

Notes of Lectures on Fiqh by Maulana Sadiq Hasan Lecture # 27 (Thursday 18 September 2003)

CRITERIA FOR ACCEPTANCE OF SALAT

☀ According to Holy Prophet Muhammad (SAW), the first question to be asked on the Day of Judgment (Qayamat) will be about Salat. Salat is the foundation of the religion (deen). If salat is accepted by Allah, every other good deed will be accepted by Allah. And if salat is rejected, every other deed is rejected. It is therefore essential to give top priority to salat in our daily life.

☀ There are two criteria for acceptance of salat by Allah:

- (a) Salat must be offered correctly according to the specified rules and conditions of Sharia and for the sake of Allah only
- (b) Rights of momineen are not usurped by offering salat

RECITING SALAT CORRECTLY

☀ Salat contains many wajib and mustahab items. In order to offer salat correctly, it is necessary to understand exactly what items are wajib and what items are mustahab during salat. Moreover, under certain circumstances, it becomes wajib to leave out mustahab items for the salat to become valid. For example: Reciting Azan and Iqamat is highly recommended (mustahab) before salat, but it is wajib not to recite Azan and Iqamat if the time for salat is so short that it will become qaza if Azan and Iqamat are recited.

☀ If you wish you may offer your salat with only all wajib items, even without any reason, and your salat is considered complete and valid.

☀ During salat, it is wajib to keep the body motionless while reciting all wajib suras and zikr, otherwise the salat is invalid. Even, while reciting all mustahab zikr during salat, it is necessary to keep the body motionless in that position to get maximum sawab. The only zikr which can be recited during motion is “Bihau lillahi wakuwatihi a’kumu wa a’kud”, which is mustahab to recite while standing up for the next rakat. However, one is allowed to move his body during mustahab zikr (such as “sam’e Allahu leman hamida”) but he will not get the sawab for that particular zikr. Movement of hands is not considered as movement of the body.

WAJIB ACTIONS IN SALAT

☀ *First Rakat*

1. **Niyat:** Must be for the sake of Allah. You must have an intention in your mind what you are going to do and why.
2. **Takbiratu’l Ihram:** Saying Allahu Akbar correctly with body motionless. Raising hands is not necessary but it is better to say this first takbir while raising your hands up from thigh towards the level of ears with palms facing qibla
3. Recitation of Sura-al-hamd and a second sura, which can be any sura except four suras that have ayat for wajib sajdah, with body motionless. You may recite Sura Al Qadr as a second sura.

4. **Ruku:** Either recite 3 times Tasbeeh-e-sugra (Subhan Allah) or one time Tasbeeh-e-kubra (Subhana rabbi yal azeeme wa be hamdehi), with body motionless.
5. Standing upright after performing ruku.
6. **Two sajdahs:** Either recite 3 times Tasbeeh-e-sugra (Subhan Allah) or one time Tasbeeh-e-kubra (Subhana rabbi yal A'ala wa be hamdehi), with body motionless. After completing first sajdah, you must lift your head and sit completely before going into second sajdah, otherwise the salat becomes batil and must be repeated.

✽ *Second/Third/Fourth Rakat*

1. Recitation of Sura-al-hamd and any second sura but recitation of sura Al Tauheed is recommended.
2. Same as above point # 4, 5 and 6 above.
3. **Tashahud:** Following should be recited after performing second sajdah at sitting position. Ash hadu al la ilaha il-lal lahu wah dahu la sharika lah, wa ash hadu anna muhammadan abduhu wa rasuluh, alla humma salli ala muhammad wa ale muhammad.
4. **Salam:** If it is a two rakat salat. Recite: Assalam u Alaikum. No need to say three times takbir. Two rakat salat is complete at this stage. If salat is three or four rakat then proceed as follows.
5. After completing Tashahud, one has to stand up and recite either sura-alhamd or tasbihat-e- arb'ah (Subhan Allahi wal hamdul lil lahi wa la ilaha il lal lahu wal lahu akbar) one time in 3rd or/and 4th rakat. However, recitation of tasbihat-e- arb'ah is recommended. According to Ayatullah Kuli, it is etiyat-e-wajib that followers should recite tasbihat-e- arb'ah in a salat-e-jama'at.
6. Depending on the number of rakat, the Salat should be finished by completing above step # 2, 3 and 4.

✽ Some of the above wajib actions in Salat can be reduced further in the following situations:

- (a) If a person is sick and cannot stand properly
- (b) If Salat is going to be qaza
- (c) If a person wants to travel and recitation of salat may delay him to the extent that he will miss the transport (such as bus, train or coach)

If any of the above three conditions exist for a person, then in the first two rakats, he can omit second sura after Al-hamd, and in Ruku and Sajdah, he can recite tasbeeh-e-sugra only one time instead of three times.

MUSTAHAB ACTIONS IN SALAT

✽ The following actions and recitations are sunnat in salat and increase the sawab of salat:

1. All Takbirs (Allahu Akbar) except Takbiratul-ihram which is wajib
2. All salawats except salwat after Tashahud which is wajib
3. Saying of "Sam'e-Allah ho leman hamidah" (while standing upright after performing ruku)
4. Saying of Astagh firulla ha rabbi wa a'tubu elaih (while sitting between two sajdahs)
5. Saying of Bihau lillahi wakuwatihi a'kumu wa a'kud (while standing up from ground)
6. Qunut (in second rakat)
7. Saying of first salam (As salamu alaika ayyu-han nabiyu wa rahmatul lahi wa barakatuhu), second salam (As salamu alay na wa ala iba dil lah his saliheen) and the last part of third salam (wa rah matul lahi wa barakatuhu).

CONDITIONS BEFORE STARTING SALAT

✨ Before starting salat, the person must fulfil the following conditions:

1. Direction of salat must be toward Qiblah
2. Time of salat must have arrived
3. Dress of salat must be mubah, tahir and fulfil other conditions (to be discussed later)
4. Place for salat must be mubah, tahir and fulfil other conditions (to be discussed later)
5. Body must be tahir and Wudhu (or certain wajib ghusl) must have been performed

DIRECTION TOWARD QIBLA

✨ It is wajib to determine the direction of Qibla (Holy Kaba in Mecca) for the following four cases:

- (a) For offering salat
- (b) For placing dead body in the grave
- (c) For slaughtering an animal Islamically
- (d) To avoid relieving in the toilet while facing or putting back in Qibla direction

✨ Direction of Qibla can be determined by the following methods:

- (a) Enquiring from someone with whom you attain Itminan (satisfaction)
- (b) Using a reliable compass or Qibla-numa
- (c) Based on the direction of Muslim mosques and direction of Muslim graves in Muslim graveyard

✨ During salat, your face, chest and abdomen must be towards the direction of Qiblah. Current Mujtahids say that knee caps and feet fingers need not be towards Qibla but some of the Mujtahids say they should also be towards Qibla direction.

✨ If you are traveling and if you do not know the direction of a Qiblah and there is no other way to ascertain Qiblah direction then according to Ayatullah Khomeini and Ayatullah Khamenei and majority of the other Mujtahids, you have to recite your salat four times – once in all four directions, but according to Ayatullah Khui and Seestani, you can offer you salat in any one selected direction, and if you come to know later that the direction was wrong, your salat is valid.

✨ During slaughtering an animal, its face, chest and abdomen must face towards Qiblah direction. If a Muslim slaughters an animal Islamically according to his school of fiqh, then the meat is OK to eat.

✨ For positioning the dead body in the grave, the face, chest and abdomen of the dead body must face towards Qiblah direction.

RECITING SALAT IN AEROPLANE

✨ While travelling in an aeroplane, if you know that the plane is going to stop before your salat becomes qaza, then it is wajib to wait for the plane to stop and then offer your salat in time.

✨ If you know that your salat will become qaza during your journey in the plane, then determine the direction of Qiblah (by asking crew, or by direction of flight etc) and recite salat in the plane. If crew does not allow you to pray or you can not find a place to offer salat even in standing position, then only you can recite your salat at your seat even if Qibla direction is known to be incorrect.