

# ALLAHU AKBAR

## Al-Amini

If after that one feels like having proper attention and humility he may say Takbiratul-Ihram by proclaiming, "God is Great" (*Allahu Akbar*) and may begin his prayer. But, if he feels that he is not yet ready, does not feel any change in his mood, should seek refuge in God-Almighty from Satanic whispers and should repeat the earlier program till he gets ready.

At this moment with due attention and heart's presence should say Takbiratul-Ihram while paying attention towards its meanings and may begin his prayer. But, he must pay attention as to whom is he talking and what is he saying? Be careful that tongue and heart coordinate each other and do not lie.

Does he know the meanings of "God is Great" (*Allahu Akbar*) i.e. God is Greater than - that He could be described. He must pay attention correctly what is he saying? Does he really believe in it? Imam al-Sadiq (A) has said:

When you stand facing Holy Makkah (Qiblah) with the intention of prayer - forget the world and whatever it contains; people, and their affairs absolutely. Make your heart free from every thing which prevents you from God's Remembrance and with esoteric eyes witness God's Majesty and Splendor. Recollect your stoppage in front of Him on the Day of Resurrection when each human being will make his earlier deposited deeds manifested, thus, returning towards God-Almighty.

During prayer be in a state of fear and hope. After making your proper intention and saying (Takbiratul-Ihram, i.e. *Allahu Akbar*), whatever the earth and sky may contain, consider it as small and insignificant, because when the prayer offerer says it, God-Almighty looks in his heart - thus, if he had not paid attention towards the reality of Takbiratul-Ihram He says to him:

Oh liar! Do you want to deceit me ? I swear by my splendor and majesty, that I will deprive you from My invocations pleasure and enjoyment of having *private communications with Me*.

Bihar al-Anwar, vol. 84, p-230

Of course preparation and getting readied before the prayer, during making intention and saying Takbiratul-Ihram are extremely effective in achieving heart's presence, but still more important than that, is the continuation of this state through out the prayer. If a slight negligence is shown, self immediately starts his action of flying from one side to another one, thus, breaking heart's presence and concentration.