

Surah 2. Al-Baqara

Asad: BE EVER mindful of prayers, and of praying in the most excellent way;²²⁷ and stand before God in devout obedience.

Malik: Guard your Salah (obligatory regular prayers) especially the middle Salah and stand up with true devotion to Allah.

Mustafa Khattab:

Observe the five obligatory prayers—especially the middle prayer¹—and stand in true devotion to Allah.

Pickthall: Be guardians of your prayers, and of the midmost prayer, and stand up with devotion to Allah.

Yusuf Ali: Guard strictly your (habit of) prayers especially the middle prayer and stand before Allah in a devout (frame of mind).²⁷¹

Transliteration: Hafiṭhoo AAala alssalawati waalssalati alwusta waqoomoo lillahi qaniteena

Author Comments

227 - Lit., "the midmost [or "the most excellent"] prayer". It is generally assumed that this refers to the mid-afternoon ('asr) prayer, although some authorities believe that it denotes the prayer at dawn (fajr). Muhammad 'Abduh, however, advances the view that it may mean "the noblest kind of prayer - that is, a prayer from the fullness of the heart, with the whole mind turned towards God, inspired by awe of Him, and reflecting upon His word" (Manar II, 438). - In accordance with the system prevailing throughout the Qur'an, any lengthy section dealing with social laws is almost invariably followed by a call to God-consciousness: and since God-consciousness comes most fully to its own in prayer, this and the next verse are interpolated here between injunctions relating to marital life and divorce.

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As mentioned in several authentic sayings of Prophet Muhammad (?), the middle prayer is the afternoon prayer, 'A'r.

271 - The Middle Prayer: Salutul-wusta: may be translated "the best or the most excellent prayer." Authorities differ as to the exact meaning of this phrase. The weight of authorities seems to be in favour of interpreting this as the 'Asr prayer in the middle of the afternoon. This is apt to be most neglected, and yet this is the most necessary, to remind us of God in the midst of our worldly affairs. There is special Sura, entitled 'Asr, of which the mystic meaning is appropriately dealt with under that Sura.

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