

Another necessary preliminary to every Moslem prayer is legal purification. Whole books have been written on this subject, describing the occasions, method, variety and effect of ablution by water, or, in its absence, by sand. In Mohammedan works of theology there are chapters on the proper way of washing, on the use of the toothbrush, on the different kinds of water allowed for ablution, and on all the varieties of uncleanness.

**Ablution or
Purification
Before
Prayer**

The five proper times for prayer are at dawn, just after high noon, two hours before sunset, at sunset, and again two hours after. It is forbidden to say morning prayers after the sun is risen, and the believer must face Mecca while standing and kneeling to pray.

**Times for
Prayer**

The words repeated during this exercise consist of Koran phrases and short chapters, which include praise, confession, and a prayer for guidance. Often the chapters chosen have no connection with the topic of prayer. Personal private petitions are allowed after the liturgical prayers, but they are not common. The least departure from the rule in purification, posture, or method of prayer nullifies its effect, and the worshiper must begin over again. Special prayer is obligatory at an eclipse of the sun or moon and on the two Moslem festivals. It has been calculated that a pious Moslem repeats the same

Words Used