

Core Curriculum

3 Foundations of Islam - Obligatory Acts

3.9 **The Furū' al-Dīn: The Fundamental Practices of Islam**

Furū' al-dīn literally means the “branches of religion”. Just like the roots feed a tree and keep it alive, branches, along with their leaves, also nourish the roots in return. The furū' al-dīn are ten: ṣalāt, siyam, Hajj, Zakāt, Khums, Jihad, Commanding the Good, Forbidding Evil, Tawallā and finally Tabarra.

Ṣalāt: obligatory five daily prayers.

Siyam: fasting during the Holy month of Ramadān. One must abstain from food, intimate relations, drink, smoking, as well as sins like gossiping.

Hajj: The pilgrimage that every capable Muslim must make to the Holy Kaba in the city of Mecca at least once in a lifetime.

Zakāt: Tax which eligible Muslims must pay to the poor.

Khums: a one-fifth tax of one's sitting income in addition to other forms of income. It is there to help fund religious institutions.

Jihad: Struggling in the path of God, both in fighting one's egoic self that commands evil, as well as defending one's locality from aggressors.

Commanding the Good and Forbidding Evil: Encouraging what God has established as the good and discouraging people from what is evil.

Tawalla and Tabarra: Loving the Prophet Muhammad (s) and his Ahl al-

Bayt (as) and disassociating from their enemies.