

DAILY PRAYERS

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Books and pamphlets explaining the daily prayers are among the most commonly encountered and the most widely printed in Kazakhstan. This type of work was already popular before 1917, and several Kazakh-language primers devoted to the daily prayers appeared before 1917. The earliest of these was published in Kazan in 1898 under the title *Oqu namaz kitabi küyli qazaq tilinde* (The Book on Performing the Daily Prayers, in the Melodic Kazakh language).<sup>1</sup> Others included *Shurut as-salawat tarjumasi* (Translation of the Conditions for the Daily Prayers), a translation of an Arabic original published in Kazan in 1910, and *Bes namaz* (The Five Daily Prayers), printed in the same city the following year.<sup>2</sup> There also appeared in Kazan in 1908 a Kazakh-language primer for instructing children about the ablutions under the title *Taharat qalay alu kerek* (How the Ablutions should be Performed).<sup>3</sup> In addition, primers on the daily prayers and ablutions were sometimes included into the broader works on the articles of faith in general, including the *Iman Shart* genre. One such work was *Iman ham namaz yaki musulmandiq* (Faith and the Daily Prayers, or, being Muslim] (Semipalatinsk, 1914). The modern pamphlets sometimes overlap too with the broader genre of *Iman Shart*, or primers addressing not only the daily prayers, but the five pillars of faith as a whole and the articles of faith. The modern examples of this genre do not appear to have used these older works as their sources, but are rather either original works, or translations of modern pamphlets compiled outside of Kazakhstan. The ubiquity of such works clearly testifies to widespread popular demand. These modern editions generally contain instructions on the conditions for performing valid prayers, the required prostrations and ablutions, and the Arabic prayers themselves, often with Kazakh translations of the meanings of the prayers. Illustrations depicting the prostrations and ablutions are also commonly included in the pamphlets. In his study of how Islam is understood and practiced among the Kazakhs in the city of Turkistan in the 1990's Bruce Privratsky argues that while many Kazakhs provided several justifications for neglecting the prayers the five daily prayers, the prayers themselves, and especially the ablutions, were an essential component underlying the idea of ritual purity, which was central to Kazakh understandings of Islam and Islamic status.<sup>4</sup> Without question the popularity of the genre would appear to underscore Privratsky's conclusions.

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<sup>1</sup> Subkhanberdina and Seyfullina, *Qazaq kitabining shezhiresi*, 93.

<sup>2</sup> Subkhanberdina and Seyfullina, *Qazaq kitabining shezhiresi*, 168, 171.

<sup>3</sup> Subkhanberdina and Seyfullina, *Qazaq kitabining shezhiresi*, 146.

<sup>4</sup> Privratsky, *Muslim Turkistan*, 84-86.

## **Daily Prayers and Other Rituals**

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### **1. Намаз оқу тәртібі [The Sequence of Performing the Daily Prayers]**

Author: Säwle-khazhī Bekenqizi  
Publisher: Rayimbek Islam Birlestigi  
Place of Publication: Almaty  
Date of Publication: 1997  
Print Run: 10,000  
Languages: Kazakh, Arabic, and Cyrillic-script Arabic transcription  
ISBN: n/a  
Pages: 32  
Place of Purchase: Turkistan

This pamphlet provides instruction to the most elementary ritual for Muslims, the obligatory five daily prayers. It lists the order of the prayers, the obligatory and optional numbers of prostrations, and the prayers that accompany each of the prostrations, both in Arabic script and in Cyrillic transcription. It also includes illustrations for men and women on how to perform the prayers. The last portion of the pamphlet lists the additional optional and communal prayers.

### **2. Алла Тағаланың 99 көркем Есімі—Намаз оқу тәртібі [God the Exalted's 99 Beautiful Names—the Sequence of Performing the Daily prayers]**

Editor: Säwle-khazhī Bekenqizi  
Publisher: Rayimbek Islam Birlestigi  
Place of Publication: Almaty  
Date of Publication: 2004  
Print Run: n/a  
Languages: Kazakh, Arabic, and Cyrillic-script Arabic transcription  
ISBN: n/a  
Pages: 36  
Place of Purchase: Almaty

The publication page of this pamphlet indicates that the Publications Secretary of the Religious Board of Kazakhstani Muslims, Ongghar-qazhī Ömirbek, approved the printing of the pamphlet. In her acknowledgements Bekenqizi indicates that the present pamphlet contains a re-edition of a pamphlet from 1999 on the daily prayers (an earlier 1997 edition of what is evidently the same pamphlet is discussed above). She adds that due to popular demand, she has included a newly-written treatise on the ninety-nine names of God, and that the original pamphlet on the daily prayers will no longer be reissued as such.

Pages 3-28 contain an upgraded and reformatted version of the original booklet on the daily prayers discussed above. The remainder of the pamphlet (pp. 29-34) is devoted to a listing of the ninety-nine names of God, that is, the *asma al-husna*. Bekenqizi identifies the Qur'anic basis for the ninety-nine names and the Qur'anic verses and hadiths addressing the matter of God's names. She includes a table with the ninety-nine Arabic names, accompanied by Kazakh and Russian translations of their meanings.

### **3. Бейнелі намаз [The Illustrated Daily Prayer]**

Author: Seyfettin Yazıcı

Publisher: Religious Affairs Directorate Press

Place of Publication: Ankara

Date of Publication: 1993

Print Run: n/a

Languages: Kazakh, Arabic, and Cyrillic-script Arabic transcription

ISBN: 975-19-0596-6

Pages: 60

Place of Purchase: Almaty

This pamphlet was originally written in Turkish, and its translator is identified as Shingghiskhan Zuqakhzhiuli, imam at the Qazaqkent Mosque. It is an illustrated version of the type of work known as the *Iman shart*, historically a type of primer of the Islamic faith given to children at the primary level of Islamic education. Such works were widely circulated in Kazakhstan before 1917, but already during the last years of the Soviet Union adults raised in that secular system began to express a demand for such elementary primers. This example was produced in 1991 by the Turkish Religious Affairs Directorate in Ankara, and its author, at least at that time, held an official position within that organization. As such the pamphlet can be considered a semi-official Turkish production.

This primer explains some of the basic conditions of faith, that is, belief in God, belief in angels, belief in the prophetic scripture, and so forth. It then describes, with illustrations, the ablutions ritual cleanliness, and ritual purity of the body. The bulk of the treatise focuses on the daily prayers, and other prayers, including how they are to be correctly performed. Yazıcı includes numerous illustrations demonstrating the steps constituting the complete prayers for both males and females. He also includes several optional and supernumerary prayers, as well as the appropriate prayers in Arabic, Cyrillic-script Arabic, and Kazakh translation.

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### **4. Намаз оқу сабақтары** [Lessons in performing the daily prayers]

Editor: Säwle-khazhī Bekenqizi  
Publisher: Rayimbek Islam Birlestigi  
Place of Publication: Almaty  
Date of Publication: 2004  
Print Run: n/a  
Languages: Kazakh, Arabic, and Cyrillic-script Arabic transcription  
ISBN: n/a  
Pages: 52  
Place of Purchase: Almaty

This pamphlet, bearing a photograph of the Ka'ba during the hajj, was printed with the assistance of the Religious Board of Kazakhstani Muslims. We also find included at the beginning of the pamphlet an appeal from a certain Ertölew to pray for his departed father, Tölekhan Muqashulī. The text itself consists of a primer explaining and illustrating the most basic rituals of Islam. It explains the Qur'anic and prophetic sources for the daily prayers, identifies the individual prayers, and the prayers that should be part of their performance. The prayers include Arabic-script and Cyrillic transcriptions of the original prayers, followed by Kazakh translations. It also lists the prayers to be used in performing specific rituals, such as entering or leaving a mosque, requesting rain, burying the dead, and so forth. We also find illustrated explanations of the ablutions. The pamphlet concludes with a table in Russian and Kazakh listing the ninety-nine names of God.

### **5. Намаз: Суры и молитвы, Абдест и гусуль** [The Daily Prayers: Suras and Prayers, Ablutions]

Author: Mehmet Doğru  
Publisher: Damla Yayınevi  
Place of Publication: Istanbul  
Date of Publication: 1998  
Print Run: n/a  
Languages: Russian, Turkish, Arabic, and Cyrillic-script Arabic transcription  
ISBN: n/a  
Pages: 72  
Place of Purchase: Almaty

The author of this primer is identified as the mufti of Istanbul's Eminönü district. On the back cover we read that the pamphlet's intended audience is "young people and the older generation," as well as parents who want to instruct their children in correct worship.

The text itself provides extensive illustrated instructions on how to perform the daily prayers and ablutions, as well as instructions for various collective prayers, such as Friday, holiday and funerary prayers, and also supernumerary and other prayers. The final section provides selected *suras* and daily prayers, in the original Arabic, Cyrillic-script translation, and in Russian translation.

**6. Намаз үйренейік [Let's Learn the Daily Prayers]**

Author: Mukhamedzhan Estemirov  
Publisher: Zhibek Zholi  
Place of Publication: Shymkent  
Date of Publication: 2003  
Print Run: 1,000  
Languages: Kazakh and Cyrillic-script Arabic transcription  
ISBN: 5-7667-5769-1  
Pages: 48  
Place of Purchase: Almaty

In addition to the cover title (given above), the title “The Daily Prayers and Forty Incumbent Duties” (Намаз және 40 парыз) also appears on the title page (see the following entry). We read that under the latter title the work was verified and approved by representatives of the Religious Board of Kazakhstani Muslims, the Chief Imam for Southern Kazakhstan Akhmetzhan Piraliuli and Süleymanqazhi Zhangbırbayev. We also read that the treatise has been prepared to conform to the Hanafi school of jurisprudence. The pamphlet sports a cover photograph of the mausoleum of Shaykh Ahmad Yasavi, as well as hadiths and citations from the *Hikmat* of Ahmad Yasavi in the treatise’s introduction.

The treatise fits firmly into the *Iman shart* genre, and contains instructions for the most basic acts of Islamic worship. It begins with a description of professions witnessing belief in monotheism and that Muhammad is God’s last prophet. Subsequent chapters describe how to perform the ablutions and the daily prayers, with illustrations. It contains texts in Cyrillic-script transcription of the various portions of the specific *suras* to be recited in the daily prayers. We also encounter supplemental prayers, as well as prayers for specific rituals. Estemirov includes a section on Islamic ethics and etiquette, on the principles of Islamic family and neighbor relations, and even a section on parliamentary rules at gatherings and assemblies. The treatise concludes with a list of forty religious obligations (*pariz*), including the five pillars of faith, and various obligatory features in conducting acts of worship included within the five pillars of faith. Other obligations

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address ritual purity, “commanding the good and prohibiting the evil (*āmir maghruf nākhy münker*), and seeking Islamic knowledge.

### **7. Намаз үйренейік және 40-парыз** [Let’s Learn the Daily Prayers, and Forty Religious Obligations]

Author: Mukhamedzhan Estemirov  
Publisher: n/a  
Place of Publication: Shymkent  
Date of Publication: 2005  
Print Run: 99  
Languages: Kazakh and Cyrillic-script Arabic transcription  
ISBN: n/a  
Pages: 32  
Place of Purchase: Turkistan

This pamphlet consists of essentially an abridged version of the above work, and is evidently a fairly popular publication. Here the sections on Islamic etiquette and Islamic family relations have been left out, and the forty religious obligations are explained in less detail. But as with the earlier edition, the explanations of the prayers and ablutions appear with illustrations to assist the reader.

### **8. Ғибадаттың ұлысы—Намаз** [The Greatest Act of Worship is the Daily Prayer]

Author: Ratbek qazhī Nisanbayulī  
Publisher: n/a  
Place of Publication: Almaty  
Date of Publication: 1995 (2<sup>nd</sup> edition)  
Print Run: 15,000  
Languages: Kazakh and Cyrillic-script Arabic transcription  
ISBN: 5-7667-3696-7  
Pages: 32  
Place of Purchase: Turkistan

At the time this pamphlet was printed the author was the Chief Mufti of the Religious Board of Kazakhstani Muslims; the reviewer of the book is identified as the Deputy Mufti Äsil Khan Ömirzaqulī. The primer itself is a second edition and boasts a substantial print run of 15,000. The primer itself defines the five pillars of faith, the manner in which the daily prayers are to be conducted, describes the various ablutions, and also discussed briefly some of the optional and collective prayers