

Detailed Account Of Salah (Prayer)(Hanafi Madhab) - Part 4

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Then, Repeating The Takbeer, And without Raising Your Hands, Begin the Prostration

Allâh says in the Holy Qur'ân: "Oh you who believe! Bow down and prostrate, and worship your Lord." [1]

Notes:

[1] al-Qur'an 22:77

Allow Your Knees To First Touch The Ground Followed By The Hands

Sayyiduna Wail bin Hujr radiallahu anhu says, **'I saw Rasulullah sallallahu alaihi wa sallam place his knees (on the ground) before his hands when he would prostrate, and lift up his hands before his knees when rising.'**[2]

Khattabi, [3] Tibi, Ibn al Mundhir, [4] and Ibn Sayyid al Naas al Ya'muri have all declared the above hadeeth of Sayyiduna Wail bin Hujr radiallahu anhu as more established and authentic than the hadeeth of Sayyiduna Abu Hurairah radiallahu anhu on the same subject.

This hadeeth is supported by the following narrations:

Sayyiduna Anas radiallahu anhu says, **'I saw Rasulullah sallallahu alaihi wa sallam say the takbeer and place his thumbs close to his ears. He bowed down into ruku' until each of his joints became motionless, and then descended (into sujûd) with the takbeer. His knees went before his hands.'**[5]

Sayyiduna Abu Hurairah radiallahu anhu reports that Rasulullah sallallahu alaihi wa sallam said, **'When one of you falls down into sajdah he should begin with his knees before his hands and he should not descend in the manner of a camel.'**[6]

Sayyiduna Abu Hurairah radiallahu anhu reports that Rasulullah sallallahu alaihi wa sallam said, **'When one of you falls down into sajdah does he do so in the manner of a camel?'**[7]

Sayyiduna Sa'd bin Abi Waqqas radiallahu anhu says, **'We used to place our hands before our knees, then we were instructed to place our knees before our hands.'**[8]

Kulaib narrates that **when Rasulullah sallallahu alaihi wa sallam would prostrate his knees would fall to the ground before his hands.**[9]

Sayyiduna Hakeem bin Hizam radiallahu anhu says, **'I pledged to Rasulullah sallallahu alaihi wa sallam that I would not descend except whilst being upright.'**[10]

Sayyiduna Ubayy bin Ka'b radiallahu anhu narrates that **Rasulullah sallallahu alaihi wa sallam would fall down upon his knees and not lean.**[11]

Aswad reports that **Sayyiduna Umar radiallahu anhu would fall down on his knees.**[12]

The same has been reported about **Sayyiduna Umar radiallahu anhu by Alqamah (rahmatullahi alaih)[13] and Ibrahim al Nakhai (rahmatullahi alaih)[14]**

Ibrahim al Nakhai (rahmatullahi alaih) says, **'It has been remembered of Ibn Mas'ood radiallahu anhu that his knees would fall to the ground before his hands.'**[15]

Abdullah relates that when his father (Muslim bin asaar) **would prostrate his knees would fall to the ground followed by his hands and then his head.**[16]

Nafi' (rahmatullahi alaih) reports that **when Ibn Umar radiallahu anhuma would prostrate he would place his knees before his hands and when rising from the prostration he would raise his hands before his knees.**[17]

Abu Ishaq (rahmatullahi alaih) relates that **when the companions of Abdullah (ibn Mas'ood) radiallahu anhu would descend for sujûd their knees would fall to the ground before their hands.**[18]

Mahdi bin Maimoon (rahmatullahi alaih) says, **'I saw Ibn Seereen (rahmatullahi alaih) place his knees before his hands.'**[19]

Mugheerah (rahmatullahi alaih) says, **'I asked Ibraheem (al Nakhai - rahmatullahi alaih) about a man who places his hands before his knees when falling down into sujûd. He replied, "Only a fool or mad man would do it."'**[20]

Imam Tirmidhi (rahmatullahi alaih) says after narrating the above hadeeth of Sayyiduna Wail bin Hujr radiallahu anhu, [n]'This is the practice of most of the people of learning. They are of the view that a man should place his knees before his hands, and when rising he should lift his hands before his knees.'

Notes:

[2] Darimi 1320, Ibn Majah 882, Abu Dawood 838, Tirmidhi 268, Nasai 1089, Ibn Khuzaimah 626, and Tahawi 1/255. Also reported by Ibn al Sakan in his Saheeh as quoted by Hafidh bin Hajar in al Talkhees al Habeer 1/254 no. 379. Narrated also by Ibn Hibban 1909, Hakim 822, Baihaqi 2628 and Baghawi 3/133 no 642. Imam Tirmidhi says that the hadeeth is hasan ghareeb and Hakim has declared it saheeh and Dhahabi agreed. This hadeeth has also been narrated with other chains.

[3] As mentioned by Hafidh in Fath al Bari 2/370, and Baghawi in Sharh al Sunnah 3/135.

[4] In al Awsat 3/166

[5] Hakim 822 and Baihaqi 2632. Hakim classified it saheeh and Dhahabi agreed with him. Hafidh Ibn al Humam quotes Ibn al Jawzi in Fath al Qadeer 1/287 as saying that all of its narrators are authentic

- [6] Ibn Abi Shaibah 2702, Abu Ya'laa 11/414 no 6540, Tahawi 1/255 and Baihaqi 2635.
- [7] Abu Dawood 841, Nasai 1090 and Baihaqi 2636.
- [8] Ibn Khuzaimah 828 and Baihaqi 2637. Hafidh Ibn Hajar says in Fath al Bari that two of its narrators are weak.
- [9] Baihaqi 2630. This hadeeth is mursal.
- [10] Ahmad 14888 and Nasai 1084.
- [11] Ibn Hibban as quoted by Hafidh Haithami in Mawarid al Dhamaan 497.
- [12] Ibn Abi Shaibah 2704.
- [13] Tahawi 1/256. Imam Nimawi says 432 that its isnad is saheeh.
- [14] Abdul Razzaq 2955.
- [15] Tahawi 1/256. Muhaddith Dhafar Ahmad Uthmani says 3/35 that its isnad is saheeh.
- [16] Abdul Razzaq 2958 and Ibn Abi Shaibah 2706.
- [17] Ibn Abi Shaibah 2705.
- [18] Ibn Abi Shaibah 2711.
- [19] Ibn Abi Shaibah 2709.
- [20] Abdul Razzaq 2956 & 2957, Ibn Abi Shaibah 2707, and Tahawi 1/256. Muhaddith Dhafar Ahmad Uthmani says that its narrators are authentic (3/35).

(Allow Your) Nose (To Touch The Ground) And Finally The Forehead Which Should Be Positioned Between The Two Palms Laid Flat On The Ground Towards The Qiblah

Sayyiduna Wail bin Hujr radiallahu anhu also says, **'I observed Rasulullah sallallahu alaihi wa sallam (praying salâh), and when he prostrated he placed his hands close to his ears.'**[21]

Abu Ishaq says, 'I asked Baraa bin Azib **"Where did Rasulullah sallallahu alaihi wa sallam place his face when prostrating?"** He replied, **"Between his palms."**[22]

Sayyiduna Wail bin Hujr radiallahu anhu reports that **when Rasulullah sallallahu alaihi wa sallam would prostrate he would do so between his palms.**[23]

There are other ahadeeth which suggest that a person should place his hands close to his shoulders in sujûd. Muhaddith Yusuf Binnouri explains in his commentary of Tirmidhi that the different narrations of the place of the hands in sujûd are similar to those relating to the raising of the hands in the beginning of salâh. They can be reconciled in the same manner and collectively taken to mean that in sujûd the hands should be placed in such a way that the wrists are close to the shoulders, the fingertips are near the top of the ears and face is in between the palms.

Imam Tahawi (rahmatullahi alaih) also explains that those who raise their hands till their shoulders in the beginning of salâh place the hands in the same way in sujûd, and those who raise them till their ears in the beginning of salâh place them close to their ears in sujûd also.

Sayyiduna Wail bin Hujr radiallahu anhu reports that **when Rasulullah sallallahu alaihi wa sallam would bow down into ruku' he would spread his fingers wide, and when prostrating he would keep them together.**[24]

Sayyiduna Wail bin Hujr radiallahu anhu narrates that **when Rasulullah sallallahu alaihi wa sallam would prostrate he would keep his fingers (tightly closed) together.**[25]

Notes:

[21] Abdul Razzaq 2948, Tahawi 1/257 and Baihaqi 2692. Imam Nimawi says that its isnad is saheeh (438).

[22] Tirmidhi 271. He adds that the hadeeth is hasan saheeh ghareeb.

[23] Ahmad 18365.

[24] Ibn Hibban 1917, Tabarani in al Mu'jam al Kabeer as quoted by Hafidh Haithami 2/135. Also reported by Baihaqi 2695. Hafidh Haithami says that its isnad is hasan.

[25] Ibn Khuzaimah 642 and Hakim 826. Hakim has declared it saheeh and Dhahabi agreed.

Do Not Rest Your Forearms On The Ground But Keep Them Raised And Away From The Body[26]

Sayyiduna Abdullah bin Malik bin Buhainah radiallahu anhu reports that **when Rasulullah sallallahu alaihi wa sallam prayed and then prostrated he would spread out his arms until the whiteness of his armpits became visible.**[27]

Ummul Mu'mineen Maimoonah radiallahu anha says that **when Rasulullah sallallahu alaihi wa sallam would prostrate (he would spread his arms so much that) if a small lamb wanted to pass under him it could do so.**[28] Sayyiduna Anas bin Malik radiallahu anhu relates that Rasulullah sallallahu alaihi wa sallam said, '**Complete your prostrations, and let not one of you rest his forearms in the manner of a dog.**'[29]

Sayyiduna Ibn Abbas radiallahu anhuma narrates that Rasulullah sallallahu alaihi wa sallam said, '**I have been instructed to prostrate on seven bones: on the forehead, and he also pointed to his nose; on the hands, on the knees, and on the balls of the two feet. And (I have also been instructed that) we do not gather our clothes and hair.**'[30]

Sayyiduna Abu Humaid radiallahu anhu relates that **when Rasulullah sallallahu alaihi wa sallam would prostrate he would firmly rest his forehead and nose on the ground, distance his arms from his sides, and place his palms close to his shoulders.**[31]

Notes:

[26] During prostration men should allow for some space and distance between their stomachs and thighs, and arms and the side of the body, whilst women should press these limbs together. Men should also raise their arms off the ground and allow for some distance but women should let them cling to the ground.

[27] Bukhari 383 and Muslim 495.

[28] Muslim 496.

[29] Bukhari 788 and Muslim 493.

[30] Bukhari 779 and Muslim 490.

[31] Tirmidhi 270. He adds that the hadeeth is hasan saheeh

Also Ensure That Your Thighs Are Not Pressed Against Your Abdomen And Your Toes Are Facing

The Qiblah

Sayyiduna Abu Hurnaid radiallahu anhu reports as part of a longer hadeeth that **when Rasulullah sallallahu alaihi wa sallam prostrated he would distance his thighs (from the upper torso), and would not let his abdomen touch any part of them.**[32]

Again as part of a longer hadeeth Sayyiduna Abu Humaid al Saidee radiallahu anhu reports that **when prostrating he (Rasulullah sallallahu alaihi wa sallam) would place his hands without spreading them out or bringing them too close (to himself), and point his toes towards the qiblah.** [33]

Notes:

[32] Abu Dawood 730

[33] Bukhari 794

Say Tasbeeh For A Minimum Of Three Times

Allâh says in the Holy Qur'ân: **"Hymn with praise the name of your Lord, the Most High."**[34]

Notes:

[34] al-Qur'an 87:1

To be continued إن شاء الله
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[The Salah Of A Believer In The Qur'an And Sunnah]