

MY JOURNEY TO ISLAM

BOOK 4



SALAAMAT PUBLICATIONS

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ
السَّلَامُ عَلَيْكُمْ وَرَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ وَبَرَكَاتُهُ

Dear Beloved Readers!

Welcome to the fourth book in our series, My Journey to Islam.

In the previous books, we explored the basics of our beautiful Deen, Islam.

We learned about Allah Ta'ala's amazing names, the stories of Prophets, the sacrifices of the Sahabah, and important acts of worship like salaah, zakaah, and fasting.

In this book, we will take the next step in our journey by learning even more about these topics.

We will dive deeper into Allah's beautiful names and attributes, hear new stories of Prophets and Sahabah, and understand more about how to live as Muslims.

We will also learn more rulings (masaail) about our daily worship, all based on the teachings of the Hanafi school of thought.

Let us begin this journey with a dua:

**Ya Allah,
Increase us in knowledge, make us love Your
deen, and guide us on the straight path.
Ameen!**

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Chapter 1: Understanding Allah's Beautiful Names

Allah Ta'ala has many names that help us understand who He is and how much He loves us.
Let us learn three more names and what they teach us:

- **Al-Basir (The All-Seeing)**

Allah sees everything, no matter how big or small. He sees us when we pray, help others, or even when we are alone. Knowing this reminds us to always do what pleases Him.

Example:

A boy named Zaid helped his little sister clean up her toys when no one was watching. His father later told him, “Even if I

didn't see you, **Allah, Al-Basir**, saw your kindness and will reward you."

- **Ash-Shafi (The Healer)**

When we are sick or feeling hurt, it is Allah who heals us. We should make dua to Him for shifa (healing) and trust in His wisdom.

Story:

A young girl named Amina had a fever. Her mother reminded her to say,

"Ya Shaafi, please cure me." Soon after, Amina began to feel better and thanked Allah for His care.

- **Al-Matin (The Strong)**

Allah is the strongest and never becomes tired or weak. This name reminds us to rely on Allah when we feel weak or scared.

Lesson:

A group of children were nervous about a storm outside.

Their teacher taught them to say,

"Hasbunallahu wa ni'mal wakeel"

(Allah is sufficient for us, and He is the best guardian).

They felt stronger and knew Allah was protecting them.

Chapter 2: More Stories of the Prophets

Allah Ta'ala sent Prophets to guide people toward the right path. Each Prophet's life teaches us important lessons. Let us explore two new stories about the Prophets and what we can learn from them.

- **Prophet Dawood (AS): The Grateful Servant**

Dawood (AS) was a great king and a Prophet of Allah. He was given the Zabur (Psalms), a holy book, and blessed with a beautiful voice. Even the mountains and birds would praise Allah with him. Despite being a king, he lived a humble life and worked hard to earn his living.

One of the greatest lessons from Prophet Dawood (AS) is his gratitude to Allah. He would often say:

"Shukr (thankfulness) is the key to happiness, and everything we have is a blessing from Allah."

Story:

Once, a poor man came to Prophet Dawood (AS) and said, “I have nothing to thank Allah for.” Dawood (AS) smiled and asked, “Do you have eyes to see, a tongue to speak, and hands to work?” The man realized how blessed he was and immediately said, “Alhamdulillah for everything Allah has given me!”

Lesson:

We should always say Alhamdulillah (All praise is for Allah) for every blessing, big or small. Gratitude brings us closer to Allah.

- **Prophet Sulayman (AS): The Wise King:**

Sulayman (AS), the son of Dawood (AS), was a great Prophet and king. Allah blessed him with the ability to understand the language of animals and control the jinn (invisible

beings). Despite his power, Sulayman (AS) always remained humble and used his blessings to help others.

Story:

One day, while traveling with his army, Sulayman (AS) heard ants speaking. The ants were warning each other to go into their homes to avoid being stepped on.

Sulayman (AS) smiled and made dua to Allah:

"O Allah, help me to be grateful for Your blessings and to do good deeds that please You."

Lesson:

We should use our talents and abilities to help others and always ask Allah to guide us.

Chapter 3: More About the Sahabah

The companions of the Prophet Muhammad ﷺ were the best people after the Prophets. They loved Islam more than anything else and showed us how to live as good Muslims. Let's learn about two more Sahabah and their inspiring stories.

- **Abu Hurairah (RA): The Keeper of Hadith:**

Abu Hurairah (RA) was one of the closest companions of Prophet Muhammad ﷺ. He loved learning about Islam and memorized thousands of hadiths (sayings of the Prophet ﷺ).

He spent his life teaching others what he had learned.

Story:

Once, a man asked Abu Hurairah (RA), “How do you remember so many hadiths?” He replied, “I asked the Prophet ﷺ to make dua for me, and Allah blessed my memory.”

Lesson:

When we want to learn something, we should make dua and work hard, just like Abu Hurairah (RA).

- **Fatimah (RA): The Daughter of the Prophet ﷺ**

Fatimah (RA) was the beloved daughter of Prophet Muhammad ﷺ. She was known for her kindness, patience, and dedication to Islam. She cared for her family and helped the poor, even when she had very little herself.

Story:

One day, Fatimah (RA) was grinding grain to prepare food, and her hands became sore. She asked her father for a servant to help her. Instead, the Prophet ﷺ taught her a dua to say before sleeping:

"SubhanAllah (Glory be to Allah) 33 times,
Alhamdulillah (Praise be to Allah) 33 times,
Allahu Akbar (Allah is the Greatest) 34 times."

Fatimah (RA) said this dua every night and found strength in it.

Lesson:

When we are tired or struggling, we should turn to Allah for help through dua and zikr (remembrance of Allah).

Chapter 4: Deepening Our Understanding of Worship

In this chapter, we will learn more about our daily worship, such as salaah, zakaah, and fasting, based on the teachings of the Hanafi school of thought.

Salaah: Perfecting Our Prayers

Salaah is the most important act of worship. It is our daily connection with Allah Ta'ala, and we must strive to perform it with sincerity and correctness. Let us learn about a few rulings and tips to improve our salaah.

When Should We Pray?

- **Perform Salaah on Time:** Delaying salaah without a valid reason is not allowed. For example, Fajr salaah should

be prayed before sunrise, and Asr salaah must be prayed before sunset.

- **Facing the Qiblah:** It is compulsory to face the Ka'bah when performing salaah.

Common Mistakes to Avoid in Salaah:

- **Moving too much:** Excessive unnecessary movements can spoil the quality of salaah.
- **Skipping Wajib acts:** If you forget a wajib act, like reciting Surah Fatiha, you must perform Sajdah Sahw (prostration of forgetfulness).

How to Perform Sajdah Sahw:

- After completing the last Tashahhud, make two extra sajdahs.
- Then, finish your salaah with salaam.

Hadith:

The Prophet Muhammad ﷺ said:

"The first thing a servant will be questioned about on the Day of Judgment is salaah. If it is correct, all his deeds will be correct."

(Tirmidhi)

Zakaah: Purifying Our Wealth

Zakaah is an obligation upon Muslims who meet the criteria of nisab (minimum wealth threshold). Let's understand more details about it.

Who Must Pay Zakaah?

- Zakaah is compulsory on gold, silver, savings, and business wealth if they reach the nisab and are kept for a full lunar year.

Who Can Receive Zakaah?

- Zakaah must be given to eligible recipients, such as the poor, needy, or those in debt.
- Zakaat cannot be given to wealthy individuals or close relatives whom you are responsible for, like parents or children.

Lesson from a Sahabi (Companion):

Uthman ibn Affan (RA) once gave a large amount of wealth in zakaah to help the poor during a famine. His generosity inspired others to do the same.

Remember:

Giving zakaah purifies our wealth and pleases Allah.

Fasting (Sawm): Gaining Closeness to Allah

Fasting in Ramadan is a special act of worship that teaches us self-control and gratitude. Here are some additional rulings:

Things That Break the Fast:

- Eating or drinking intentionally during the fasting hours.
- Deliberately causing oneself to vomit.
- Taking medicine or injections that provide nourishment (e.g., vitamins).

Things That Don't Break the Fast:

- Eating or drinking by mistake. Continue fasting when you realize it.
- Using non-nourishing injections or applying creams.

Sunnats of Fasting:

- Eating suhoor (pre-dawn meal), even if it's just a sip of water.
- Breaking the fast (iftar) with dates and water.

Dua for Breaking the Fast:

"Allahumma laka sumtu, wa bika aamantu, wa 'alayka tawakkaltu, wa 'ala rizqika aftartu."

(O Allah, I fasted for You, believed in You, relied on You, and now I break my fast with the food You provided.)

Chapter 5: Wudhu and Its Deeper Understanding

Wudhu is an essential act of purification required before performing salaah and other acts of worship. Let's learn additional rulings and etiquettes about wudhu based on Hanafi fiqh.

Acts That Break Wudhu:

Loss of Impurity:

- Passing wind, urine, or stool.
- Vomiting a mouthful.

Sleep:

- Deep sleep while lying down or leaning against something. Light sleep (e.g., sitting without leaning) does not break wudhu.

Laughing During Salaah:

- If someone laughs loudly in salaah, it breaks both their wudhu and salaah.

Acts That Do Not Break Wudhu:

- Sweating, crying, or bleeding from a minor cut that does not flow.
- Smiling during salaah.

Recommended Acts in Wudhu (Mustahab) Bismillah:

- Begin with Bismillah.

Miswak:

- Use a miswak (toothstick) to clean your teeth.

Washing of the limbs:

- Wash each limb three times, as taught by the Prophet Muhammad ﷺ.

Maintaining order:

- Maintain the proper order of washing Hands, mouth, nose, face, arms, head, and feet.

The Prophet ﷺ said:

"Whoever performs wudhu and recites the following dua, all eight gates of Jannah will be opened for them, and they may enter through whichever they wish."

Dua After Completing Wudhu:

"Ashhadu an la ilaha illallahu wahdahu la sharika lahu wa ashhadu anna Muhammadan abduhu wa rasooluh."

(I bear witness that there is no god except Allah, alone, without any partner, and I bear witness that Muhammad is His servant and Messenger.)

Chapter 6: Preparing for the Day of Judgment

The Day of Judgment is the day when Allah Ta'ala will reward or punish us based on our deeds. Here are deeper insights about this important event.

Stages of the Day of Judgment:

- **Blowing of the Trumpet:**

The angel Israfeel (AS) will blow the trumpet twice—first to end the world and second to bring everyone back to life.

- **The Gathering:**

All humans, jinn, and animals will be gathered on a vast plain. Each person will be given their book of deeds.

- **The Right Hand:** Those who receive their book in their right hand will enter Jannah.

- **The Left Hand:** Those who receive it in their left hand will face Jahannam.
- **The Scale of Deeds**
Allah Ta'ala will weigh our good and bad deeds. Even the smallest good deed, like smiling at someone, will count.

Good Deeds to Prepare for the Day of Judgment

- Perform salaah on time.
- Give sadaqah (charity) regularly, even if it's a small amount.
- Make istighfar (seek forgiveness) daily.
- Always speak the truth and fulfill promises.

Dua for Forgiveness:

"Rabbighfir li wa tub 'alayya innaka anta at-tawwabur-raheem."

(O my Lord, forgive me and accept my repentance. Truly, You are the Most Forgiving, Most Merciful.)

Chapter 7: Lessons from the Lives of More Sahabah

The Sahabah, the companions of Prophet Muhammad **صلى الله عليه وسلم**, were exceptional examples of faith, bravery, and love for Allah. Let's learn about two more remarkable companions and what their lives teach us.

Umar ibn al-Khattab (RA): The Just Leader

Umar (RA) was the second Caliph of Islam and known for his justice and fairness. He was once a fierce opponent of Islam but later became one of its strongest supporters after accepting the truth. His leadership was

marked by concern for the well-being of the people.

Story:

One night, Umar (RA) was patrolling the streets of Madinah when he overheard a mother boiling water with stones to calm her hungry children. Umar immediately returned to the treasury, carried a sack of food on his back, and delivered it to the family.

Lesson:

As Muslims, we should care for the poor and ensure justice for everyone, just as Umar (RA) did.

Umm Salamah (RA): The Wise Counselor

Umm Salamah (RA) was one of the wives of the Prophet Muhammad ﷺ.

She was known for her wisdom and was often consulted by the Prophet ﷺ in important matters.

Story:

During the Treaty of Hudaibiyyah, many Muslims were upset about the terms of the agreement. Umm Salamah (RA) advised the Prophet ﷺ on how to calm the companions. Her wise suggestion helped restore peace among them.

Lesson:

We can learn from Umm Salamah (RA) to use wisdom and patience to solve problems and maintain harm

Chapter 8: Strengthening Our Worship

In addition to the pillars of Islam, there are other acts of worship that bring us closer to Allah and increase our rewards. Let's learn about some of them.

Dhikr: Remembering Allah

Dhikr means remembering Allah by reciting short phrases of praise. It is one of the easiest and most rewarding acts of worship.

Examples of Dhikr:

SubhanAllah (Glory be to Allah)

Alhamdulillah (All praise is for Allah)

Allahu Akbar (Allah is the Greatest)

Story:

A man asked the Prophet

ﷺ, "What is the easiest way to earn rewards?" The Prophet ﷺ

replied, **“Keep your tongue moist with the remembrance of Allah.”** (Tirmidhi)

Tahajjud: The Night Prayer

Tahajjud is a special prayer performed at night, preferably in the last third of the night. It is not compulsory but highly recommended.

Why Pray Tahajjud?

- It brings us closer to Allah.
- It is a time when duas are more likely to be accepted.

Dua During Tahajjud:

"Allahumma inni as'aluka rahmatan, tuhdiy biha qalbi, wa tajma'u biha amri."

(O Allah, I ask You for mercy that will guide my heart and bring my affairs together.)

Chapter 9: Lessons from Islamic History

Islamic history is filled with inspiring stories of bravery, wisdom, and steadfastness. Let's learn about two important events that shaped the early days of Islam and the lessons they teach us.

The Migration to Abyssinia:

When the Muslims in Makkah faced persecution, the Prophet Muhammad ﷺ advised some of them to seek safety in Abyssinia which is now (modern-day Ethiopia).

The Christian king of Abyssinia, Negus, welcomed the Muslims and granted them protection.

Story:

When the Quraysh sent messengers to demand the return of the Muslims then Ja'far ibn Abi Talib (RA) spoke on behalf of the Muslims. He recited verses from Surah Maryam about the story of Prophet Isa (AS) and his mother, Maryam (AS).

The king was moved and said, "The message of your Prophet and what we believe about Isa are from the same source."

Lesson:

Islam teaches respect and kindness towards others, even those of different faiths.

Trusting Allah brings protection and guidance during difficult times.

The Battle of Badr:

The Battle of Badr was the first major battle fought by the Muslims. Despite being outnumbered, the Muslims trusted Allah and won the battle with His help. Angels were sent to assist them.

Story:

Before the battle, the Prophet Muhammad **صلى الله عليه وسلم** made the following dua:

"O Allah, if this small group of Muslims is destroyed today, there will be no one left to worship You on earth."

Allah granted them victory, showing that success comes from His help, not just numbers or strength.

Lesson:

Always put your trust in Allah, especially when facing challenges.

Obedience to Allah and His Messenger **صلى الله عليه وسلم** leads to success.

Chapter 10: Everyday Sunnahs to Practice

The Prophet Muhammad **صلى الله عليه وسلم** taught us how to live a good life by following the Sunnah (his way).

Let's learn some simple Sunnahs we can practice every day.

Greeting Others:

Say "**Assalamu Alaikum wa Rahmatullahi wa Barakatuh**" when meeting someone. It is a way to spread peace and earn rewards.

Hadith:

The Prophet ﷺ said, “You will not enter Paradise until you believe, and you will not believe until you love one another. Spread salaam to increase love among yourselves.” (Muslim)

Eating with the Right Hand:

- Start eating with reciting **Bismillah**
- Use your **right hand** to eat.
- After eating recite **Alhamdulillah**.

Hadith:

The Prophet ﷺ said, “Say Bismillah and eat with your right hand.” (Bukhari)

Helping Others:

Assist others, even in small ways, like carrying groceries or opening a door.

Hadith:

The Prophet ﷺ said,

“The best of people are those who bring the most benefit to others.” (Daraqutn)

NB:

Any errors are due to our own limitations, and we humbly seek Allah سبحانه وتعالى forgiveness and guidance in our future publications.

A humble request for du'as for everyone contributing to the completion of this publication.

May Allah grant sincerity (ikhlaas), steadfastness (istiqamah), and acceptance (maqbooliyah) to all involved, and may He make it a means of ongoing charity (sadaqah jariyah). Aameen. آمين

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