



Colours of Prayer

During the Isra wa al-Mi'raj, Allah Mighty and Majestic decreed that we should pray to Him five times a day. Since the very beginning, the timing of these five daily prayers depended on the position of the sun in the sky. Muslim scholars of fiqh from earlier times recorded detailed information about the movement of the sun and the colours of the sky in their books. They relied on the Quran and the hadiths of the Prophet ﷺ that described just that. To do this, they observed the sky very carefully and described what it looks like during the time for each prayer, so that other people can have a guide to prayer times. For example, they tell us that at Maghrib time, the entire sky turns a magnificent red before sinking into a soft, deep blue. Before everyone had a watch or a phone they could use, people would learn this information and look to the sky to determine whether or not a certain prayer came in.

These days, we hardly ever have to do this. Many of us rely on our local mosques to tell us when it's time to pray. Still, learning salat in relation to the sun's movements is important for us even today. It makes us keenly aware of just how connected our days are to nature and the environment. As we see the sun making its journey across the sky, we realise how valuable and fleeting time is.

In this activity, you will follow in the footsteps of the great scholars and observe the sky for yourself. For an entire day, you will pay attention to what the sky looks like during each of the five daily prayers. Step outside ten or five minutes before each of the prayers and look carefully. Maybe take some notes or a picture of the sky as it changes. When you have done this for Fajr, Dhuhr, Asr, Maghrib, and Isha, you will then fill in the "Colours of Prayer" worksheet.

Instructions: In each section designated for one of the prayers, paint in the colours you observed in the sky using watercolours. Make it as accurate as you can. You can use the worksheet provided or use an even bigger poster paper by dividing it into five vertical sections. This exercise will give you an appreciation of how careful, patient, and serious Muslim scholars were about guiding Muslims so they can practice their religion correctly.

