

The adhan and the iqamah

The call that opens every prayer, the words you answer it with, and the du‘a’ that follows it.



★ The best speech there is

وَمَنْ أَحْسَنُ قَوْلًا مِّمَّنْ دَعَا إِلَى اللَّهِ

“And who is better in speech than one who calls to Allah” — read by the mufasssirun as the muadhdhin.

Qur’an 41:33 • Tafsir Ibn Kathir

★ How it began

A bell and a horn were considered and set aside. ‘Abdullah ibn Zayd was shown the adhan in a dream, and Bilal was ordered to call it.

Sahih al-Bukhari 604 • Sunan Abi Dawud, Kitab al-Salah • sahih

★ The words

Allahu akbar four times; each of the two testimonies twice; hayya ‘ala-s-salah and hayya ‘ala-l-falah twice; Allahu akbar; la ilaha illa-Llah.

Sahih Muslim, Kitab al-Salah • Sahih al-Bukhari 603

★ At Fajr only

After hayya ‘ala-l-falah at Fajr: as-salatu khayrun mina-n-nawm — prayer is better than sleep — said twice.

Sunan Abi Dawud, Kitab al-Salah • sahih • Sunan an-Nasa’i, Kitab al-Adhan • sahih

★ In Shafi‘i practice

The muadhdhin repeats the two testimonies softly, then aloud — the tarji‘. Nineteen phrases in the adhan, eleven in the iqamah.

Sahih Muslim, Kitab al-Salah • an-Nawawi, al-Majmu‘

★ What you reply

“When you hear the muadhdhin, say what he says.” Repeat each phrase after him, quietly, wherever you happen to be.

Sahih al-Bukhari 611

★ Except at two phrases

At hayya ‘ala-s-salah and at hayya ‘ala-l-falah, do not repeat: say la hawla wa la quwwata illa billah.

Sahih Muslim, Kitab al-Salah

★ Then the du‘a’

Send salawat on him ﷺ, then ask Allah — Lord of this perfect call — to grant him al-wasilah, al-fadilah and the praised station promised him.

- Whoever says it is promised his intercession ﷺ

Sahih al-Bukhari 614

★ The iqamah, and the gap

The iqamah is the same words said once, with qad qamati-s-salah twice. Du‘a’ between adhan and iqamah is not turned away.

Sahih al-Bukhari 603 • Sunan Abi Dawud, Kitab al-Salah • hasan