

THE COMPREHENSIVE BOOKLET
AL-RISALAT AL-JAMI`A

The Great Scholar
Student of Imam Haddad

AHMAD IBN ZAYN AL-HABSHI
(d. 1145 AH)

Translated by
Mostafa Azzam

CONTENTS

Author's Preface	3
1. Foundations (Usul al-Din)	4
2. Prayer (Salah)	6
3. Fasting (Sawm)	9
4. Zakat	10
5. Hajj	12
6. Virtues and Vices	14

AUTHOR'S PREFACE

In the name of Allah, the Beneficent, the Merciful

Praise Allah, Lord of the Worlds, a praise commensurate with His blessings and matching His increase. Allah favour and salute our master Muhammad, his family, and his companions. Allah's Messenger (Allah favour and salute him) has said, "Seeking knowledge is an essential for every Muslim" (male and female). He has also said (Allah favour and salute him), "Whoever travels a path upon which he seeks knowledge, Allah takes him along a path to Paradise."

To proceed, these are issues summarized mainly from some of the books of the Proof of Islam, Ghazali. Whoever knows them and acts upon them, we hope from Allah that he be of the people of knowledge, outwardly and inwardly. And through Allah is success.

1

FOUNDATIONS

CONTENTS

Pillars of Islam	1.1
The Foundation of Faith	1.2
Allah (How High is He!)	1.2
Allah's Messenger (Allah Favour and Salute Him)	1.3
The Afterworld and Interworld	1.4
The Related Matters	1.5

Pillars of Islam

- 1.1 The pillars of Islam are five:
- (1)testifying that there is no god but Allah and that Muhammad is the Messenger of Allah;
 - (2)fulfilling the prayer;
 - (3)giving zakat;
 - (4)fasting Ramadan;
 - (5)and performing the pilgrimage to the House for whoever can find a way there.

[All those are to be fulfilled] with sincerity and conviction. Whoever is not sincere is a hypocrite; and whoever has no conviction in his heart is a disbeliever.

The Foundation of Faith

- 1.2 The foundation of faith is that you believe [all the following]:
Allah (how high is He!) exists. He (how high is He!) is one, without partner, like, or peer. There is none whatsoever like Him, and He is the Hearer, the Seer. He created the heavens and the earth. He created death and life, obedience and disobedience, health and sickness, and the entire universe and everything in it. He created all creatures and their actions. He determined their provisions and their lifespans: they can be no more and no less. No event occurs except by His destining, decree, and will.
He (how high is He!) is living, knowing, willing, able, speaking, hearing, and seeing. He knows all treacherous glances and what all hearts conceal. He knows the secret and the yet more hidden. He is creator of everything, and He is the One, the Overpowering.
- 1.3 He (how high is He!) has sent our master Muhammad, His slave and messenger, to all creation, for their guidance and for the perfection of their worldly life and their afterlife. He aided him with clear prophetic miracles.
- 1.4 He (to him favour and salutation) is truthful in all he conveyed from Allah (how high is He!): including the bridge, the balance, the pool, and other matters of the afterworld; as well as the interworld, including the questioning of the two angels and the torment and bliss of the grave.

- 1.5 The Qur'an and all of Allah's revealed books are true, the angels true, Paradise true, the Fire true, and all that our master Muhammad (Allah favour and salute him) came with is true.

2

PRAYER**CONTENTS**

Essentials (Furud) of Ablution (Wudu')	2.1
Sex-Related Impurity (Janaba)	2.2
Nullifiers (Nawaqid) of Ablution	2.3
Other Conditions (Shurut) of Prayer	2.4
Essentials of Prayer	2.5
Minimal Testification (Tashahhud)	2.6
Minimal Prayer for the Prophet (Allah favour and salute him)	2.7
Other Demanded Matters of Prayer	2.8
Invalidators (Mubtilat) of Prayer	2.9
Those Invalid to Follow	2.10
Friday (Jumu'a) Prayer	2.11
For Whom the Friday Prayer Is Necessary	2.11
Integrals of the Two Sermons	2.12
Conditions of the Two Sermons	2.13
Other Demanded Prayers	2.14

Essentials (Furud) of Ablution (Wudu')

2.1 The essentials of ablution are six:

- (1) the intention;
- (2) washing the face, it being from the hairline to the end of the jawbones and chinbone and in width from ear to ear;
- (3) washing the lower arms to the elbows;
- (4) wiping any of the head's skin or hair within its limits;
- (5) washing the feet including the ankles;
- (6) and the given order.

Sex-Related Impurity (Janaba)

2.2 If one has sex-related impurity (*janaba*) due to sexual intercourse or the exiting of ejaculate—whether from sleep or something else—one must wash one's entire body with the intention of lifting sex-related impurity.

Nullifiers of Ablution

2.3 Ablution is nullified by:

- (1) something exiting either of the two waste passages, front or back, whatever it may be;
- (2) loss of cognition, whether through sleep or something else, except the sleep of someone with his behind firmly planted to the ground;
- (3) touching a person's genitals or anus, whether one's own or someone else's, with the inside of the palm or insides of the fingers, whether he is old or young, even if one's child, even if dead;
- (4) and the meeting of the skins of a man and a woman that are grown and marriageable, without a barrier, unless nail, hair, tooth, or severed part.

Other Conditions (Shurut) of Prayer

2.4 The prayer's validity is also conditional upon knowing the entrance of the time, by certainty, estimation, or overwhelming confidence, such that if one prays with uncertainty, one's prayer is invalid.

Knowing the prayer direction (*qibla*) is also a condition.

It is necessary to cover one's shameful area (*awra*) with a pure, permitted barrier.

It is necessary to remove filth from one's clothing, body, and place.

It is necessary, for someone able, to pray the prescribed prayer standing.

Essentials of Prayer

2.5 The essentials of prayer are:

- (1) the intention;
- (2) the opening Allahu akbar;
- (3) reciting the Fatiha, including *Bismi Llāhi r-Rahmāni r-Rahīm* and the fourteen doublings (*tashdidat*), and distinguishing d from z, there being no z in the Fatiha;
- (4) then bowing (*ruku`*): it is necessary to lean forward such that one's palms reach one's knees; one is to repose therein, necessarily, such that one's limbs come to a rest;
- (5) then straightening up: one is to repose therein necessarily;
- (6 & 7) then prostrating (*sujud*) twice and sitting between the two prostrations: one is to necessarily repose in all (one does the rest of the cycles the same way, with the first testification (*tashahhud*) and its sitting being sunna);
- (8 & 9) the final testification sitting for it are essential;
- (10) praying for the Prophet (Allah favour and salute him) after the final testification is essential;
- (11) and closing the prayer with salaam is essential: its minimum is, *As-salamu `alaykum*.

2.6 The minimal testification is, *At-tahīyyatu liLlāh. Salamun `alayka 'ayyuha n-nabiyyu wa rahmatu Llāhi wa barakatuh. Salamun `alayna wa `ala `ibadi Llāhi s-sālihin. 'Ashhadu 'al la 'ilāha 'illa Llāh(u), wa 'anna Muḥammadan `abduhu wa rasuluh.*

2.7 The minimal prayer for the Prophet (Allah favour and salute him) is, *Allāhumma ṣalli `ala Muḥammad.*

Other Demanded Matters of Prayer

2.8 One should perform all the sunnas, which are very many. One should take care to have sincerity, which means acting for Allah (how high is He!) alone. One should have presence, which means knowing what one is saying and doing. One should have focus, which means stillness of limbs, presence of heart, and reflecting upon the recitation and invocation; for Allah only accepts of the prayer according to the amount of presence. Showing off is forbidden in prayer and everything else, it meaning acting for the sake of people.

Invalidators (Mubtilat) of Prayer

2.9 Prayer is invalidated by:

- (1) speech done deliberately—even if only two letters—or forgetfully if much;
- (2) much movement, such as three steps;
- (3) eating and drinking;
- (4) exposure of the shameful area, if not immediately covered;
- (5) occurrence of filth if not immediately removed without carrying it;
- (6) and [preceding the imam by two physical integrals](#), likewise [lagging behind](#) by that much, [without excuse](#).

Those Not Valid to Follow

2.10 The prayer is not valid behind a disbeliever, a woman or an intersex.

Friday (Jumu`a) Prayer

2.11 The Friday prayer is personally obligatory (*fard `ayn*) for every Muslim that is male, free, and resident with no legal excuse, such as illness or rain.

2.12 Of the conditions of the Friday prayer are the two sermons. Their integrals are:

- (1) praising Allah (how high is He!);
- (2) praying for the Prophet (Allah favour and salute him);
- (3) advising piety;
- (4) reciting a verse of the Qur'an in one of the two;
- (5) and praying for the believers in the last.

2.13 It is necessary that one sermonize standing, ritually purified, covering the shameful area. Also necessary is sitting between the two [sermons] longer than the repose of prayer, as is continuity.

Other Demanded Prayers

2.14 The group prayer and funeral prayer are communally obligatory (*fard kifaya*). The two eid prayers, the two eclipse prayers, and the witr prayer are emphasized sunnas, as are the prayer's regular sunnas. The forenoon (*duha*) and tarawih prayers are sunnas with merit and tremendous reward.

3

FASTING

CONTENTS

The Meaning of Fasting 3.1

Perfecting Fasting 3.2

Optional Fasting 3.3

The Meaning of Fasting

3.1 Fasting, the third of the pillars of Islam, is a well-known abstinence in a particular fashion. It includes the intention for each day made from the night, and refraining from the things that break the fast:

- (1) eating and drinking;
- (2) sexual intercourse;
- (3) ejaculation induced through skin-to-skin contact;
- (4) induced vomiting, out of choice.

Perfecting Fasting

3.2 Perfecting fasting involves keeping the seven to-be-mentioned body parts from what Allah (how high is He!) detests. For, in hadith is [stated], “Five break the fast of someone fasting: lying, slander, talebearing, false oath, and looking with desire.”

Perfecting fasting also involves seeking to break the fast on something allowed, as well as not overeating.

Optional Fasting

3.3 One should fast frequently, particularly those days meritorious in the Sacred Law.

And Allah knows best. And through Allah is success.

4

ZAKAT

CONTENTS

Properties Liable to Zakat	4.1
Conditions of Zakat	4.2
Zakat on Free-Range Livestock	4.2
A Lunar Year Is a Condition	4.3
Amount Liable Is a Condition	4.4
Necessary Portions	4.5
Fitr Zakat	4.6
For Whom Fitr Zakat is Necessary	4.6
Amount to Be Paid	4.7
Paying Zakat	4.8
Intention	4.8
Conditions of Recipients	4.9
Including All Present	4.10

Properties Liable to Zakat

- 4.1 As for zakat, the fourth pillar of Islam, it is necessary for every Muslim to know the kinds of possessions from which it is necessary:
- (1) livestock;
 - (2) the two moneys;
 - (3) trade;
 - (4) buried treasure;
 - (5) mines;
 - (6) and crops: i.e., seeds and fruits.

Conditions of Zakat

- 4.2 There is no zakat except on free-range livestock.
- 4.3 A lunar year is a condition for them, it likewise being a condition for moneys and trade.
- 4.4 The amount liable (*nisab*) is also a condition in these kinds.

Necessary Portions

- 4.5 The necessary portion from moneys and trade is 1/40. The necessary portion from irrigated seeds and fruits is 1/20 and unirrigated ones is 1/10.

Fitr Zakat

- 4.6 The fitr zakat is necessary for every Muslim if it is in excess of his and his dependents' needs for the day and night of eid.
- 4.7 It is four scoops according to the scoop of the Prophet (Allah favour and salute him).

Paying Zakat

- 4.8 Intention is necessary in all.
- 4.9 It is not permissible to spend the [property] zakat or fitr zakat except on someone free, Muslim, and fitting into one of the eight categories (such as the needy and the poor), and who is not a Hashimi, a Mutallibi, or a freedslave of either.
- 4.10 It is necessary to include all of them present.

5

HAJJ

CONTENTS

For Whom Hajj and Umra Is Essential (Fard) 5.1

Acts of Hajj 5.2

Integrals (Arkan) of Hajj and Umra 5.3

Integrals of Hajj 5.3

Integrals of Umra 5.4

Conditions of Circling 5.5

Conditions of Sa'y 5.6

Obligations (Wajibat) of Hajj 5.7

Sunnas 5.8

Omitting Parts of Hajj 5.9

Omitting an Integral 5.9

Omitting an Obligation 5.10

Omitting a Sunna 5.11

Forbiddances of Ihram 5.12

For Whom Hajj and Umra Is Essential (Fard)

5.1 Hajj, the fifth pillar of Islam, is essential for every free, accountable Muslim—as is umra—once in a lifetime, given the condition of ability: that one own what one needs in one's travel to the hajj, going and returning, and the provision of one's dependents until one's return.

Acts of Hajj

5.2 The acts of the hajj are three things: integrals, obligations, and sunnas.

Integrals (Arkan) of Hajj and Umra

5.3 The integrals are five:

- (1) ihram, i.e. the intention to enter hajj or umra; it is recommended to say along with it, "I have intended the hajj (or umra) and have entered its ihram for Allah (how high is He!)" ; the ihram of hajj is not valid except in its months: Shawwal, Dhu l-Qa`da, and the ten days of Dhu l-Hijja, their end being the rise of the dawn of eid;
- (2) standing at Arafat;
- (3) the going-forth circling (tawaf);
- (4) going between Safa and Marwa;
- (5) and shaving or shortening the hair.

5.4 The integrals of umra are the integrals of hajj minus standing at Arafat, which is not one of them.

5.5 Necessary for circling are:

- (1) covering the shameful area;
- (2) purity from the two ritual impurities as well as from filth;
- (3) and that it be seven rounds within the mosque with the House on one's left while one is outside of it.

- 5.6 It is necessary that the going between Safa and Marwa be seven and after the circling, and that one begin with Safa and end with Marwa.

Obligations (Wajibat) of Hajj

- 5.7 The obligations of hajj are:
- (1) ihram from the site;
 - (2) staying over in Muzdelifa the eve of eid;
 - (3) staying over in Mina the nights after eid;
 - (4) stoning;
 - (5) the farewell circling.

Sunnas

- 5.8 As for the sunnas, they are everything other than the integrals and the obligations.

Omitting Parts of Hajj

- 5.9 Whoever omits an integral, his hajj is not valid, and he does not exit his ihram until he performs it. Neither slaughtering nor anything else can make up for it. Three of the integrals do not expire as long as one lives:
- (1) circling;
 - (2) going between Safa and Marwa;
 - (3) and shaving.
- 5.10 Whoever leaves any of the obligations, his hajj is valid, but he must slaughter; and he is sinful if he is not excused.
- 5.11 Whoever leaves any of the sunnas is not responsible for anything, but he misses out on the merit.

Forbiddances of Ihram

- 5.12 Unlawful in ihram are:
- (1) for a man to cover any of his head;
 - (2) for a woman in ihram to cover any of her face;
 - (3) removing nails or hair;
 - (4) oiling the hair of the head or beard;
 - (5) scenting any of the body;
 - (6) contracting marriage;
 - (7) sexual intercourse or foreplay;
 - (8) and harming any edible wild land animal.

The forbiddances apply to women as they apply to men.

6

VIRTUES AND VICES

 CONTENTS

Vices of the Heart	6.1
Virtue of the Heart	6.2
Vices of the Stomach	6.3
Vices of the Tongue	6.4
Vices of the Eye	6.5
Vices of the Ear	6.7
Vices of the Hand	6.8
Vices of the Foot	6.9
Vices of the Genitals	6.10
Vices of the Whole Body	6.11
Conclusion	6.12

Guarding from Vices

- 6.1 Guarding the heart from vices is necessary for every Muslim. Likewise, guarding the seven body parts is essential for every individual Muslim.

Vices of the Heart

- 6.2 Vices of the heart include:
- (1) uncertainty about Allah (how high is He!);
 - (2) feeling safe from Allah's devising;
 - (3) despair of Allah's mercy;
 - (4) haughtiness towards the slaves of Allah (how high is He!);
 - (5) showing off;
 - (6) conceit over obedience to Allah (how high is He!);
 - (7) envy and rancour towards the slaves of Allah (how high is He!) (envy meaning disliking and feeling burdened by the blessing a Muslim has)
 - (8) persisting in disobeying Allah;
 - (9) stinginess in what Allah (how high is He!) has obligated;
 - (10) thinking badly of Allah and Allah's creation;
 - (11) and belittling what Allah has deemed enormous—of obedience, disobedience, Koran, knowledge, Paradise, or Hell.

All of these are of the vices and vile, destructive things. In fact, some of these are things that enter one into disbelief, and refuge from that is in Allah (how high is He!).

Virtue of the Heart

- 6.3 Virtue of the heart includes:
- (1) faith in Allah;
 - (2) certitude;
 - (3) sincerity;
 - (4) humility;
 - (5) genuineness to the Muslims;
 - (6) magnanimity;
 - (7) thinking well;

- (8) exalting the emblems of Allah;
- (9) gratitude for the favours of Allah (such as Islam, obedience, and all other blessings);
- (10) patience with tribulation (such as illnesses, afflictions, the death of loved ones, loss of wealth, and the subjugation of people);
- (11) patience in virtue;
- (12) patience from vices;
- (13) trusting in provision from Allah;
- (14) despising the lower world;
- (15) opposing the self and Satan;
- (16) love of Allah and His Messenger along with his companions, his household, the Followers, and the righteous;
- (17) contentment with Allah;
- (18) reliance on Him;
- (19) and other delivering obligations of the heart.

Vices of the Stomach

6.4 As for the vices of the body parts, vices of the stomach include:

- (1) consuming interest (riba);
- (2) drinking any inebriant;
- (3) consuming the orphan's wealth;
- (4) and [consuming] any food or drink Allah has forbidden.

Allah and His Messenger have cursed the consumer of interest and everyone who facilitates its consumption and have cursed the drinker of wine and everyone who facilitates its drinking, even its seller.

Vices of the Tongue

6.5 Vices of the tongue are also many, such as:

- (1) slander, meaning your mention of Muslim brother with what he dislikes, even if true;
- (2) talebearing;
- (3) lying;
- (4) swearing;
- (5) insulting;
- (6) cursing;
- (7) and others.

Vices of the Eye

6.6 Vices of the eye include:

- (1) looking at outsider women;
- (2) looking at shameful areas ('awrat);
- (3) looking down at a Muslim;
- (4) and looking into someone else's house without his permission.

Vices of the Ear

6.7 Vices of the ear include:

- (1) listening to slander and other forbiddances.

Vices of the Hand

6.8 Vices of the hand include:

- (1) stinting when measuring volume or weight;
- (2) treachery;
- (3) theft;
- (4) and all other forbidden interactions, such as killing and hitting without right.

Vices of the Foot

6.9 Vices of the foot are:

- (1) Walking towards plotting against, killing, or whatever harms a Muslim without right, or anything else forbidden to walk to.

Vices of the Genitals

6.10 Vices of the genitals include:

- (1) illicit intercourse;
- (2) sodomy;
- (3) masturbation;
- (4) and other vices of the genitals.

Vice with the Whole Body

6.11 Vice with the whole body includes:

- (1) unruliness to parents;
- (2) fleeing from the battle lines (which is of the enormities);
- (3) and other than what was mentioned, such as cutting blood ties and oppressing people.

Conclusion

6.12 And Allah is the one that enables and aids [achievement of] what He loves and is pleased with. May Allah favour our master Muhammad and his family and companions, and salute them.