

# THE ETIQUETTE OF LISTENING, AND RESPONDING, TO THE ADHAAN

## (CALL TO PRAYER)

By Zainol A. Khan

The *Adhaan* is the call given by a person (referred to as the *Mu'adhdhin*) to inform the Muslims that it is time to commence one of the five daily compulsory *salaat*. The *adhaan* was first introduced in the first or second year of the *Hijrah* and the first person appointed to announce it was the freed Abyssinian slave, Bilaal ibn Raba'ah (R.A.) (Click here for brief details: Short Stories for Children by Zainol A. Khan: How the Adhaan was introduced)

There are certain *adaab* (etiquettes) to be following while the *Adhaan* is being announced and immediately after. These, with the appropriate supporting *Hadith*, are as follows:

1. One must cease talking, even reading of the Qur-aan.  
(Abu Said Al-Khudri narrated that the Holy Prophet - S.A.W.- said:  
"Whenever you hear the *Adhaan*, say what the *Mu'adhdhin* is saying")
2. When the *Mu'adhdhin* says "*Haiya alas-salaa(t)* - (Come to prayer )" and "*Hayya alal Falaah*" (Come to Success) say:  
*Laa haula wa la Quwata* (There is neither might nor any power except with Allaah)  
Muawiya also related the *Hadith* referred to at 1 and added "We heard your Prophet – S.A.W. – saying the above.)
3. Invoke blessings on the Holy Prophet Muhammad (S.A.W.)  
(*Abdullah b. Amr b. Al-As* reported that the Messenger of Allah (S.A.W.) said:  
"When you hear the *muadhdhin* repeat what he says, then invoke a blessing on me, for everyone who invokes a blessing on me will receive ten blessings from Allaah; then beg from Allaah *al-Wasila* for me, which is a rank in Paradise fitting for only one of Allaah's servants, and I hope that I may be that one. If anyone who asks that I be given the *Wasila*,  
he will be assured of my intercession.)
4. Make *Wasila* for the Holy Prophet (S.A.W.).
5. Make *du'a* (supplication) between the time the *adhaan* is finished and before the *iqamah* is called.  
(Anas bin Malik narrated that "*the supplication made between the adhaan and the iqamah is not rejected*".)

For ease of reference, the following are the calls of the *Mu'adhdhin*, the responses to be given by the listener(s), the *Wasila* and the *Daruud*.

1. (a) The Muadhhdhin calls as follows  
*Allaahu Akbar, Allaahu Akbar* (Allaah is the Greatest, Allaah is the Greatest)  
 (b) The Listener responds by repeating:  
*Allaahu Akbar, Allaahu Akbar* (Allaah is the Greatest, Allaah is the Greatest)
  
2. (a) The Muadhhdhin calls as follows:  
*Allaahu Akbar, Allaahu Akbar* (Allaah is the Greatest, Allaah is the Greatest)  
 (b) The listener responds by repeating:  
*Allaahu Akbar, Allaahu Akbar* (Allaah is the Greatest, Allaah is the Greatest)
  
3. (a) The Mu'adhdhin calls as follows:  
*Ashadu anlaa illaaha ilallaah* (I bear witness that there is none worthy of being worshipped except Allaah)  
 (b) The listener responds by repeating:  
*Ashadu anlaa illaaha ilallaah* (I bear witness that there is none worthy of being worshipped except Allaah)
  
4. (a) The Mu'adhdhin calls as follows:  
*Ashadu anlaa illaaha ilallaah* (I bear witness that there is none worthy of being worshipped except Allaah)  
 (b) The listener responds by repeating:  
*Ashadu anlaa illaaha illallaah* (I bear witness that there is none worthy of being worshipped except Allaah)
  
5. (a) The Mu'adhdhin calls as follows:  
*Ashadu anna Muhammadar rasuulullaah* (I bear witness that Muhammad is the Messenger of Allaah)  
 (b) The listener responds by repeating:  
*Ashadu anna Muhammadar rasuulullaah* (I bear witness that Muhammad is the Messenger of Allaah)
  
6. (a) The Mu'adhdhin calls as follows:  
*Ashadu anna Muhammadur rasuulullaah* (I bear witness that Muhammad is the Messenger of Allaah)  
 (b) The listener responds by repeating:  
*Ashadu anna Muhammadur rasuulullaah* (I bear witness that Muhammad is the Messenger of Allaah)
  
7. (a) The Mu'adhdhin calls as follows while turning his head to the right:  
*Hayya 'alas-Salaa(t)* (Come to prayer)  
 (b) The listener responds by saying:  
*Laa Haw laa Quwwata Illa Billaah* (There is neither might nor any power except with Allaah)

8. (a) The *Mu'adhdhin* calls as follows while turning his head to the right:  
*Hayya 'allas Salaah* (Come to prayer)  
 (b) The listener responds by saying:  
*Laa Haw laa Quwwata Illa Billaah* (There is neither might or power except with Allaah)
9. (a) The *Mu'addhin* calls as follows while turning his head to the left:  
*Hayya 'alal-Falaah* (Come to success)  
 (b) The listener responds by saying:  
*Laa Haw laa Quwwata Illa Billaah* (There is no power or might save with (except) Allaah)
10. (a) The *Mu'adhdhin* calls as follows while turning his head to the left:  
*Hayya 'alal-Falaah* (Come to success)  
 (b) The listener responds by saying:  
*Laa Haw laa Quwwata Illa Billaah* (There is no power or might save with (Except) Allaah.)
11. (a) The *Mu'adhdhin* calls as follows:  
*Allaahu Akbar, Allaahu Akbar* (Allaah is the Greatest, Allaah is the Greatest)  
 (b) The listener responds by repeating:  
*Allaahu Akbar, Allaahu Akbar* (Allaah is the Greatest, Allaah is the Greatest)
12. (a) The *Mu'adhdhin* calls as follows:  
*Laa ilaaha illalaah* (There is no deity but Allaah)  
 (b) The listener responds by repeating:  
*Laa ilaaha illallaah* (There is no deity but Allaah)
13. The listener then invokes blessings on the Holy Prophet (S.A.W.) as follows:  
*"Allaahumma salli 'ala Muhammadin, wa 'ala ali Muhammadin, kama sallaita 'ala Ibraahiima wa 'ali Ibraahiima, innaka Hamidun Majiid"*

14. The listener then makes *Wasila* for the Holy Prophet (S.A.W.) in the following words:

“O Allaah! Lord of this perfect call (of not ascribing partners to you) and of the regular prayer which is going to be established. Kindly give Muhammad (S.A.W.) the right of intercession and superiority and send him –S.A.W. (on the Day of Judgment) to the best and highest place in Paradise which You promised him, then intercession for me will be permitted for him -S.A.W.- on the Day of Resurrection.”

Finally, the reader is reminded that while waiting for the *aqamat* to be called one should offer *du'a* as *duas* made during this time are not rejected.