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## PREPARING YOUR SALAH FOR RAMADAN

As Muslims we are required to pray 5 times a day. Being the second pillar of Islam, prayer carries a lot of benefit in our lives and serves as one of the most prominent ways that we connect to our Creator multiple times daily. Allah tells us in Surah Al-Ankabut ayat 45, "*Recite, [O Muhammad], what has been revealed to you of the Book and establish prayer. Indeed, prayer prohibits immorality and wrongdoing, and the remembrance of Allah is greater. And Allah knows that which you do.*"

During Ramadan, many people increase their voluntary prayers to reap the rewards of the Holy month. There are long hours of taraweeh and qiyam ul layl. Others ensure they pray salat ul duha and all the recommended sunnah prayers associated with the fardh prayers, especially in this month. Therefore along with fasting, salah takes up a significant portion of our Ramadan ibadah.



In our last newsletter we noted the benefit of refreshing our knowledge on the rules of fasting. How can we also prepare ourselves for our best prayers this Ramadan and beyond?

**Review the Fiqh of Salah** - Even if you pray every day, reinforcing the knowledge of what salah is, its conditions, pillars, and mandatory acts, and its rewards will help to build up your iman and appreciation for this great act of worship. **View lectures on the Fiqh of Purification and Salah by Dr Hatem al-Haj [HERE](#)**

**Make the intention to memorize some new ayats or surahs** - If you recite the same surahs every day and in every salah, you might find your prayer has become robotic, and it may even affect your concentration. Build up your khushu and excitement for prayer by learning more Quran. And remember the words of our beloved Prophet, "*The likeness of the one who reads Quran and memorizes it is that he is with the righteous honourable scribes. The likeness of the one who reads it and tries hard to memorize it even though it is difficult for him, he will have two rewards.*" (Reported in Bukhari)

**Pay extra attention to your Fardh Prayer** - Attend to that which is obligatory before that which is not.

If you're not satisfied with your daily obligatory prayers - perhaps you have been missing them or rushing through them or struggling in some way - ask Allah for His help and forgiveness. Allah says in a hadith qudsi, "My slave does not draw near to Me with anything more loved by Me than the religious duties that I have enjoined upon him, and My slave continues to draw near to Me with supererogatory works so that I shall love him. (Reported in Bukhari)

**Don't wait until Ramadan to start adding in some of the voluntary prayers** - If you're not used to praying additional prayers other than the fardh, starting slowly may be the best way to success. Consistency in practice now will help you to do even more inshaAllah later, rather than taking up more than you can handle in Ramadan - the Prophet (saw) said, "Take up good deeds only as much as you are able, for the best deeds are those done regularly even if they are few." (Reported in Ibn Majah).

May Allah help us in our preparations and enable us to reach Ramadan.

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## SEE YOU IN CHICAGO AND WASHINGTON D.C.

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We may be an online university, but we're always ready to step out of our virtual environment and meet our students and supporters in the real world.

Alhamdulillah, from **April 19 to April 21** we'll be in Washington D.C. for the [ICNA -MAS convention](#), as well as in Chicago for the [ISNA Education Forum](#). Please see the fliers below for more details.

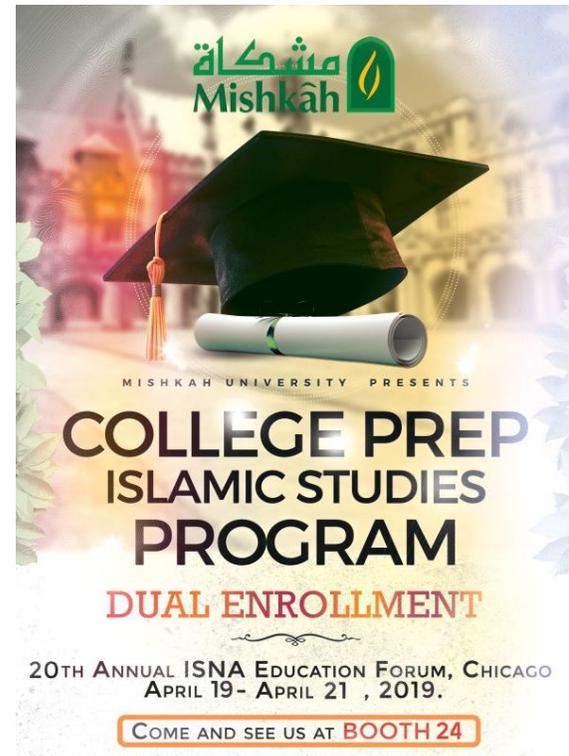
We would be greatly honored if you would visit us at our booths, where we will be sharing information about the Mishkah Experience. We look forward to meeting you there inshaAllah.



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## HADITH OF THE WEEK

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Narrated `Aisha (RA) "Allah's Messenger used to fast till one would say that he would never stop fasting, and he would leave fasting till one would say that he would never fast. I never saw Allah's Messenger fasting for a whole month except the month of Ramadan, and I did not see him observing (voluntary fasting) in any month more than in the month of Sha'ban. (Bukhari)



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## JOIN US THIS SUMMER

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*You learn things you never learned before . . . You not only increase your knowledge, but also your relationship with Allah. - Sr. Mona*

Live sessions for our Summer Semester begin on Saturday May 4th inshaAllah. [VIEW OUR CLASS SCHEDULE](#) and register today.

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[APPLY HERE.](#)



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## WEEK 9: THE EXPEDITION FOR SUCCESS WITH SH HAITHAM BARAZANJI

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All praise is due to Allah. We are now in week 9 of the "Expedition for Success" with Sh Haitham Barazanji. Our next session is on **Sunday April 14th** at 7:55 PM EST.

If you didn't get a chance to watch last week's session, click on the video below. **It covered the reasons why Allah sent Prophets and Messengers and their scriptures to us.**

All our past episodes are also available on our [Facebook page](#) or [Youtube Channel](#).

See you every Sunday inshaAllah for the new sessions, **online** or in person at the **Daarus Salaam Mosque** in Tampa.



Episode 8: Expedition for Success. Prophets and Messengers

## ACADEMIC CALENDAR

<b>SUMMER REGISTRATION BEGINS</b>	<b>APRIL 1</b>
Spring Exams Begin	April 13
Spring Semester Ends	April 19

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