

The Call to Prayer

[Adhan / Azan]

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When the proclamation that "Allah is Greatest" is sincerely felt in the heart, it reinforces the Believer's resolve to live by His Commands.

The Noble Qur'an and the authentic traditions of Allah's final Messenger (peace be upon him) are their guides in their return journey to Allah The Exalted.

The *adhan* is a revolutionary proclamation that sovereignty rests with Allah Alone.

Allah knows best.

By: Dr Y Mansoor Marican, Ph. D

At the end of *adhan*, *du'a* or supplication is made which consists of the following:
"O Allah, Lord of this complete call and prayer of ours, grant Muhammad the right of intercession and the highest position, and raise him to the praiseworthy place that You have promised him and bestow on him the right of intercession on the Day of Resurrection, for You do not fail in Your promise."

[Bukhari]

After allowing a few minutes for Muslims to complete the tasks at hand, the second call to prayer or *iqamah* is made to call the gathering to prayer in a lower voice than that for the *adhan*.

The *iqamah* is a shortened version of *adhan*. In *iqamah*, after the "Come to success," call, the *mu'azzin* recites twice, "Prayer has begun." The *musallis* (persons performing the Prayer) reply, "May Allah establish it and make it permanent."

The caller of *iqamah* must also face The Sacred Mosque. It is recited at a faster pace than the *adhan*. The person who recites it need not be the same person who recites the *adhan*.

The *adhan* is a communal obligation (*fard kifayah*) in that in all places where regular prayer is established, Muslims have to appoint a person to do it properly at the appropriate times.

There are two *adhan* for the Friday congregational prayer. The second *adhan* is recited *before the Imam* addresses the gathering.

As the times for the five daily obligatory prayers vary within and between time zones, there is never a moment on our planet when the *adhan* is not being recited, as the end of *adhan* in one place is the beginning of *adhan* in another place.

With The Name of Allah,
The Intensely Merciful, The Eternally Merciful

The Call to Prayer

Islam's call to prayer or *adhan* (*azan*) is unique in that it is an oral call.

Others beat drums, blow horns, ring bells or put up notices.

Adhan is a call to the Believers to hasten to worship Allah The Exalted.

The 15 lines recited loudly in *adhan* are:

1

Allah is Greatest (4 times)

2

I testify that there is no god to be worshipped except Allah (twice)

3

I testify that Muhammad is His final Messenger (twice)

4

Come to Prayer (twice)

5

Come to Success (twice)

Prayer is better than sleep (twice – this call is for the dawn prayer only)

6

Allah is Greatest (twice)

7

There is no god to be worshipped except Allah (once)

The *adhan* combines both the Testimony of Faith in Islam that identifies the Believers from others as well as an inspirational call to achieve success in this world and the Hereafter through prayer.

The Caller to Prayer or *mu'azzin* must be in *wudhu* or a state of purity for prayer, and face the *Qiblah* (the direction of the The Sacred Mosque in Makkah).

The *mu'azzin* places his two fingers in his two ears to raise the loudness of his voice.

The use of amplifiers in many mosques has removed the need to make the Call loudly.

The *mu'azzin* turns to his right when reciting, "Come to Prayer" and to his left when reciting, "Come to Success," and pauses after each line of the *adhan*.



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The *adhan* is recited in Arabic, which makes it easy for Muslims to recognize it in all places in the world.

The playing of audio or video recordings of *adhan* is accepted as a way of reminding the time of prayer but not as a *substitute* for the actual *adhan* by the *mu'azzin*.

In some places, the *mu'azzin* receives training in the art of reciting the *adhan*.

Many have accepted Islam after listening to the message of the *adhan* and the inspirational melody of the *adhan*.

Though the *adhan* is a call to the prayer in congregation, Muslims staying in locations where it cannot be heard or praying alone recite the *adhan* themselves before the prayer.

It is the religious duty of the Believers to respond to the *adhan* by stopping all things that may impede others from hearing the *adhan*.

Muslims repeat softly the lines in 1, 2, 3, 6 and 7 of the *adhan* immediately after the *mu'azzin* has completed each of the 11 lines.

They recite softly, "There is no protection and power other than Allah," immediately after the *mu'azzin* has completed each of the two lines in 4 and 5 respectively.

They recite softly, "You said the truth and you did good," immediately after the *mu'azzin* has completed each time the special recitation for the dawn prayer.



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