

## Salatul Layl

The time for *Salatul Layl* begins after midnight until the time for *Fajr* (morning) prayers. The best time for it is as close to the *Fajr* prayer as possible (when there is not enough time, it is recommended to at least recite the last three *rakats*, or even just the last *rakah* of *Salatul Witr*).

*Salatul Layl* consists of a total of 11 *rakats*, divided into the following prayers:

1. **Nafilah of Layl: 8 rakats** (4 x 2 rakats)
2. **Salât al-Shafa: 2 rakats**
3. **Salat al-Witr: 1 rakat**

### Method

The foundation of the prayer consists of the **11 rakats**. In addition, there are a variety of *surahs* and supplications that have been recommended for recitation during these rakats. What follows is the description of one of the ways that has been recommended.

### Nafilah of Layl

The **8 rakats of Nafilah** are divided into four prayers; two *rakats* each. With the intention of reciting two *rakats* of **Salatul Layl**, recite two rakats like the *Fajr* prayer.

After *Surah al-Hamd* it is recommended to recite *al-Ikhlâs* in the first *rakat*.

### *Surah al-Ihlas* (#112):

Qul huwa Allahu aḥadun  
Allahu alṣsamadu  
Lam yalid walam yooladu  
Walam yakun lahu kufuwan aḥadun

and *Surah al-Kafirun* in the second *rakat*.

### *Surah al-Kafirun* (#109)

Qul ya ayyuhaḥ alkaḥfiroona  
La aAAabudu ma taAAabudoona  
Wala antum AAabidoona ma aAAabudu  
Wala ana AAabidun ma AAabadtum  
Wala antum AAabidoona ma aAAabudu  
Lakum deenukum waliya deeni

**Qunut** is recommended in the second *rakat* and can simply consist of saying a “*salawat*” only or “*subhan Allah*” three times.

In the other *salats* of **Nafilah of Layl**, any small *surah* can be recited after *Surah al-Hamd*. It is also permissible to omit the second *surah* after *Surah al-Hamd* during these

*rakats.*

In the name of Allah the Beneficent, the Merciful  
Say: O unbelievers!  
I do not serve that which you serve  
Nor do you serve Him Whom I serve  
Nor am I going to serve that which you serve  
Nor are you going to serve Him Whom I serve  
You shall have your religion and I shall have my religion.

### **Salat al-Shafa**

This is a two *rakat* prayer, and there is **no qunut** in it.

**1st rakat:** Recite *Surah an-Nas* after *al-Hamd*.

*An-Nas (The Mankind)*

1. *Qul aoozhu bi rubbi enaas*
2. *Maliki ennaas*
3. *Ilahi ennaas*
4. *Min sharri elwaswasil khannaas*
5. *Allazhi yuwasswiso fee sudoori ennaas*
6. *Min aljinnati wa annaas.*

**2<sup>nd</sup> rakat:** Recite *Surah al-Falaq* after *al-Hamd*.

*Al-Falaq (The Dawn)*

1. *Qul aoozhu bi rubbil falaq; min sharri ma khalaq*
2. *Wa min sharri ghasiqin Izha waqub*
3. *Wa min sharri ennaffathati fi el oqad*
4. *Wa min sharri hasidin izha hasud.*

### **Salatul Witr**

This is a one *rakah* prayer. The following *surahs* are recited after *Surah al-Hamd*.

*Surah al-Ikhlās* (#112) 3 times

*Al-Ikhlās (Purity of Faith)*

1. *Qul, how Allah u ahad*
2. *Allah u ssamad*
3. *Lam yalid wa lam yoolad*
4. *Wa lam yakun lahu kufuwan ahad.*

*Surah al-Falaq* (#113) 1 time

*Al-Falaq (The Dawn)*

5. *Qul aoozhu bi rubbil falaq; min sharri ma khalaq*
6. *Wa min sharri ghasiqin Izha waqub*

7. *Wa min sharri ennaffathati fi el oqad*
8. *Wa min sharri hasidin izha hasud.*

*Surah an-Nas (#114) 1 time*  
*An-Nas (The Mankind)*

7. *Qul aoozhu bi rubbi enaas*
8. *Maliki ennaas*
9. *Ilahi ennaas*
10. *Min sharri elwaswasil khannaas*
11. *Allazhi yuwasswiso fee sudoori ennaas*
12. *Min aljinnati wa annaas.*

### **Qunut of Salatul Witr**

After completing the *surahs* recite *qunut* in the following manner. It is highly emphasized to be humble and tearful in *Salatul Witr*. Raise the left hand for asking forgiveness and use the right for holding a *tasbeeh*. Some recommended *duas* are as follows.

#### **a) Recite the following *dua*:**

In the name of Allah, the Beneficent, the Merciful  
 There is no god except Allah  
 the Forbearing, the Generous  
 There is no god except Allah  
 the High the Almighty

Glory be to Allah  
 Lord of the seven heavens  
 and Lord of the seven earths

and whatever is in them, and between them  
 and above them and below them,  
 Lord of the Mighty Throne.  
 Peace be on the Messengers.  
 All praise is for Allah Lord of the worlds.  
 O Allah bless Muhammad and his pure family.

#### **b) Recite 70 times this prayer for forgiveness:**

“I seek forgiveness of Allah my Lord and I turn to Him.”

**c) Ask for the forgiveness of forty believers, men and women, who have died or are living, by repeating forty times:** (Fill in the names of believers. Apart from relatives and friends)

\_\_\_\_\_ اللَّهُمَّ اغْفِرْ لَ

“O’ Allah, forgive \_\_\_\_\_”

“O Allah forgive all believers, male and female”

**Then say:** “I seek forgiveness of Allah, He who there is no god but He, the Ever living, the subsisting, from all my oppressions and my sins and my excesses on my soul, and I turn (repentant) to Him.”

**d) Repeat seven times:** “This is the position of one who seeks refuge in You from the fire.”

**e) Say three hundred times:** “I ask for Your pardon.”

**Then say:** “My Lord, forgive me and have mercy on me, and turn to me Surely You are the Oft-returning, the Merciful.”