,
Praise be to God, The Cherisher
and Sustainer of the Worlds;
Most Gracious, Most Merciful;
Master of the Day of Judgment;
Thee do we worship,
And Thine aid we seek,
Show us the straight path,
The way on those whom Thou
hast bestowed Thy Grace,
Those whose portion is not wrath,
And who go not astray.
Amen."