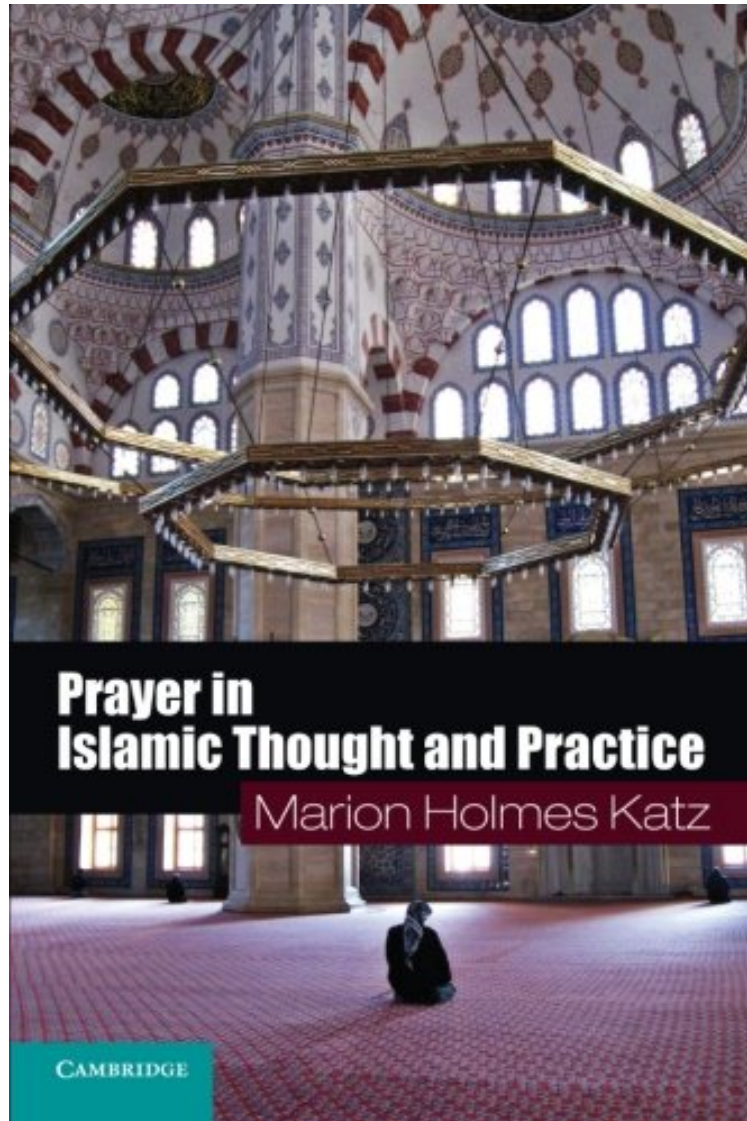


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Prayer in Islamic Thought and Practice (Themes in Islamic History)

Marion Holmes Katz

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Marion Holmes Katz : Prayer in Islamic Thought and Practice (Themes in Islamic History) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Prayer in Islamic Thought and Practice (Themes in Islamic History):

The five daily prayers (alt) that constitute the second pillar of Islam deeply pervade the everyday life of observant

Muslims. Until now, however, no general study has analyzed the rules governing *alṭ*, the historical dimensions of its practice, and the rich variety of ways that it has been interpreted within the Islamic tradition. Marion Holmes Katz's richly textured book offers a broad historical survey of the rules, values, and interpretations relating to *alṭ*. This innovative study on the subject examines the different ways in which prayer has been understood in Islamic law, Sufi mysticism, and Islamic philosophy. Katz's book also goes beyond the spiritual realm to analyze the political dimensions of prayer, including scholars' concerns about the righteousness and piety of rulers. The last chapter raises significant issues around gender roles, including the question of women's participating in and leading public worship. Katz persuasively describes *alṭ* as both an egalitarian practice and one that can lead to extraordinary religious experience and spiritual distinction. This book will resonate with students of Islamic history and comparative religion.

"Marion Holmes Katz's richly textured book offers a broad historical survey of the rules, values and interpretations relating to *alṭ*. This innovative study on the subject examines the different ways in which prayer has been understood in Islamic law, Sufi mysticism and Islamic philosophy." Abrar "A thoughtful and at times eye-opening examination of the role of prayer in Islamic societies ... indispensable ..." Stephen Schwartz, *Middle East Quarterly* "A review such as this can only whet readers' appetites and encourage them to read this richly erudite and enjoyable book. It is truly a feat of scholarship, not only thoroughly researched, but also written in a clear style that makes it accessible to relative beginners and more advanced scholars alike. Marion Holmes Katz is to be commended for taking on this difficult task and executing it almost perfectly." Maya Yazigi, *Middle East Media and Books* (<http://membr.uwm.edu>) "This thoroughly researched book cites a wide range of sources from Islamic thought, which makes it of interest to students and scholars alike." Yasmin Amin, *American Journal of Islamic Social Sciences* About the Author Marion Holmes Katz is Associate Professor of Middle Eastern and Islamic Studies at New York University. Her publications include *Body of Text: The Emergence of the Sunni Law of Ritual Purity* (2002) and *The Birth of the Prophet Muhammad: Devotional Piety in Sunni Islam* (2007).