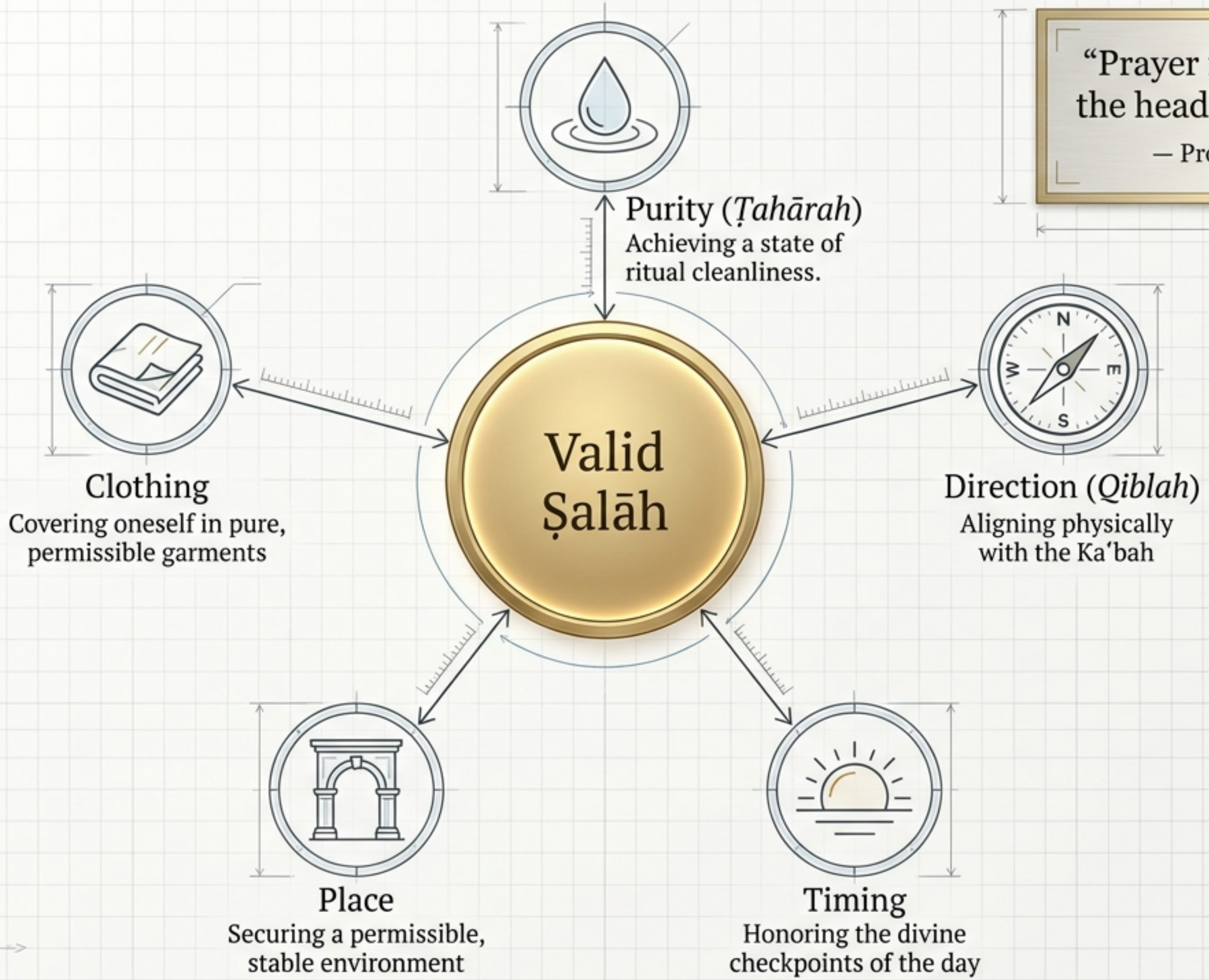




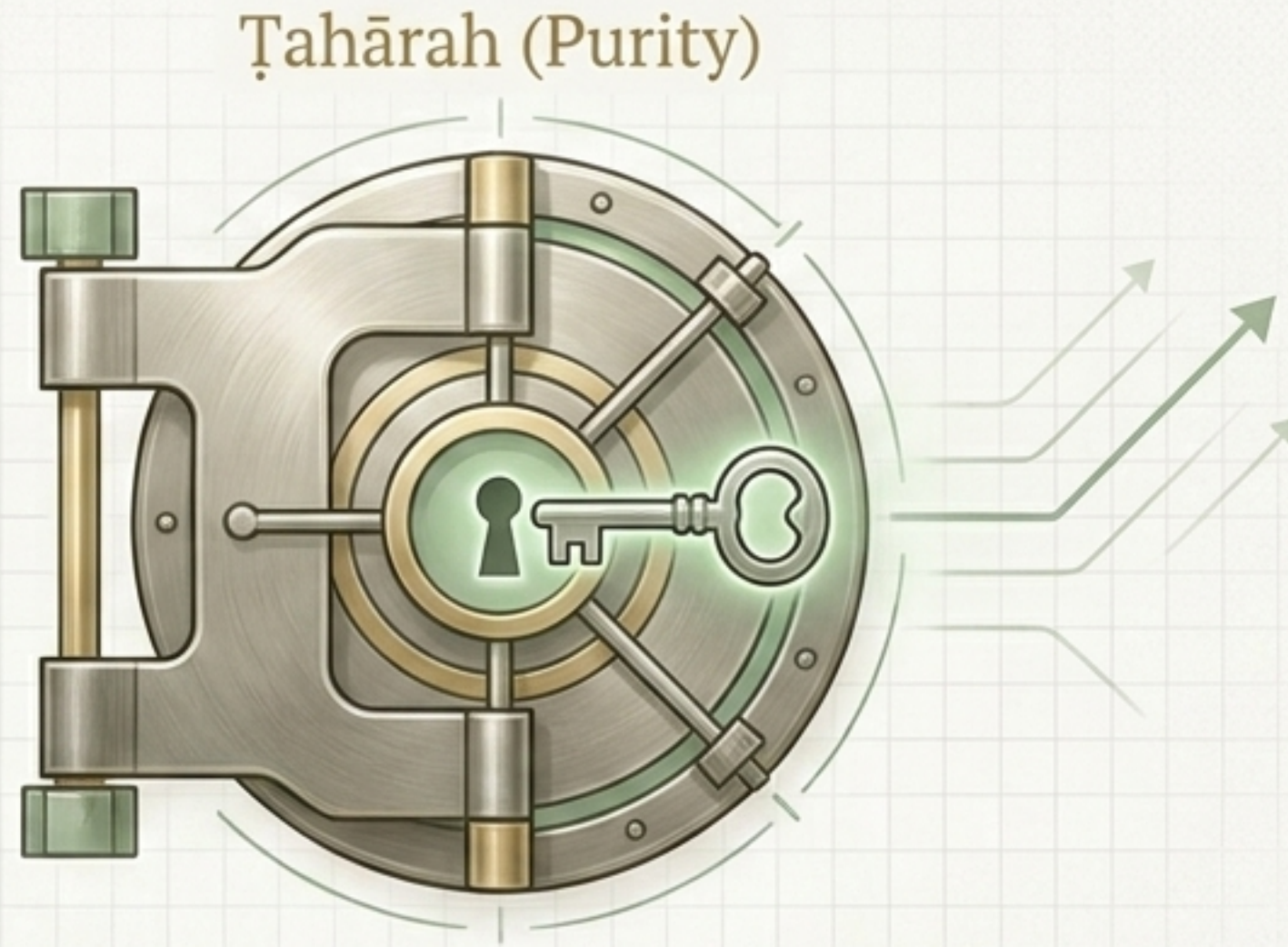
# Preliminaries to Prayer: The 5 Conditions of Ṣalāh

Preparing the Mind, Body, and Environment for the Divine Checkpoint

“Prayer is to religion as the head is to the body.”  
— Prophet Muḥammad (s)



# Condition 1: The Prerequisite of Purity (*Ṭahārah*)



**Core Rule:** To offer prayer, one must be ritually clean and pure (*ṭāhir*) and actively in the state of *wuḍū'*.

This foundational state of purity must be achieved before addressing direction, time, place, or clothing. It is the initial key to valid worship.

# Condition 2: Aligning with the Qiblah

All Muslims must physically face the Ka'bah while praying.



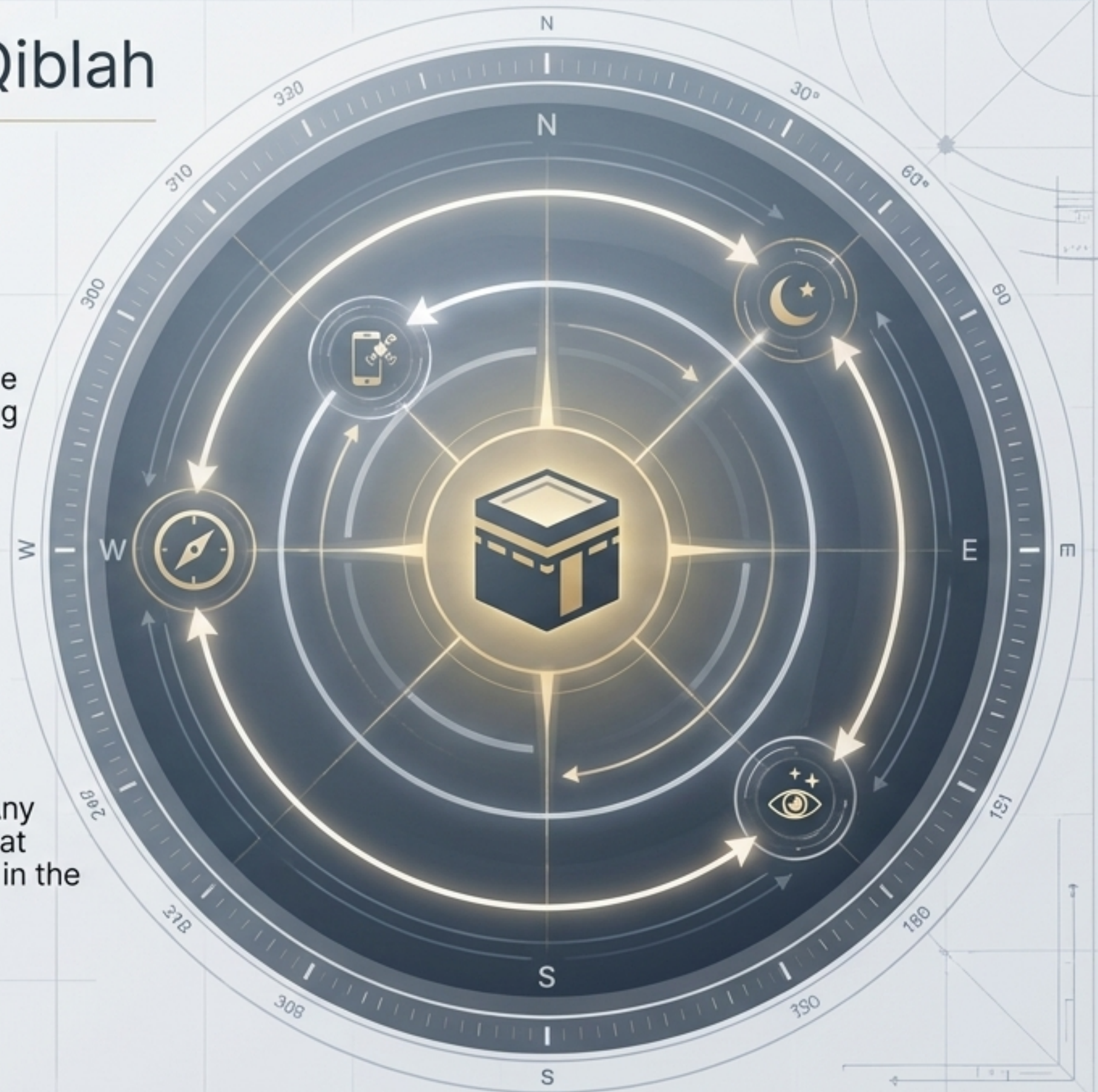
**Digital:** Smartphone applications utilizing GPS location.



**Mechanical:** Dedicated Qiblah compasses.



**Observational:** Any reliable means that yields conviction in the correct direction.



# Navigating Uncertainty

What happens when all tools fail and the **direction of the Qiblah remains completely unknown**? Prayer must not be delayed. Proceed based on the ruling of your *marja'*:

## The Qiblah Uncertainty Matrix

### Āyatullāh Sīstānī

**Ruling:** Pray in any one direction.

**Nuance:** It is a recommended precaution to pray in all four directions.

### Āyatullāh Khamenei

**Scenario 1 (Time Allows):** Pray in all four directions (obligatory precaution).

**Scenario 2 (Limited Time):** Pray in any one direction.

## Condition 3: The Divine Checkpoints (Timing)

Prayer is a daily checkpoint. It recalibrates our purpose and prevents us from becoming oblivious to Allah amid daily distractions.

1	August	0:50	0:39	11:15	8:28	2:33
2	August	0:52	0:46	11:10	8:32	2:34
3	August	0:53	0:46	11:15	8:33	2:35
4	August	0:40	0:40	11:20	8:33	2:56
5	August	0:39	0:36	11:25	8:30	2:37
6	August	0:34	0:36	12:30	8:30	2:38
7	August	0:00	0:36	12:37	8:31	2:49
8	August	0:06	17:47	12:39	8:31	2:48
9	August	2:05	17:19	12:43	8:32	2:47
10	August	2:06	17:30	12:47	8:33	2:46
11	August	2:08	17:03	12:47	8:33	2:45
12	August	2:52	2:00	7:37	8:33	2:44
13	August	2:53	2:02	7:31	8:33	2:44
14	August	2:55	2:04	2:21	2:18	2:07

**Zuhr & 'Aṣr**  
(Midday until sunset)

**Fajr**  
(Starts at true dawn to sunrise).

**Maghrib & 'Ishā'**  
(10-15 mins post-sunset to true midnight).

Historical Note: Imām 'Alī (a) and the companions of Imām Ḥusayn (a) prioritized praying exactly on prime time, even pausing amidst the battlefield of Karbalā' to check the sky.

# Missing the Mark: Qaḍā' & Repentance

## The Action: Qaḍā'

- Missing a daily prayer deliberately is a major sin.
- If missed for any reason, one must seek forgiveness and make it up (qaḍā') as soon as possible.
- Best practice: Designate a specific place to strictly track and fulfill missed prayers.

## Tawbah تَوْبَةٌ

**Root Word:** ت و ب (t-w-b)

**Root Meaning:** “to turn back”

**Occurrences:** 87 times in the Noble Qur'ān.

**Related Attribute:** التَّوَّابُ (at-Tawwāb) – The Oft-Returning, the Acceptor of Repentance.

**Insight:** Just as making up a prayer is physically returning to the duty, *Tawbah* is the spiritual act of turning back to Allah.

## Condition 4: The Place of Prayer

The environment impacts spirituality. The chosen space must meet strict foundational criteria.



### Permission (*Mubāḥ*)

You must own or have explicit permission to use the location. Unauthorized prayer is invalid.



### Purity (*Ṭāhir*)

The overall place cannot be both ritually impure (*najis*) and wet. Crucially, the exact spot where the forehead touches in prostration (*sujūd*) must be absolutely *ṭāhir*, even if dry.



### Physical Stability

The ground must be steady (no rocking boats). The place of *sujūd* must be roughly level with where the feet stand (no steep hills or uneven steps).

# Spatial Requirements: The Gender Proximity Matrix

Rules regarding male and female positioning in the same prayer area (based on obligatory precaution, *iḥtiyāt wājib*).

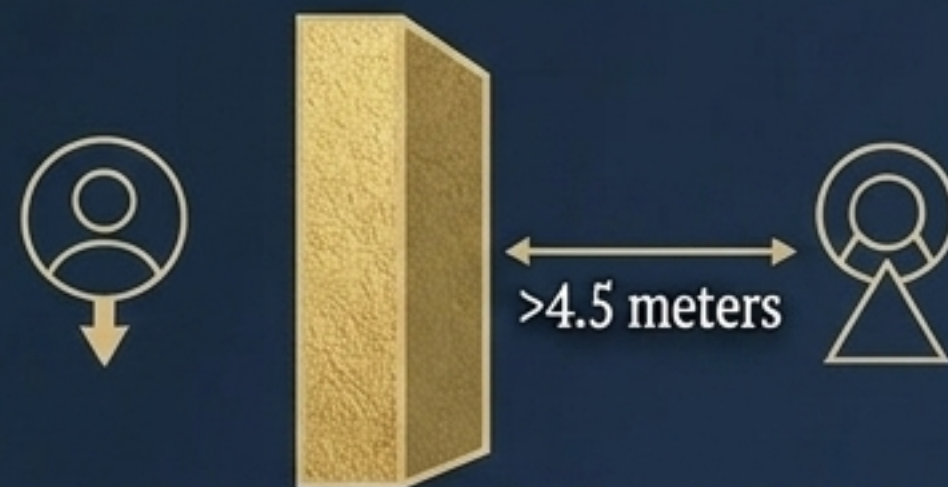
Āyatullāh  
Sīstānī

A



Primary Rule: Woman behind man.

B



Exceptions: Allowed if physical barrier exists,  
OR separated by >4.5 meters (5 yards).

Āyatullāh  
Khamenei

2

Rule: Must be separated by more than one handspan.



Nuance: The man does not have to be positioned in front.

# The Sujūd Material Filter



## Valid Examples Strip



Turbah (Solid clay; preferred from Karbalā')



Untreated wood (no barrier coatings)



Grass or non-edible leaves



Paper or tissue (if grown from trees)

# Condition 5: The Garments of Prayer

## Universal Baseline Rules

- Must be *Tāhir* (clean/pure).
- Must be *Mubāḥ* (owned or have permission to wear).
- Must **NOT** be made from parts of predatory or unslaughtered animals.



### Male Requirements

- Must cover the private parts (covering more is recommended).
- **Absolute Prohibition:** Cannot be made of gold or pure silk (invalidates prayer if worn).



### Female Requirements

- Must cover the entire body except the face and hands.
- **Margin of Safety:** Must cover slightly beyond the borders (sides of face, below wrists/ankles) to ensure compliance during movement.
- **Context Rule:** Feet must be covered if a non-*maḥram* is present.

## The Environment Multiplier: Rewards of the Masjid

The Masjid is the 'house of Allah.' Attending demonstrates profound respect and submission, unlocking massive spiritual rewards according to Prophet Muḥammad (s).

# 70,000

Good deeds granted (and levels raised) for every single step taken toward a masjid with the intention of praying in congregation.

# +10/-10

For every breath taken while simply sitting in the masjid, Allah grants an extra level in Paradise, records 10 good deeds, and erases 10 bad deeds.

# Synthesis: Applied Troubleshooting

Applying the Readiness Framework to real-world edge cases.

## Card 1: The Restaurant Closet

Scenario: Finding a quiet storage closet to pray in.

Condition Applied: Rule of Place.

✔ Verdict: Invalid without explicit permission from staff (must be *Mubāḥ*).

## Card 2: The Steep Campsite

Scenario: Praying on a steep, uneven mountain slope.

Condition Applied: Rule of Place / Stability.

✘ Verdict: Invalid. The place of *sujūd* must be roughly level with where one stands.

## Card 3: The Soccer Turf

Scenario: No *turbah* available on an indoor synthetic turf field.

Condition Applied: Rule of Sujūd Material.

✔ Verdict: Cannot use synthetic turf or treated wood. Must find a leaf, grass, or natural paper.

## Card 4: The Unnoticed Injury

Scenario: Discovering dry blood on your pants right before prayer.

Condition Applied: Rule of Purity (*Tahārah*) & Clothing.

✘ Verdict: Must clean the garment before starting; prayer is invalid in *najis* clothing.