

Serving Allah The Eternally Merciful

By requiring us to pray in a certain manner five times a day, Allah has given us the formula for taming the ego.

Our convenience and comfort should not be the consideration in our daily prayers.

Obeying totally and unconditionally Allah's Command should be our only consideration.

Tough luck *nafs*!

Of course, our *nafs* will be displeased when we ignore it and obey Allah instead. It will complain, "*Why must I pray this way?*"

Our answer to the ego should be, "*Well, guess what, you are not the boss. Allah is my Master and I serve Allah.*"

Making you happy is not my goal in life. Serving you will make me miserable. Serving Allah is my true purpose and joy.

The daily prayers are to make sure that you (nafs) and I always remember my true goal!"

Our *nafs* will never be pleased regardless of how desperately we serve its needs. Yet Allah is pleased with every effort.

Imagine the results if we gave Allah the attention and slavehood that we give to our ego everyday.

Jihad is a permanent struggle to control our *nafs* in every moment of our life.

Embrace Islam to tame your ego through the daily obligatory prayers.

Adapted by Dr Y Mansoor Marican
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"Why can't I pray my way?"

We think we are free. The truth is we are slaves to our egos until we choose to serve Allah instead.



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

“Why can’t I pray my way?”

Muslims are required to pray five times a day at fixed times. During these prayers, they recite verses from The Qur’an.

The prayer positions include standing, bowing, prostrating and sitting.

After embracing Islam, I was wondering why do I have to pray in this way. I liked the idea of stopping our daily activities five times to communicate to Allah The Exalted.

But I kept fighting the need to recite rote lines in Arabic during prayer. It is not my native language and therefore reciting in that language doesn’t seem like it is from my heart.

The sitting position during prayer can be quite uncomfortable to someone who is not used to this way of praying.

Why would Allah want me to be so frustrated and be in difficulty when I’m trying to communicate with Him?

Wouldn’t it be better for me to get into a relaxed position and really speak from my heart?

We are all slaves of The Creator

We always fight the idea of being a *slave* to anyone because of our ego. We never want to be lower to anyone or anything. The truth is we are all slaves.

Cover:

“The slave is nearest to his Lord when he is in prostration.” [Muslim]

We don’t have a choice to be anything else. The only thing we choose is WHOM do we serve?

Slaves of our ego

Regardless of what we achieve (degree, senior position, high income), our *nafs* [The Qur’an 12:53] will constantly demand more.

We think we are free. We think we serve no one. The truth is we are slaves to our egos until we choose to serve Allah instead.

Nafs as test

Our *nafs* can be a blessing or a curse. It is our test. It can distance us from Allah or deliver us to Him. [89:27-28]

It depends on what we choose.

If we remain trapped as slaves to the demands of our ego, then it will eventually lead to misery and unhappiness.

Continuously chasing dreams, fulfilling urges and satisfying desires strengthen the ego.

Worshipping, fasting and disciplining the urges tame and diminish the ego.

If we learn to tame the ego, then it will become our ticket to our true freedom and happiness that will place us in The Straight Path in our return journey to Allah.

Praying my way is serving the ego

Of course, Allah wants us to open our heart to Him. Worshipping Allah from the heart should be as natural as breathing air.

But that is different from the required daily prayers. **If we only prayed when we liked to pray and in a manner that we preferred, then we are still serving our ego.**

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