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**MOLVI AMEER ALI**

**A CATHECHISM  
OF  
THE MUSLIM FAITH  
AND PRACTICE**

**Revised and Edited**

**by**

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**PREFACE**  
**BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH – MOULVI AMEER ALI**

Moulvi Ameer 'Ali was born in 1898 at Point-a-Pierre, Trinidad. In 1923 he went to pursue studies in Islamic Theology at the Ahmadiyya Anjuman Isha'at-i-Islam, Lahore.

Moulvi Ameer Ali returned in 1930. Now a scholar in Arabic, English and Urdu, he had pursued studies in Islamic Theology at the Ahmadiyya Anjuman Isha'at-i-Islam in Lahore, at Al-Azhar, and at Cairo University.

In 1964 Moulvi Ameer Ali pledge himself with the Ahmadiyya Movement. During the course of his Missionary activities he had also rendered services in Surinam and in Guyana, where he formed the Guyana Ahmadiyya Anjuman.

The Ahmadiyya Anjuman Isha'at-i-Islam Trinidad & Guyana in reprinting this 2nd revised edition of Moulvi Ameer Ali's most important work wishes to express its thanks to Mrs. Ameer Ali for kindly permitting its reprint and revision.

**M.K. Hydal**  
B.A.( Peshwar)

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## **BIS MIL-LAA HIR-RAH MAA NIR-RAHEEM**

A Catechism of the Muslim Faith and practice.



1. Who made you?  
**GOD** made me.
2. Why has God made you?  
**GOD** made me so that I should know Him, love Him and serve Him on earth, and be with Him forever after in heaven.
3. What is your duty to God?  
**MY** duty to God is to believe in Him, to worship Him; to put all my trust in Him; to honour His holy name, and His holy word which is the holy Qur'an; to serve Him faithfully all the days of my life, and to thank Him for His grace.
4. Who is God?  
**GOD** is the Eternal Spirit Who is infinite in power, the Lord of the Universe, the Beneficent, the Merciful.
5. Who created all things?  
**GOD** created all things – He is the only Creator.
6. To what order of creation do you belong?  
I belong to the order of human beings.
7. What part of you is your soul?  
**MY** soul is my spiritual self which shall not die.
8. Why some people do not serve God?  
**SOME** people do not serve God because they do not know the truth about Him.

9. Is **Allah** the name of God?

Yes. **Allah** is the **Personal name** of Almighty God which He Himself revealed to man.

### SINS AND FORGIVENESS

10. Is a human being sinful by nature?

NO, a human being is not sinful by nature; every child is born sinless.

11. What is sin?

**SIN** is the transgression by thought, word or deed of any religious or moral law.

12. Is the forgiveness of sin possible?

YES, the merciful and forgiving attributes of Allah make the forgiveness of sins possible.

13. How can you seek forgiveness of a sin?

I can seek forgiveness of a sin through sincere **TAWBA**.

14. What is **Tawba**?

**TAWBA** is repentance for a sin, seeking Allah's forgiveness and **resolving never to do it again**.

15. Can you do any spiritual good to others?

YES, I can do spiritual good to others by kind words and good examples.

16. How can you keep away from sin?

I can keep away from sins by seeking the grace of Allah in prayer and by the discipline of fasting.

17. What are the things in which lies the seed of sins?

THE seed of sins lies in **Envy, Malice, Lying, Hatred, Lust and the taking of intoxicants**.

18. Is the taking of intoxicating drinks forbidden?

**YES**, all kinds of intoxicating drinks are forbidden: The Holy Qur'an says in Chapter 5: 90-91: "O you who believe! Intoxicants and gambling and sacrificing to idols and the drawing of lots are all uncleanness of the devils' work, keep away from them that you may be successful. The devil only desires, by means of intoxicants and gambling to put enmity and hatred between you."

19. Is it against the teachings of Islam to take a little of rum, or stout, or wine, or beer?

**YES**; rum, stout, wine or beer all these contain alcohol and any drink that contains alcohol is unclean; a Muslim must not take of any drink that contains alcohol.

### CHARACTER

20. What is the greatest part of a person?

**THE** greatest part of a person is his character.

21. What are the virtues that build character?

**THE** virtues that build character are: **Truthfulness, Prudence, Fortitude, Justice and Temperance.**

22. What is Truthfulness?

**TRUTHFULNESS** is speaking the truth under all circumstances, even when the truth is against one's self.

23. What is Prudence?

**PRUDENCE** is that habit of mind which makes wise provision for the future.

24. What is Fortitude?

**FORTITUDE** is the spirit of courage to resist temptation, and to endure the trials of life.

25. What is Justice?

**JUSTICE** is the doing of that which is fair and right to one's self and to maintain fairness and righteousness in one's dealing with others.

26. What is Temperance?

**TEMPERANCE** is the power of self-control which directs our affections and desires to the greatest good.

### MUSLIM

27. What are you (by religion)?

I am a Muslim.

28. Who is a Muslim?

A Muslim is a person who believes in Allah and accepts Muhammad, may peace and the blessings of Allah be upon him, as the final prophet of Allah.

29. What do you mean by "A Prophet of Allah"?

A prophet of Allah is a person to whom Allah has revealed His messages and commands for the guidance of the people.

30. Were there other prophets besides the Holy Prophet Muhammad?

YES, there were many prophets before the Holy Prophet Muhammad; Noah, Abraham, Moses and Jesus, peace be upon them all, were few of the prophets of Allah.

31. Do you believe in all the prophets?

YES, I do believe in all of Allah's prophets: a Muslim must believe in, and honour the names of, Allah's prophets.

32. How should a Muslim honour the names of the prophets?

A Muslim, whenever he utters or hears the name of any of the prophets, must say: "Peace be upon him"; but in the case of the name of the prophet Muhammad he must say: "May Peace and the blessings of Allah be upon him!"

33. Say: "Peace be upon him" in Arabic.

'Alai his-salaam

34. Say, "May Peace and the blessings of Allah be upon him" in Arabic.  
Sal-lal-laahu 'alaih wa sal-lam.
35. Was Muhammad ( Sal-lal-laahu 'alaih wa sal-lam) human?  
YES. The Holy Qur'an testified that he was human in the following words: Qui in-namaa ana basharum-mithlukum. "Say (O Muhammad to the people of the world) that I am only a human being like you". Ch. 18: 110.
36. Were all of Allah's prophets human beings?  
YES, all the prophets of Allah were human beings. "And We (Allah) did not send before ~~the~~ (Muhammad) but men (as prophets) to whom We revealed (knowledge and guidance). – Al-Qur'an Ch. 21 : 7.
37. What kind of pronoun is "We" when it refers to Allah?  
WHEN Allah uses the pronoun "We" for Himself the "We" is not plural of number but plural denoting Majesty.
38. Recite the **KALIMA** of the Muslim.  
Laa ilaaha il-lal-laahu Muham-madur-Rasoo lul-laah  
No God is there but Allah and Muhammad is the apostle of Allah.
39. Who is a Kafir?  
A Kafir – non-muslim -- is one who rejects the Unity of Allah and/or the Prophethood of Muhammad.
40. Can you call one who accepts and recites the kalima, a kafir?  
NO! A muslim must never call a kafir, one who accepts and recites the kalima
41. What is the meaning of the word "Allah"??  
**ALLAH** is the Arabic word for the One and only True God.
42. Who has given to you the name "Muslim"??  
IN AL-Qur'an Ch. 22:78 Allah has named the followers of the Religion of Islam **MUSLIMS**.

43. What is Al-Qur'an?

**AL-QUR'AN** or The Holy Qur'an is God's Revelation which was given to the world through the Holy Prophet Muhammad, may peace and the blessings of Allah be upon him. It is the final Divine Revelation for the guidance of all nations.

### **ISLAM**

44. What is your religion?

MY religion is **ISLAM**.

45. Who gave the name "**ISLAM**" to your religion?

IN the Holy Qur'an, Allah has named our religion "**ISLAM**": "Surely the religion with God is **ISLAM**" Ch. 3:18 and in Ch. 5:3 Allah has declared: "This day I have perfected for you your religion and have completed my favour on you and have chosen for you **ISLAM** as your religion."

46. What is the meaning of the word **ISLAM**?

**ISLAM** means: Peace through submission to Allah.

47. Why is your religion named **ISLAM**?

MY religion is named **ISLAM** because it requires me to act and live in such a manner as to promote peace and goodwill among all peoples.

48. Have you got a practical example of the teachings of Islam in the life of any person?

YES, the life of the Holy Prophet Muhammad, may peace and the blessings of Allah be upon him, is a glorious and perfect example of the teachings of Islam. Allah, in the Holy Qur'an, has said: "Certainly you have in the Prophet of Allah an excellent exemplar" – Ch. 33: 21.

49. Is it proper to call the followers of the religion of Islam "Mohammadans"?

NO: It is not proper to call the followers of Islam "Mohammadans" – In Ch. 3:63 of the Holy Qur'an Allah has given to us the name "**MUSLIMS**" and we must not be called by any other name.



50. Are there any sects in Islam?

NO! There are no sects in Islam. Sunnis, Shiahs, Hanafies, Ahmadies, Shaafi'ies, Wahhaabies, Ghair-Muqallids etc. are all schools of thought.

51.- What is a school of thought?

A school of thought is the interpretation of the Holy Qur'an and/or the sunna of the Holy Prophet Muhammad, or of matters of Islamic juris-prudence (fiqh) as held by a group of muslims following an Imaam (scholar).

### ARTICLES OF FAITH

52. How many Articles of Faith are there in Islam?

THERE are **SEVEN** Articles of Faith in Islam.

53. Name the seven Articles of Faith.

THE seven Articles of Faith are: Belief in (1) Allah; (2) Angels; (3) Revealed Books; (4) Prophets; (5) The Last Day; (6) That a thing is good or bad according to the decree of Allah, and (7) The Resurrection after death.

54. Recite the Articles of Faith in Arabic.

Aamantu bil-laahi, wa malaa ikatihi, wa kutu bihi, wa rusu lihi, wal yau mil aakhiri, wa qadri khai rihi wa shar rihi minal laahi ta 'aalaa, wa ba'athi ba'ad almaut.

I BELIEVE in Allah, His angels, His revealed books, His prophets, the Last Day, that the measurement or standard of good and evil is from Allah and the Resurrection after death.

55. What do you understand by: "the measurement or standard of good and evil is from Allah?"

"BY the measurement or standard of good and evil is from Allah" I understand that a thought, or an act, or a thing is good or bad, permissible or prohibited according to the ordinance of Allah.

## PRACTICAL DUTIES OF A MUSLIM

56. What are the practical duties of a Muslim?

THE practical duties of a Muslim are **FIVE**: (i) Public Declaration that there is no deity but Allah and that Muhammad, may peace and the blessings of Allah be upon him, is His apostle; (ii) Performing the five obligatory daily prayers; (iii) Fasting during the Holy month of Ramadan; (iv) Paying the yearly zakah and; (v) Jilhad (struggle against falsehood) which includes performing the pilgrimage to the sacred Mosque in the Holy City of Makka.

57. What is the Declaration of faith called?

THE Declaration of faith is called **TASHAH-HUD**

59. Recite the **TASHAH-HUD**

Ash hadu al-laa ilaaha il-lal laahu wa ash hadu an-na Muham-madar Rasoo lul-laah

I bear witness that no Supreme Being is there but Allah – the One True God – and I bear testimony that Muhammad is the apostle of Allah.

## PRAYER

60. What is prayer?-

**PRAYER** is the communion of the soul with Allah; it is the means whereby we praise His Holy Name and thank Him for the favours and blessings which He bestows upon us; and seek His grace, aid and protection.

61. Does Allah stand in need of our prayers?

**NO.** Allah is selfsufficient. **WE** need His grace, aid and protection and we seek them through prayers.

62. Does Allah answer our prayers?

**YES,** Allah answers our prayer: “And your Lord says: Call on Me, I will answer you.” Al-Quran 40:60.

63. In what spirit must you pray?

I must pray in the spirit of sincerity and humility.

64. Is it right to pray to saints or other holy persons for help?  
NO, it is not right. Prayer must be to Allah alone.
65. What is **neeyaaz**?  
**Neeyaaz** is a food offering to the dead.
66. Is it permissible in Islam?  
NO.
67. Was it the practice of the Holy Prophet Muhammad?  
NO, it was not practised by the Prophet Muhammad.
68. What is the Urdu word for prayer?  
THE Urdu word for prayer is **namaaz**.
69. What is the Arabic word for prayer?  
The Arabic word for prayer is **Salaah**.
70. How many daily prayer-services are there?  
THERE are **five daily prayer-services**.
71. Name the five daily prayer-services and say at what time each one of them is to be offered.
- i. **Salaatul Fajr** The morning prayer – Two rak’ahs sunnah and two fard, between dawn and sun-rise.
  - ii. **Salaatuz Zuhr** The early afternoon prayer – four sunnah, four fard and two sunnah, any time from half-past twelve to half-past three.
  - iii. **Salaatul ‘Asr** Late afternoon prayer – Four fard – from four o’clock to sun-set.
  - iv. **Salaatul Maghrib** Sun-set prayer – Three fard and two sunnah – immediately after sun-set, and before the redness in the sky disappears.
  - v. **Salaatul ‘Ishaa** The night prayer – four fard, two sunnah and three witr – any time during the night up to midnight.

72. How many kinds of Salaah are there?  
 THERE are three kinds of Salaah: (i) **fard**, (ii) **sunnah**, and (iii) **nafil**.
73. Explain the word **fard**.  
 THE word fard means obligatory. Any religious act or devotion that Allah has commanded us to perform is fard.
74. What is a **sunnah**?  
 A sunnah is a religious act, not been fard, performed by the Holy Prophet Muhammad, peace and the blessings of Allah be upon him.
75. Should sunnah prayer be offered?  
 YES, it is meritorious to offer sunnah prayer.
76. What is **nafil** prayer?  
 Nafil prayer is voluntary prayer or one which was not offered by the Holy Prophet.

### WUDU – ABLUTION

77. Have you to prepare yourself for offering prayers?  
 YES, my mind, body and clothes must be clean and I must perform the **WUDU**.
78. How do you perform the **WUDU**?  
 I GET clean water and with the intention to perform ablu-  
 tion for prayer I say: **Bis mil-laa hir-Rahmaa nir-Raheem**.  
 In the name of Allah, the Beneficent, the Merciful, Then:—
- a. — I wash both my hands up to the wrists.
  - b. — I clean my teeth with a tooth-brush or toothstick or with the index finger and then make three gargles.
  - c. — I clean my nostrils with water.
  - d. — I wash my whole face.
  - e. — I wash the right hand up to the elbow, then the left in like manner.

- f. – With the three fingers, which are between the little finger and the thumb of both hands I wipe my head beginning from the fore-head wiping the inner sides of the ears with the index fingers and the outer sides with the thumb.
- g. – I wash my right foot up to the ankle, then the left in like manner.  
I then recite the dua’
- h. – Al-laa hum-maj ‘alnee minat-taw-waabeenee, waj ‘alnee minal mutatah-hireen.  
O Allah, make me of those who often turn to Thee, and make me of those who have purified themselves.
79. If you have socks on, would it be necessary to wash the feet?  
IF the socks were put on in a state of **wudu** then it is not necessary to take them off and wash the feet. The wet hands may be passed over them.
80. What renders **WUDU** void?  
**SLEEP** or a call of nature renders **wudu** void.

### TA YAM MUM

81. In the absence of water or when its use is likely to do harm what would you do so as to offer sa laah?  
I shall perform **TA YA M-MUM** instead of wudu.
82. How is **TA YA M-MUM** performed?
- With the intention to perform **TA YA M-MUM** I say these words:  
Bis mil-laa hir-Rah maa nir-Raheem  
In the name of Allah, the Beneficent, the Merciful.
  - I then strike both hands on pure earth or on anything that has pure earth on it and pass them over my face.
  - I again strike both hands on the earth and pass them on the back of each hand up to the elbows, once. After this I recite the du’aa of the wudu. (see no. 78h)

## NIYYAH

83. What is **NIYYAH**?  
**NIYYAH** is intention, aim or purpose in the doing of a thing.
84. Do you make **niyyah** when about to offer **salaah**?  
**YES**, but not only for **salaah**, for any act to have virtue it must not be accidental; it must be intentional. Rasoolullah said: "In na mal a'maalu bin-niy-yaat."  
 Actions are judged only by their aims.
85. Does **NIYYAH** consist in the repetition of certain words?  
**NO!** "Formulating the **niyyah**" or the expression of one's intention in set words, is unknown to the Qur'an and the Hadith.

## TERMS IN SALAAH

86. Say the **TAKBEER**  
**AL-LAAHU AKBAR** Allah is the greatest.
87. What is the first takbeer in Salaah called?  
**THE** first tak'bir in Salaah is called **TAKBEER TAHREEMA**
88. Why is the first tak'bir in salaah called **TAKBEER TAHREEMA**?  
**The** first tak'bir in salaah is called **TAK BEER TAHREEMA** because it prohibits all actions other than those which are required in salaah.
89. What is **QI YAAM** in sa'laah?  
**QIYAAM** in sa'laah is the standing posture facing the Qibla (see No. 130) with the right hand placed upon the left at the waist (females place their hands on the chest).
90. Recite the **THANAA**.  
 Sub haa na kal-laa hum-ma, wa bi hamdika wa tabaara kas muka, wa ta 'aa laa jad-duka, wa laa ilaaha ghai ruk.

Glory be to Thee, O Allah! and Thine is the praise, and blessed is Thy Name, and exalted is Thy Majesty, and there is none to be worshipped besides Thee.

91. Say the **TA'OODH**.

A'oo dhu bil-laahi minash-shaitaa nir-rajeem.

"I seek refuge with Allah from the accursed devil."

92. Recite the **TAS ME YA**.

Bis mil -laa hir-Rah maa nir-Raheem

In the name of Allah the Beneficent, the Merciful.

93. Recite **AL-FAATIHAH**

Al Hamdu lil-laahi Rab-bil 'aa la meen

Ar-Rahmaa nir-Raheem

Maa li ki yau mid-deen

Iy-yaa ka na'budu wa iy-yaaka nasta'een

Ih di nas-siraatal mustaqeem

Siraatal-ladheena an'amta 'alaihim

Ghai ril magh doo bi 'alaihim wa lad-daal-leen

"In the name of Allah, the Beneficent, the Merciful. All praise is due to Allah, the Lord of the world!

The Beneficent, the Merciful, Master of the Day of Requital. Thee do we serve and Thee do we beseech for help. Guide us on the right path. The path of those on whom Thou hast bestowed favours. Not those upon whom wrath is brought down, nor those who go astray.

94. Recite the Sura, **AL KAAFIROON** (The unbelievers).

Oui yau ay-yu hal kaafiroon. Laa a'budu maa ta'budoon.

Waa laa antum 'aa bi doona maa a'bud. Wa laa ana 'aabidum maa a'bai-tum. Wa laa antum 'aa bidoona maa a'bud.

La kum deen nukum wa liya deen.

Say: O unbelievers! I do not worship that which you worship. Nor do you worship Him Whom I worship. Nor am I going to worship that which you worship. For you is your religion and for me my religion.

95. Recite Sura **AN-NASR** (The Help).

Idhaa jaa 'a nasrul-laa hi wal fath. War ra aitan-naasa  
yad khuloona fee deenil-laahi af waa jaa. fa sab-bih bi hamdi  
rab-bika was tagh firh. In-na hoo kaa na taw-waa baa.

When the help of Allah and victory shall come, and you see  
people entering the religion of Allah in groups, then glorify  
thy Lord with praises, and seek His forgiveness, surely He is  
oft-returning (to mercy).

96. Recite Sura **AL-FALAQ** (The Dawn)

Qul a'oodhu bi rab-bil falaq. Min shar-ri maa khalaq.  
Wa minshar-ri ghaa si qin idhaa waqab. Wa min shar-rin-  
naf-faa thaa ti fil 'uqad. Wa min shar-ri haa sidin idhaa hasad.

Say: I seek refuge in the Lord of the dawn, from the evil of  
what He has created, and from the evil of darkness when it  
comes, and from the evil of those who breathe evil sugges-  
tions in firm intentions, and from the evil of the envious one  
when he envies.

97. Recite Sura **AN-NAAS** (The Men).

Qul a'oodhu bi rab-bin-naas. Malikin-naas ilaahin-naas.  
Min shar-ril was waa sil khan-nas. Al-ladhee 'yu was wisu  
fee sudoo rin-naas. Minal jin-nati wan-naas.

Say: I see refuge in the Lord of Men, the King of men, the  
God of men from evil of the sneaking whisperer, who whis-  
pers into the breasts of men, from among the jinn and men.

98. What is **RUKOO'**?

**RUKOO'** is the bowing posture in Salaah with both hands on  
the knees.

99. What do you say in **RUKOO'**?

! SAY: Sub haa na rab-bi yal 'azeem -- Glory to my Lord,  
the Great -- three times.

100. What do you say while rising from Rukoo'?

I SAY: Sami 'al-laa hu liman hamidah -- Allah listens to him  
who praises Him.



101. What is **SAJDAH**?

**SAJDAH** is prostration with the palms of both hands, nose and forehead, knees and toes of both feet, touching the ground.

102. What do you say in **SAJDAH**

In **SAJDAH** I say: Sub haa na rab-bi yal a'laa – Glory to my Lord, the most High – three times.

103. How many **SAJDAH**S are observed in each rak'ah?

**TWO SAJDAH**S are observed in each rak'ah.

104. What is **JALSAH**?

**JALSAH** is the sitting position with open hands placed on both knees, after rising from the first **SAJDAH** and before going to the second **SAJDAH**.

105. What do you say while you sit in **JALSAH**?

Al-laa hum-magh fir lee, war ham nee, wah dinee, wa 'aafinee, war zuqnee, waj burnee, war fa'nee.

Oh Allah! Grant me protection and have mercy on me and grant me security and guide me and grant me sustenance and set right my affairs and exalt me.

106. What is **QA'DAH**?

**QA'DAH** is the sitting posture as in jalsah after the second **SAJDAH** in the second rak'ah; and after the second **SAJDAH** in the last rak'ah of any salaah.

107. If the **SALAAH** is to be more than two rak'ahs what do you recite in **QA'DAH** after the second rak'ah?

I recite (silently) **AT-TAHYIY-YAAT**: At-tahiyaatu lil-laah; was-salawaatu wat-tay-yibaatu as-salaamu 'alaika ay-yuhan nabiy-yu wa rahma tul-laah; wa barakaa tuhu; as-salaamu 'alainaa wa 'alaa 'ibaa dil-laa his-saa liheen. Ash hadu al-laa ilaaha il-lal laahu wa ash hadu an-na Muham-madan 'ab duhoo wa rasooluh

All services rendered through words, actions and wealth are due to Allah. Peace be on you, O Prophet! and the mercy of

Allah and His blessings. Peace be on us and on the righteous servants of Allah. I bear witness that none deserves to be worshipped but Allah, and I bear witness that Muhammad is His servant and His apostle.

108. What are the observances after the LAST SAJDAH in Salaah?

(a) The recitation of **AT-TAHYI-YAAT**.

(b) The recitation of **DAROOD**:

Al-laa hum-ma sal-li 'a laa Muham-madiwn wa 'alaa aali Muham-mad. Kamaa sal-laita 'alaa Ib raa hee ma wa 'alaa aali Ib raa heem. In-naka Hameedum Majeed.

Al-laa hum-ma baarik 'alaa Muham-madiwn wa 'ala aali Muham-mad. Kamaa baarakta 'alaa Ibraa heema wa 'alaa aali Ibraaheem. Innaka Hameedum-Majeed.

O Allah! Exalt Muhammad and the followers of Muhammad as Thou didst exalt Abraham and the followers of Abraham. surely Thou art Praised, Magnified.

O Allah! Bless Muhammad and the followers of Muhammad as Thou didst bless Abraham and the followers of Abraham; surely Thou art Praised, Magnified.

(c) The recitation of du'aa: Rab-bij 'alnee muqee mas-salaati wa min dhur-riy-yatee Rab-banaa wa taqabal du'aa. Rab-ba nagh fir lee wa li waa li day-ya wa lil mu'mineena yau ma yaqoomul hisaab – My Lord! Make me and my offspring keep up prayer; our Lord! accept my prayer; our Lord! grant protection to me and my parents and to the believers on the day when the reckoning will take place.

(d) Turning the face to the right, the **TASLEEM** is said as follows: as-salaamu 'alaikum wa rah ma tul-laah – Peace be on you and the mercy of Allah – and then turning the face to the left the **TASLEEM** is repeated.

**NOTE:** The **TASLEEM** (Salaam) completes the prayers. There is no reference in any Hadith to the Holy Prophet raising up the hands for supplication (du'aa) after finishing prayers, but some kinds of dhikr are recommended.

109. Do you recite **al-Faatihah** in every rak'ah?

Yes, I recite **al-Faatihah** in every rak'ah.

110. Is any other part of the Qur'an recited after **al-faatihah**?

In **fard** prayer a portion of the Holy Qur'an is recited immediately after al-Faatihah in the first two rak'ahs only. In the last one or two rak'ahs al-Faatihah only is recited. In sunnah and natil prayers a portion of the Holy Qur'an is recited after al-faatihah in every rak'ah.

111. In which of the five daily prayers do you recite al-Faatihah and a portion of the Holy Qur'an in a loud or audible manner?

I recite my prayer in a loud or audible manner during the following times:

- (a) In the Fajr or Morning Prayer in the two rak'ahs fard.
- (b) In the Maghrib or Sunset Prayer in the first two of the three rak'ahs fard.
- (c) In the 'Ishaa or Night Prayer in the first two of the four rak'ahs fard.
- (d) The Zuhr or Early Afternoon Prayer and the 'Asr or Late Afternoon Prayer and all sunnah prayers are recited silently.

### WITR

112. What is **WITR** prayer?

The witr prayer is a service of three rak'ahs which are generally offered at the end of the 'Ishaa prayers. In the third rak'ah of witr before going to rukoo' or after rising from it, the following prayer, called the **QUNOOT**, is offered:

Al-laa hum-ma in-naa nasta 'eenuka wa nastagh firuka wa nu'minu bika wa natawak-kalu 'alaika wa nuthnee 'alaikal khair. Wa nash kuruka wa laa nakfuruka wa nakh la'u wa nat ruku mai yafjuruk.

Al-laa hum-ma iy-yaa ka na'budu wa laka nusali wa nasjudu wa ilaika nas'aa wa nahfidu wa narjoo rahmataka wa nakhshaa 'adaa baka in-na 'adhaabaka bil kuf-faari mulhiq.

O Allah! we beseech Thee for help, and seek Thy protection and believe in thee and rely on Thee and extol Thee and are thankful to Thee and are not ungrateful to Thee and we declare ourselves clear of, and forsakes, him who disobeys Thee.

O Allah! Thee do we serve and to Thee do we pray and

prostrate ourselves, and to Thee do we flee, and to obey Thee we are quick, and we hope for Thy mercy and fear Thy chastisement, for Thy chastisement overtakes the unbelievers.

### CONGREGATIONAL PRAYER SERVICES

113. What is a Congregational prayer?

A Congregational prayer – Salaah in **Jamaat** – is a service which is led by an **imam**.

114. Who is an **imam**?

AN **imam** is a person who leads the **jamaat** (congregation) in prayer.

115. What are the prayers offered in **jamaat**?

THE prayers offered in **jamaat** are:

- (i) All salaatul fard in the five daily prayers.
- (ii) Salaatul Juma'ah – Friday service.
- (iii) Eid ud fitr and 'Eid ul-adhaa services, and
- (iv) Salaatul Janaaza – Funeral Service

116. Can the SALAT UL FARD be offered individually, without JAMAAT?

YES, SALAT UL FARD can be offered individually, but whenever possible it should be offered, in JAMAAT.

117. What do you do when you follow an Imam in **SALAA'T**?

I say the **THANAA**, and **TA'OODH**; when the Imam recites **AL FAATIHA** (aloud) I repeat it after him silently and when he ends it with the words wa lad-daal-leen I say **AA-MEEN!** -

In **RUKOO'** I say: sub haa na rab-bi yal 'azeem, and after the Imam has said: sami 'al-laa hu liman hamidah, and I resume my standing position I say: rab-ba naa la kal hamd; in the **SAJDAHS** I say: Sub haa na rab-bi yal 'alaa thrice, in the **QA'DAH** I say **AT-TAHYI-YAAT** and recite the **DA ROOD** and a **DU'AA** and follow the Imam in the salaam.

### SALAATUL JUMU'AH

118. Give a description of the **JUMU'AH** service.

- (a) The **JUMU'AH** service is held on Fridays in place of the **SALAATUZ ZUHR**. It consists of two sunnah followed by a sermon by the Imam, then two rak'ahs fard led by the Imam, and finally two rak'ahs sunnah.

### SALAATUL 'EID

119. What do you know about **SALAATUL 'EID**?

IN the **Salaatul 'Eid** the Imam leads a congregational prayer of two rak'ahs and then he preaches the 'Eid sermon. The 'Eid ul-Fitr and the 'Eid ul-adhaa services are conducted in the said manner.

### SALAATUT TARAA WIH

120. What do you know about the **Salaatut Taraa wih**?

The **Salaatut Taraa wih** is a congregational prayer -- salaah in jamaat -- which is offered during the month of Ramadan after the 'Ishaa prayer but before the three rak'ahs witr. The **Taraa wih** service consists of eight rak'ahs (in twos).

121. What do you know about the **DHIKR** during **TARAA WIH**

**AFTER** every four rakahs taraa wih a short period of rest is observed during which period one may remain silent or may engage one's self in **dhikr**. The following **dhikr** is usually recited:

Sub haana dhil mulki wal malakoot. Sub haana dhil 'iz-zati wal 'azmati wal haibati wal qadrati wal kibri yaa-i wal jaba-root. Sub haanal malikil hay-yil-ladhi laa yanaamu wa laa ya moot. Sub boo hun qud doo sun Rab bunaa wa Rab bul malaikati war-Rooh.

Al-laa hum-ma ajirnaa minan naar.

Yaa mujeeru, Yaa mujeeru, yaa mujeer.

Free from all imperfections (is Allah), the Master of the heavens and the earth. Free from all imperfections (is Allah) Possessor of honour, greatness, dignity, power, grandeur and might. Free from all imperfections is the everlasting King Who neither sleeps nor dies -- For Him is Purity and Holiness

our Lord, Lord of the angels and of the holy spirit. O Allah we seek refuge with Thee from the fire; O Protector! O Protector! O Protector!

**SALAATUL JANAAZA (Funeral Service).**

122. How do you observe the Funeral service?

- (a) I perform the **WUDU** and join the congregation.
- (b) When the Imam gives the **TAKBEER TAHREEMA** then following the Imam I raise my hands saying **Allahu Akbar**, placing them on the waist, the right hand upon the left, I recite the **THANAA** and the **AL-FAATIHAH**
- (c) I follow the Imam in the second takbeer, keeping the hands in the same position and recite the **DA ROOD**.
- (d) I follow the Imam in the third takbeer and recite the following **DU'AA**:

Al-laa hum-magh fir li hay-yinaa wa may-yitinaa wa shaa hidinaa wa ghaa ibinaa, wa saghee' rinaa wa kabee rinaa wa dhakarinaa wa unthaanaa.

Al-laa hum-ma man ah yai tahoo min-naa fa ah yihee 'alal islaam, wa man tawaf faituhoo min-naa fa tawaf fahoo 'a lal ee maan.

Al-laa hum-ma laa tahrinnaa ajrahoo wa laa taftinaa ba'dah.

O Allah! forgive our living and our dead and those of us who are present and those who are absent, and our young people and our elders and our males and our females. O Allah whomsoever Thou keepest alive among us, cause him to live in Islam and whomsoever of us Thou causest to die, let him die in faith. O Allah do not deprive us of his reward and do not put us in trial after him.

**IN A SERVICE OF A CHILD**, instead of the above, the following **DU'AA** is recited:

Al-laa hum-maj 'al hu la naa fara tawn wa salafawn wa ajraa.

O Allah! Make him for us a cause of recompense, in the world to come and as one going before and as a reward.

- (e) I follow the Imam in the fourth **TAKBEER**. Then turning my face to the right I say:

As-salaamu 'alai kum wa rahma tul-laah

and turning it to the left I repeat the salaam.

### **AL-ADHAAN – THE CALL TO PRAYER**

123. Say the **ADHAAN**

Al-laa hu Akba rul-laahu Akbar

Al-laahu Akba rul-laahu Akbar

Ash hadu al-laa ilaaha il-lal-laah

Ash hadu al-laa ilaaha il-lal-laah

Ash hadu an-na Muham-madar-Rasoo lul-laah

Ash hadu an-na Muham-madar-Rasoo lul-laah

Hay-ya 'alas salaah. Hay-ya 'alas salaah

Hay-ya 'alal falaah. Hay-ya 'alal falaah

Al-laahu Akba rul-laahu Akbar

Laa ilaaha il-lal-laah

(In the **Adhaan** for the Morning prayer, after "Hay-ya 'alal falaah" the following is added: As-salaatu khairum minan nawm. As-sa laatu khairum minan nawm.

Prayer is better than sleep (twice).

124. Give the translation of the Adhaan in English.

**ALLAH** is the Greatest, **ALLAH** is the Greatest. (Twice).

I testify that there is no God but Allah. (Twice).

I testify that Muhammad is the Apostle of Allah (Twice).

Come to prayer. (Twice). Come to success. (Twice).

Allah is the Greatest, Allah is the Greatest. There is no God but Allah.

125. What do you say on hearing the Adhaan?

ON hearing the Adhaan I recite the Du'aa:

Al-laa hum-ma Rab-ba haadhi hid da'watit-taamati was-salaatil qaa imah. Aati Muham-mada nil waseelata wal fee deelata wab 'ath hu maqaamaa mahmooda nil-ladhee wa'at-t.

O Allah! the Lord of this perfect call and everliving prayer, grant to Muhammad nearness and excellence and raise him to him to the position of glory which Thou hast promised him.

126. Say the **IQAAMAHA**.

Al-laa hu Akbar rul-laahu Akbar  
 Ash hadu al-laa ilaa ha il-lal-laah  
 Ash hadu an-na Muham-madar-Rasoo lul-laah  
 Hay-va 'alas salaah. Hay-ya 'alal falaah  
 Qad qaamatis-salaah. Qad qaamatis-salaah  
 Al-laahu Akba rul-laa hu Akbar  
 Laa ilaaha il-lal-laah.

**DESCRIPTION OF A PRAYER SERVICE**127. How would offer the **FARDH**?

- (a) I stand and turn my face towards the **QIBLA**, and I recite:

In-nee waj jah tu waj hiya lil-ladhee fataras samaa waati  
 wal arda haneefawn wa maa ana minal mushrikeen.

In-na salaatee wa nusukee wa mahyaa ya wa ma maatee  
 lil-laahi rab-bil 'aalameen.

Surely I have turned my self to Him Who originated the heavens and the earth, and I am not of them who associate others with Allah. Surely my prayer and my sacrifice and my life and my death are all for Allah, the Lord of the worlds.

- (b) Then raising the hands to the ears (females raise their hands up to their shoulders), I say the **TAKBEER TAHREEMA**: and bringing them down I stand in **QI YAAM**: placing the right hand over the left at the waist (females place their hands on their chests), and recite: —
- (i) **THANAA** — Sub haa na kal-laa hum-ma, wa bi hamdika wa tabaara kas muka, wa ta'aa laa jad-duka wa laa ilaa ha ghairuk.
- (ii) **TA'OODH** — A'oodhu bil-laahi minash-shaitaa nir-rajeem.
- (iii) **AL-FAATIHAH** — Bismil-laa hir-Rah maa nir-Raheem  
 Al Hamdu lilaahi Rab-bil 'aa la meen  
 Ar-Rah maa nir-Raheem  
 Maaliki yau mid-deen  
 Iy-yaa ka na'budu wa iy-yaa ka nasta'een



Ihdi nas-siraatal mustaqeem  
 Siraatal-ladhee na an'amta 'alaihim  
 Ghai ril magh doo bi 'alaihim wa lad-daai-leen

- (iv) **ANY PART OF THE QUR'AN** e.g. –  
 Qul huwal laa hu Ahad  
 Al-laa hus-Samad  
 Lam yalid wa lam yoolad  
 wa lam yakul-lahu kufu wan ahad.
- (c) I say: (**TAKBEER**) Al-laahu Akbar and go into **RU-KOO'** and recite Sub haana Rab-bi yal 'Azeem three times. The standing position is resumed with the words: Sami 'al-laa hu liman hamidah and then I say: Rab-banaa lakal hamd
- (d) I say the **TAKBEER** and go down in **SAJDAAH**. While in saj dah I say: sub haana Rab-bi yal A'laa three times, and with a **TAKBEER** I raise my forehead from saj dah and sit in **JALSAH** with the palms of my hands on the knees and while in this posture I say: Al-laa hum-magh fir lee, war ham nee, wah dinee, wa 'aafinee, warzuqnee, wajburnee, war fa'nee, and with a **TAKBEER** again another sajdah is made and again: Sub haana Rab-bi yal A'laa is uttered thrice. This completes **ONE rakaah**.
- (e) Saying the **TAKBEER** I resume the standing position and perform the **SECOND rak'ah** in the same manner as the **FIRST**, but, after the second saj dah in the second raka'h the standing position is **NOT** resumed, I recite **AT-TAHY-YAAT**:
- At-tahiyaatu lil-laahi was-salawaatu wat-tay-yibaatu as-salaamu 'alaika ay-yuhan nabiyyu wa rahma tul-laahi wa barakaa tuhu; as-salaamu 'alainaa wa 'alaa 'ibaa dil-laa his-saa liheen. Ash hadu al-laa ilaaha il-lal laahu wa ash hadu an-na Muham-madan 'ab duhoo wa rasooluh.
- saying the **TAKBEER** I resume the standing position.
- (f) And perform the **THIRD rak'ah** in the same manner as the **FIRST** except without any Quranic recitation after the **AL-FAATIHAH**; the **FOURTH rak'ah** is continued

in the same manner as the **THIRD** rak'ah and the **SALAAH** is concluded by the recitation of (i) **AT-TAHIIY-YAAT**, (ii) **DA ROOD** and **DU'AA** – Rab-bij 'alnee muqee mas-salaati wa min dhur-riy-yatee Rab-banaa wa taqabal du'aa. Rab-banagh fir lee wa li waa li day-ya wa lil mu'mineena yauma yaqoomul hisaab.

and (iii) **TAS LEEM**. The Tas Leem completes the particular salazah.

128. What is a **Masjid** or Mosque?

**A Masjid** or Mosque is a building dedicated to the worship of Allah.

129. Can one prevent a muslim from praying in a mosque?

**NO.** The Holy Qur'an says in 2:114 "And who is more cruel than he who prevents men from the mosques of Allah that His name should be remembered therein and strives to ruin them"

130. Can you offer salaah in a place other than a mosque?

**YES,** Salaah may be offered anywhere in a clean place, Our Prophet has said: "The whole earth is a **masjid** for a Muslim."

131. Where do you face while offering salaah?

**WHILE** offering salaah I face the **Qibla**.

132. What is the **Qibla**?

**THE Qibla** is the Sacred Mosque (**the Ka'bah**) in the Holy City of Makka in Arabia;

### **FASTING OR SAUM**

133. Is Fasting an obligatory duty for a Muslim?

**YES,** fasting is an obligatory duty for every Muslim during the month of Ramadan.

134. What is fasting or Saum?

**FASTING** or Saum is total abstinence from all kinds of food and drink from dawn to sunset.

135. What benefit do you derive from Fasting?

**FASTING** strengthens the will and gives one the power of self-control.

136. How can fasting strengthen the will and give power of self-control?

**BY** totally abstaining from eating and drinking from dawn to sunset during the month of Ramadan one realizes that if one can abstain from good and permitted things then one can certainly shun and keep away from that which is evil and forbidden.

137. How should one fast?

One should fast in accordance with the saying of the Holy Prophet Muhammad: "Fasting is an armour with which one protects oneself; so let not the fasting one utter immodest or foul speech, nor let him act in an ignorant manner; and if a man quarrels with him or abuses him, he should say twice, I am fasting".

138. What is **SUHOOR**?

**SUHOOR** is the morning meal taken very near the break of dawn.

139. Is it necessary to take the Suhoor?

**YES.** The Prophet is reported to have said: "Take the morning meal, for there is blessing in the morning meal (suhor)"

140. What is **IFTAAR**?

**IFTAAR** is breaking of the fast as soon as the sun sets.

141. Should one wait a few minutes after sunset before breaking the fast?

**NO.** The Prophet is reported to have said: "People will be on right way as long as they hasten in breaking the fast".

142. Is the adhaan necessary for breaking the fast?

**NO.** The Adhaan is a call to prayer and not a call to breaking of the fast.

## MISCELLANEOUS

143. GRACE before meal: Bis mil-laahi wa 'alaa barakaa til-laah.  
In the name of Allah and with the blessings of Allah.
144. DU'AA after meal: Al-hamdu lil-laahil-ladhee at'a manaa wa saqaa naa wa ja'alanaa muslimmeen.  
Praise be to Allah who fed us and gave us drink and made us Muslims.
145. DU'AA on entering a mosque: Rab high fir lee dhunoobee waftah lee abwaaba rahmatik.  
O Lord! forgive me my sins and open for me the doors of Thy mercy.
146. DU'AA on leaving a mosque: Al-laa hum-ma in-nee asa'luka min fadlik  
O Allah! I ask of Thee Thy favour.
147. ON entering the toilet I say: Al-laa hum-ma in-nee a'oodhu bika minal khubthi wal khabaaith  
O Allah I beseech refuge in Thee from all that is impure and hateful.
148. On coming out of the toilet I say: Al-hamdu lil-laa hil-ladhee adh hab'an-nil adhaa wa 'aa faa nee  
All praise is due to Allah who has removed impurity from me and granted me security.
149. ON sneezing I must say: Ai Hamdu lil-laah  
-- Praise be to Allah.  
Any one who hears me shall say: Yar hamu kal-laah  
-- May Allah have mercy on thee. I will then reply: Yah dee kumul-laah  
May Allah guide you to righteousness.
150. DU'AA on going to bed: Al-laa hum-ma bi'ismika amootu wa ahyaa  
O Allah! with Thy name I retire and shall rise.

151. DU'AA on rising from sleep: Al-hamdu lil-laa hil-ladhee ah yaa naa ba'd maa amaataanaa wa ilaihin-nushoor.

Praise be to Allah Who has given to us life after death and to Him is our rising.

153. THERE is no favourite nation with Allah. The various types of people, such as White, Black, Yellow – English, African, Chinese, Indian, etc., are so through Geographical distribution and Climatic conditions. Allah says in the Holy Quran:

Kaa nan-naasu um-matawn waahidah

All mankind is a single people. (2:213)

And of His signs is the creation of the heavens and the earth and the diversity of your languages and colours (30:22)

154. A person is not great in Allah's sight because he belongs to a particular nation or a particular family. The standard of greatness in Divine presence has been declared in the Holy Quran in these words:

In-na akramakum 'indal-laahi atqaakum

The most honourable of you is Allah's presence is the most righteous one among you. (49:13)

155. THE duties of any person who yearns to be honourable in Divine presence are:

(i) absolute obedience to God's law; and

(ii) love and compassion for His creatures.

### EXCERPTS FROM THE HOLY QURAN

156. You shall not serve any but Allah. 11:25.

157. The true religion with Allah is Islam. – 3:18.

158. Whoever desires a religion other than Islam, it shall not be accepted from him, and in the Hereafter he shall be among the losers. – 3:84.

159. Do not say to anyone who offer you salaam, thou art not a believer. – 4:94.

160. All believers are brothers. – 49:10.
161. Muhammad is not the father of any of your men, but he is the Apostle of Allah and the finality of the prophets. – 33:40.
162. Certainly you have in the Apostle of Allah (Muhammad) an excellent exemplar for him who hopes in Allah and the Last Day and remembers Allah much. – 33:21.
163. O you who believe! spend out of what We have given you before the Day comes in which there will be no bargaining, neither will friendship avail, nor intercession. – 2:254.
164. Whoever does good, it is for his own soul, and whoever does evil, it is against it. 41:46.
165. The truth is from Thy Lord, so let him who please believe, and let him who please disbelieve. – 18: 29.
166. There is no compulsion in religion; indeed the right way is clearly distinct from error. – 2:256.
167. Allah is the Protecting Friend of those who believe; He brings them out of darkneses into the light – 2:257.
168. O you who believe! Be careful of your duty to Allah with the care which is due to Him, and do not die unless you are Muslims. And hold fast, all together, by the covenant of Allah, and be not disunited. – 3:101.
169. O you who believe! Obey Allah and obey the Messenger and those in authority from among you; then if you dispute about any matter, refer it to Allah (Quran) and the Messenger (the Prophet's sayings and practices which are recorded in the books of Hadith), if you believe in Allah and the Last Day; this is better and very good in the end. – 4:59.
170. And follow not that of which you have no knowledge: surely the hearing and the sight and the heart, all of these, shall be questioned. – 17:36.

171. In the creation of the heavens and the earth and the alternation of the night and the day there are surely signs for men of understanding: Those who remember Allah standing and sitting and lying on their sides, and reflect on the creation of the heavens and the earth (say): Our Lord! Thou hast not created this in vain! Glory be to Thee! Save us from the chastisement of the fire. — 3:189.
172. Our Lord! make perfect for us our light, and grant us protection: surely Thou hast power over all things. — 66:8.
173. Rab-bi zidnee 'ilmaa — My Lord! increase me in knowledge. 20:114.
174. And we have enjoined on man concerning his parents . . . saying: Give thanks to me and to thy parents. 31:14.

#### SAYINGS OF THE PROPHET

175. The best person among you is he who has learnt the Quran and teaches it.
176. Those who exercise patience under trials, and forgive wrongs are righteous.
177. Cleanliness is the half of faith.
178. Refrain from ascribing false motives to people, and do not be suspicious of other's actions.
179. Speak to the people according to the degree of their intellectual capacity.
180. Actions shall be judged according to motives.
181. Acquisition of knowledge is compulsory on every muslim, male or female.
182. Acquire knowledge. It enables the possessor to distinguish right from wrong; it lights the way to heaven; it is our friend in the desert; our society in solitude; our companion when

friendless; it guides us to happiness; it sustains us in calamity; it is an ornament among friends and an armour against enemies.

183. Whosoever conceals (the faults of) a muslim, Allah will conceal (his faults) on the Day of Resurrection.

### THE HOLY PROPHET MUHAMMAD

184. Where was the Holy Prophet Muhammad born?

THE Holy prophet Muhammad, peace and the blessings of Allah be upon him, was born in the city of Makka in Arabia.

185. When was the Holy Prophet born?

THE Holy Prophet was born at dawn on Monday, 12th. Rabee 'ul-Aw-wal, in the year of the Elephant – 23rd April, 571 of the Christian era.

186. Who were the parents of the Holy Prophet?

'ABDULLAH, the son of 'Abdul Muttalib, was the name of the Prophet's father; his mother's name was Aamina, the daughter of Wahb, the son of 'Abd Manaaf'

187. At what age the Holy Prophet received his first revelation from Allah?

THE Holy Prophet received the first revelation from Allah when he was forty years of age, in the cave of Hiraa.

188. What event marked the Muslim era?

THE Flight of the Holy Prophet Muhammad, peace and the blessings of Allah be upon him, from Makka to Madina marked the beginning of the Muslim era.

189. When did the Prophet leave Makka for Madinah, and what is the "Flight" called?

THE Holy Prophet left Makka for Madinah on the 4th Rabeez 'ul-Aw-wal, in the 14th year of his mission; the Flight is called the "Hijrah."



190. In what year did the Holy Prophet re-enter Makka?  
 THE Holy Prophet triumphantly re-entered the city of Makka in the year **EIGHT** of Hijrah.
191. When did the soul of the Holy Prophet left this world and return to Allah?  
 AT noon on Monday 12th Rabee 'ul-Aw-wal in the 11th year of Hijrah – 8th June, 632 C.E. while reciting very softly: “Lord! blessed Companionship on High” at the age of sixty-three years, the Holy Prophet breathed his last in this world and his spirit returned to the Divine presence –

### **MONTHS OF THE MUSLIM YEAR**

192. The months of the Muslim year are:—  
 MUHARRAM, SAFAR, RABEE 'UL-AW-'WAL, RABEE 'UTH-THA'NEE, JUMAADAL OOLA, JUMAADAL AAKHIRA, RAJAB, SHA 'BAAN, RAMADAAN, SHAW-WAAL, ZUL-QA 'DA, ZUL-HIJ JA.

### **IMPORTANT DATES IN THE MUSLIM YEAR**

193. NEW YEAR – 1st Muharram
194. THE HOLY PROPHET'S BIRTHDAY – 12th Rabi-'ul-aw-'wal
195. THE MI'RAAJ (ASCENSION) OF THE HOLY PROPHET – 27th Rajab
196. FASTING BEGINS – 1st Ramadan
197. 'EID UL-FITR – 1st Sha w-waal
198. 'EID UL-ADHAA – 10th Zul-hij-ja

O Allah! we ask Thee Thy love and the love of those who love Thee and adorn us with deeds which will cause us to continue to drink from Thy fountain of love.

**AMEEN!**