

ALI's latest publication: *Tahajjud Salāt: The Spiritual Ladder* [3rd edition] is an all-encompassing discourse on the Night Prayer, building upon its previous publications with even more updated primary-sourced references to this act of worship.

The online version, which is both affordable and practical, has enabled a much wider dissemination. The ability to download it in both iOS and android applications, has placed this resource at our fingertips.

What struck a chord with me, was how the layout allows us, the worshipper, to gauge our time as well as emotional and spiritual states of mind and then customize how we wish to, “light the lantern of divine love.”

The first time I read it, I will admit, I did not read it cover to cover. Rather, I explored it as one would explore a new spiritual landscape, using the compass of my heart in determining where I wanted this prayer to take me on any one particular night.

This is a strength of this publication, since it encourages the worshipper to perform this prayer, regardless of whether they have 3 mins or 3 hours, whether they are feeling energized and enthusiastic to explore an extended divine connection or perhaps less focussed to commit to a longer act of worship.

It also allows the supplicant to chart the course of their journey towards the Divine. If the desire is to seek forgiveness and fortitude, perhaps the worshipper will be drawn towards spreading out the supplications in the *Qunūt* of the Witr Prayer. If it is to remember their departed souls, then perhaps concentrating on extending the list of names of the deceased. The section on the Long Supplications are a treasure trove of prayers which can be explored one by one, contingent upon whether the theme of the night is gratitude or repentance or afterlife preparedness.

I also really appreciated the FAQs. The authors have sought to pre-emptively search the minds of the readers and tackle important and all too human questions like, “what if I do not feel like waking up or I lack the required spiritual preparedness to perform the prayer?” It is sections like this that bring home the message, that this is not a tome for Islamic scholars, but rather a simple guide for any one of us.

I also was pleased to explore the, “if you have time” boxes which goad you into off the beaten pathways of supplication. The clear, line by line translations are easy to follow and allow you to comprehend and customise your worship.

If there is one message that this publication promotes, it would be to seize every opportunity in performing this prayer, while we are still able to engage in worship.

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