Description of the Prophet’s Prayer

Imām Muḥammad Nāṣir al-Dīn al-Albānī
بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ
DESCRIPTION of the
PROPHET’S PRAYER
being a translation of his work
‘Ṣifatu Ṣalāt al-Nabī (ṣal-Allāhu ‘alayhi wa sallam),
min al-takbir ilā al-taslim ka’annaka tarābā’
“Pray as you have seen me praying.”

[Bukhārī and Muslim]
Description of the Prophet’s Prayer

by Imām Muḥammad Nāṣir al-Dīn al-Albānī

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THE AUTHOR

Imām Muḥammad Nāṣir al-Dīn al-Albānī

The Great Reviver of Our Era

His Name and Lineage:

He is Muhammad Nāṣir al-Dīn Ibn Nūḥ Ibn Ādam Najātī, al-Albānī by birth, al-Dimashqī by residence and al-Urdūnī due to his migration and place of death in Jordan. He was born into a poor family in the city of Ashkodera, the capital of Albania, in the year 1332AH (1914CE). His father was al-Ḥājj Nūḥ, from the major Ḥanāfī scholars of his land. During Aḥmad Zogu’s reign of Albania there was severe oppression for the Muslims Community. Due to this, the Shaykh’s family migrated to Damascus, Syria and it is there that he and his family took residence.

His Educational Background and Teachers:

His first teacher and Shaykh was his father, al-Ḥājj Nūḥ Najātī, who himself had completed Shari‘ah studies in Istanbul, Turkey. He returned to Albania as one of its Ḥanāfī scholars and Muftī of Albania. Under his father’s guidance, the Shaykh studied Qur‘ān, Tajwid, Arabic
language as well as Ḥanafī fiqh.

He further studied Ḥanafī fiqh and Arabic language under Shaykh Saʿīd al-Burhān.

He would attend the lectures of Imām ‘Abdul-Fattāḥ and Shaykh Tawfīq al-Barzah.

The Shaykh met the late hadīth master, ʿĀḥmad Shākir, with whom he participated in knowledge based discussions on ḥadīth and its research.

He met the late Indian hadīth scholar, Shaykh ‘Abdul-Ṣamad Sharf al-Dīn, who himself had referenced the ḥadīth to the first volume of al-Nasāʾī’s Sunan al-Kubrā as well as al-Mizzi’s monumental Tuhfat ul-Asbrāf, and they continued to exchange letters on matters of knowledge. In one such letter, Shaykh ‘Abdul-Ṣamad expressed his belief that al-Albānī was the greatest hadīth scholar of the time.

In recognition of his knowledge of hadīth, he was commissioned in 1955 by the Faculty of Shariʿah at Damascus University to carry out detailed analysis and research into ḥadīth related to buying and selling and other business related transactions.

Shaykh al-Albānī recieved ijāza (licence to transmit) from a number of scholars. From amongst the most famous of them was Shaykh Muḥammad Rāghib al-Tabbākh, the historian and Muhaddith of Ḥalab and Shaykh Bahjatul Baytar [through whom his isnad (chain of transmission) reaches Imām Aḥmad].

He would often correspond with numerous scholars, particularly those from India and Pakistan, discussing matters related to hadīth and the religion in general, including Shaykh Muḥammad Zamzamī
from Morocco and ʿUbaydullāh Raḥmān, the author of *Mirqāt al-Mafatiḥ Sharḥ Mushkila al-Masabīh*.

His skill in ḥadīth is attested to by a host of qualified scholars, including Dr. Amin al-Misrī, head of İslāmic Studies at Madīnah University who considered himself to be one of the Shaykh’s students; also Dr. Subhī al-Salāḥ, former head of Ḥadīth Sciences at the University of Damascus; Dr. Aḥmad al-Asal, head of İslāmic Studies at Riyāḍh University; the late Pakistani ḥadīth scholar, Allāmah Baḍī al-Dīn Shah al-Sindī; Shaykh Muḥammad Ṭayyib Awkīj, former head of Tafsīr and Ḥadīth at the University of Ankarah in Turkey; and countless others.

The Shaykh was invited to teach ḥadīth at the Islamic University of Madīnah in 1381H/1961 to 1383H/1963. He returned to his former studies and work in the Zabīrīyyah library. His love for Madīnah University was evident by the fact that he bequeathed his entire personal library to the University.

After carrying out a ḥadīth analysis of Ibn Khuzaymah’s Ṣābiḥ, the Indian ḥadīth scholar, Muḥammad Muṣṭafā Azāmī (head of Ḥadīth Science in Makkah), chose al-Albānī to verify and re-check his analysis, which is currently published in four volumes containing both their comments. This is an indication of the level of trust placed in al-Albānī’s ḥadīth ability by other scholars.

**His Works:**

The Shaykh’s printed works, mainly in the field of ḥadīth and its sciences, number over one hundred, running into many volumes. He left behind him in manuscript form at least a further seventy works. Some of his well known published works are: *Daʿīf Abū Dāwūd, Daʿīf ibn Mājah, Daʿīf al-Jāmīʿ as-Saghir, Daʿīf al-Targhib wal-
The Scholars Praise for Him:

Many Senior Scholars and Imāms praised him and benefited from his vast knowledge they would ask him questions, visit him in person, seek religious verdicts from him and exchange letters with him.

Shaykh ‘Abdul-‘Azīz al-Huddā said of him that he was: ‘The Shaykh, the great scholar, the ocean (of knowledge).’

Muḥammad al-Amīn al-Shanqīṭī - respected Shaykh al-Albānī to the point that when he would see him passing by, while he would be teaching his class in the masjid of Madīnah, he would stop his class to stand and give Salām to him out of respect for him.

The great scholar, the teacher, Muḥibb-al-Dīn al-Khatīb said: ‘And from the callers to the Sunnah who devoted their lives to reviving it was our brother Muḥammad Nāṣir al-Dīn Nūḥ Najātī al-Albānī.’

The great scholar Muḥammad Ḥāmid al-Fiṣī said: ‘...the brother, the Salafī, the Scholar, Shaykh Nāṣir al-Dīn.’

The former Muṣṭi‘ of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Shaykh Muḥammad Ibn Ibrāhīm Āli-Shaykh said: ‘And he is the upholder of the Sunnah, a supporter of the truth and an opposition to the
people of falsehood.'

During his lifetime, the Shaykh, 'Abdul-'Azīz Ibn Bāz said: 'I have not seen under the surface of the sky a person knowledgeable of the ḥadīth in our current time the likes of the great scholar, Muḥammad Nāṣir al-Dīn al-Albānī.' And he was asked about the ḥadīth of the Prophet (ﷺ): "Indeed Allāh raises up from this ummah at the beginning of every century someone who will revive it for them." So he was asked who is the mujaddid of this century? He replied: 'Shaykh Muḥammad Nāṣir al-Dīn al-Albānī. He is the mujaddid in my opinion and Allāh knows best.'

Shaykh Muḥammad Ibn Śāliḥ al-‘Uthaymīn said: ‘From what I came to know of the Shaykh [al-Albānī] through my gatherings with him - and they were few - was that he was very serious about acting upon the Sunnah and fighting against the innovations. And this was regardless of whether it was about the belief or about actions. As for through my readings of his written works, then I have come to know that about him, and also that he possesses a vast amount of knowledge of ḥadīth, in terms of reporting them and investigating them. And Allāh has benefited many people through what he has written such as about knowledge, aspects of the manbaj, and concern for the science of ḥadīth.'

The great scholar, Shaykh Zayd Ibn Fayād said about him: ‘Indeed, Shaykh Muḥammad Nāṣir al-Dīn al-Albānī is from the most prominent and distinguished personalities of this era. He had great concern for ḥadīth - its paths of transmission, its reporters and its levels of authenticity or weakness. This is an honourable task from the best things in which hours can be spent and efforts can be made. He was like any other scholar - those who are correct in some matters and err in other matters. However, his devotion to this great science (of ḥadīth) is from that which requires that his prestige be
acknowledged and his endeavors in it be appreciated.'

Shaykh Muqbil Ibn Hādī al-Wādi‘ī said: ‘Indeed, there cannot be found an equal in terms of the knowledge of ḥadīth like that of Shaykh Muḥammad Nāṣir al-Dīn al-Albānī. Allāh has given benefit through his knowledge and his books numerous times more than what has been accomplished by those zealots for Islām who act upon ignorance - those who organise reformation and revolutionary movements. I sincerely believe and I am convinced that Shaykh Muḥammad Nāṣir al-Dīn al-Albānī is from the mujaddidīn (reformers/revivers) whom the Prophet (ﷺ) spoke the truth of when he said: “Indeed Allāh raises up from this ummah at the beginning of every century someone who will revive it for them.”

His Characteristics:

May Allāh have mercy on him, he had many praiseworthy characteristics. Among the most clear, manifest and highest of them was his profound precision with regard to knowledge, his diligence, perseverance, his tolerance (with others), his firmness upon the truth, his quickness to return to correctness, his patience with the hardships of knowledge and da‘wah, and his taking of insults and harms for the sake of Islām and it’s pure and pristine call, bearing that with patience and consideration. One of the greatest things that distinguished him from many of his brothers amongst the people of knowledge was his strong support for the Sunnah and its adherents, his firmness upon the methodology of the Salaf al-Ṣālih, his love for those who called to it, and his refutation against the deviants from all levels and various positions, with an extreme clearness and a rare clarity.

Once a man visited the Shaykh at his home in Jordan claiming to be a prophet! The Shaykh sat the man down and discussed his claims
at length, in the end the visitor repented and withdrew from his claim and all those present, including the Shaykh, were overcome with tears.

The Shaykh was often heard bursting into tears when speaking about Allāh, His Messenger (ﷺ) and the affairs of the Muslim Community.

On another occasion, he was visited by three men all claiming that Shaykh was a kāfir. When it came time to pray they refused to pray behind him, saying it is not possible for a kāfir to lead the prayer. The Shaykh stated that he considered three of them Muslims so one of them should lead the prayer. Later, they discussed their differences at length and when it came time for the following prayer, all three men insisted on praying behind the Shaykh.

His Death:

He was devoted to knowledge, authoring works, teaching and educating until the age of eighty-six. He did not stop authoring books, referencing and checking of ḥadīth - until the last two months of his life, when he grew very weak. Allāh took his soul in death right before sunset on Saturday 23rd Jumādā al-‘Akhirah of the year 1420AH (2nd October 1999).

He left his will advising his relatives not to wail over his death and hurry his burial. He donated his entire library which included valuable manuscripts to the library of the Islāmic University of Madīnah.

The Shaykh’s funeral prayer was performed on the evening of the same day that he died. Scores of people, whose number exceeded that of five thousand persons, prayed over him. The scholars, students of knowledge and common people were all affected by his loss.
May Allāh have mercy on his soul, grant him Paradise and make this work a source of benefit for him.¹

¹ This biography has been edited and adapted from a number of works, including: www.alalbany.net and other works. For more detail biography refer to, 'The Biography of the Muhaddith Sheik Muḥammad Naṣir al-Dīn al-Albāni' published by Darussalam 2007.
INTRODUCTION

With the Name of Allāh, the All-Merciful, the Most Merciful

All praise is due to Allāh who obliged prayer upon His servants, commanded them to establish it and perform it in a good manner, and made the success [in this life and the hereafter] dependant on the heart being attentive and humble in the prayer, and the line separating belief from disbelief, and made it the admonisher of wrongdoings and sins. And, may the peace and blessings of Allāh be upon our Prophet Muhammad, who was addressed in the Words of the Exalted: “And We revealed to you the message [i.e., the Qur’ān] that you may make clear to the people what was sent down to them” [al-Nahl (16): 44]

Hence, he (ﷺ) performed this task perfectly and therefore prayer was amongst the greatest pillars that he explained to people through demonstration and words, to the point that he prayed once while he was on his pulpit then said to the people: “I have done this so that you may follow my lead in prayer and learn how I pray.”1 He informed us that it is obligatory to follow the way he prays when he

1 Bukhārī and Muslim, the full ḥadīth will be mentioned in the section of Standing up.
(ﷺ) said: "Pray as you have seen me praying."2

Moreover, he stated that Allāh pledged to admit those whose prayer complies with his prayer into Paradise, saying: "There are five [daily] prayer that Allāh made compulsory upon people; whoever performs ablutions properly and prays them on their correct times, and ensures to complete in their bowing, prostrations and be fully attentive and humble in them, Allāh pledged to forgive his sins, and whoever leaves them out does not have what He promised; and in accordance with Allāh’s will, He may forgive him or punish him."3

And, may the peace and blessings of Allāh be upon his virtuous and pious family and companions who transmitted to us his worship, his prayer, his actions and his statements and made all of that their only madhhab and role model, and upon everyone who follows their example and follows their path until the Day of Judgment.

After I finished reading the chapter of prayer from the book al-Targhib wa’l-Tarhib of Ḥāfīz al-Mundhirī (may Allāh bestow his Mercy upon him), and teaching it to some of our Salafi brothers four years ago, it became evident to all of us the high rank of prayer in Islām and the great reward attained when it is established and prayed well, and that such reward increases and decreases according to how close or far one is from the prayer of the Prophet (ﷺ), which he indicated in his hadith: "A man may finish (from his prayer) and all that is written (for him of reward) is one-tenth of it, one-ninth, one-eighth, one-seventh, one-sixth, one-fifth, one-fourth, one-third or one-half of it."4

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2 Bukhārī, Muslim and Ahmad, and its complete references are included in al-İrwa’ al-Ghalil under hadith #213.
3 Sahih hadith. It was authenticated by more than one scholar. I did its tāklḥrīj in Şabih Abū Dāwūd #451 and #1276.
4 Sahih hadith. It is recorded by Ibnal-Mubārak in al-Zuhd (10/21/1-2), and Abū Dāwūd and Nasāʿī through a good isnād, and I included its checking in Şabih Abū Dāwūd #761.
That said, I advised the brothers that we will not be able to establish it well, or even close to that, until we learn the description of the prayer of the Prophet (ﷺ) in detail in order for us to know its obligations, etiquettes, description, the used supplications and recited words, and then put all that in practice, as only then we can hope that our prayer will prevent us from being involved in wrongdoings and sins and guarantee us the reward. However, knowing all these details might be difficult for majority of people, including many scholars, because of their adherence to a particular madhab.

Anyone involved in serving the Sunnah by compiling and collecting the ahadith that each madhab has acts of Sunnah that are not found in the other madhab, and that all madhabs have some statements and actions that cannot be attributed to the Prophet (ﷺ), which are common to find in the books of the recent and later scholars\(^5\), who narrate weak or baseless reports in affirmative way indi-

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\(^5\) Abūl Hasanāt al-Lucknawī said in al-Najī’ al-Kabīr limān Uţalī’ al-Jāmi’ al-Ṣaghīr, (p. 122-123), after he mentioned the ranks of the books of Ḥanāfī fiqh and which of them are relied on and which are not relied on in the Madhhab: “The order of the books I mentioned was according to the fiqh subjects. As for listing them in the order of ahadith, it cannot be because there are many fiqh books accredited and relied on by many Fiqah but includes many fabricated reports, especially in Fatawa. It has become evident to us that though the ones who stated these fatwa are among the perfect men but they are lenient when it comes to narrating reports.” I say: from the fabricated reports is what was mentioned in some recent books in the following wording: “Whoever makes up the missed obligatory prayers in the last Friday of Ramadān that will complete any incomplete prayer he missed in his life for a period of seventy years.” Al-Lucknawi commented on this in al-‘Athār al-Maṣū‘ah fi al-Akhbār Mawdū‘āth in (p. 315): “Al-Qārī said in al-Mawdū‘āth al-Kubra and al-Mawdū‘āth al-Ṣaghrā that this report is absolutely false because it opposes the concensus of scholars that none of the acts of worship will not suffice to replace an act of worship missed for years. Besides, knowing that the author of in al-Nihāyah and those who explained in al-Hidāyah have no value because they are not among the Scholars of hadith and they have not referenced it to any of those who may document this report. Al-Shawkānī mentioned it in al-Fawā‘id al-Majmū‘ah fi al-ahadith al-Mawdū‘ah then commented: “It is fabricated with no doubt. I could not locate it in any of the books dedicated to compile fabricated reports but this report has become famous among some jurists in Ṣanā‘a’ city in our time and many of them started to act upon it though I do not know how made up this report for them? May Allāh disgrace the liars” End quote (p. 54).
cating that such statements were certainly said or done by the Prophet (ﷺ). Therefore, scholars of ḥadīth, may Allāh reward them abundantly, did takhrīj of some of these most famous books wherein they explain the grades of each ḥadīth. Some examples of these books are: al-‘Ināyāt fi Ma‘rifah aḥādīth al-Hidāyah and al-‘Uruq wal-Wasā’il fi Takhrīj aḥādīth Khulāṣah al-Dalā’il, which both were authored by Shaykh ‘Abdul-Qādir Ibn Muḥammad al-Qurashi al-Ḥanafi, and Naṣb al-Rā'yāt li aḥādīth al-Hidāyah by Ḥāfiz Zayla'i, and its abridged version al-Dirāyah by Ḥāfiz Ibn Ḥajr al-‘Asqalānī, who also wrote Talkhīṣ al-Ḥabar fi Takhrīj aḥādīth al-Rāfī al-Kabīr; there are many others, naming which will only lengthen this discussion.

Since knowing all the details of the prayer of the Prophet (ﷺ) is difficult for many people, I authored this book to teach the way the

Al-Lucknawi further said: “To establish with evidence from texts and logic the fabrication of this report, which is found in books of rituals and formulas in different wordings called Rā' al-Ikhwān ‘an Muḥdathāt akbir Jummah Ramaḍān. I included in it many benefits that will activate the mind and have the attention of the ears. Hence, it should be read for it is unique and esteemed.” I say: The fact that this report is found in [some] fiqh books makes us lose trust in the reports they include without referencing them to any credible ḥadīth book, which is indicated by the statement of ‘Alī al-Qāri. Hence, it is obligatory upon every Muslim to consult the scholars of ḥadīth about any ḥadīth they come across for Arabs used to say: “The people of Makkah know their roads better” and that “The owner of the house knows better about what is in it”.

Imām al-Nawawī said: “Verifiers from the people of ḥadīth and others said: “If the ḥadīth is found weak it cannot be narrated in the format: “The Prophet (ﷺ) said or did or commanded or forbade etc” as such format affirms the certainty of such reports. Rather, in such case, reports should be narrated using statements like “It was said that the Prophet (ﷺ) such and such” or It was related that he did such and such” and any other similar format because affirmative statements are only applicable to authentic reports while passive formats are applicable to all other types. This is because the former indicate the correctness of what have been related therefore it should be used when the report is proven authentic otherwise one may become classified in the rank of those who lie on the Prophet (ﷺ). This etiquette was not only unobserved by the author of this book and majority of our companion jurists and others but also majority of scholars from all different sciences except the high ranked scholars of aḥādīth. This leniency is deemed ugly for they narrate an authentic report found in the Sahih in a passive format and when they narrate a weak report they use affirmative statement, and that is a deviation from the correct way.” al-Majma’ Sharḥ al-Mubādhdhab: 1/60.
DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPHET’S PRAYER

Prophet (ﷺ) used to pray in order that he be their guide when they pray. I ask Allāh, Most High, to grant us what He promised us on the tongue of his Prophet (ﷺ) who said: “Whoever calls for guidance, he will be rewarded...”, which is recorded in Muslim and others and its ṭakhrīj is found in Sīsilah ʔabdīth al-Ṣahīḥah #863.

The Reason for Authoring This Work

As I could not find a comprehensive work that covers this subject (of the prayer), I found myself obligated to compose such a book for my Muslim brethren who want to adhere to the guidance of their Prophet (ﷺ) in their acts of worship. That being the case, I endeavored to include herein all that relates to the description of the prayer of the Prophet (ﷺ) from its start until its end, in order to help those who love the Prophet (ﷺ) sincerely and want to comply with his command “Pray as you have seen me praying.” Thus, I spared no effort to compile the relevant ʔabdīth from the different ʔabdīth books and as a result this is the book that I place in your hands. In this book I only included the ʔabdīth with authentic chain of narrators according to the principles and rules of the science of ʔadīth, and hence I excluded any report that is solely reported through a weak narrator or unknown narrators, whether this report relates to the ʔadbkār or virtues, or the description of the prayer. This is because I believe authentic ʔabdīth suffice the use of weak reports that entail, as agreed, nothing but assumption, which is overlooked when weighted. Allāh said, in its meaning, about assumption “yet by no means can a conjecture be a substitute for the established truth” [al-Najm (53): 28], and the Prophet (ﷺ) said, “beware of assumptions! For it is the worse of lies.”6 In fact, Allāh did not order us to use assumptions in matters related to His worship, but rather the Messenger of Allāh (ﷺ) forbade us to do so when he said, “Do not narrate anything

6 Bukhārī and Muslim. Its takhrīj can be found in my book Ghayāt al-Marām fī Takhrīj al-Halāl wal-Haram, No. 412
raised to me except that you are confident it is me who said it.”
That being the case, if he disallowed narrating weak reports,
then it befits more to say he forbade acting upon weak reports.

In this book, I included the texts of ḥadīth or the relevant parts of
the ḥadīth in the main content and I composed it in a manner that
allow the texts to flow as sentences so the book become consistent
from its beginning to its end. I made sure to quote the exact wordings
of each ḥadīth as recorded in the books of Sunnah, though in some
cases, the ḥadīth might be transmitted through different wordings
and so I favored one over another for the purpose of authoring this
book. I also incorporated within the main text some wordings from
other reports and I placed them between brackets - for example I
say (In another report, it is such and such). Moreover, I did not
mention the name of the narrators of each report except in some
rare cases and I did not list the names of the Imāms of abādīth who
narrated them in order to make the book easy to read and review.
The footnotes of this book include the references in which these
abādīth are recorded, and I highlighted the meaning of the words
mentioned in these abādīth and addressed the status of the chains of
narrators and the corroborating reports as well as the grading of

1 Ṣaḥīḥ ḥadīth that is recorded by Tirmidhī, Ahmad and Ibn Abī Shaybah. Shaykh Muḥammad
Sa‘īd al-Ḥalabi mentioned in his Musalalāt (1/2) that is also recorded by Bukhārī and he
erred in such reference. However, I found that this report is weak as I relied on the authen-
tication of al-Miḥrābī who authenticated the chain of narrators mentioned by Ibn Abī
Shaybah, which is the same isnād recorded in Tirmidhī. Please refer to my book Sīsilāb
abādīth al-Dā‘ījah #1783. The authentic ḥadīth “whoever narrates from a ḥadīth that he
assumes is fabrication, will be among the liars [whoever fabricated the hadith], which is
recorded by Muslim and others. See the introduction of my book Sīsilāb abādīth al-Dā‘ījah,
(vol. 1). In fact, it suffices to quote the ḥadīth, “beware of narrating from me extensively.
Should anyone ascribe anything to me, let him say nothing except the truth and whoever
[intentionally] ascribes to me what I have not said then let him occupy his seat in Hell-fire.”
Which is recorded by Ibn Abī Shaybah (8/760), Ahmad and others. And its takhrīj is in
Sīsilāb Aḥādīth as-Ṣaḥīḥab #1753.

2 The translation of the book does not comply strictly to this format as it will create more
confusion to the reader and divert the reader from the purpose that the Shaykh intended in
his book. Please see the Translator’s Notes.
these reports according to the science of ḥadīth and its rules. In many cases, there are words and additions that cannot be found in other reports; therefore I added them into the main text if such additions were in harmony with the main text, and I placed such addition in brackets\(^9\) without specifying the sources that exclusively document the original text in cases when the ḥadīth is reported from one companion, otherwise I listed it independently as can be noted in the opening supplications and other sections. However, this is a very rare approach that is hardly found in any book, and all praise is due to Allāh Alone with Whose Grace good deeds are completed.

I also mentioned the views of scholars regarding the abādīth and the evidence of each one, and then discussed these views to finally conclude the truth that we have included in the main text. In some cases, I may have mentioned issues that are not supported by explicit abādīth, but rather said by a scholar out of his ijtihād, and are irrelevant to the subject of this book.

I named this book "Description of the Prophet's Prayer, from takbir until taslim as if you can see it."

I ask Allāh to make this work sincerely for the sake of His Noble Face and to make it a source of benefit to the believers, for indeed He is All Hearing and the Answering.

Methodology of the Book

Since the topic of this book is explaining the guidance of the Prophet (ﷺ) in the prayer, it was paramount that I do not stick to one particular madhhab considering the reason I mentioned previously. Thus, only what has been proven authentic was included in

\(^9\) The use of brackets according to the Shyakh's method regarding additions in the main text only applies to the original book in Arabic as the translation could not keep this format. See Translator's Notes.
this book following the methodology of the people of ḥadīth\(^\text{10}\), be it old or current.\(^\text{11}\) Here is a beautiful line of poetry that someone said regarding this point:

\[
\text{The people of ḥadīth are the family of the Prophet,}
\text{although they did not accompany him in life,}
\text{but rather accompanied his breaths.}^\text{12}
\]

This is why this book will collect within it, with the Permission and Will of Allāh, all that have been mentioned concerning the prayer in the different books of ḥadīth or fiqh, from all the madhābāt. This book will be unique in its content and the level of truth it possesses and whoever acts upon it will be among those whom Allāh guided “to the truth concerning which they had differed” [al-Baqarah (2): 213].

As I committed myself to adhere to the authentic Sunnah and adopted this principle in this book and other books that will spread

\(^{10}\) ‘Abd al-Ḥayy al-Lucknowī said in Imām al-Kalīm jīmā Yata’laq bi-Qirā’ab Khalf al-Imām (p. 156): “Whoever views it objectively and indulges in the oceans of jurisprudence and its principles while avoiding unfairness, shall know with certainty that most of the main and subsidiary issues that scholars differed on, the view adopted by the scholars of ḥadīth is the strongest of all of them. Every time I explore the different views, I find the view of the scholars of ḥadīth to be the fairest view. May Allāh bless them as they should be thanked, and why would that not be when they are the true heirs of the Prophet (ﷺ) and indeed deputies of his law. May Allāh gather us with them on the Day of Judgment and may He let us die upon their love and according to their method.”

\(^{11}\) Al-Ṣubkī said in al-Fatāwā (1/148): “Indeed, the most important of all the affairs of Muslims is the prayer, which every Muslim is obligated to look after and ensure performing it and establishing its rituals. It includes matters that scholars agreed on and must be fulfilled and other matters that scholars differed on whether they are obligatory or not, and the path of guidance to handle the latter is to either take the safest view, if possible, to overcome matters of dispute or to find the authentic aḥadīth and hold fast to them. If a person does either, his prayer will be correct and good, and included in the verse “whoever longs to meet His Lord let him do a good deed.” [al-Kahf (18): 110]. I say: The second option is most appropriate, in fact it is obligatory because the first option suggested by al-Ṣubkī is not possible in most cases and acting upon it will not fulfill the order of the Prophet (ﷺ) to pray as he prayed since his prayer in such case would differ to the prayer of the Prophet (ﷺ), so ponder on this point.

\(^{12}\) Composed by al-Ḥasan Ibn Muhammad al-Nasawi, as reported by Ḥāfiz Dīyā‘ al-Dīn al-Maqdisi in his article, Fadl al-Ḥadīth wa-Aḥlāhī.
among people, I know that it will not please all groups and sects. In fact, I know that some of them will abuse me and criticise me, which I do not mind as I know that pleasing people is something impossible, particularly when the Prophet (ﷺ) said: ‘Whoever seeks the pleasure of the people at the expense of Allāh’s displeasure, Allāh will entrust him to them.’ It suffices me to believe that this is the straight path that Allāh, Most High, ordered His believing slaves to follow and the road that our Prophet Muḥammad (ﷺ) explained, and the path that the righteous predecessors from the Companions and successors and those who came after them, including the four Imāms to whom the majority of Muslims attribute themselves, walked upon. All of them agree that everyone needs to hold fast to the Sunnah and refer to it and abandon any statement or opinion that contradicts it, regardless of the high position of those who adopt such statements. This is because the status of the Prophet (ﷺ) is greater and higher and his way is straighter. Thus, I followed their guidance and complied with their orders to cling to the ḥadith even if the ḥadith contradicted their views. In fact, these directions left a great impact on me and encouraged me to avoid blind following; thus I ask Allāh to reward them abundantly.

Statements of the Imāms to Adhere to the Sunnah and Leaving their Views Contradictory to it

It is beneficial to mention here the quotes that I have come across, as I hope they will remind people who blindly follow the Imāms and even blindly follow those who are less in rank than these Imāms and cling to their views as if they were divine - though Allāh, Most

13 Tirmidhī, al-Qudā’ī and Ibn Bishrān and others. I discussed this ḥadith and its routes in my takbrij to the book Sharh al-‘Aqidah al-Tabāwīyyah then in Sīsilah ahādith al-Sabībah #2311 where I explained it does not affect that some scholars have stated that these words were the words of companions or that this report was authenticated by Ibn Hibbān.

14 This type of taqlid [i.e. blind following] is what Imām al-Ṭāḥāwī referred to when he said: ‘Only a fool or a fundamentalist would do taqlid’. This statement was reported by Ibn ‘Ābidin in Rasm al-Muṭṣf (1/32) from the collection of his Essays.
High said, "(O People!) Follow (the Message) which has been revealed to you by your Lord and follow not protectors (as you assume them to be), apart from Allāh. How little heed you pay to admonition" [al-A'rāf (7): 3]

i. Imām Abū Ḥanīfah

The Companions and students of Abū Ḥanīfah, al-Nu'mān ibn Thābit (may Allāh bestow His Mercy upon him) narrated from his different statements that all revolve around the obligation of accepting the ḥadīth and not following the views that contradict the Sunnah.

i. When a ḥadīth is authentic, then that is my madhhab.
ii. It is unlawful for any person to accept my view without knowing the source from where we got them.

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15 Ibn ‘Abidin in al-Ḥāshiyah (1/63), in his essay Rasm al-Muțfi (1/4), from the collection of the essays of Ibn ‘Abidin, Shaykh Sālih al-Fulānī in ‘Iyqāz al-Himām (p. 62) and others. Ibn ‘Abidin quoted from Shahr al-Ḥāshiyah by Ibn al-Shahhnah al-Kabīr, the Shaykh of Ibn al-Hammām, as follows: "If the ḥadīth is ṣaḥiḥ and appeared to oppose the view of the Madhhab, one should accept upon the ḥadīth and adhere to it as that does not negate one’s adherence to the Ḥanāfī Madhhab. This is because it is proven authentic that Abū Hanīfah said: If the ḥadīth is ṣaḥiḥ, then it shall be the view I adopt. This statement was narrated by Ibn ‘Abd al-Barr and others as the statement of Abū Ḥanīfah and other Imāms.” I say: This shows the perfection of knowledge and piety of these scholars as they admitted they have not comprehended all the Sunnah, which is what Imām al-Shāfi‘ī also said as shall be quoted afterwards. That being the case, it is possible that they may adopt a view contravening an act of Sunnah that they did not know of, therefore they ordered us to cling to the Sunnah and consider it their Madhhab. May Allāh bestow His mercy upon all of them.

16 Ibn ‘Abd al-Barr in al-‘Itiqā’ fi Fudū‘il al-Thalāthab al-A‘immab al-Fuqahā’ (p. 145), Ibn al-Qayyim in li‘ām al-Muwaggi‘ in (2/309), Ibn ‘Abidin in al-Ḥāshiyah on al-Bahr al-Ra‘īq (6/293) and Rasm al-Muțfi (p. 29 and 32), al-Sha‘rānī in al-Mīzān (1/55), Ibn Ma‘in in al-Tārīkh (6/77/1) through ṣaḥiḥ isnād from Zafar. Similar statements were reported from some of his main students including Zafar, Abū Yūsuf, ‘Afiyyah Ibn Yazīd as stated in ‘Iyqāz (p. 52), and Ibn al-Qayyim (2/344) affirmed that Abū Yusuf said that statement, and in al-Ta‘līq ‘alā ‘Iyqāz (p 65). I say: If this is what they say to those who do not know their evidence, what would they say about those who know the evidence is established against them and yet insist on adopting rulings contravening the evidence? It is worthy to ponder upon their statement because such statement alone is enough to demolish the blind following trend, which made some staunch muqallid to deny that such statement was ever said by Abū Ḥanīfah when he was challenged with a ruling he issued that he did not know the evidence used by Abū Ḥanīfah to conclude it.
iii. It is forbidden to use my views to issue verdicts without knowing my evidence.

iv. It is forbidden to use my views to issue verdicts without knowing my evidence for we are nothing but humans; we say something today that we may retract tomorrow.

v. O Ya‘qūb (i.e. Abū Yūsuf), Woe to you! Do not write all that you hear from me because I may adopt a view today but abandon it tomorrow! And, may conclude a view tomorrow but abandon it the day after tomorrow.¹⁷

vi. If I ever say something that contradicts the book of Allāh and the hadith of the Prophet (ﷺ), then leave my statement.¹⁸

¹⁷ This is because it is often that the Imām Abū Ḥanīfah concluded his rulings based on qiyās (analogy) but afterwards a stronger analogy appeared to him or he heard a hadith so he changes his view and left his former position. Al-Sha’rānī said in al-Mtqāin (v.62): “I and every person who is fair and just in his judgement about Imām Abū Hanifah, may Allāh be pleased with him, believe that had he lived until the day when all divine texts of religion were recorded and after all the Ḥuffāz travelled and collected all these texts, and then he got his hands on them, he would have abandoned every issue he derived based on analogy and he would have not opted for analogy except in few cases just as it is the case with others. However, since religious material and evidences were dispersed in different areas and towns during his time, he had to depend heavily on analogy compared to the other Imāms. This is because when he did not find textual evidences concerning the issues he investigated, he had to use analogy unlike other scholars who travelled collecting abādīth from many countries. This is in brief the reason why he depended on qiyās often and it is what I said regarding the mačbabb of others.”

Abu’l Ḥasanāt al-Luchnawi quoted large portion of this statement in al-Naš’ al-Kabīr (p. 135) and made some comments that support and clarify it. I say: Since this is the excuse of Abū Ḥanīfah for adopting views that contradict authentic hadiths unintentionally, which is a valid excuse no doubt because Allāh does not ordain on people what is beyond their powers - then no one is allowed to defame him or condemn him as some ignorant people do. Rather, people need to show him respect because he is Imām of the Imāms of Muslims through whom Allāh Preserved the religion to reach us today, and so he is rewarded whether his concluded views are correct or not. Furthermore, it is wrong for his followers to clinch to his views that have later turned out to be contradicting authentic hadith because in such case these views are no longer part of his mačbabb as you could notice in his statements. This reflects how these type of people and Imām Abū Ḥanīfah stand on different sides. “O our Lord! Protect us and our brethren who took precedence over us in (accepting) the faith and let no rancor or spite occupy our hearts against those who believe.”

¹⁸ Al-Fulānī in al-‘Iyāz (p.50) wherein he attributed it to Imām Muḥammad Ibn al-Ḥasan then commented: “This statement and the likes of such statement is not addressing the Muijṭāhid who does not need opinions of others, but rather it is addressing the Muqallīd.”
ii. ʿImām Mālik Ibn Anas

i. I am a human; I say things that are correct and I err. Thus, investigate my view; all that which conforms to the Qurʾān and Sunnah, accept it, and all that which does not conform to the Qurʾān and Sunnah, reject it.¹⁹

ii. The views of people are accepted and rejected except those of the Prophet (ﷺ).²⁰

iii. Ibn Wahb said: I heard Mālik responding to a question regarding the ruling on cleansing between the toes during ablution saying: it is not required. I stayed with him until people left then said to him: I find the act to be Sunnah. He asked: on what basis? I replied: al-Layth ibn Saʿd, Ibn Lahiʿah, ʿAmr Ibn al-Ḥārith narrated to me that Yazid Ibn ʿAmr al-Maʿāfiṭī narrated from Abū ʿAbdul-Rahmān al-Hubulī that al-Mustawrid Ibn Shaddād al-Qurashi said: “I saw the Messenger of Allāh rubbing the area between his toes with his little

say, this is why al-Shaʿrānī said in al-Miqṣūd (1/26): “If you ask: what should I do with all these ṣaḥāḥ that have been proved to be authentic after the death of my Imām and he did not adopt them? The answer is: You should accept and act upon these ṣaḥāḥ because if he had these ṣaḥāḥ and he deemed authentic, he would have ordered you to do so. This is because all the Imāms are captives in the hand of religion. Thus, whoever does that will encompass the good with his both hands and whoever says: I do not accept a ḥadīth that my Imām did not act upon, they miss immense goodness just like how it is the case with most of those who adhere to mādhhābihs out of taqṣīd. While, it befits more that people act upon every authentic ḥadīth to carry out (from) the will of their Imāms because we believe that if they lived and had access to these ṣaḥāḥ that are proven authentic, they would have acted upon them and deserted the views where they used analogy to conclude and every statement that did not depend on authentic evidence.”

¹⁹ Ibn ʿAbd al-Barr in al-Jāmiʿ (2/32) and Ibn Hazm in Uṣūl al-Ahkām (6/149) and al-Fulānī (p. 72)

²⁰ This is famous statement that is attributed to ʿImām Mālik, particularly by later Maliki scholars, which is a statement that Ibn ʿAbd al-Ḥādī verified in Irsīḥād al-Salik (1/227) that it was said by ʿImām Mālik. It is reported by Ibn ʿAbd al-Barr in al-Jāmiʿ (2/91), Ibn Hazm in Uṣūl al-Ahkām (6/145 and 179) from the words of ʿAbd al-Ḥakam Ibn ʿUtaybah and Mujāhid, Taqī al-Dīn al-Subkī reported it in nisāʿ al-Fatāwā (1/148) from the words of Ibn ʿAbbās and he expressed his amazement of the beauty of such words then said: This line was said by Ibn ʿAbbās then Mujāhid took it from him then ʿImām Malik, may Allāh be pleased with him, took it from them and became known to be said by him.” I say, then ʿImām ʿAbd al-Malik took it from them i.e. Abū Dāwūd said in Maṣāʾīl (p. 276): “I heard Ahmad say: “The views of people are accepted and rejected except those of the Prophet (ﷺ)"
finger.” Mālik responded: This is a good ḥadīth that I have not heard of before now. Then, I heard him directing people to cleanse between their toes [during ablution] whenever they asked him about it.\(^{21}\)

iii. Imām al-Shāfi‘i

The reported quotes of Imām al-Shāfi‘i concerning this topic are more in number and better,\(^{22}\) and his followers who act upon his directions are more than others. Some of his statements are:

i. There is no one except that he misses or fails to notice an act of Sunnah of the Prophet (ﷺ); hence if I say or deduce something that opposes the statement of the Messenger of Allāh (ﷺ), then the statement of the Prophet (ﷺ) will be the statement I accept and endorse.\(^{23}\)

ii. Muslims are in agreement that when a person knows of a Sunnah reported from the Prophet (ﷺ), it is unlawful for him to leave it favoring someone else’s view.\(^{24}\)

iii. If you find anything in my book that contradicts the Sunnah of the Messenger of Allāh (ﷺ), then take the Sunnah of the Messenger of Allāh (ﷺ) and leave what I have said. In another report: ...then follow the Sunnah and pay no attention to any other view.\(^{25}\)

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\(^{21}\) Ibn Abī Ḥātim in the introduction to al-Jarh wa’l-Ta’dil (p. 31-32), and Bayhaqī reported the complete version in his Sunan (1/81).

\(^{22}\) Ibn Ḥazim said (6/118): “The Jurists whom people follow their Madhhab defied taqlīd and forbade their students to blindly follow them, i.e. al-Shāfi‘i was the the most prominent scholar in this regard for he, may Allāh bestows His Mercy upon him, reached a level of accepting and adhering to authentic texts and reports that no other scholar reached, and he declared that he is against to be followed in everything he said, may Allāh increase his reward and make him a source of benefit for he was indeed a reason that led to immense goodness.”

\(^{23}\) Hākim through a connected chain of narrators from him up to al-Shāfi‘i ; as in Tārikh Dimashq of Ibn ‘Asākir (15/1/3), Iʿlām al-Muwaddīn of Ibn al-Qayyim (2/363 and 364), and al-ʿIṣqāz (p. 100).

\(^{24}\) Ibn al-Qayyim (2/361) and al-Fulānī (p. 68).

iv. If the ḥadith is authentic, then it is the view I adopt.  

v. You know about the ḥadith and narrators better than I do; thus if the ḥadith is authentic, inform me of it, whether it is from Kufah, Basrah or Shām, so that I may take the view of the ḥadith, as long as it is authentic.  

26 Al-Nawawi in al-Majmūʿ, al-Sha’rānī (1/57) in which he said this report is recorded by Ḥākim and Bayhaqī, al-Fulānī (p. 107), al-Sha’rānī said: “Ibn Ḥazm said: It means that if the hadith is proven authentic according to him or any other Imām”. I say: The following statement of his gives explicit meaning concerning this matter. Nawawi, may Allāh bestow His mercy upon him, said in brief: “Our Companions applied this principle in the issues of Tathwīb (calling to prayer in addition to the adhān), the ending of the state of Ḥiṣām due to sickness, and other cases as known in the books of the Madhhabs. Some of the jurists who reported this verdict based on the hadith, from our companions, are: Abū Ya’qūb al-Buwīṭī, Abū’l-Qāsim al-Dārīkī, and from the scholars of ḥadith, from our companions, are: Imām Abū Bakr al-Bayhaqī and others. A group of our companions used to act upon the ḥadith if they came across a hadith that contravenes the view of al-Shāfī’ī and say: The Madhhab of al-Shāfī’ī what conforms to the hadith. Shaykh Ibn al-Ṣalāḥ said: If any Shāfī’ī scholar finds a hadith that contravenes his Madhhab should investigate it independently, if he acquired all the tools that qualify him for Ḥijab or to do Ḥijab in such a particular issue. However, if he did not have all the required tools and it was too difficult for him to research the issue and could not find an answer explaining the view, he can act upon it if this view was accepted by another absolute Ḥijab and he will in such a case, be excused for leaving the view of his Imām. And this statement is good and required. And Allāh knows best.” I say: There is another aspect to this subject that Ibn al-Ṣalāḥ did not mention, namely: if a person did not find any other scholar acting upon the hadith, what should a person do in such case? The answer to this was given by Taqī al-Dīn al-Subkī in his article “The meaning of the statement of al-Shāfī’ī: if the hadith is ṣaḥīḥ...” (p. 102, vol.3): “I find it more appropriate to act upon the hadith, and let one imagine himself standing before the Prophet (ﷺ) and listening to the ḥadith directly from him! Would he dare not to accept it? No, by Allāh! Everyone is obligated to act according to his level of understanding”. The full details of this topic is found in Ibn al-Qayyim, l’ilm al-Muwaaqqītīn (2/302 and 370), and the book of al-Fulānī (full title): ʿIṣāq Ḥimām ʿUllī al-Ashār li al-Iqtiṣād biṣṣayyidī al-Muḥājirīn wa al-Anṣār, wa Tabdīl al-Muḥājirīn ‘an al-Iṣāq wa al-Shāfī’ī fi al-Qurā wa al-Anṣār, min Taqlīd al-Muṭḥābība ma’al-Hamīyāb wa al-Aṣhāyāb baya’na fujahā baya’na al-Aṣār, which is a unique book that should be studied thoroughly by everyone who loves the truth.  

27 Ibn Abī Ḥātim in al-Adāb al-Shāfī’ī (p. 94-95), Abū Nu‘aym in al-Ḥilāb (9/106), al-Khaṭīb in al-Abīṣār bi al-Shāfī’ī (8/1), Ibn ʿAṣākir (15/9/1), Ibn ‘Abd Al Barr in Al Intlīqā (p. 75), Ibn al-Jawzi in Manāqib al-Imām ʿĀbd in (p. 499), al-Harawi (2/47/2) from three different routes through ʿAbdullāh Ibn Ahmad Ibn Hanbal from his father that al-Shāfī’ī said such and such. Thus, this is authentically reported and that is why Ibn al-Qayyim confirmed it in l’ilm al-Muwaaqqītīn (2/325) and al-ʿUllānī in al-ʿIṣāq (p. 152) then said: “The reason why al-Shāfī’ī was excessively acting upon ḥadith is because he collected the knowledge of Shām,
vi. Every ḥadīth that scholars of ḥadīth deem authentic and found to oppose what I have said, then I hereby state that I abandon this view in my life and after my death. 28

vii. If you ever find me say something whereas it has been proven authentic that the Prophet (ﷺ) said otherwise, then know that my mind has lost it. 29

viii. All that I said but it turned out that the Prophet (ﷺ) said in an authentic report is opposite to what I said, then the ḥadīth of the Prophet should be followed and do not follow me. 30

ix. Every ḥadīth of the Prophet (ﷺ) is the view I adopt even if you do not hear it from me. 31

iv. Imām Aḥmad Ibn Ḥanbal

Imām Aḥmad is the Imām who adheres to the Sunnah the most and who collected the largest number of the traditions of the Prophet (ﷺ). Thus, he used to dislike authoring books including personal opinions and rulings based on the original rulings. 32

i. Do not [blindly] adopt my views or the views of Mālik, al-Shāfī‘i, al-Awzā‘i or al-Thawrī, but rather take from where they took [their knowledge]. 35

ii. Do not [blindly] adopt the views concerning your religion from any of those people. Take all that has been reported from the Prophet

30 Ibn Abī Ḥātim in al-Adāb al-Shāfī‘i (p. 93), Abū Nu‘aym and Ibn ‘Asākir (15/9/2) with a šāhīḥ isnād.
31 Ibn Abī Ḥātim in al-Adāb al-Shāfī‘i (p. 93-94)
32 Ibn al-Jawzī in Manāqib al-Imām Aḥmad (p. 192)
33 Al-Fulānī in al-Iṣqaṣ (p.113) and Ibn Qayyim in Thām al-Muwaqqi‘in (2/302)
(ﷺ) and his Companions. As for the views of the people after the ṭābi‘īn, you have the choice [to take or leave].

iii. Follow [i.e. adhering to the Sunnah] is that a person follows all that is reported from the Prophet (ﷺ) and his Companions. As for the views of those who came after the ṭābi‘īn, a man has a choice [to adhere to them or not].

iv. The views of al-Awzā‘ī, the views of Mālik, the views of Abū Ḥanīfah are all opinions whose strength is equal in my view. The evidence is established only through reports.

v. Whoever rejects the hadīth of the Prophet (ﷺ) is a person on the edge of doom.

The above mentioned statements demonstrate the persistent clinging of the famous Imāms, may Allāh be pleased with them, to the aḥādīth of the Prophet (ﷺ), and their commanding against being followed blindly. These statements are explicit and clear enough that they cannot be argued or interpreted. Thus, when a person holds fast to the authentic Sunnah, even if that means leaving some of the views of the Imāms, he is not deemed as opposing their Madhhab. Rather, he is deemed a person who adheres to their method and their ways and clings to that which is known not to break. That being said, he who leaves the established Sunnah just because the established Sunnah opposes their views has indeed disobeyed the Imāms and contravened their methods, shown in the previous quotes. Allāh says: “But no, (not so as they have asserted,) by your Lord! They are no believers at all unless they refer all their disputes (that arise between them) to you for judgment, they do not find any demur in their mind about the propriety of your judgment, and they submit (to your decisions) with entire submission” [al-Nisā’ (4): 65] and “So, let those who go against His command beware, let some calamity should befall them or they receive some painful punishment” [al-Nūr (24): 63]

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34 Abū Dāwūd in Masā’il Imām Ahmad (p. 276 and 277).
35 Ibn ‘Abd al-Barr in al-Jāmi‘ bayān al-‘Ilm (2/149)
36 Ibn al-Jawzī in Manāqib al-Imām Ahmad (p. 182)
Hāfiẓ Ibn Rajab, may Allāh bestow His mercy upon him, said: “It is obligatory upon whoever knows and understands the commands of the Messenger of Allāh (ﷺ) to deliver this command to all Muslims and advise them and order them to follow the Prophet's command, even if that means opposing the view of a renowned scholar. This is because the command of Allāh’s messenger (ﷺ) deserves to be glorified and complied with more than any opposing opinion said by a high ranked person that people look up to. This is why the companions and the succeeding generations refuted every person opposing an authentic Sunnah, and may in some cases be harsh in their refutation37; not because they disliked the opponent scholar, whom in fact they loved and glorified, but because their love of the Messenger (ﷺ) is greater and dearer to them, and his command is more superior than the command of every other creature. Thus, when the command of the Messenger (ﷺ) opposes the command

37 I say: Even if those who they refuted were their fathers or their scholars. Al-Ṭahāwī recorded in Sharḥ Ma'ānī al-Athbār (1/372) and Abū Ya'ūs in his Musnad (3/1317) through a good chain of narrators that Sālim Ibn 'Abdullāh Ibn 'Umar said: “I was sitting with Ibn 'Umar (radī Allāhu anhu) in the Masjid. Then, a man from the people of Shām approached him and asked him about the ruling on al-Tamattu' [i.e. performing 'Umrāh during the Hajj season, and on the Day of Tarwīyyah the pilgrim gets into the state of 'Ihram for Hajj] so Ibn 'Umar said: It is a good thing to do. The man said: But, your father used to forbid people to do it! Ibn 'Umar replied: Woe to you! If my father forbade it then know that the Messenger of Allāh (ﷺ) did it and ordered people to do it, so will you take the view of my father or abide by the command of the Messenger of Allāh? The man replied: I will comply with the order of the Prophet (ﷺ). Upon that, Ibn 'Umar told the man to leave.” The story in its meaning was recorded by Ahmad (no. 5700), Tirmidhī (2/82) who graded it authentic. Ibn 'Asākir recorded (7/51/1) in his al-Tārikh that Ibn Abi Dhī’b said: Sa’d Ibn Ibrā’hīm Ibn ‘Abdul Rahmān Ibn ‘Aww judged in a case against a man according to the view of Rabi’ah Ibn Abi ‘Abdul-Rahmān. So, I advised him that the judgement of the Messenger of Allāh (saw) about this case is different to what he judged! So, Sa’d said to Rabi’ah: This is Ibn Abi Dhī’b and I deem him a trustworthy person and he just narrated to me a hadith that oppose the judgment I have issued! So, what should I do? Rabi’ah said: You endeavored sufficiently and issued your ruling accordingly! Hence, keep it as is. Sa’d replied: I wonder at this! I endorse the judgment of Sa’d and do not endorse the judgement of the Prophet of Allāh (ﷺ)?! I shall reject the judgment of Sa’d, the son of his mother, and only endorse the judgement of the Messenger of Allāh! Upon that, Sa’d requested to bring him the document in which was his judgment so he tore it apart and changed his verdict according to the hadith and so his judgement was for the favour of the man.
of anyone else, his command takes precedence even if the opposing view is adopted by a [scholar] who people look up to and glorify, who is in such a case forgiven for the mistake [as he erred unintentionally].\textsuperscript{38} In fact, the said scholar who adopted a view contravening the command of the Prophet (ﷺ) will not dislike people to desert his views if it turns out that they oppose the command of Allāh’s Messenger (ﷺ).”\textsuperscript{39}

How could they dislike that people follow the command of the Prophet (ﷺ) in such cases when they ordered people to leave their own views when the ḥadīth is established against their views and also oblige their followers to abandon the views that contravene the Sunnah? In fact, al-Shāfi‘i ordered his Companions to ascribe the rulings found in the authentic Sunnah and adopt them even if he did not do take it, or he acted upon its opposite. This is why the renowned verifier, Ibn Daqīq al-‘Īd, may Allāh bestow his mercy upon him, collected in one large volume the different issues that each Imām of the four Imāms disregarded of the authentic ḥadīth. He said in the beginning of his book: “Ascribing these rulings to the \textit{Mujtāhid} Imāms is unlawful and jurists who follow them need to know about these rulings so that they do not ascribe to them what they did not say.”\textsuperscript{40}

Scholars who Abandoned the Views of the Imāms to Adhere to the Sunnah

Given the reasons I highlighted in the previous section, the scholars who followed the Imāms who were \textit{\textquotedblleft A large part of them (will hail}

\textsuperscript{38} I say: he will be rewarded based on the statement of the Prophet (ﷺ): “When the judge endeavors and issues his verdict accordingly, and his verdict was correct he will receive two rewards and if his judgement was wrong, he will receive one reward”. Recorded by Bukhārī and Muslim as well as others.

\textsuperscript{39} He mentioned it in his commentary on \textit{Iqāq Himām} (p. 93)

\textsuperscript{40} Al-Fulānī in \textit{al-Iqāq} (p. 99).
from the early (believers); while a few (of them will hail) from the later ones” [al-Wāqi‘ab (56): 13-14] do not follow all the views of their Imāms. In fact, some of them abandoned many of the views adopted by their Imām after they realised such views contravene the authentic Sunnah. For example, Muḥammad Ibn al-Ḥasan and Abū Yūsuf, may Allāh bestows His Mercy upon them, opposed one third of the views adopted by their teacher, Abū Ḥanīfah, which is evident in the books of Fiqh. The same was with the case of Imām al-Muzani and other followers of Imām al-Shāfi‘ī, and if I wanted to give examples on this behavior, the book will become too lengthy and will not conform to our intention to write about this subject briefly. However, I will just mention two examples about the subject matter:

1. Imām Muḥammad said in al-Muwatta (p. 158): “As for Abū Ḥanīfah was with the opinion that prayer should not be prayed in the case of al-Istisqa' (i.e. beseeching Allāh for rain). However, the view I endorse is that the Imām [leading the prayer] should pray two units then supplicate while wearing his garment upside down...”

2. Iṣām Ibn Yūsuf al-Balkhī, one of the Companions of Imām Muḥammad who was also one of those who constantly remained in the company of Abū Yūsuf, used to often issue edicts different than those of Abū Ḥanīfah because he did not know what evidence Imām Abū Ḥanīfah relied on; hence he used to issue edicts based on the evidence he found. For example, he used to raise his hands when bowing and when rising from it, which is the practice proven in Mutawātir Sunnah, though his three teachers [i.e. Imām Abū Ḥanīfah, Muḥammad Ibn al-Ḥasan and Abū Yūsuf] were against it, and this is the behavior that every Muslim should be upon as per the directions of the four Imāms and other scholars as mentioned previously.

In summary, I hope none of those who follow the views of scholars who condemn the methodology of this book, results in veiling

41 This was transmitted by Ibn ‘Abidin in al-Ḥāshiyyab (1/62) and al-Lucknawi stated in al-Nāfi‘ al-Kabīr (p. 93) that this was reported from the way of al-Ghazālī.
him from benefiting from the Prophetic Sunnah on the grounds that such views oppose the madhhab he follows. If this is the case, I hope this person remembers the statements of the Imāms that I quoted above which assert the obligation to act upon the Sunnah and abandon their opposing views. Furthermore, it is worthy to mention that condemning the methodology of this book is actually denouncing the Imām he follows because the methodology of this book is based on their methodologies as explained previously. Thus, whoever turns away from following their guidance in this regard will be in a great danger as that necessitates rejecting the Sunnah, all the while, we are ordered to consult the Sunnah and depend on it when we differ on any matter. Allāh, Most High, said: "But no, (not so as they have asserted,) by your Lord! They are no believers at all unless they refer all their disputes (that arise between them) to you for judgment, they do not find any demur in their mind about the propriety of your judgment, and they submit (to your decisions) with entire submission." [al-Nisā’ (4): 65]

I ask Allāh, Most High, to make us among those whom He mentioned in the verse: “The only response of the believers, when they are summoned before Allāh and His Messenger so that he may judge between them, is that they say, ‘We hear and obey.’ It is they who will attain their goal. And those who obey Allāh and His Messenger and bold Allāh in awe and take Him as a shield (for protection) it is they who shall be triumphant.” [al-Nūr (24): 51-52]

Damascus 13th Jumādā al-Ākhirah 1370AH / March 1951CE
Muḥammad Nāṣir al-Dīn al-Albānī

39
SECTION ONE

Facing the Ka‘bah

Whenever the Messenger of Allāh (ﷺ) stood for prayer, he would face the Ka‘bah, whether the prayer he intended was obligatory (al-fard) or voluntary (al-nafl) prayers,¹ and he (ﷺ) ordered ‘the man who prayed badly’, “When you stand up to prayer, perform ablution properly, then face the qiblah and say takbir.”²

During a journey, he (ﷺ) used to pray the supererogatory (al-nawāfil) prayer, including the prayer of Witr, while he was mounted on his camel, regardless of whether it was moving toward the east or the west.”³ Allāh revealed concerning this, the verse:

قَآيِاَّمَا نَأْتُوهُمُ وَجِيْدًا ۖ إِلَّاٰ اللَّهُ

“So wherever you [might] turn, there is the Face of Allāh.”

[al-Baqarah (2): 115]⁴

In some cases, if he wanted to offer a supererogatory prayer, he

¹ This is a mass transmitted (i.e. Mutawati) that is unanimously agreed on; hence there is no need to detail its takhrij herein, though some of the evidence for it will follow.
² Bukhārī, Muslim and al Sirāj
³ Bukhārī, Muslim and al Sirāj. Its takhrij is given in al-Irwā’ al-Ghali #289
⁴ Muslim and authenticated by Tirmidhī.
would let his camel face the qiblah then he would say takbir and thenceforth continue his prayer regardless of the direction of the camel.\(^5\)

He (ﷺ) used to gesture with his head to indicate the movements while he was mounted on his camel, and would make his nodding when prostrating (al-sujūd) lower than his nodding when bowing (al-ruku'\(^6\)).

However, if he wanted to pray an obligatory (al-faridā) prayer, he would dismount his camel and face the qiblah.\(^7\)

In the event of extreme fear, the Prophet (ﷺ) directed his nation to pray on foot, standing on their feet, or riding, facing the qiblah or not facing the qiblah.\(^8\) He (ﷺ) also stated that when fighting breaks out, the prayer becomes just takbir and gesturing with the head.\(^9\)

He (ﷺ) also said: "Whatever is between the east and the west is the qiblah"\(^10\)

Jābir ibn ‘Abdullāh (radiy Allāhu ‘anhu) narrated: We were with the Messenger of Allāh (ﷺ) on a march or a campaign, and it became cloudy. We tried to determine the qiblah and differed concerning it, so each man prayed on his own, and one of us marked the direction we had faced so that we could check it later. The following morning we looked and found that we had prayed facing a direction other

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\(^5\) Abū Dāwūd and Ibn Hibbān in his al-Thiqāt (1/12), al-Diyā’ in al-Mukhtārah with a ḥasan isnād, and Ibn al Suki authenticated, Ibn al Mulakqin in Khulāṣah al-Badr al-Munir (1/22), ‘Abdul Ḥaq al-Ishbili in al-Abkām (no. 1394 the edition with my checking), and reported by Ibn Hānī from Imām Ahmad in his Masā’il (1/67).

\(^6\) Ahmad and Tirmidhī who authenticated it.

\(^7\) Bukhārī and Ahmad

\(^8\) Bukhārī and Muslim. It is given in al-Irwā’ #588.

\(^9\) It is recorded by Bayhaqī with a chain of narrators found in both Bukhārī and Muslim.

\(^10\) Tirmidhī and Ḥākim. It was declared saḥīḥ by both and I did its takbīr in al-Irwā’ al-Ghalīl #292, which Allāh facilitated its publishing.
than the qiblah. We told the Prophet (ﷺ) and he did not instruct us to repeat it, and he said: “Your prayer is valid.”

The Prophet (ﷺ) used to pray facing towards Bayt al-Muqaddas (in Jerusalem), with the Ka‘bah in front him, before Allāh revealed the verse:


cَدْ رَأَى تَنْطُلْ وَجْهَكَ فِي السَّمَاءِ
قُلْ نُصِبْنِي هَذِهَ بَيْتَكَ وَبُرِّهَا فَوْلِي وَجْهَكَ مُصَلِّي السَّمَجِيد

“We have certainly seen the turning of your face, [O Muhammad], toward the heaven, and We will surely turn you to a qiblah with which you will be pleased. So turn your face [i.e., yourself] toward al-Masjid al-Harām.”

[al-Baqarah (2): 144]

However, as soon as the verse was revealed he started to pray facing the Ka‘bah. The people of Quba’ were praying Fajr when a man came and informed them that Allāh revealed to His Messenger (ﷺ) to change the direction of the qiblah towards the Ka‘bah; hence change the direction of your qiblah. Thus, while still performing prayer facing toward the direction of the Levant region (al-Sham)², so they, [including the Imām who was leading them], turned toward the Ka‘bah and completed their prayer.³

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¹¹ Al-Dāraquṭnī, Ḥākim, al-Bayhaqī. Tirmidhī, Ibn Mājah and Ťabarānī recorded a report that supports this ḥadīth. The tābrīj of the ḥadīth is also in al-Irwā’ #296.
¹² The region covering Syria, Lebanon, Jordan, and Palestine
¹³ Bukhārī, Muslim, Ahmad, al-Sirāj, Ťabarānī (3/108/2), Ibn Sa’d (1/243) and al-Irwā’ #290.
SECTION TWO

Standing in Prayer (al-Qiyām)

2.1 Standing in Prayer

The Prophet (ﷺ) always prayed while standing up, whether the prayer is obligatory or supererogatory, in carrying out the command of Allāh:

وَفَخُذُواْ إِلَى الْقَبْضِيَّينَ

“stand before Allāh, devoutly obedient.”

[al-Baqarah (2): 238]

However, in times of travelling, he used to pray while mounted on his camel. And, he prescribed for his nation to pray on foot, standing on their feet, or riding, as mentioned earlier. This practice is evident in the verse:

قُبَّيْبُينَ كَأَنَّهُمْ مَيْلٌ لَا أُرْكَزُهَا فَإِذَا أَمْسَمُ فَأُذْحِيْنَا إِلَى اللَّهِ كَعَمَّالْفَسَادٍ مَا أَلَمْ نَكُونَ أُصَلَّى.

“Maintain with care the [obligatory] Prayers and [in particular] the middle Prayer and stand before Allāh, devoutly obe-
dient. And if you fear an enemy, then pray on foot or riding.
But when you are secure, then remember Allah [in prayer], as
He has taught you that which you did not [previously] know.”

[al-Baqarah (2): 238-239]

The Prophet (ﷺ) prayed sitting down when he became ill during
the sickness which caused his death.¹ In another incident prior to
the aforesaid occasion, he prayed sitting down when he was ill. But,
some people behind him prayed standing; hence he indicated for
them to sit down. When he finished, he said, “You were copying the
traditions of Persians and Romans who stand in front of their kings
when they are seated. Do not do that for the Imam [in prayer] is
appointed to be followed; when he bows, then bow, when he rises,
rise; and when he prays sitting down, then all of you pray sitting.”²

2.2. Prayer of a Sick Person in a Sitting Position

‘Imrân ibn Ḥusayn (radiy Allâhu ‘anhu) related: I was suffering from
piles (haemorrhoids), so I asked the Messenger of Allâh (ﷺ) about
the prayer. He said, “Pray while standing; if you are unable to, pray
while sitting; if you cannot do even that, then pray lying on your
side.”³

He also related that he asked Allâh’s Messenger (ﷺ) about the
prayer of a man while sitting. He said, “Praying while standing is
better as he who prays while sitting receives half the reward of the
one who prays standing up; and whoever prays while lying down
(and in another narration: reclining), receives half the reward of the
one who prays while sitting down.”⁴

¹ Tirmidhî who declared the hadith sahîh, and Ahmad.
² Bukhârî and Muslim. The takbîr of the hadith is included in my book al-Irwâ’ al-Ghâlîl,
under the hadith #94
³ Bukhârî, Abû Dâwûd and Ahmad.
⁴ Ibid. al-Khaṭṭâbî said: “The hadith of ‘Imrân addresses the case of the sick who can stand
44
Section Two: Standing in Prayer (al-Qiyām)

This report refers to the ill person as can be noted in the following report. Anas ibn Mālik (raḍiy Allāhu ‘anhu) reported: Once, Allāh’s Messenger (ṣallī Allāhu ‘alayhi wa sallam) saw some people praying while sitting down because of sickness; hence he said: “[The reward received while] praying sitting is equivalent to half of the [reward received when] praying standing up.”

The Prophet (ṣallī Allāhu ‘alayhi wa sallam) saw a sick man he visited, praying (leaning) on a cushion, upon which, he removed the cushion and cast it aside. So the man picked a piece of wood to pray (learning) on it, but the Prophet (ṣallī Allāhu ‘alayhi wa sallam) again threw it away and said, “Pray on the ground if you are able to do so; otherwise, pray by gesturing signs and make your prostration (ṣujūd) lower than your bowing (ruku’).”

2.3. Prayer on a board a Ship

The Prophet (ṣallī Allāhu ‘alayhi wa sallam) was asked about how a man should pray while he is onboard a ship [in the sea] and he replied: “Pray standing unless you are afraid of drowning.”

When he (ṣallī Allāhu ‘alayhi wa sallam) grew old in age [and weak in strength] he took a support to lean on while praying.

5 Ahmad and Ibn Mājah through a sāḥīḥ isnād.
6 Tabarānī, Bazzār, Ibn al-Sammāk (2/67), and its isnād was ruled sāḥīḥ by Bayhaqī as I explained in Sīṣīlab Abādīth al-Sāḥīḥab #323.
7 Al-Bazzār #68, al-Dhāraqūṭi and ‘Abdu’l-Ghanī al-Maqdisī in his Sunan (2/82). Its was ruled sāḥīḥ by Hākim and Dḥāhabī agreed with him.
8 Albānī: The case of praying on a plane is the same case as praying on a ship; a person should pray standing up, if possible, and if not able to, then pray sitting down, but if unable to move, to pray using gesture signs with his head as stated previously.
9 Abū Dāwūd and Hākim who authenticated this report and al-Dhāhabī agreed with him on this classification. I also hve given it in al-Sāḥīḥab #319 and al- Irwā' #383.
2.4. Standing and Sitting in the Night Prayers
(al-Tahajjud)

He (ﷺ) used to pray long through the night standing up, and long through the night sitting down [i.e. he commenced the prayer sitting down]; and if he recited [the Qurʾān] while standing up, he would bow standing, and if he would recite while sitting, he would bow sitting.⁹

Sometimes, he (ﷺ) would pray and recite the Qurʾān verses left of his recital, and then he would stand up, finish the recital and then bow, and prostrate. Then, he would repeat the same thing in the second rakʿah of the prayer.¹⁰

He (ﷺ) did not pray any voluntary prayer (al-Subhah) sitting until one year before his death when he had grown old.¹¹

Also he (ﷺ) would pray [voluntary prayer sitting down while being] cross-legged.¹²

2.5. Prayer while Wearing Shoes and the Command to do so

Sometimes, he (ﷺ) used to pray while being barefooted and sometimes he would pray while wearing his shoes.¹³

He (ﷺ) permitted his nation to pray while wearing shoes; and hence said “If one of you [intends to] pray, he should either wear his shoes

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⁹ Muslim and Abū Dāwūd
¹⁰ Bukhārī and Muslim
¹¹ Muslim and Aḥmad
¹² Nasāʾī, Ibn Khuzaymah in his Ṣaḥīḥ (1/107/2), ‘Abdu’l-Ghanī al-Maqdisī in his Sunan (1/80) and Hākim who ruled it saḥīḥ and al-Dhahabi agreed with him.
¹³ Abū Dāwūd and Ibn Mājah and it is a mutawātir report as al-Ṭahāwī stated.
or take off his shoes, and he should not cause harm (discomfort) to others with them.”

He (ﷺ) encouraged the importance of praying while wearing shoes sometimes; and hence said “Act differently from the Jews who do not pray in their khuffāṣ (leather socks) or their shoes.”

Occasionally, he (ﷺ) may take his shoes off during the prayer and then continue praying as narrated by Abū Sa‘īd al-Khudrī (rādīy Allāhu ‘anhu) who said: “While the Prophet (ﷺ) was leading us [i.e. the Companions] in prayer, he took off his shoes and placed them on his left side. Upon that, the people behind him did likewise. When he finished the prayer, he asked them: “Why did you take off your shoes?” They replied: “It is because we saw you taking off yours.” He said: “Jibril came to me and informed me that there was some harmful [in another narration: impurity] on my shoes; therefore I took them off. If one of you comes to the masjid, he should check his shoes and if he sees his shoes have some dirt or filth, he should wipe it off and pray in them.”

When he (ﷺ) took off his shoes, he placed them on his left side and he would also say: “If one of you performs the prayer and takes off his shoes, he should neither keep his shoes on his right nor on his left, as that will make the shoes be on the right side of someone else, except if there is no one on his left, rather, he should keep them between his feet.”

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14 Abū Dāwūd and al-Bazzār (53, al-Zawā‘id). Its was ruled šāhīḥ by Ḥākim and al-Dhahābī agreed with him.
15 Ibid.
16 Abū Dāwūd, Ibn Khuzaymah and Ḥākim, who declared it šāhīḥ and al-Dhahābī and al-Nawawi agreed with him. The takhrīj of this report is given in al-Irwā’ #284
17 Abū Dāwūd, al-Nasā‘ī and IbnKhuzaymah (1/110/2) with a šāhīḥ isnād (chain of narrators).
18 Abū Dāwūd, Ibn Khuzaymah and Ḥākim, who declared it šāhīḥ and al-Dhahābī and al-Nawawi agreed with him.
2.6. Prayer on the Pulpit (Minbar)

Once he (ﷺ) prayed while he was on the pulpit, (in another narration: ‘which had three steps’)

19. He stood on it and said takbir and the people did likewise. Then, he made ruku' while he was still on it then he raised from ruku' and stepped down and prostrated at the foot of the pulpit and then climbed back on it and repeated what he did in the first unit all over again in the second unit of prayer. After he finished praying, he addressed the people and said: “O people, I did what I did so that you follow my lead in prayer and learn how I pray.”

20.21.

2.7. The Obligation to have a Sutrah

The Prophet (ﷺ) used to stand close to the Sutrah; he would keep a distance of three cubits between himself and the wall.22 There was, between the place of his prostration and the wall, space for one sheep to pass.23

He (ﷺ) used to say: “Do not perform prayer, except that there is a Sutrah in front of you, and do not let anyone pass in front of you. If someone insists (on passing) then prevent him with force [without using a weapon], for indeed he is overpowered by his accompanying devil (al-qarin).”24

19. Albārī said: It is the Sunnah that the pulpit has three steps, no more. Adding more steps to it is an innovation started by the rulers of Banu Umayyah, which often interrupts the row. To avoid this kind of interruption, the pulpit is replaced to be in the western corner of the Masjid or the niche, which is another innovation similar to raising the pulpit high on the southern wall just like how it is with balconies that one needs to climb a stair to reach its top! The best of guidance is the guidance of the Muḥammad (ﷺ). See Fath ul-Bārī (2/331)
20. Bukhārī, Muslim and Ibn Sa’d (1/253). It is given in al-Irwa’ #545.
21. It is an object used by a person performing prayer as a barrier between himself and one passing in front of him.
22. Bukhārī and Aḥmad
23. Bukhārī and Muslim
24. Ibn Khuzaymah in his Sahih (1/93/1) with a ḥasan isnād
Section Two: Standing in Prayer (al-Qiyām)

He (ﷺ) used to say: “If any of you perform prayer while placing a Sutrah in front of him, then he should draw close to it so that Shayṭān cannot break his prayer.”

Sometimes he (ﷺ) would seek to pray towards the pillar in his masjid.

He (ﷺ) used to fix a spear in the ground right in front of him (as a Sutrah) if he was praying in an open area and then he would pray facing it with the people behind him. Sometimes, he (ﷺ) used to set his camel sideways and then pray towards it. This is different than praying in the resting-place of camels because he (ﷺ) forbade it. And sometimes, he (ﷺ) would take the saddle and adjust it then pray towards its rear side.

He (ﷺ) would say: “When one of you places in front of him something such as (a stick or) the end of a saddle, he should pray and not worry about anyone who passes beyond it.”

Once he (ﷺ) prayed towards a tree. Sometimes he (ﷺ) would

25 Abū Dāwūd, al-Bazzār (page 54 al-Zawā'id), Hākim, who declared it şāhiṣ and Dhabābī and al-Nawawī agreed with him.

26 Bukhārī. The Sutrah is a must for both the Imām and individuals praying alone even if someone is praying inside the Grand Masjid. Ibn Hāni said in his Masā'il where he recorded the statements of Imām Aḥmad (1/66): “One time, Abu Abdillah saw me in the grand masjid not praying toward a Sutrah; hence he said: ‘Take a barrier between you and those in front of you!’ So, I had a man in front of me as my Sutrah.” The direction of Imām Aḥmad in this report indicates that there is no difference between the grand masjid and the small masjid in regards praying toward a Sutrah, which is the truth. This issue has been overlooked by the majority of those who pray, whether they are Imāms of Masjids or anyone else, as I saw in the countries I visited, including Saudi Arabia which I had the opportunity to travel across, for the first time, in the month of Rajab of this year (1410 AH). In light of this, scholars should advise and encourage people to practice this Sunnah and explain to them all the relevant rulings and clarify to them that praying towards a Sutrah is a must, even if one prays in the two Sacred Masjids, in Makkah and Madinah.

27 Bukhārī, Muslim and Ibn Majīṣ.

28 Bukhārī and Aḥmad.

29 Ibid.

30 Muslim, Ibn Khuzaymah (2/92) and Aḥmad.

31 Muslim and Abū Dāwūd

32 Nasā'i, and Aḥmad through a şāhiṣ isnād.
pray towards the bed on which ʿĀʾishah (radiy Allāhu ʿanāhā) was lying [under her cover].

He (ﷺ) would never let anything pass between him and his Surah, hence once he (ﷺ) was praying, when a sheep came running [intending to pass] in front of him; so he hastened [to block the way] until he pressed his belly against the wall, [and it passed behind him].

Also, once he (ﷺ) was praying an obligatory prayer, when he clench his hands. After he finished the prayer, people said: “O Messenger of Allāh! Has anything happened during the prayer? He replied: “No except that shayṭān wanted to pass in front of me so I strangled him, until I felt the coldness of his tongue on my hand. By Allāh, had it not been for the invocation of my brother [Prophet] Sulaymān, I would have tied him to one of the pillars of the masjid so that the children of Madīnah could walk around him. [So whoever can prevent anything from passing between him and the qiblah, he must do so.]”

33 Bukhārī, Muslim and Abū Ya’lā (3/1107)
34 Ibn Khuzaymah in his Ṣaḥīḥ (1/95/1), Tābarānī (3/140/3) and Hākim, who declared it ṣaḥīḥ and Dāhibī agreed with him.
35 This is referring to the following invocation described in the Qur’ān: He said, “My Lord, forgive me and grant me a kingdom such as will not belong to anyone after me. Indeed, You are the Bestower. So We subjected to him the wind blowing by his command, gently, wherever be directed. And [also] the devils [of jinn] - every builder and diver. And others bound together in shackles.” [Sūd (38) 35-38]
36 Ahmad, al-Dāraquṭnī and Tābarānī with a ṣaḥīḥ isnād, and similar in meaning of this hadīth can also be found in Bukhārī and Muslim and other reported from a group of Companions. It is one of many ahadīth that Qadīyānī group deny and reject as they disbelieve in the existence of the jinn which are mentioned in both the Qur’ān and Sunnah. This is because their methodology of rejecting famous reports is known as they would misinterpret the meanings to conform to what they believe. For example, they misinterpret the word Jinn in the verse that says “Say, [O Muhammad], It has been revealed to me that a group of the jinn listened” and claim that Jinn are a kind of humān! In other words, they claim that the words of humans and Jinn are synonymous, which is an evident deviation from the Arabic language and religion. As for the Sunnah, they simply misinterpret it, if possible, otherwise they will just call the report unauthentic even if the entire scholars of hadīth and the ummah agree on the authenticity of the hadīth and state it is mutawātir. May Allāh guide them.
Section Two: Standing in Prayer (al-Qiyām)

He (ﷺ) also used to say: “If one of you prays towards an object that stands as a barrier (sutrah) between him and people, then someone wanted to pass in front of him, he should push him on the chest; he should prevent him from passing as much as possible, (in another report it states “he should repel him twice”) and if he keeps insisting on passing, then he should fight him for he is a devil (shayṭān).”\(^{37}\)

He (ﷺ) also used to say: “If the one crossing in front of a praying person knew what sin was upon him, it would be better for him to wait forty than to pass in front.”\(^{38}\)

2.8. That which Invalidates the Prayer

The Prophet (ﷺ) said: “The passing of a [menstruating] woman, a donkey or a black dog invalidates\(^{39}\) the prayer of a man if he had not placed in front of him something similar in size to the rear end of a camel’s saddle.” Abū Dharr (radiy Allāhu anhū) asked: “Why the black dog as opposed to a red dog?” He said: “A black dog is Shayṭān.”\(^{40}\)

2.9. Prohibition of Praying Towards a Grave

The Prophet (ﷺ) forbade prayer facing the grave, saying: “Do not pray towards graves and do not sit on them”\(^{41}\)

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\(^{37}\) Bukhārī and Muslim, and additional narration is from Ibn Khuzaymah (1/94/1)

\(^{38}\) Bukhārī and Muslim

\(^{39}\) As regards the ḥadīth “nothing invalidates the Prayer”, then it is a weak report as I explained in the book Tamām al-Minnah (page 306).

\(^{40}\) Muslim, Abū Dāwūd and Ibn Khuzaymah (1/95/2)

\(^{41}\) Ibid.
SECTION THREE

Intention and Takbir

3.1 Intention (al-niyyah)

The Prophet (ﷺ) said: “All actions are by intention, and every individual is [rewarded] only according to that which he intends.”

3.2 Takbir

The Prophet (ﷺ) used to commence the prayer by saying:

الله أكبر

“Allāh is the Greatest”

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1 Nawawī says in Rawdāt al-Tālibīn: “Intention is to intend a matter purposely; hence, the one who wants to pray needs to specify in his mind the actual prayer he is about to pray and all that he must recall of its attributes such as whether it is obligatory etc, then he recalls this intention to accompany his first Takbir.” (1/224)
2 Bukhārī, Muslim and other. It is given in al-Irwā’ #22.
3 Muslim and Ibn Mājah. This hadith stands as evidence that the Prophet (ﷺ) did not commence his prayer with saying “I intended to pray such and such”, which is an innovation by agreement. However, scholars differed whether this is a good innovation or a bad innovation. I am of the view that every innovation in respect to acts of worship is a misguidance because it comes under the general statement of the Prophet (ﷺ) “Every innovation is a misguidance, and every misguidance is in the hellfire”. At any rate, explaining this matter in detail cannot be placed herein as this book is not intended for such a purpose.
Section Three: Intention and Takbîr

He (ﷺ) also ordered ‘the man who prayed badly’ to do likewise as explained previously, and he (ﷺ) said to him: “The prayer is not complete until he has made an ablution which has included the necessary parts of the body and then says, *Allâhu Akbar.*”

He (ﷺ) also used to say: “The key [to open] the prayer is purity [i.e. *wuḍū*]; it is entered by *takbîr* and exited by *taslîm.*”

Also he (ﷺ) used to raise his voice for the *takbîr* such that he was heard by the people praying behind him. But, when he (ﷺ) fell ill, Abû Bakr (râdîy Allâhu ‘anhu) would raise his voice to convey the *takbîr* of the Messenger (ﷺ) to the people praying behind.

He (ﷺ) would also say: “When the Imâm says: *Allâhu Akbar,* then say [right after him] *Allâhu Akbar.*”

3.3 Raising the Two Hands

He (ﷺ) would sometimes raise both his hands along with the *takbîr,* sometimes [he raised his hands] after the *takbîr,* other times [he raised his hands] before the *takbîr.*

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4 ‘Tabarânî with a *ṣâhiḥ* isnâd.
5 Abû Dâwûd, Tirmidhî, and Hâkim, who declared it *ṣâhiḥ* and Dhahabî agreed with him. It is also found in al-Îrwa’ #301.
6 Tabrim refers to all that which becomes forbidden to do during the prayer and Tabîl refers to all that which is lawful to do outside of the prayer. As this hadîth indicates, the door of prayer is locked and that no person can open it except with being in a state of purity, it also indicates that a person cannot enter the zone within its bounds [i.e. the state of Tabrim becomes effective] except with *Takbîr* and that leaving it cannot be except with *Taslîm.* This is the view of the majority of scholars.
7 Muslim and al-Nasâ’î
8 Ahmad and al-Bayhaqî with a *ṣâhiḥ* isnâd.
9 Bukhârî and al-Nasâ’î
11 Recorded by Bukhârî and Abû Dâwûd
He (ﷺ) would raise his hands with stretched out fingers [neither spaced out nor together], and he (ﷺ) would [sometimes] place his raised hands at the level of his shoulders; occasionally, he (ﷺ) would raise them until they were level with [the tops of] his ears.

3.4 Placing the Right Hand on the Left Hand and the Command to do it

The Prophet (ﷺ) used to place his right hand on his left hand, and he (ﷺ) used to say: “We, the company of Prophets, are command to hasten breaking our fast and to delay the meal before the fast, and to place the right hand on the left one during prayer.”

Also he (ﷺ) passed by a man praying while placing his left hand on his right hand, so he pulled them apart and placed his right hand on the left one.

3.5 Placing the Hands on Chest

The Prophet (ﷺ) used to place his right hand on the upper side of his left hand, wrist and forearm, and he (ﷺ) ordered his companions likewise, and he (ﷺ) sometimes would grasp his left hand with his right.

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12 Abū Dāwūd, Ibn Khuzaymah (1/62/2 and 64/1), and Ḥākim, who declared it ṣaḥīḥ and Dihābī agreed with him.
13 Bukhārī and al-Nasā’ī
14 Bukhārī and Abū Dāwūd
15 Muslim and Abū Dāwūd, and it is also found in al-Īrāq #352.
16 Ibn Hibbān and al-Ḍiyā’ with a ṣaḥīḥ isnād.
17 Aḥmad and Abū Dāwūd with a ṣaḥīḥ isnād.
18 Abū Dāwūd, al-Nasā’ī, Ibn Khuzaymah (1/84/2) with a ṣaḥīḥ isnād, and Ibn Hibbān declared it ṣaḥīḥ #485.
19 Malik, Bukhārī and Abū ‘Awānah
20 al-Nasā’ī and al-Dāraquṭnī with a ṣaḥīḥ isnād.

Albānī said: The last mentioned hadīth is evidence that it is Sunnah to hold the left hand with the right one while the first hadīth mentions placing the right hand on the left one; hence each act is a Sunnah. However, combining both acts as recommended by some later
He (ﷺ) used to place his hands on his chest.\textsuperscript{21}

Also he (ﷺ) used to forbid putting one’s hands on the waist during the prayer.\textsuperscript{22} and this is the Šībā\textsuperscript{23} which he used to forbid.\textsuperscript{24}

3.6 Looking Down at the Place of Prostration, and Khushū\textsuperscript{25}

The Prophet (ﷺ) used to lower his head and look down towards the ground while praying,\textsuperscript{26} while he was in the Ka‘bah, his sight did

\begin{quote}
Hanafi scholars is an innovation. This innovation states, as mentioned in Ḥashibah Ibn ‘Abidin on Al Durr Al-Mukhtar, one should place his right hand on his left one while holding the wrist with the little finger and the thumb and stretching the other three fingers on the wrist. That said, no one should be fooled with the statement of some later scholars regarding it.

\textsuperscript{21} Abū Dāwūd and Ibn Khuzaymah in his Sahih (1/54/2), Ahmad and Abu'l-Shaykh in Tārikh Aṣḥaban (p. 125); al-Tirmidhi declared the chains reporting this hadith as ḥasan, let alone that the meaning of this hadith is found in Muwatta' and Bukhari, if one contemplates it. I have explained the route of this hadith in details in my book Aḥkam al-Janā'iz (p. 118).

Albānī said: Placing the hands on the chest is the practice that has been proven authentic in the Sunnah while other practices are either da'il or totally baseless. This authentic act of Sunnah was practiced by Imām Iṣnāq Ibn Rāḥawayh as recorded by al-Marzawi in his book Masâ'il Al-Mawarq, p. 222: “Ishāq prayed the Witr with us...he raised his hands during the Qunūt, which he did before bowing, and then he placed his hands on his chest or below his chest.” This is also what al-Qāḍī Iyād al-Mālikī mentioned in his book al-I‘lām when he stated “placing the right hand on the left one on the chest” which he listed under the section Mustababbat al-Salat, p.15. Similarly, ‘Abdullāh Ibn Ahmad related: “I saw my father (i.e. Imām Ahmad) placing his hand on the other hand, and place them above the navel.”Masā'il Imām Ahmad narrated by his son, ‘Abdullāh p. 62, and for further information please refer to al-Irwā‘ al-Ghalīl #353.\textsuperscript{22}

Bukhārī and Muslim and it is also found in al-Irwā‘ #374

\textsuperscript{23} It was described as such because it is somewhat similar to how a crucified person stands while his arms are wide open horizontally.

\textsuperscript{24} Abū Dāwūd, al-Nasā'i and others

\textsuperscript{25} In a state of both attentiveness and humility

\textsuperscript{26} Al-Bayhaqi and Hākim who authenticated it, and it is as he said. There are ten Companions who reported what support this hadith as can be found in Tārikh of Ibn ‘Asākir (17/202/2) and see al-Irwā‘ #354.

Albānī said: The above mentioned two aḥādith indicate that the Sunnah is to look at the place where one prostrates; hence closing the eyes during the prayer as practiced by some people, is misdirected piety. Truly, the best of guidance is the guidance of Muḥammad (ﷺ).
not leave the place of prostration until he finished, and he said: “There should not be in the house anything that distracts the one who prays.”

He forbade raising the eyes to the sky [during the prayer], and he further emphasised this order when he said “Let the people stop raising their eyes to the sky in the prayer or let their sight not return to them” and in another narration “or their sight will be taken away”.

In another hadith: “So when you pray, do not turn away [looking here or there]; for the Face of Allāh remains facing the face of His servant during his prayer until he looks away”, and he also said [regarding turning the face around during the prayer]: “It is what the Shaitān surreptitiously snatches from the prayer of the servant.”

He also said: “Allāh faces His slave [i.e. continues embracing His slave with His mercy and reward] while he is in prayer so long he does not turn [his face] around; if he does, He turns away from him”, and he forbade [the following acts during the prayer]; pecking like a rooster [i.e. prostrating quickly without tranquility], squatting (iq‘ād), like a dog and looking around like a fox.”; and he also used to say: “Pray as if it is your last prayer, and pray it well

27 Ibid.
28 Abū Dāwūd, Aḥmad with a saḥiḥ isnād and the takhrīj of the hadith is found in Sahīh Abū Dāwūd #1771.
30 Bukhārī, Muslim and al-Sirāj.
31 Tirmidhī and Ḥākim. The hadith was authenticated by both of them. See Sahīh al-Targhib wa’l-Tarbīb #353.
32 Bukhārī and Abū Dāwūd.
33 Abū Dāwūd and others, Ibn Khuzaymah and Ibn Ḥībān declared it saḥiḥ. See Sahīh al-Targhib wa’l-Tarbīb #555.
34 Aḥmad and Abū Ya’lā. See Sahīh al-Targhib wa’l-Tarbīb #556.
as if you are see Him; but if you cannot see Him, surely He sees you.”;³⁵ and he (ﷺ) said: “When a person witnesses the commencement of an obligatory prayer, and he performs ablution well, bowing (rukū‘) with humility (khushū‘) adequately, will have it as a remission for his previous minor sins as long as he does not commit a major sin, and this (opportunity) is for all times.”³⁶

Once he (ﷺ) prayed in a khāmisah (a woollen garment with marks - lines on it), then [during the prayer] he looked to these marks once, and when he finished his prayer, he (ﷺ) said: “Take this khāmisah of mine to Abū Jahm as it diverted my attention from my prayer and bring to me the anbijāniyyah (a coarse garment without marks) of his, for it has diverted my attention from the prayer” in another narration he (ﷺ) said: “for I looked at its marks during the prayer and it almost put me to trial.”³⁷

‘Ā’ishah (radr. Allāhun ‘anbā) had a garment that had pictures on it, with which she had used to screen one side of her home. The Prophet (ﷺ) used to pray towards it, and he said, “Remove it away from me, as its pictures are still displayed in front of me during my prayer [i.e. they divert my attention from the prayer].”³⁸

He (ﷺ) used to say: “No one should pray when the food has been served, nor when one needs to answer the call of nature.”³⁹

³⁶ Muslim.
³⁷ Buhārī, Muslim and Malik. Its is given in al-Īrādī #376.
³⁸ Buhārī, Muslim and Abū ‘Awānah.
³⁹ Buhārī and Muslim.
SECTION FOUR

Opening Supplications

Then, he (ﷺ) used to commence his recitation with various supplications; in which he used to praise, glorify and exalt Allāh, Most High. He (ﷺ) ordered *the man who prayed badly* to do so saying to him: “The prayer of anyone is not complete until he recites the takbir, praises and glorifies Allāh, the Exalted, and [then] recites what is easy from the Qur’ān for him…”

[1] He used to say different supplications such as:

اللهُمَّ باَعِذْ بِنِعْمَتِكَ وَبِبَشْرِىْكَ وَبِذَلِكَ الْهِيْلَةَ الْمَقْرِقَةَ
والْغَرْبِ، اللَّهُمَّ باَعِذْ بِنِعْمَتِكَ وَبِبَشْرِىْكَ وَبِذَلِكَ الْهِيْلَةَ
الْأَبْيَضَ مِنَ الْدَّنِّسِ، اللَّهُمَّ باَعِذْ بِنِعْمَتِكَ وَبِبَشْرِىْكَ لِبَالْمَلَائِكَةَ
والَّلَّهِ وَالْمَلَائِكَةَ


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1 Abū Dāwūd and Ḥākim, who declared it șaḥīḥ and al-Dhahabī agreed with him.
"O Allāh, distance me from my sins just as You have distanced the East from the West, O Allāh, purify me of my sins as a white robe is purified of filth, O Allāh, cleanse me of my sins with snow, water, and hail."

[2] He (ﷺ) used to say in the obligatory prayer:

\[
\text{وَجَهَتْ وَجْهِي لِلَّذِي فَتَرَ الْشَّمَاءَاتِ وَالأَرْضَ خَيْبًا، [مشْلَقٍ]}\]
\[
\text{وَمَا أَنَّ مِنَ المُشْرِكِينَ، إِنْ صَلَّيْتُ وَنَشْكِي وَحَبَّانِي وَتَمْكَنَ هُوَ زَوْبُ الْعَالَمِينَ، لَا شَرِيكُ لَهُ،}
\]
\[
\text{وَبَذَالِكَ أَمَرَّ وَأَنَا أَوَلُ المُلْسِمِينَ، اللَّهُمَّ أَنتَ الْمَلِكُ، لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا أَنْتُ،}
\]
\[
\text{سُبْحَانَكَ وَبِحُبِّكَ. أَنتَ زَمَّٰنُ وَأَنَا عَبْدُكَ، ظَلَّمْتُ فَنَتَشِىٰ، وَاعْتَرَفْتُ ذَلِكَ،}
\]
\[
\text{فَأَفْغِرِي ذَنْبِي جَعَلْهَا إِنَّهَا لَا يَلْغَضُّ النُّؤُوبُ إِلَّا أَنْتَ، وَأَهْمِدُ لَكَ الْفَاحْشَاءَ الْأَخْلَاقِيَّةَ}
\]
\[
\text{لَا يَبْنِي بَخْشِيْهَا إِلَّا أَنْتَ، وَأَضْرَفْ عَنْي سَيْبَةَا لَا يُضْرِفْ عَنْي سَيْبَةَا إِلَّا}
\]
\[
\text{أَنْتُ، لَيْكَ وَسَعَّتَكَ، وَالْحَيَّ الْيَزِيدُ فِي يَسْبُكَ، وَالْحَيُّ لَيْسَ إِلَيْكَ، وَالْمَهْدِيُّ}
\]
\[
\text{مِنْ هَذِيْهَا أَنْتَ، إِنَا بَكَّ إِلَيْكَ، لَا مَنْجَا وَلا مُنْجَا مِنْكَ إِلَّا إِلَيْكَ، تَبْارَكَ}
\]
\[
\text{وَتَعَالَىَ، أَسْتَغْفِرُكَ وَأَتْوبُ إِلَيْكَ.}
\]

"Wajjahtu wajhiya lilallah faṭara al-samawāti wa’l-arḍa ḥanīfan musliman wara ana minal-mushrikin, inna salahī wanusukī wa-mahyaya wa-mamāti lilahī rabbi’il-‘ālamin, là sharika lahu wabithalika omirtu wa-anā awwalul-muslimin. Allāhumma antal-maliku là ilāha illā ant, subḥānaka wa bihamdika, anta rabbi wa-anā ‘abduk, zhalamtu nafsī wa’atarasta bithanbī faghfr lee thunūbi jami’a, innahu là yaghfiruth-thunūba illa ant. Wahdini li-ahsanul-akhlaq là yahdī li-ahsaniha illa ant, wasīfī ‘annī sayyi-ahā, là yaṣrifū ‘annī sayyi-ahā illa ant, labbayka wa sa’adayk, walkhayru kulluhū fi yadayk, washsharru laysa ilayk, walmahdi man hadyata, ana bika wa-ilayk, là manjā Walā ṭa‘mīna illa ilayk, tabārakta wata’alayt, astaghfiruka wa-atūba ilayk”

I have turned my face sincerely towards He who has created the heavens and the earth and I am a Muslim and not of those who associate others with Allāh. Indeed, my Prayer,

---

2 Buhārī, Muslim and Ibn Abī Shaybah (12/110/2). It is given in al-‘Irāq’ #8.
my animal slaughtering as a sacrifice, my life and my death are for Allah alone, Lord of the worlds, no partner has He, with this I am commanded and I am the first one to submit. O Allah, You are the King, none has the right to be worshipped except You. Truly, You are free of shortcomings and imperfections and I praise You. You are my Lord and I am Your slave, I have wronged myself and have admitted my sin, so forgive me of all my sins for no one forgives sins except You. Guide me to the best of manners and qualities for none can guide to them other than You, and guard me from the worst of manners and qualities for none can guard me from them other than You. Labbayka wa sa‘adayk. All good is within Your hands and evil is not attributed to You.

3 This part “I am the first to submit” is stated in most of the reports. However, in some reports it states “I am one of the Muslims”, which seems to be a change happened by some of the narrators and there are what indicate so. In any case, the one who prays should say “I am the first to submit” as it is fine to say it, contrary to those who oppose it as they assume such statement means: “I am the first person who has this quality, while the rest of the people do not.”, which is not. Rather, the meaning of it is “I hasten to submit to the commands of Allah” which is similar to the verse: “Say: if al-Rahman had a son, then I am the first of the worshippers” [al-Zukhruf (43): 81] and the statement of Musa “and I am the first of the believers.” [al-A’raf (7): 143]

4 Al-Azhari said: It means: I do not worship anything other than You.

5 Albani said: The Prophet (ﷺ) used to recite this supplication in both obligatory and supererogatory prayer. The phrase ‘labbayka wa sa‘adayk’ means: I constantly worship You and support Your command and religion

6 The part where it says ‘wa al-sharru layya ilayk’ means that evil cannot be attributed to Allah, Most High, because the actions of Allah are all good and free of evil. The actions of Allah revolve around [divine] justice, wisdom and grace, which therefore call forth nothing but goodness. In light of the said fact, evil is deemed mere evil only when it is not attributed to Allah.

Ibn al-Qayyim said: “Allah, Exalted be He, created both evil and good. However, evil is found in some of His creatures and not in His act of creation or His actions; Allah transcends over injustice which implies inappropriate action or decision; hence when something is implemented or placed properly, it cannot be deemed evil. That being said, it becomes evident that evil is not attributed to Him.... But, if someone argues: why did He create evil though it is evil? I reply: His creation for evil and His actions are not evilness per se, but rather good, because, the act of creation and His Actions subsist in His Essence whereas it is impossible that Allah acts evil or be described as such. That being the case, the evil of the creation is deemed evil because it is attributed to the creation while, on the other hand, the act of creation and the action are attributed to Allah, therefore deemed good.” Ibn al-Qayyim explains this serious and important subject in details in his book Shifā’ al-Alī fī Masā’il al-Qudā’ wa ‘l-Qadar wa ‘l-Ta’līl (pp.178-206).
exist by your will and shall return to You. There is no escape from You nor shelter to turn to Except You. Blessed and High are You, I seek Your forgiveness and repent to You.”

[3] The same said supplication but he used not to recite:

آنتِ ربي وآنا عبد

“anta rabbi wa-anā ‘abdulk”

to the end, and he used to add

اللهم آنت الٌملك، لا إله إلا أنت، سبحانك وتعاليك،

“Allahumma antal-Maliku lā ilāha illā anta, subḥānaka wa bihamdika”,

“O Allah, You are the King; there is none worthy of worship except You. Truly, You are free of demerits and imperfections and I praise You.”

[4] The same said supplication until the part

وأنا أول المسلمين

“wa ana awwalu al Muslimin”

I am the First of the Muslims

and then he would say:

اللهم اهدني لأحسن الأخلاق وأحسن الأعمال لا يهدئ لأحسينها

إلا أنت، وقي سيئي الأخلاق والأعمال لا يقي سيئتها إلا أنت

“Allahumma ahdīnī l-ahsanil-akhlāq wa ahsanil-‘amāl lā yahdī li-ahsanihā illā anta, waqīnī ‘annī sayyi-akhlāq wal-‘amāl lā yaqī sayyi-ahā illā anta”

O Allah, guide me to the best of manners and deeds for none can guide to them other than You, and guard me from the

7 Muslim: 1/534
8 Nasāʾī with a ṣaḥīḥ isnād.
worst of manners and deeds for none can guard me from them other than You.”

[5]

“Subhānaka Allāhumma wa-bihamdīka, wa-tabārakas-muka, wata’āla jadduka, wa-lā ilāha ghayaruk”

“How perfect You are O Allāh, and I praise You. Blessed be Your name, and lofty is Your majesty and none has the right to be worshipped except You”

He (ﷺ) said: “The most loved words to Allāh are that a servant says:

“Subhānaka Allāhumma...”

“How perfect You are O Allāh”

[6] In the night prayers, he (ﷺ) used to recite the aforesaid supplication and add:

“Lā ilāha illā Allāh”

There is none worthy of worship except Allāh (three times),

Allāhu akbaru kabīra

Allāh is indeed the Most Great (three times),

9 Nasā‘i and al-Dāraquṭnā with a sahīh isnād.
10 Abū Dāwūd and Hákim who declared it sahīh and Dhahabī agreed with him while al-Uqilī said in page 103: “This was reported from different ways with ḥasan isnād.” Its is also given in al-İrwa‘ #341.
11 Ibn Mandah in “al-Tauhid” (2/123) with a sahīh isnād, al-Nasā‘i in “al-Yawm wa’l-Layl” as a statement of the Prophet (ﷺ) and as a statement of a Companion as it is the case in the book of Ibn Kathīr “Jāmi‘ al-Masānīd” (3/2/ 235/2). I also found it in al-Nasā‘i #849 and #850; hence I included it in the Sīhilah Aḥādīth al-Sahīhah #2939.
12 Abū Dāwūd and al-Ṭahāwī with a ḥasan isnād.

62
بسم الله المقصود، والمقصود الله أكبر، وعظمان الله البركة وأصيلة

"Allāhu akbaru kabīra, wa'l-ḥamdul lillāhi kathīra, wa subhāna Allāhi bukrratan wa-Aṣīla"

"Allāh is indeed the Most Great, abundant praise is for Allāh alone, and (I assert that) He is free imperfections. (I assert it) in the early morning and evening."

The Prophet (ﷺ) commented when one of the Companions opened his prayer reciting this supplication: “I'm amazed of it! The gates of heavens were opened for it.”

الحمد لله حمدًا كبيرًا طبأ مباركًا فيه

Alḥamdullillāhi Ḥamdan kathīran ṭayyiban mubārakan fīh

I praise Allāh, an abundant beautiful blessed praise.”

The Prophet (ﷺ) commented when a man opened his prayer reciting the said supplication: “I saw twelve angels racing each other to raise it [to Allāh].”

اللهُمَّ لَكَ الحمدُ، أنْتَ نور السُّهُورِ، والأرض، ونُورُ فيهم، ونَكَّ الحمدُ، أنْتَ ملَكُ السُّهُورِ، والأرض، ونُورُ فيهم، ولَكَ الحمدُ، أنْتَ الحَقُّ، ونَكَّ الحمدُ، أنْتَ الحَقُّ، ونَكَّ الحمدُ، أنْتَ الحَقُّ، وال ساعَة حَقُّ، وال نَهَى حَقُّ، وال نَهَى حَقُّ، لَكَ اللَّهُمَّ أنْتَ أَشْهَدُ، وعَلَيكُم تُؤْكَلُ، و بك أَنْتُ، و بك أَنْتُ، و بك أَنْتُ، و بك أَنْتُ، و بك أَنْتُ، و بك أَنْتُ، و بك أَنْتُ، و بك أَنْتُ مَعْجِزِي نَمَا قَدَّمَتْ، و نَا أَمْرَة، و نَا أَمْرَة، و نَا أَمْرَة، و نَا أَمْرَة، و نَا أَمْرَة، و نَا أَمْرَة، لَكَ اللَّهُمَّ، لَكَ إِيِّي، لَا إِلَّإِ اللهَ.

13 Muslim and Abu 'Awānah and was authenticated by Tirmidhi. It was also transmitted by Abū Nu‘aym in his book “Akbhār Aṣbahan” (1/210) from the words of Jubayr Ibn Mu‘tam that he heard the Prophet (ﷺ) says that in the voluntary prayer.
14 Muslim and Abu 'Awānah.
“Allāhumma lak al-ḥamd, anta nūrus-samāwati wal-arḍī waman fihin, walak al-ḥamd, anta qayyimus-samāwati wal-arḍī wa-man fihin, walak al-ḥamd, anta rabbus-samāwati wal-arḍi wa-man fihin, [walakal-ḥamd, laka mulkus-samāwati wal-arḍi wa-man fihin, walak al-ḥamdul anta malikus-samāwati wal-arḍ, [walak al-ḥamd], [antal-ḥaq, wawa’adukal-ḥaq, waqawlux al-ḥaq, waliqa-okal-ḥaq, waljannatu ḥaq, wannaru  ḥaq, wannabiyyūna ḥaq, wa Muḥammadun ḥaq, Allāhumma laka aslamt, wa-‘ilayka tawakkalt, wabika amant, wa-ilayka anabt, wabika khāṣamt, wa-ilayka ḥākamt, anta rabbana wa-ilayka al-masīr, faḫfīr li ma qaddamtu wama akhkhartu wama asrartu wama a’alant, wama-anta a’alām bihi minnī, antal-muqaddim, wa-antal-mu-akkhbir, [inta ilāhî], lā ilahā illā ant.”

O Allāh, to You belong all praise, You are the Light of the heavens and the earth and all that is within them. To You belongs all praise, You are the Sustainer of the heavens and the earth and all that is within them. To You belongs all praise. You are the King of the heavens and the earth and all that is within them. To You belongs all praise. You are the Truth, Your promise is true, your Word is true, and the Day on which we will see: You are true, the Garden of Paradise is true and the Hellfire is true, the Final Hour is true, the Prophets are true, and Muḥammad is true. O Allāh, unto You I have submitted, and upon You I have relied, and in You I have believed, and to You I have turned in repentance, and over You I have disputed, and to You I have turned for judgment. So forgive me for what has come to pass of my sins and what will come to pass and what I have hidden and what I have made public, and all that which You know of more than I do. You are al-Muqaddim and al-Mu-akkhbir. You are my Lord. None has the right to be worshipped except You and there is no strength nor power except in You.

15 Meaning: You are their light and the creatures therein are guided by His Light.
16 The meaning of al-Muqaddim is that Allāh puts forward and favours whom He wills from amongst His creation, such as favoring man over the rest of creation, favoring the Prophets over the rest of mankind, favoring Muhammad (ﷺ) over all the Prophets and Messengers...etc. The meaning of al-Mu-akkhbir is that Allāh defers and holds back whom He wills in accordance to His wisdom.
17 Bukhārī, Muslim, Abū ‘Awānah, Abū Dāwūd, Ibn Naṣr and al-Dārāmī.
Section Four: Opening Supplications

[10] The Prophet (ﷺ) used to recite the following supplications in his night prayers,¹⁸

اللَّهُمَّ رَبِّ جِبَرِيلَ وَمِيكَيْلَ وَإِسْرَافِيلَ، قَاطِرِ السَّهَائِرَ
وَالأَرْضِ، عَالِمُ الْغَيْبِ وَالْمَهِيْدِ، أَنْتَ تَحْكُمُ بِبِنْ سَبْدَةٍ تَفْتَرَكُ
كَانُوا فِي فِيَّ شَيْءٍ، أَهْدِنِي لَيْا أَخْلَفَ فِي فِيَّ مِنْ الْحَقِّ إِلَّا ذَكَرُكَ
تَهْدِي مِنْ كَنَّاءٍ إِلَى صِرَاطٍ مُّسْتَقِيمٍ

Allāhumma Rabī‘a‘la wa-Mikā‘ila wa-Isrā‘īl, faṭīras-
samāwati wal-arḍ, ‘ālimal-ghaybi washshahādah, anta takhkum
bayna ‘ibādika fimā kanū fihī yakhtalifūn. ihdī limakh-tulīfā
fīhi minal-haqqī bi-ithnik, innaka tahdī man-tashā‘o ila Ģirtin
mustaqīm

O Allāh, Lord of Jibrīl, Mikā‘īl and Istrāfīl, Creator of the
heavens and the earth, Knower of the seen and the unseen.
(Only) You Judge between Your slaves in that which they
have disputed and differed. Guide me to the truth by
Your permission, in that which they have differed, for
verily You guide whom You will to the straight path.¹⁹

[11] He would say takbir (Allāhu Akbar), tahmīd (alhamdulillāh), tashīh
(subhān Allāh), tahlīl (lā ilaha illā Allāh), istighfār ten times each, and
then say:

اللَّهُمَّ اغْفِرْ لِي وَعَذِّبْنِي وَارْزُقْنِي [وُغَافِنِي]

Allāhumma ighfīrlī wa-ahdēnī wa-arzuqnī wa ‘āfinī

O Allāh, forgive me, guide me, grant me sustenance and pro-
vision and give me health (ten times)

and then say

اللَّهُمَّ إنَّكَ وَلَدُّ مِنَ الصَّبْيِ تَوَّمَ الْحْسَابِ

¹⁸ Though it is also prescribed to recite them in obligatory prayer too, obviously, except in
the case where someone is leading the prayer and having people praying behind him in
order to avoid prolonging the prayer.
¹⁹ Muslim and Abū ‘Awānah.
Allāhumma innī aʿūdhu bīka mīnal dīqi yawmāl ḥisāb

O Allāh, I take refuge in You from the hardship of the Day of Judgment (ten times). ²⁰

[12]

Allāhu Akbar - dhūl-jabarūṭi, waʿl-malakūṭi, waʿl-kibriyāʾi, waʿl-ʿazhamati

Allāh is the Greatest [three times], the Possessor of total power, sovereignty, magnificence and grandeur. ²¹

²⁰ Ahmad and Ibn Abī Shaybah (12/119/2), Abū Dawsūd and Ṭabarānī in his al-Muʿjam al-ʿAwasṭ (2/62) with two chains a ṣaḥīḥ and another ḥasan isnād.

²¹ Ṭayālisi and Abū Dawsūd with a ṣaḥīḥ isnād.
SECTION FIVE

Recitation (al-Qirā‘ah)

The Prophet (ﷺ) then used to seek refuge in Allāh by saying:

أَعُوذُ بِللهِ مِنَ الشَّيَاطِينِ الرَّجِيمِ

“I seek refuge with Allāh from the accursed Shayṭān, from his madness¹, his pride, and his [condemned] poetry.”²

Sometimes, he (ﷺ) would add to it, and say

أَعُوذُ بِللهِ السَّمِيعِ الْعَلِيمِ مِنَ الشَّيَاطِينِ

“I seek refuge with Allāh, the all Hearing, all-Knowing from the accursed Shayṭān...”³

Then he (ﷺ) used to recite

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

---

¹ The meaning of Arabic words: hamza, naḵb and naṭḥ is explained in other routes and also traced back to the Prophet (ﷺ) through ṣaḥīḥ mursal isnād. For poetry here is the vain kind, for the Prophet (ﷺ) said: “Indeed, some poetry is wisdom.” Bukhari
² Abū Dāwūd, Ibn Mājah, Dāraquṭnī and Hākim who along with Ibn Hibbān and al-Dhahabī declared it ṣaḥīḥ. It is given along with the next one in al-İrwa` al-Ghali #342.
³ Abū Dāwūd and Tirmidhī with a ḥasan isnād. Imām Ahmad also reported it as stated in Masa’il Ibn Hānî (1/50)
5. 1 Recitation of one verse at a time

After reciting the aforesaid supplications, he (ﷺ) would recite Surah al-Fatiha and pause at the end of each verse:

\[
\text{بسم الله الرحمن الرحيم}
\]

"With the Name of Allāh; the All-Merciful, the Most Merciful."

Then he would pause and then recite:

\[
\text{الحمد لله ربي الرعیمين}
\]

"[All] praise is [due] to Allāh, Lord of the worlds"

Then he would pause and then recite:

\[
\text{الرحمن الرحيم}
\]

"The All-Merciful (al-Rahmān), The Most Merciful (al-Rahīm)"

Then he would pause and then recite:

\[
\text{المالك يوم الیومين}
\]

"King of the Day of Judgement."

So on, until the end of the Surah. The rest of his recitation was also similar to this; pause at the end of each verse and not joining it with the one after.\(^5\)

\(^{4}\) Bukhārī, Muslim, Abū ‘Awānah, Ṭahāwī and Ahmad.

\(^{5}\) Abū Dāwūd and al-Sahmī (p. 64-65), Ḥākim who declared it šaḥīḥ and al-Dhahabī and agreed with him. It is also found in al-Irwā’ #343.

Abū ‘Amr al-Dānī recorded this hadith in his book al-Mukhtafā (5/2) and commented on it: “The routes of this hadith are many and this hadith is the principle hadith in this section.... a group of the past Imāms and reciters preferred pausing at the end of every verse even if some were connected (in meaning) to the one after.” In light of this I say this is a Sunnah that has been abandoned by the majority of Qur’ān reciters as well as other people in our times.
Sometimes, he (ﷺ) used to recite Malik:

مَالِكُ يَوْمِ الْيَمِينِ

“King of the Day of Judgement.”

Instead of Malik:

مَالِكُ يَوْمِ الْيَمِينِ

“Master of the Day of Judgement.”

5.2 The Pillar of al-Fātiḥah and its Excellence

The Prophet (ﷺ) used to venerate, glorify and hold this Sūrah in high esteem; and hence he used to say: “There is no prayer for the one who does not recite [in it] the Opening of the Book [at least],” and in another saying: “The prayer is not complete in which a man does not recite the Opening of the Book.” He also said: “Whosoever performs a prayer in which he does not recite the Opening of the Book then it is deficient, it is deficient, it is deficient, it is incomplete.”

He also (ﷺ) said: Allāh, the Glorious and Exalted said, “I have divided the prayer between Myself and My servant equally and My servant shall be granted what he asked for.” Therefore when the servant says, ‘All praises and thanks are due to Allāh, the Lord of the worlds’, Allāh says, “My servant has praised Me.” When he says, ‘The All-Merciful, the Most Merciful,’ Allāh says, “My servant has extolled Me.” When he says, ‘Master of the Day of Judgement,’ Allāh says, “My servant has glorified Me.” When he says, ‘You Alone we worship and

---

6 Malik means King while Malik means Master. The second recitation is transmitted by Tammām al-Rāzī in al-Fuwālid and Ibn Abū Dāwūd in al-Masāhib (7/2), and Abū Nu‘aym in Akhkhār Iṣbahān (1/104) and Hākim who declared it ṣaḥīḥ and Dhahabi and agreed with him. Both of these recitations are mutawātir.

7 Bukhārī, Muslim, Abū ʿAwānah and al-Bayhaqi. It is also found in al-İrwa’ #302.

8 Dāraquṭnī who declared it ṣaḥīḥ, Ibn Hībbān in his Šahih. It is also found in al-İrwa’ #302

9 Muslim and Abū ʿAwānah.

10 It means al-Fātiḥah and this style is known in Arabic language where a part of something is mentioned to indicate the entire thing, as a way of emphasis on that part.
Your aid Alone do we seek,' Allah says, "This is between Me and My servant and My servant shall have what he requested." When he says, 'Guide us to the Straight Path, the Path of those whom You have favoured, not the path of those who have earned [Your] anger, nor of those who have gone astray,' Allah says, "This is for My servant and My servant shall have what he asked for."\(^{11}\)

He also used to say: "Allah has not revealed the likes of it in the Torah or the Injil, anything similar [in greatness and superiority] such as Umm al-Qur'an. It is the Seven Oft-Repeated Verses\(^ {12}\), [which is the Great Qur'an that I received through revelation]."\(^ {13}\)

He (ﷺ) ordered 'the man who prayed badly' to recite it in his prayer,\(^ {14}\) but he (ﷺ) directed the one who could not memorise it to say instead:

\[
سبحان الله، وَحَمِدَةَ الله، وَلَا إِلَهَ إِلَىِّ الله،
وَاللهُ أَكْبَرَ، وَلَا حَوْلَ وَلَا قُوَّةَ إِلَّا بِالله.
\]

"Subhān Allāh, Alhamdullāh, Lā ilāha illā Allāh wa Allāhu Akbar walā ḥawla walā Quwwatta illā billāh"

Allāh free from all defects, all praise is due to Allāh, there is none worthy of worship except Allāh and there is no power and strength except in Allāh.\(^ {15}\)

\(^{11}\) Muslim, Abū 'Awānāh and Mālik. This hadith has a supportive report from the narration of Jābir, which is recorded by al-Sahmī in Tārikh Jurān #144.

\(^{12}\) Al-Bājī explained the saying of the Exalted: "And We have certainly given you, [O Muhammad], seven of the often repeated [verses] and the great Qur'ān." [al-Hijr (15): 87]. The name of this Sūrah was given on the basis it comprises 'seven verses' that are recited again and again in prayer. The reason for describing it as the great Qur'ān is to underline its greatness and special status because all that which is included in the Qur'ān is great. It is similar to how we call the Ka'bah, the House of Allāh even though all houses belong to Allāh; this is by way of specifying it and emphasising its greatness

\(^{13}\) Nasā'i and Ḥākim who declared it sahih and al-Dhahabī agreed with him.

\(^{14}\) Bukhārī in the Chapter on "Recitation behind the Imam" with a sahih isnād.

\(^{15}\) Abū Dāwūd and Ibn Khuzaymah (1/80/2), Ḥākim, Tabarānī, Ibn Hibbān who along with Ḥākim, declared it sahih and al-Dhahabī agreed with him It is also found in al-Irwa' #303.
He also (ﷺ) said to ‘the man who prayed badly’: “If you know [some of the] Qur’ān, recite it, otherwise praise Allāh, glorify Him and say there is none has the right to worthy of worshipped except Him.”

5.3 The Abrogation of Reciting behind the Imām in the Loud Prayers

The Prophet (ﷺ) permitted those who pray behind the Imām to recite al-Fātiḥah in the loud prayers. This is evidenced in the following report: While he (ﷺ) was leading Fajr, it became difficult for him to recite Qur’ān in the prayer. After he finished, he said [to the people praying behind him]: “It seems you recite Qur’ān behind your Imām.” The people replied: O Messenger of Allāh, we do so speedily in a rush! He responded: “Do not do so, except the opening chapter of the Book, because not reciting it in the prayer will invalidate it.”

Then later he (ﷺ) prohibited them from reciting anything in the loud prayers at all. After he (ﷺ) finished a prayer in which he was reciting loudly (in one report: it was the Fajr prayer) and said: “Did anyone of you recite behind me [in the prayer]?” A man replied: “Yes, I did, O Messenger of Allāh.” The Prophet (ﷺ) said: “I say, why am I contended?” Abū Hurayrah (radīy Allāhu ‘anhu) said that after this incident, people stopped reciting behind the Prophet (ﷺ) in any prayer in which he recited loudly after hearing that from him.

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16 Abū Dāwūd and Tirmidhī who declared it ḥasan. Its isnād is ṣaḥīḥ - Sahih Abū Dāwūd #807.

17 Bukhārī in his chapter and Abū Dāwūd and Ahmad. Tirmidhī and Dāraquṭnī declared it ḥasan.

18 Khaṭṭābī said: The statement of the Prophet (ﷺ) that he was contended in his recitation, entails two possible meanings, one of which is that he faced difficulty reciting while another one is that someone else was reciting with him at the same time. However, I am inclined to the latter meaning on the grounds that after that incident the Companions completely stopped reciting Qur’ān in loud prayers. If this meaning was intended, they would have only refrained from reciting Qur’ān along with him in the prayer.
[however they recited to themselves quietly when the Imām was not reciting loudly].

In fact, the Prophet (ﷺ) made silence during the Imām’s recitation as a means whereby the one can perfect his following the Imām, saying: “The Imām is placed for people to follow, so when he says takbir, say takbir, and when he recites, be silent.”

Further, he (ﷺ) made listening to the recitation of the Imām enough not to have to reciting behind him, saying: “He who has an Imām, then the recitation of the Imām is recitation for him.” This report refers to the loud prayers.

5.4 Obligation to recite in the Quiet Prayers

On the other hand, he (ﷺ) approved the recitation [of Qur’ān] behind the Imām in the quiet prayers; Jābir (radiy ALLāHU ‘anhu) reported: “We used to recite behind the Imām al-Fātihah and another Sūrah in the first two rak‘abs and recite al-Fātihah only in the last two rak‘abs in the Zuhr and ‘Asr.”

However the objection of the Prophet (ﷺ) was concerning people reciting behind him [distracting him with their recitation], when he (ﷺ) prayed Zuhr with his Companions, [and after he finished] he asked: “Which one of you recited: سُبْحَانَ رَبِّي الْحَمِيدَ [al-Ālā’ 87]? A man

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20 Ibn Abī Shaybah (1/97/1), Abū Dāwūd, Muslim, Abū ‘Awānah, al-Ruwayyānī in his Musnad (24/119/1). It is also found in al-Irwa’ #332 and #394.

21 Ibn Abī Shaybah (1/97/1), Dāraqūṭī, Ibn Mājah, Taḥāwī, Aḥmād who transmitted this report from many routes, some of which are Mursal while the rest are Musnad. This grade of this hadith was strengthened by Shaykh al-Islām, Ibn Taymiyyah as stated in al-Furū’ī of Ibn ‘Abd al-Haḍī (48/2). Al-Buṣayrī declared some of its isnāds saḥīh and I have addressed it in details al-Aṣl and then in al-Irwa’ #500.

22 Ibn Mājah with a saḥīh isnād. It is also found in al-Irwa’ #506.
replied: “I did [and I only intended nothing but the good!]” So he (ﷺ) responded: “I knew that someone was contending with me by it.”23 In another ḥadīth: They used to recite loudly while praying behind the Prophet (ﷺ) until he said, “You have mixed up my (recitation of the) Qur’ān.”24

He (ﷺ) also said: “Indeed, a person addresses his Lord [with attentive humble heart through which the Mercy of Allāh is embraced] when being in the prayer; therefore he should be addressing Him in a courteous manner; and none should raise his voice over others while reciting Qur’ān.”25

He (ﷺ) also said: “Whoever recites a single letter (barf) from the book of Allāh, shall receive one unit of reward, and this unit of reward will be multiplied tenfold. I do not say that ‘alif lām mīm’ is one letter (barf), rather alif is a letter (barf), lām is a letter (barf), and mīm is a letter (barf).”26

5.5 Āmīn and the Imām’s Saying it Loudly

When he (ﷺ) finished reciting al-Fāṭihah, he would say:

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23 Muslim, Abū ‘Awānah and al-Sirāj.
24 Bukhārī in his chapter, Ahmād and al-Sirāj with a hasan isnād.
25 Mālik and Bukhārī in Ajā'ib al-Ibād with a sahiḥ isnād
Albānī said: Among those who adopted the view that it is prescribed to recite behind the Imām only in loud prayer are: Imām al-Shafī‘ī according to his old view, Muḥammad, the principle student of Abū Ḥanīfah, which was a view favored by Shaikh ‘Alī al-Qārī and some other Shaykhs of the Madhhab. It is also the view adopted by Imām al-Zuhārī, Mālik, Ibn al-Mubārak, Ahmad ibn Haabāl and several ḥadīth scholars and it is the favored view by Shaykh al-Islām Ibn Taymiyyah.
26 Tirmidhī, Ḥākim with a sahiḥ isnād, al-Ājurri in Akhlāq Hamalatū’l-Qur’ān and it is given in Silsilah Abādith al-Sahih #660.

As for the report claimed to be said by the Prophet (ﷺ)...“whoever recites behind the Imām, his mouth will be filled with fire” is a fabricated report that I explained in Silsilah Abādith al-Da‘īfah #569.
“Āmin” loudly, prolonging his voice when saying it.\textsuperscript{27}

He (ﷺ) also used to order the congregation to say Āmin, when the Imām says:

\[
\text{عَمَّرُ الْمَغْفُوْبِ عَلَيْهِمَا وَلاَ أَلْسَأَلَّيِنَّ}
\]

not of those who have evoked [Your] anger or of those who are astray.

then say Āmin [for the angels say Āmin and the Imām says Āmin]\textsuperscript{28} (in another narration: when the Imām says Āmin say Āmin), so he whose Āmin coincides with the Āmin of the angels\textsuperscript{29} (in another narration: “When the utterance of Āmin said by you in the prayer coincides the utterance of Āmin with that of the angels in sky, then his past sins will be forgiven”\textsuperscript{30})

In another ḥadīth: “...then say Āmin; and Allāh will answer you.”\textsuperscript{31} He (ﷺ) also said: “The Jews do not envy you over anything as much as they envy you over the salām (the greeting) and the utterance of Āmin (behind the Imām).”\textsuperscript{32}

\textsuperscript{27} Bukhārī in his chapter and Abū Dāwūd with a ṣaḥīḥ isnād.
\textsuperscript{28} Bukhārī and Muslim.
\textsuperscript{29} Nasā’ī and al-Darāmī.
\textsuperscript{30} Ibid.
\textsuperscript{31} Muslim and Abū ‘Awānah.
\textsuperscript{32} Bukhārī in al-Adab al-Mufrad, Ibn Mājah, Ibn Khuzaymah, Ahmad and al-Sirāj with two authentic chains of narrators.
5.6 Recitation [of Qur’ān] after al-Fātiḥah

Then, after reciting al-Fātiḥah, the Prophet (ﷺ) used to recite another Sūrah. That being the case, his choice of Sūrah used to be from the long ones except in particular cases such as when travelling, coughing during the prayer, being sick or upon hearing the cry of a child during the prayer.

Anas ibn Mālik (rādīy Allāhu ‘anhu) narrated: “One day, the Prophet (ﷺ) prayed Fajr and he made it short. The Companions asked: ‘O Messenger of Allāh, why did you make the prayer short?’ He replied: ‘I heard a child crying and I assumed his mother was praying with us; so I wanted to free his mother for him.’”33 In another ḥadīth: “He (ﷺ) prayed the morning prayer and recited the two shortest Sūrah in Qur’ān. The Companions asked: ‘O Messenger of Allāh, why did you make the prayer short?’ He replied: ‘I heard a child crying and I assumed his mother was praying with us; so I wanted to free his mother for him.’”34

He (ﷺ) also said: “I commence the prayer intending to lengthen it. However, I make it short when I hear the crying of a child because I understand the severe distress of his mother when hearing her child crying.”35

Albānī: The utterance of Ḥamīn behind the Imām should be loudly and along with the utterance of Ḥamīn of the Imām. That being the case, it should neither be uttered before or after the Imām as majority of people do. This is the view that I eventually deemed the most correct as I have stated in some of my published work such as Sīsilah Ahādīth al-Ḍa’ifah #953 and Saḥīh at-Targīḥ wa-t-Tarḥīb (1/205)

33 Ahmad with a ṣaḥīḥ isnād.

Albānī: This ḥadīth and other ḥadīth stand as evidence supporting the permissibility of having children in the masjid. As for the report that laypeople often quote: “Keep your children away from the masjid...” it is a weak report that cannot be used as evidence, by agreement. Among the scholars who graded the report weak are: Ibn al-Jawzi, al-Mundhīri, al-Hafīdhd Ibn Ḥājr al-’Āṣqalānī, al-Busairî and ’Abdul Haq al-Ishbīlī who said: “It is baseless”.
34 Ibn Abū Dāwūd in al-Masāhīf (4/14/2)
35 Bukhārī and Muslim.
He (ﷺ) used to recite from the beginning of the Sūrah and complete it most of the times. He (ﷺ) used to say: "Give each Sūrah its due right of ruku' and sujud." In another hadith: "Every Sūrah should have a rak'ab." Sometimes he (ﷺ) used to divide the Sūrah between two rak'ah and sometimes he would repeat the whole Sūrah in the second rak'ah. Sometimes he (ﷺ) used to combine two Sūrah or more in one rak'ah.

A man from the Anṣār used to lead the prayer in Masjid al-Qubā', and every time he prayed he used to recite [after al-Fātiḥah] a Sūrah for them, he would begin with: فَخْرُوهُمَا لَأَحْكَمْ then follow it with another Sūrah and he used to do that in every rak'ah. His companions came to him objecting to his action and said to him: "You commence with this sūrah but you do not seem to find it sufficient until you add to it another Sūrah! That being the case, you should either recite this Sūrah or leave it and recite another one!" The man replied: "I shall not stop reciting it. If you like me to lead you in the prayer, I will continue and if you dislike it, I shall leave you." As they deemed him the best one among them and disliked anyone else to lead them in prayer, they raised this issue with the Prophet (ﷺ) who said: "O so-and-so, why do you not comply with the request of your people? What is it that makes you commit to recite this Sūrah in every rak'ah?" The man replied: "I love this Sūrah." The Prophet (ﷺ) said: "Your love for this Sūrah shall admit you into Paradise."

36 This is corroborated by many reports that shall be quoted afterward.
37 Ibn Abī Shaybah (1/100/1), Aḥmad, ‘Abd al-Ghānī al-Maqdisī in his al-Sunan (9/2) with a sahih isnād.
38 Ibn Naṣr and Ṭaḥāwī with a sahih isnād.
39 Aḥmad and Abī Ya’lā from two different routes. See "Recitation in Prayer of Fajr"
40 As he did in Fajr, as shall be mentioned later.
41 It shall be referenced and detailed later on in this book.
42 Bukhārī and Tirmidhī.
5.7 Combining Similar Sūrahṣ and others in One Rakʿah

He (ﷺ) used to recite more than one Sūrah of the al-Muṭassal\(^43\) whose context and meaning are similar; so he used to recite one of the following pairs of Sūrah in one rakʿah:

i. al-Rahmān (55): 78 and al-Najm (53): 62,
ii. al-Qamar (54): 55 and al-Hāqqah (69): 52,
iii. al-Ṭur (52): 49 and al-Dhāriyāt (51): 60,
iv. al-Wāqīʿah (56): 96 and al-Qalam (79): 46,
v. al-Māʾārrij (70): 44 and al-Nāziʿat (79): 46,
vi. al-Muṣaffāṣ (83): 36 and 'Abasa (80): 42,
vii. al-Muddathir (74): 56 and al-Muṣammil (73): 20,
viii. al-Insān (76): 31 and al-Qiyāmah (75): 40,
ix. al-Nabāʾ (78): 40 and al-Mursalāt (77): 50,
x. al-Dukhān (44): 59 and al-Takwīr (81): 29.\(^44\)

Sometimes, he (ﷺ) used to combine Sūrahṣ from the seven Tiwāl (long Sūrahṣ), such as al-Baqarah, Āl-ʿImrān and al-Nīṣā' in one rakʿah during his night prayers - as shall be explained ahead. He (ﷺ) used to say: “The best of prayer is that which has long standing”\(^45\)

Whenever he recited,

\[
أَلْيَسَّْ ذَالِكَ رَقِيدٌ عَلَيْهِ أَنْ تَحْيَىٰ الْمَوْتُ؟
\]

“Is not that [Creator] Able to give life to the dead?”
[al-Qiyāmah (75): 40],

He would say:

\[
َمَاَسَّحَانَكُمُ الْقَبْلَ \]

\(^43\) It is part of the Qurʾān starting from Sūrah Qaf and ending with Sūrah al-Nās

\(^44\) Bukhārī and Muslim.

\(^45\) Muslim and Ṭahāwī.
“Glory be to You, of course.”

And whenever he recited,

سُبُحَ اسْمُ رَبِّكَ الْأَعْلَى

“Exalt the name of your Lord, the Most High”

[al-'Alā (87): 1],

He would say:

سُبُحَانَ رَبِّي الْأَعْلَى

“Exalted is the name of my Lord.”

5.8 Permissibility of only Reciting al-Fātīhah

Mu‘ādh Ibn Jabal (raḍīy Allāhu ‘anhu) used to pray ‘Isha’ with the Messenger of Allāh (ṣallī Allāhu ‘alayhi wa sallam) and then return to his people and lead them in prayer. One day, while he was leading his people a young man, named Sulaym [from his tribe Banū Salamah], joined the prayer and prayed behind him but as the prayer became too long, the young man left the congregational prayer and prayed (alone) [at the corner of the masjid], and then left while promising to inform the Prophet (ṣallī Allāhu ‘alayhi wa sallam) of what Mu‘ādh did. When Mu‘ādh was informed of this he said, “He must be a hypocrite. I will inform the Messenger of Allāh of what he did.” Both of them visited the Prophet (ṣallī Allāhu ‘alayhi wa sallam) and Mu‘ādh informed the Prophet of what happened. The young man said: “O Messenger of Allāh! He stays with you until it is late and, then he returns and lengthens it for us.” So the Messenger of Allāh (ṣallī Allāhu ‘alayhi wa sallam) said “O Mu‘ādh, do you want to stir up trouble?” Then he said to the young man: “O my nephew! What do you do when you pray?”

46 Abū Dāwūd and al-Bayhaqī with a šāhīḥ isnād.

Albānī said: The above two reports are narrated without specifying the case; hence, it is applicable to practice during the prayer and outside the prayer, whether it is obligatory or supererogatory. Ibn Abī Shaybah recorded in his book (2/132/2) that Abū Mūsā al-Ash’arī and al-Mughirah used to practise it in the obligatory prayer and he recorded reports that both ‘Umar bin al-Khaṭṭāb and ‘Ali ibn Abī Ṭālib used to practise it too without specifying the case.
young man replied: “I recite al-Fātiḥah and I ask Allāh for Paradise and take refuge in Him from Hell but I neither understand your humming (dandanah) nor the humming (dandanah) of Muʿādh!” So the Messenger of Allāh (ﷺ) said “I and Muʿādh are similar in this.” [In response to the statement of Muʿādh against him] the young man added: “Indeed, Muʿādh shall know what I am made of in the battle field” as the enemy was approaching Madīnah. In the battle, the young man was martyred! The Prophet (ﷺ) afterward inquired from Muʿādh about the news of the young man, so Muʿādh said: “O Messenger of Allāh, he was truthful and I was mistaken! He was martyred.”

5.9 Loud and Quiet Recitation in the Five Daily Prayers and Others

He (ﷺ) used to recite loudly in the Fajr prayer and the first two rakʿah of Maghrib and ‘Isha’. On the other hand, quietly in Zuhr and ‘Asr, as well as the third rakʿah of Maghrib and the last two rakʿahs of ‘Isha’.

They could tell when he was reciting quietly from the movement

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47 Ibn Khuzaymah in his Sahih #1634 and al-Bayhaqī with a šaḥīḥ isnād. It has a supporting narration in Abū Dāwūd (no. 753, Sahih Abū Dāwūd). The base of this report is found in Bukhārī and Muslim. The first addition is in one narration Muslim, the second in Ahmad (5/74), and the third and fourth is in Bukhārī. One of the reports related to this subject is the narration of Ibn ‘Abbās: “that the Messenger of Allāh prayed two rakʿahs in which he did not recite anything except al-Fātiḥah.” Transmitted by Ahmad: 1/282 and al-Hārith Ibn Abī Usāmah in his Musnad (p. 38 of its Zawa'id), and al-Bayhaqī (2/62) which I graded as hasan by mistake then I realised it is a da'īf isnād because of the existence of Ḥanẓalah al-Dawsī in the chain who is da'īf. I do not know how I missed that but I may have confused him with another narrator. Nevertheless, I praise Allāh for guiding me to realise my mistake. This is why I have not included it in this book as Allāh guided me to a better report, which is the report of Muʿādh as it connotes that which the report of Ibn ‘Abbās does. And so, all praise is due to Allāh alone with whose grace the good deeds are completed. 48 This is a matter of agreement (jumā) among Muslims as transmitted from the righteous predecessors to the latter generations and as evident in the authentic clear hadith as stated by al-Nawawī, that some of which will be quoted afterward. See al-Irwā’ #345.
of his beard [when moving his lips]\(^{49}\) and when he intentionally let them hear him reciting an āyab or so sometimes.\(^{50}\)

He (ﷺ) also recited loudly in the Friday prayer (al-Jumm'ah), and the two 'Īd prayers,\(^{51}\) in the prayer for rain (al-Istisqa'),\(^{52}\) and the eclipse prayer (al-khasăf).\(^{53}\)

5.10 Loud and Quiet Recitation in the Night Prayers (al-Tabajjud)\(^{54}\)

As for the night prayers, he (ﷺ) used to recite sometimes quietly and some other times loudly,\(^{55}\) and he (ﷺ) used to recite in his house such that he could be heard in the courtyard.\(^{56}\)

Occasionally he (ﷺ) used to raise his voice until those outside the room could hear him too.\(^{57}\)

He ordered Abū Bakr and ‘Umar (rādīy Allāhu ‘anhumā) likewise, when: One night, he (ﷺ) came out to find Abū Bakr praying in a low voice and he passed by ‘Umar ibn al-Khattab praying in a loud voice. Later, when they gathered around, the Prophet (ﷺ) said: “O Abū

\(^{49}\) Bukhārī and Abū Dāwūd.

\(^{50}\) Bukhārī and Muslim.

\(^{51}\) See the sections on his recitation in of Friday prayer and the two 'Īd prayers

\(^{52}\) Bukhārī and Abū Dāwūd

\(^{53}\) Bukhārī and Muslim

\(^{54}\) ‘Abdul Ḥaqq said in al-Tabajjud (90/1): “There are no authentic reports proving that he (ﷺ) prayed quietly or loudly in any of the voluntary prayer prayed during the daytime. However, it is most likely that he used to recite in quiet manner. As for the grading of the report that states that he (ﷺ) once passed by ‘Abdullāh ibn Ḥudhāfah while praying loudly during the daytime and said to him “O ‘Abdullāh! Let Allāh hear your recitation and do not let us hear you” is not a strong report.

\(^{55}\) Muslim and Bukhārī in Afāl al-Ibād.

\(^{56}\) Abū Dāwūd and Tirmidhī in al-Shamā’il with a ḥasan isnād.

Albānī said: the meaning of this hadith is that his recitation was moderate; between loudness and quietness.

\(^{57}\) Nasā’ī and Tirmidhī in al-Shamā’il and al-Bayhaqi in al-Dalā’il with a ḥasan isnād.
Bakr, I passed by you while you praying in a low voice!” Abū Bakr replied: “O Messenger of Allāh, the one whom I was invoking can hear me!” The Prophet (ﷺ) looked at ‘Umar and said “I passed by you and you were praying in a loud voice!” ‘Umar replied: “O Messenger of Allāh, I did so to repel drowsiness and expel the Shaytān.” The Prophet (ﷺ) said “O Abū Bakr, raise your voice a bit. O ‘Umar, lower your voice a bit.”

He (ﷺ) use say: “The one who recites Qur‘ān loudly is like the one who gives charity in public and the one who recites Qur‘ān in quietly is like the one who gives charity in secret.”

5.11 List of what the Prophet (ﷺ) used to Recite in Different Prayers

As for which Sūrabs and āyāt he (ﷺ) used to recite in prayer, this varied according prayer he prayed. The following elaborates further about what he used to recite, beginning with first of the five obligatory Prayer:

1. Fajr Prayer

He (ﷺ) used to recite the longer al-Muṣaffal Sūrah, so he (ﷺ) (sometimes) used to recite al-Wāqi‘ah [56: 1-96] and another Sūrah of similar length in the two rak‘ah.


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58 Abū Dāwūd and Ḥākim, who declared it ṣaḥīḥ and Dḥahabī agreed with him.
59 Ibid.
60 Ahmad and Nasā’ī with a ṣaḥīḥ isnād.
61 Ahmad, Ibn Khuzaymah in his Sahih (1/69/1) and Ḥākim, who declared it ṣaḥīḥ and Dḥahabī agreed with him.
62 Bukhārī and Muslim.
Sometimes, he (ﷺ) used to recite Sūrah al-Qāf [50: 1-45] or another Sūrah of a similar length in the first rak‘ab.  

Somewhat other times, he (ﷺ) would to recite the shorter al-Muṣaffal Sūrahs, such as: [al-Takwīr 81: 1-29].

Once, he (ﷺ) recited Sūrah al-Zalzalah in the two rak‘ab. The one who reported this narration said: ‘I do not know whether the Messenger of Allāh forgot or recited it on purpose!’

Once, on a journey, he (ﷺ) recited: [al-Falaq 113: 1-5] and [al-Nās 114: 1-6]. He (ﷺ) also said to Uqbah ibn ʿĀmir: “Recite the two Mu‘ammati in your prayer, for there is nothing for which a person can take refuge [in Allāh] better than them.”

Some other times, he (ﷺ) used to recite sixty āyāt or more, one of the narrators said: “I am unsure whether he (ﷺ) recited the sixty āyāt all in one rak‘ab or spread over the two rak‘ab.”

He (ﷺ) used to recite al-Rūm [30: 1-60] and sometimes, he (ﷺ) used to recite Yāsīn [36: 1-83].

Once, he (ﷺ) prayed Fajr in Makkah and started reciting al-Mu'minun.

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63 Muslim and Tirmidhī. It is also found in al-İrwā’ #345.
64 Muslim and Abū Dāwūd.
65 Abū Dāwūd and al-Bayḥaqī with a sahih isnād.
66 Abū Dāwūd, Ibn Khuzaymah (1/69/2) and Ibn Bishān in al-Amāli, Ibn Abī Shaybah (12/76/1), and Hākim, who declared it sahih and Dhahabī agreed with him.
67 Abū Dāwūd and Ahmad with a sahih isnād.
68 Bukhārī and Muslim.
69 Nasā’ī, Ahmad and al-Bazzar with a good isnād. This grading is the final view I adopt now, which is different to the view I mentioned in my book Tamām al-Minnab, (p. 185).
70 Ahmad with a sahih isnād.
Section Five: Recitation (al-Qirā‘ah)

[23: 1-118]. However, when he reached the mention of Mūsā and Hārūn - or ‘Īsā - one of the narrators was not sure - he started coughing; hence he stopped and so made ruku’.72

Sometimes, he (ﷺ) would lead them in Fajr with al-Saffāt [77: 1-182].73 In Fajr on Fridays, he (ﷺ) would recite al-Sajdah [32: 1-30] [in the first rak‘ah and in the second rak‘ah] al-Insān [76: 1-31].74

He (ﷺ) used to make the first rak‘ah longer than the second.75

i. What to Recite in the Sunnah prayer before Fajr

He (ﷺ) recitation in the two rak‘ahs Sunnah of Fajr used to be very light76 to the point that ‘Ā’ishah (radīyyAllāhu ‘anbā) used to say: “I wonder if he recited al-Fātiḥah!”77

Sometimes, after al-Fātiḥah, he (ﷺ) used to recite in the first rak‘ah the āyah: فَوَوَا مَا كَانَكُمُ الْجَبَرُونُ أَنْ أَلْقَايُوا الْكُلُّ [al-Baqarah 2:136] and in the second rak‘ah, the āyah: فَلَيْتَ أَهْلُ الْكُتْبِ مَا كَانَ مَأْتِيَ إِلَّا مَثَلُ الْكُلُّ وَلَمْ يَكُونُ اتَّخَذَنِيُّ وَلَدًا [Āl-‘Imrān 3:64].78 Occasionally, he (ﷺ) would recite instead of the above verse: فَلْيَا تَبَيَّنَ لَهُمُ الْكِتَابُ إِلَيْهِمْ مَاتًا [Al-‘Imrān 3: 52].79

Sometimes, he (ﷺ) used to recite: فَلْيَا تَبَيَّنَ لَهُمُ الْكِتَابُ إِلَيْهِمْ مَاتًا [al-Kāfirūn 109:

71 The mentioning of Mūsā is in the verse: “Then We sent Moses and his brother Aaron with Our signs and a clear authority” [al-Mu‘minūn 23:45] and the mentioning of ‘Īsā in the verse: “And We made the son of Mary and his mother a sign and sheltered them within a high ground having level [areas] and flowing water.” [al-Mu‘minūn 23:50]
72 Bukhārī and Muslim. It is also found in al-Irwā’ #397.
73 Ahmad and Abū Ya‘lā in their Musnads and al-Maqṣūṣī in al-Mukhtāra.
74 Bukhārī and Muslim
75 Ibid.
76 Ahmad with a saḥīḥ isnād
77 Bukhārī and Muslim
78 Muslim, Ibn Khuzaymah and Hākim
79 Muslim and Abū Dāwūd.
1-6] in the first rak'ah, and [al-Ikhlas 112: 1-4] in the second rak'ah; also he (¶) made a remark about them: “What an excellent pair of Sūrah they are!”

Once, he (¶) heard a man reciting former Sūrah in the first rak'ah, so he said “This is a servant [of Allāh] who believes in his Lord” Then he heard him reciting latter Sūrah in the second rak'ah, so he said: “This is a servant [of Allāh] who knows his Lord.”

2. Zuhr Prayer

He (¶) used to recite al-Fātiḥah and follow it with another Sūrah in each of the first two rak'ah. However, he used to prolong the first rak'ah more than the second one.

In some cases, he (¶) used to prolong the prayer to the extent that “the Zuhr prayer is established, a person may walk all the way to the al-Baqi', to fulfill his need, [then return back to his place], make his ablution, and then head back while the Messenger of Allāh (¶) was still in his first rak'ah, it was that long.” Also, they used to think that the reason for which he prolonged the prayer that much is to allow people to catch the first rak'ah.

He (¶) used to recite thirty āyāt in each of the first two rak'ah; equivalent to the length of time of the recitation of Sūrah al-Sajdah [33: 1-30] as well as al-Fātiḥah. Sometimes, he (¶) used to recite:

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80 Ibid.
81 Ibn Mājah and Ibn Khuzaymah
82 Tahāwī, Ibn Hibbān in his Sahih, Ibn Bushrān; Ibn Hajr declared it ḥasan in al-Ahādīth al-ʿĀdiyat, (no. 16).
83 Bukhārī and Muslim.
84 Muslim and al-Bukhārī in Jugal-Qirāʿab.
85 Abū Dāwūd with a sahih isnād, and Ibn Khuzaymah (1/65/1)
86 Ahmad and Muslim
Section Five: Recitation (al-Qira‘ah)

[al-Tāriq 86: 1-17] and [al-Burāj 85: 1-22] and [al-Layl 92: 1-21] and similar Sūrahṣ. Occasionally, he (ﷺ) also used to recite: [al-Insīqiq 84: 1-25] and similar ones. They could notice that he was reciting in Zuhr and ‘Aṣr from the movement of his beard.

i. Reciting some verses after al-Fātiḥah in the Last Two rak‘ah

He (ﷺ) used to make the length of time of the last two rak‘ah shorter than the first two by fifteen āyat, and sometimes, he (ﷺ) would just suffice with reciting al-Fātiḥah in the last two rak‘ah.

ii. The Obligation of Reciting al-Fātiḥah in each rak‘ah

He (ﷺ) ordered ‘the man who prayed badly’ to recite al-Fātiḥah in each rak‘ah - he ordered him to recite it in the first rak‘ah then: “Repeat it in your entire prayer.” In another narration: “Repeat that in every rak‘ah.” Sometimes, he (ﷺ) would let them hear an āyah or so.

87 Abū Dāwūd, Tirmidhī and Ibn Khuzaymah (1/37/2) who both declared it šāhīh.
88 Ibn Khuzaymah in his Sahīh (1/67/2)
89 Bukhārī and Abū Dāwūd
90 Ahmad and Muslim.
91 Albānī said: This ḥadith proves that reciting more than just al-Fātiḥah in the last two rak‘ah is Sunnah. This view was adopted by a group of Companions, among them Abū Bakr al-Siddīq (rādy. Allāhu ‘anhu), and it is also the view of the Imām al-Shāfi‘i whether in Zuhr or others. It is also the view of some of our later scholars such as Abūl-Ḥanasanāt al-Lūknāwī notes on al-Musawwata Muḥammad (p.102) said: “Some of our companions adopted an odd view as they made it obligatory to perform prostration of forgetfulness (Sajdah al-Sahw) if a person recited a Sūrah (after al-Fātiḥah) in the last rak‘ah. However, the commentators on al-Manṣījah; Ibrāhīm al Halabī, Ibn Amīr al Hājj and others refuted this odd view perfectly. Undoubtedly, those who adopted such odd views were not aware of this ḥadith, otherwise they would have not accepted such a view.”
92 Bukhārī and Muslim
93 Abū Dāwūd and Ahmad with strong chain of narrators
94 Ahmad with a good isnād
95 Bukhārī and Muslim
They would hear the humming of his recitation of: [al-A‘lā 87: 1-19] and [al-Ghāshiyah 88: 1-26]. And sometimes, he (ﷺ) used to recite: [al-Tārīq 86: 1-17], [al-Burāq 85: 1-22] and similar Sūras. At other times, he (ﷺ) used to recite: [al-Layl 92: 1-21] and similar Sūras.

3. ‘Asr Prayer

He (ﷺ) used to recite al-Fātīḥah and a Sūrah in each of the first two rak‘abs. However, making the first rak‘ab longer than the second, and they [the Companions] used to think that the reason for prolonging it is so he allows people catch the rak‘ab.

He (ﷺ) used to recite in each of them [i.e. the first two rak‘abs] fifteen āyāt, about half of what he recited in the first two rak‘abs of Zubr and he (ﷺ) used to make the length of time of the last two rak‘abs half of the length of time of the first two rak‘abs.

He (ﷺ) used to recite al-Fātīḥah in the last two rak‘abs. Sometimes, he (ﷺ) would let them hear an āyah or so. He (ﷺ) used to recite the same Sūrah mentioned in Zubr.

4. Maghrib Prayer

He (ﷺ) used to recite in Maghrib from the short al-Muṣāṣṣal Sūrah,

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96 Ibn Khuzaymah in his Šāhib (1/67/2) and al-Ḍiyā’ al-Maqdīsī in al-Mukhtarab with a šāhīh isnād.
97 Bukhārī in Juc’ al-Qira‘ah and Tirmidhī who declared it šāhīh.
98 Muslim and al-Ṭāyālīsī.
99 Bukhārī and Muslim.
100 Abu Dawud with a šāhīh isnād, and Ibn Khuzaymah (1/65/1)
101 Ahmad and Muslim
102 Bukhārī and Muslim
103 Ibid.
104 Ibid.
so that when they had finished the praying with him, they could go away and still be able to see where their shot arrows settled.\footnote{Nasā’ī and Ahmad with a șāhiḥ isnād}

Once, while on a journey, he (ﷺ) recited: \textit{وَلَيۡتُنَّا ۡأَيُّهَا ٱلۡهَـٰرُّۡبُ ٱلۡمُؤۡمِنُونَ} \textit{[al-Tin 95: 1-8]} in the second \textit{rak‘ab}.\footnote{Tayālīsī and Ahmad with a șāhiḥ isnād} Sometimes, he (ﷺ) used to recite from the long or medium \textit{al-Mufassal Sūrah}s, hence would recite: \textit{إِنَّا أَتۡنَاكُمۡ لِيَذۡكُرُوا وَيَسۡتَغۡفِرُوا عَنْ نَبِيٍّٓ} \textit{[Muhammad 47: 1-38]} or \textit{al-Ṭur} (52: 1-49)\footnote{Ibn Khuzaymah (1/166/2), Ṭabarānī and Maqdisī with a șāhiḥ isnād} or \textit{al-Mursalāt} (77: 1-50), which he recited in the last prayer he prayed [before his demise].\footnote{Bukhārī and Muslim}

Sometimes, he (ﷺ) used to recite the longer of the two long \textit{Sūrah}, \textit{al-ʾAʿrāf} (7: 1-206) in the \textit{first} two rak‘ab.\footnote{Ibid.} Or he (ﷺ) would recite \textit{al-Anfāl} (8: 1-25) in the \textit{first} two rak‘ab.\footnote{Ibn Khuzaymah (1/166/2), Ahmād, al-Sirāj and al-Mukhlīṣ.}

\textit{i. Recitation in the Sunnah Prayer after Maghrib}

He (ﷺ) used to recite: \textit{فَقِيِّبَاهُمَا ٱلۡمُكَذِّبُونَ} \textit{[al-Kāfīrūn 109: 1-6]} and \textit{فَمَّ تُضَلُّونَ} \textit{[al-Ikhbār 112: 1-4].}\footnote{Ṭabarānī in his \textit{al-Muḥam al-Kabīr} with a șāhiḥ isnād}

5. \textit{Isha’} Prayer

He (ﷺ) used to recite in the first two rak‘ab from the mediums \textit{al-Mufassal Sūrah}s,\footnote{Abū Dāwūd and Ibn Khuzaymah (1/68/1), Ahmād, al-Sirāj and al-Mukhlīṣ.} hence, he (ﷺ) used to recite: \textit{وَلَٰتۡنَا ۡأَيُّهَا ٱلۡإِنسَٰنُ} \textit{[al-Shams 91: 1-15]} and other similar \textit{Sūrah} of the same length.\footnote{Ahmād, al-Maqdisī, Nasā’ī, Ibn Naṣr and Ṭabarānī.}
Or he (ﷺ) would recite: إِذَا أَكَلَّمَكَ رَبُّكَ نَصْرًا [al-Insībīqāq 84: 1-25], and he used to prostrate when reciting it.\(^{115}\) Also, once he (ﷺ) recited: وَإِنِّي لَأَنْبِيٌّ [al-Tīn 95: 1-8] in the first rak‘ah while on a journey.\(^{116}\)

He (ﷺ) forbade prolonging the recitation in ‘Ishā‘. It was reported that Mu‘ādh ibn Jabal (radīy Allāhu ‘anhu) led his people in ‘Ishā‘ prayer, and he made it too long; so one of the Anṣār isolated himself from [the congregation] and prayed [alone]. When Mu‘ādh was informed of what he did, he said “He must be a hypocrite!” When the man came to know of what Mu‘ādh said about him, he raised the case to the Prophet (ﷺ) and the Prophet (ﷺ) said to Mu‘ādh: “O Mu‘ādh, do you wish to stir up trouble? When you lead people in prayer, recite: سَيِّئَ أَمْرُهُمْ لَأَلْهَيْنَ [al-Shams 91: 1-15], [al-‘Ālā 87: 1-19], [al-‘Ālaq 96: 1-19] or [al-Layl 92: 1-21] for the old, weak and needy pray behind you.”\(^{117}\)

6. Night Prayers (al-Tahajjud)

He (ﷺ) used to sometimes recite loudly and some other times quietly,\(^{118}\) and, sometimes he (ﷺ) used to shorten his recitation and sometimes he would lengthen it, occasionally making it so exceedingly long that ‘Abdullāh ibn Mas‘ūd (radīy Allāhu ‘anhu) once said: “One night, I prayed with the Prophet (ﷺ), and he remained standing for so long to the point that I was struck by an improper idea” he was asked: “What was this idea?” He replied: “I was about to pray sitting down and leave him (ﷺ) to pray standing.”\(^{119}\)

Also Hudhayfah ibn al-Yamān (radīy Allāhu ‘anhumā) narrated: “One

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\(^{115}\) Bukhārī, Muslim and Nasā‘ī

\(^{116}\) Ibid.

\(^{117}\) Bukhārī, Muslim and Nasā‘ī. It is also found in al-‘Irwa’ #295.

\(^{118}\) Nasā‘ī with a sahih isnād

\(^{119}\) Bukhārī and Muslim
Section Five: Recitation (al-Qirā‘ah)

night, I prayed with the Prophet (ﷺ) and he commenced the prayer with al-Baqarah [2:1-286]. I thought to myself; he will make rukū‘ after one hundred āyab. But he carried on after that, so I thought, he will finish it in two rak‘abs. But he carried on, so I thought, he will make rukū‘ when he has finished it. Then he started al-Nisā‘ [4: 1-176] and recited it all, then he started Āl-‘Imrān [3: 1-200] and recited it all. He was reciting slowly; when he came to an āyab in which there was glorification of Allāh, he glorified Allāh; at an āyab which had something to be asked for, he asked for it; at mention of seeking refuge, he sought refuge (with Allāh). Then he made rukū‘...

\[121\]

to the end of the ḥadith. Also “One night, when he (ﷺ) was ill, yet he recited the seven long Sūrah[s [in his night prayer].\[122\] Also, sometimes, he (ﷺ) used to recite in each rak‘ab one of the said seven long Sūrah[s.\[123\]

There are no reports that he (ﷺ) ever completed the recitation of the entire Qur‘ān in one night!\[124\] In fact, he disliked it for ‘Abdullāh ibn ‘Amr (rādiy Allāhu ‘anhu) when he (ﷺ) said to him: “Complete the recitation of the entire Qur‘ān once every month. He replied: “[But] I find in myself a strength [allowing me to complete it in less time]. The Prophet (ﷺ) responded: “Complete it in twenty days. He replied: [But] I find in myself a strength [allowing me to recite in less time]. He (ﷺ) responded: “[in such case] Complete it in seven days, but not less than that.”\[125\] However, afterward, he (ﷺ) allowed him to complete it in five days.\[126\] Then, he (ﷺ) allowed him to complete

\[120\] This narration is such, with al-Nisā‘ [4] before Āl-‘Imrān [3], and this hadith stands as evidence on the permissibility of not abiding by the order of the Sūrah[s found in the ‘Uthmāni copy of the Qur‘ān in recitation. An example of this already been stated.


\[122\] Abū Dāwūd and Nasā‘ī with a šahīḥ isnād.

\[123\] Muslim and Abū Dāwūd.

\[124\] Bukhārī and Muslim.

\[125\] Nasā‘ī and Tirmidhī, who declared it šahīḥ.
it in three days. Then [lastly] forbade him to complete it in less than three days. And he (ﷺ) gave a reason for that by saying to him: “Whoever completes the recitation of the entire Qur’ān in less than three days will not [be able to] understand that which he recited.” In another report, he (ﷺ) said: “He does not understand, the one who recites the Qur’ān in less than three days.” He (ﷺ) said: “Truly, every worshipper is full of whim and vigor [to worship Allāh], but such robust drive will fade and lapse; hence this state shall lead him either to [adhere to] the Sunnah or [deviate to] innovation. So he whose lapse is towards a Sunnah has found guidance, and he whose lapse is towards other than that has been destroyed!”

For this reason, he (ﷺ) did not recite the entire Qur’ān in less than three days.

He (ﷺ) used to say: “Whoever recites two hundred āyah in prayer shall be recorded amongst the sincerely devotees.” Also he (ﷺ) used to recite every night \(\text{al-Isrā'} [17: 1-111]\) and \(\text{al-Zumar} [39: 1-75]\). He (ﷺ) also said: “Whoever recites one hundred āyah in his

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127 Bukhārī and Aḥmad.
128 Dārīmī, Sa’īd ibn Maṣūr in his \(\text{Sunan}\) with a šaḥīḥ isnād.
129 Aḥmad with a šaḥīḥ isnād
130 Dārīmī and Tirmidhī, who declared it šaḥīḥ.
131 \(\text{Shirrāb}\): enthusiasm, vigor and zeal. Imām al-Ṭahāwī said: “It is being too enthusiastic about the matters that Muslims anticipate from themselves when performing the good deeds through which they want to draw themselves near to their Lord. However, the Prophet (ﷺ) liked them [i.e. Muslims] to be vigorous in a normal manner as they must go through a phase of languishment. Further, he ordered to hold fast to the good deeds that they can continue to perform until they meet their Lord, Exalted be He. It is narrated which explains the meaning that he (ﷺ) said: “The most loved [good] deeds to Allāh are those performed continuously even if they were small deeds.” I say: “The hadith which he prefixes with the words ‘it is narrated’, is in fact authentic and agreed upon by Bukhārī and Muslim from the narration of ‘Ā’ishah (radīyy Allāhu ‘anhā).”
132 \(\text{Fatārah}\): lapse, a phase of lack of enthusiasm.
133 Aḥmad and Ibn Ḥibbān in his \(\text{Ṣaḥīḥ}\).
134 Ibn Sa’d (1/376) and Abū’l Shaykh in \(\text{Akhlq al-Nābi}\) (p. 281).
135 Dārami and Ḥākim, who declared it šaḥīḥ and Dhahabī agreed with him.
136 Aḥmad and Ibn Naṣr with a šaḥīḥ isnād.
night prayer, will not be recorded among the heedless.”  

Sometimes, he (ﷺ) used to recite what is equivalent to reciting fifty āyāb or more in each rak‘ah, 139 or he (ﷺ) used to recite equivalent to the al-Muzzammil [7: 1-20]. 140

He (ﷺ) would not pray throughout the whole night except in very rare occasions as stated in the following narration: ‘Abdullāh ibn Khābāb ibn al-ʿArāt - who was present at Badr with the Messenger of Allāh (ﷺ) - stayed up the whole night with the Messenger of Allāh (ﷺ) (in another version: a night when he prayed throughout it) until it was Fajr. So when he finished his prayer, Khābāb said to him: “O Messenger of Allāh! May my father and mother be sacrificed for you! You have just prayed all night a prayer that I have never seen you praying as long as this one!” The Prophet (ﷺ) replied: “Indeed! This is a prayer that I performed manifesting [my] hope [in Allāh] and [my] fear [of Him]. I asked my Lord for three

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137 Dārimī and Hākim, who declared it ṣaḥīḥ and Dḥahabī agreed with him.
138 Translator Note: The hadith states the time and not defining the number of the āyāt. However, this indication is used to decide the number of the āyāt recited given the way the Prophet (ﷺ) is known to recite i.e. moderate and slow.
139 Bukhārī and Abū Dāwūd.
140 Ahmad and Abū Dāwūd with a ṣaḥīḥ isnād
141 Muslim and Abū Dāwūd.

Based on this hadith as well as some other reports, it is disliked to pray throughout the entire night constantly or often because it does not conform to the guidance of the Prophet (ﷺ). If praying all night was more virtuous, the Prophet (ﷺ) would not have overlooked it. And, indeed, the best of guidance is that of Muḥammad. So, let no one be deluded by what was reported by Abū Hanīfah (may Allāh have Mercy on his soul) where for forty years he prayed Fajr without breaking the ablution he performed for 'Ishā' because such reports are baseless. In fact, the renowned scholar, al-Fayrūzābādī, mentioned in al-Radd ‘alā al-Mu’tarīd (1/44): “This report is one of the other obvious lies that are improper to attribute to the Imām [i.e. Abū Hanīfah] because such an act has no virtue in mentioning it and an Imām of such a rank would do what is deemed better in religion because, with no doubt, renewing ablution for each prayer is better and more perfect. This is argued while [hypothetically] assuming the report that states he was awake all night for forty consecutive years was true, which is impossible! This type of report is made up by the imaginations and myths of some ignorant strict blind followers, and you will find it attributed to Abū Hanīfah and others while in fact all they are nothing but fabrications.”
things, two of which He only granted; I asked my Lord not to destroy us with what He destroyed the nations in the past (in another report: not to destroy my nation by famine), and He granted me that! I asked my Lord not to allow disbelievers to overcome and dominate us, and He granted that! And, I asked my Lord not to divide us into groups but He did not grant that!”\textsuperscript{142}

One night, he prayed all his night prayer reciting one \textit{āyab}:

\begin{center}
\textit{إِنْ تُقَدِّمُهُمْ إِلَىَّ بَيْنَيْهِمْ وَإِنْ تُغْرِقُهُمْ فَإِنَّكَ أَتَّمُّ الْعَفَاوِينَ}
\end{center}

“If You should punish them - indeed they are Your servants; but if You forgive them - indeed it is You who is the Exalted in Might, the Wise.”

\textit{[al-Mā’idah 5: 118]}

He kept repeating it while he was standing and while he was in the position of bowing, prostrating and supplicating. When it was morning, Abū Dharr (\textit{radiyAllāhu ‘anhu}) asked: “O Messenger of Allāh! You kept reciting this \textit{āyab} until it was dawn and you even recited it when you were bowing and prostrating, whereas Allāh has taught you the entire Qur’ān! Let alone, if one of us ever did that, we would have criticised him!” The Prophet (\textit{Saw}) said: “I asked my Lord, Exalted be He, to endow me to intercede for my nation and He granted me that! And, it [i.e. my intercession] will be granted, by the permission of Allāh, to whoever does not associate any partners with Allāh.”\textsuperscript{143}

One man asked the Prophet (\textit{Saw}) “O Messenger of Allāh! I have a neighbour who prays at night but does not recite in his prayer anything except: \textit{إِنِّي أَحْبَرُ اللَّهَ} \textit{حَبَرً} [\textit{al-Ikhlās} 112: 1-4], [which he kept repeating, not adding anything else] as if he considers it little.” So the

\textsuperscript{142} Nasā’ī, Aḥmad and Tabarānī (1/87/2) and it was declared \textit{sāhīh} by Tirmidhī.

\textsuperscript{143} Nasā’ī and Ibn Khuzaymah (1/70/1), Aḥmad, Ibn Naṣr, Hākim who declared it \textit{sāhīh} and Dhahabi agreed with him.
Prophet (ﷺ) said: “By the One with whose Hand is my soul, it is equivalent to one third of Qur’ān.”\(^{144}\)

7. **Witr Prayer**

He (ﷺ) used to recite: \[al-Ālā 87: 1-19\] in the first rak‘ah, \[al-Kāfīrūn 109: 1-6\] in the second rak‘ah, and \[al-Ikhlāṣ 112: 1-4\] in the third rak‘ah.\(^{145}\) Sometimes, he (ﷺ) would add on to the last one: \[al-Fīl 113: 1-5\] and \[al-‘Ālmān 114: 1-6\].\(^{146}\)

Once, he (ﷺ) recited one hundred āyāt from al-Nisā’ \[4: 1-176\] in the rak‘ah of Witr.\(^{147}\)

He (ﷺ) used to pray two rak‘ah after praying the Witr\(^{148}\) in which he used to recite: \[al-Zalzalah 99: 1-8\] and \[al-Kāfīrūn 109: 1-6\].\(^{149}\)

8. **al-Jumm‘ah Prayer**

He (ﷺ) used to sometimes recite al-Jumm‘ah \[62: 1-11\] in the first rak‘ah and al-Munāfiqūn \[63: 1-11\] in the second rak‘ah.\(^{150}\) At other

\(^{144}\) Ahmad and Bukhārī.

\(^{145}\) Nasā‘ī and Hākim who declared it ṣaḥīh.

\(^{146}\) Tirmidhī and Abū l-‘Abbas al-Asamm in his Ḥadīthb (2/117), Hākim who declared it ṣaḥīh and Dhahabī agreed with him.

\(^{147}\) Nasā‘ī and Ahmad with a ḥasan ṣaḥīh isnād

\(^{148}\) The two rak‘ah prayed after Witr are proven authentic as established in the ḥadīth in Ṣaḥīh Muslim and others. However, this report does not conform to the ḥadīth of the Prophet (ﷺ): “Make the last of your prayer at night Witr”, which therefore scholars concluded different views after they reconciled the two reports. Nevertheless, I have not managed to decide which view is the strongest but the safest thing is to leave the two rak‘ah in compliance with the command of the Prophet (ﷺ), and Allāh knows best.

\(^{149}\) Ahmad, Ibn Naṣr and Taḥāwī (1/302), Ibn Khuzaymah, Ibn Ḥibbān with a ṣaḥīh isnād.

\(^{150}\) Muslim and Abū Dāwūd. It is also found in al-‘Irāq #345.
times, he (ﷺ) used to recite *al-Ghāshiyah* [88: 1-26] in the second *rak‘ab*. Or sometimes, he (ﷺ) used to recite: *ṣūrah al-‘A‘lā* [87: 1-19] in the first *rak‘ab* and *ṣūrah al-Ghāshiyah* [88: 1-26] in the second *rak‘ab*.152

9. Two ‘Īd Prayers

The Prophet (ﷺ) used to recite: *ṣūrah al-‘A‘lā* [87: 1-19] in the first *rak‘ab* and *ṣūrah al-Ghāshiyah* [88: 1-26] in the second *rak‘ab*,153 or sometimes, he (ﷺ) used to recite [50: 1-45] and [54: 1-55].154

10. *al-Janāzah* Prayer

The Sunnah is to recite *al-Fātiḥah*155 [and another *Sūrah*] in it.156 Also, he (ﷺ) would be silent for a while, after the first *takhbīr*.157

5.12 Reciting Qur‘ān Slowly and Beautifying One’s Voice when Reciting

He (ﷺ), as Allāh had instructed him, recited Qur‘ān slowly; neither too slow nor too fast, but rather reciting in a manner that each letter could be distinguished,158 so he (ﷺ) used to recite the *Sūrah* in

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151 Ibid.
152 Muslim and Abū Dāwūd
153 Ibid.
154 Ibid.
155 This [i.e. reciting *al-Fātiḥah* after the first *takhbīr*] is the view of Imām al-Shāfi‘ī, Ahmad and Ishāq, which is also the view adopted by some latter Hanafs also took this view. As for reciting *al-Fātiḥah*, it is one of the views in the Shāfi‘ī Madhab and it is indeed the most correct opinion.
156 Bukhārī, Abū Dāwūd, Nasā‘ī, and Ibn al-Jārūd. This is not a *šīdābba‘b* (odd) addition as argued by al-Tuwayjīrī.
157 Nasā‘ī and Taḥāwī with a *ṣāḥīh isnād*.
158 Ibn al-Mubārak in *al-Zuhd* (1/62 from al-Kawākib 575), Abū Dāwūd and Ahmad with a *ṣāḥīh isnād*.
Section Five: Recitation (al-Qirā'ah)

a clear, slow and distinct fashion that made the time needed to recite it longer than would seem possible.¹⁵⁹

He also used (ﷺ) said: “It shall be said to the companion of the Qur’ān [on the Day of Judgement], upon entering Paradise, recites and ascend; and recite slowly as you used to do in the worldly life, for your place will be at the last ā'ābah you recite.”¹⁶⁰

He (ﷺ) used to prolong the long vowels; hence he used to prolong the end of bismillāh then prolong the end of the two words al- Rahmān¹⁶¹ and al-Raḥim, and Naḍīd¹⁶² and their like.

He (ﷺ) used to pause at the end of each ā'ābah, as stated previously.¹⁶³

Sometimes, he (ﷺ) used to recite in a vibrating tone,¹⁶⁴ as he did on the day of conquest of Makkah when, while he was mounting his camel reciting al-Fāṭr softly,¹⁶⁵ ‘Abdullāh ibn Mughffal (rādiy-Allāhu ‘anhu) said that the Prophet (ﷺ) used to quaver his voice [by repeating the letter ā'] like this: (ā, ā, ā).¹⁶⁶

He (ﷺ) used to order people to beautify their voices when reciting

¹⁵⁹ Muslim and Mālik.
¹⁶⁰ Abū Dāwūd and Tirmidhī, who declared it ṣaḥīḥ.
¹⁶¹ Bukhārī and Abū Dāwūd
¹⁶² Bukhārī in Aṣr al-Ībād with a ṣaḥīḥ isnād.
¹⁶³ Refer to the section ‘Recitation of one verse at a time.’
¹⁶⁴ Al-Tarjīḥ: Ibn Ḥajr said: “Vibrating the voice is giving off unsteady sounds [alternating in amplitude or frequency] and it comes from repeating [letters]. Vibrating the voice means repeating it in the throat.” Al-Manāwī said: “This often happens as a result of joy and happiness, and the Prophet (ﷺ) enjoyed such a state of comfort immensely on the day of the conquest of Makkah.”
¹⁶⁵ Bukhārī and Muslim
¹⁶⁶ Ibn Ḥajr said in his sharḥ on (ā, ā, ā), saying: “this is a harrāb with a fathāb, followed by a silent alif, followed by another harrāb.”

Shaykh ‘Ali al Qārī quoted this explanation from others and then commented: “It is most likely to be three prolonged letters of Alif.”
the Qur'ān, saying: "Adorn the Qur'ān with your voices; for a fine voice increases the beauty of Qur'ān." and "Indeed, the one who has one of the finest voices among the people for reciting the Qur'ān is the one whom you think fears Allāh when you hear him recite."

He (ﷺ) used to order people to recite Qur'ān with a pleasant tone; hence saying: "Study the Book of Allāh, maintain learning it, acquire (memorise) it and recite it with a good voice, for by the One in Whose Hand is my soul, it runs away [from the heart] quicker than camels [attempting to escape] from their reins."

He (ﷺ) also said: "He is not from us who does not recite the Qur'ān in beautiful voice" and "Allāh does not listen to anything as he

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167 Bukhārī as Ta’līq, Abū Dāwūd, Dārimi, Ḥākim and Tamām al-Rāzī with two šāhiḥ isnāds
169 Dārimi and Ashīq with a šāhiḥ isnād.
170 Abū Dāwūd, Ḥākim who declared it šāhiḥ and Dhaḥabi agreed with him.

Ibn al-Athīr stated that the aforementioned hadīth, which is found in Abū Dāwūd, to be from the narration of Abū Hurayrah (raḍī Allāhu ‘anhu). However, my brother ‘Abdul Qādir Arnā’ūt and those who helped him commented (2/457): ‘It is odd for al-Ālbānī to indicate that the hadīth is recorded in Abū Dāwūd as he stated in his book Ṣīḥah Ṣalātīn-Nabī’ (p.106). He meant to say that it is not the method of people of knowledge to mention the reference of a hadīth found in any of the two Šāhiḥ to other hadīth books. That said, in response I say: ‘What he said is true and correct despite what they may have intended to mean with what they said. However, they should know that I am aware that the hadīth from the narration of Abū Hurayrah is recorded in Bukhārī since I authored this blessed book, by the permission of Allāh. But, I did not mention it intentionally, not due to lack of knowledge or forgetfulness as they may perceive. Because, if it was as a person may think, I would have noticed that during the period in which the book was published five times, which is enough time for he who does not know, to know, and he who forgets, to remember. But, all praise is due to Allāh, none of that was what happened because I knew that one of the narrators of this hadīth- Abū ‘Āsim al-Ḍāhḥāk Ibn Makhlad al-Nabīl - who is a trustworthy narrator, erred when he narrated it from Abū Hurayrah because he narrated it from Ibn Jarīj from Ibn Shihāb from Abū Salāmah from the Prophet (ﷺ). This is evident when knowing that a group of trustworthy narrators narrated it from Ibn Jarīj through the said chain from Abū Hurayrah but using a different text, namely ‘Allāh did not permit anything...’ which is the hadīth mentioned right after this one. Further, a group of trustworthy narrators transmitted the said text from al-Zuhri just like Ibn Jarīj, and other trustworthy narr-
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listens (in some versions: as he is listening) to a Prophet [with a nice voice, and in one version: with a nice melody] who recites the Qur'ān in a pleasant tone [in a loud manner].”

He (ﷺ) said to Abū Mūsā al-Ash'ārī (rādīy Allāhu 'anhu): “If you could only see me [how much enjoyment I had] while I was listening to your recitation yesterday! Indeed, you have been endowed with a
tors, namely Muhammad ibn 'Amr, Muḥammad Ibn Ibrāhīm al-Tamīmī, and 'Amr ibn Dinār transmitted the same that al-Zuhrī narrated from Abū Salāmāh from Abū Hurayrah. The agreement of all those trustworthy narrators on reporting from Abū Hurayrah through one chain the other text [i.e. Allāh did not permit...] is evidence that the report of Abū 'Āsim that narrated the discussed text is singular; hence indicating his mistake. Scholars of ḥadīth describe aḥadīth suffering this type of defect as an odd hadīth. Abū Bakr al-Naysābūrī affirmed that Abū 'Āsim erred when he narrated that text and explained it saying: ‘This is due to the many narrators who narrated the second text from Ibn Jarij.’ I add: ‘It is also due to the many narrators who narrated the second text from al-Zuhrī as well as those who narrated it from the one from whom al-Zuhrī narrated too, as I have just mentioned previously. This is why al-Khāṭib al-Baghdādī agreed with Abū Bakr al-Naysābūrī on this point. Ibn al-Athīr also indicated in al-Jāmi’ and Ibn Hajr in Fath al-Bārī (13/429) that this narration is a mistake from the end of the narrator, which is an interesting point that some may not notice but if one does, he may not have enough knowledge to encourage him to state one of the narrators included in the Şāhīḥ was wrong. This is a summary of my investigation and examination that I wrote 20 years ago, which I felt important to mention in this edition in order for every fair just person to know that my statement was not wrong but rather it is the statement of those who criticised me and that scholars of hadīth deem their statement wrong! Which is they wanted me to be part of such mistake and affirm it. I ask Allāh to forgive everyone who made me make this comment long contrary to what I intended in this book and I hope not to be forced to write such long comments again. And with Allāh is all support and aid. Then, I noticed that Shu‘ayb al-Arna’ūt who cooperated with the brother ‘Abdul Qādir in drafting the said criticism, which I have refuted in this book and it cannot be found anywhere else, overlooked my notes in this regard when he commented on the book Sharḥ al-Sunnah (4/485) of al-Baghdāwī as he agreed with al-Baghdāwī on the authenticity of the defected ḥadīth from Abū Hurayrah (rādīy Allāhu 'anhu) as evidenced in the statements of the afores named scholars. It appears that he brushed aside my comment so that no one says that he benefited that from al-Albānī! Perhaps, the publisher of the book, the Islamic Office, did not notice his action otherwise he will be burdened with the sin of hiding knowledge because he participated in examining the book as stated in the introduction of the said book, which is printed on the book cover of all the chapters, otherwise, claiming he participated in the ṭabqiq will be just an allegation. And, in such case, I do not know which sin is bigger, to lie about claiming to participate in examining the book or hiding knowledge?”

171 Bukhārī, Muslim, Ṭahāwī and Ibn Mandah in al-Tawḥīd (1/81)
flute from the flutes\textsuperscript{172} of the family of [Prophet] Dāwūd." In response, Abū Mūsā said: "If I knew you were listening, I would have made my recitation sound more beautiful and emotional for you."\textsuperscript{173}

5.13 Correcting the Imām in Prayer

He (ﷺ) prescribed for those who pray behind the Imām to correct him [if he makes mistakes in recitation] and to remind him [if he forgets what to recite]. This is based on the report that while he was praying on one occasion, he became hesitant in his recitation, so he said to Ubayy ibn Ka'b, "did you pray with us?" He said: ‘Yes, I did.’ The Prophet (ﷺ) said: “What stopped you [from] correcting or reminding me?"\textsuperscript{174}

5.14 Seeking Refuge and Spitting lightly during Prayer in order to Ward off \textit{al-waswās} (insinuating whispers from the Shayṭān)

‘Uthmān ibn Abūl-‘Āṣ came to the Prophet (ﷺ) and said: “O Messenger of Allāh, the Shayṭān is distracting me while praying and making me confused in my recitation." The Messenger of Allāh (ﷺ) said: “That is a devil called \textit{Khinqaḥ}. If you feel his presence, then seek refuge with Allāh from him and spit lightly to your left three times.” ['Uthmān] said: “I did that and Allāh made it all go away from me.”\textsuperscript{175}

\textsuperscript{172} Scholars said that the flute mentioned in the hadith is used metaphorically to mean good voice, and that the origin of flute is singing. The term family of Dāwūd here is used to refer to Prophet Dāwūd himself as this usage of words is used. This parable was given because Prophet Dāwūd had a very beautiful voice. This was mentioned by Nawawi in his commentary on Sharh Muslim.

\textsuperscript{173} ‘Abdul-Razzāq in \textit{al-`Amālī} (12/44/1), Bukhārī, Muslim, Ibn Naṣr and Hākim.

\textsuperscript{174} Abū Dāwūd, Ibn Hibbān, Ṭabarānī, Ibn ‘Asākir (2/296/2) and al-Ḍiyā’ in \textit{al-Mukhtār} with a saḥīḥ isnād.

\textsuperscript{175} Muslim and Ahmad.

\textit{al-Taft}: spitting is to blow out air with a minimum amount of saliva as it is more than just dry spitting. Nawawi said: This hadith shows that it is preferable to seek refuge with Allāh from Shayṭān and spit to the left three times whenever Shayṭān distracts a person.
SECTION SIX

The Bowing (al-Ruku‘)

After completing his recitation, the Prophet (ﷺ) used to pause after finishing the recitation of Qur’ān¹, then raise his hands² according to the ways explained in the section of ‘Opening takbir’, then say takbir³ and make ruku‘⁴.

He (ﷺ) ordered ‘the man who prayed badly’, saying to him: “The prayer of any of you is incomplete unless he performs excellent ablution

¹ Abū Dāwūd and Hākim who declared it ṣaḥīḥ and Dhahabi agreed with him.
² Bukhārī and Muslim.

Albānī said: Raising the hands in this place and after rising up from bowing is mutawātir and it is the view of the three Imāms and majority of scholars of ḥadīth and jurists and the view mostly adopted by Imām Mālik, as reported by Ibn ‘Asākir(15/78/2), and it is the view adopted by some Ḥanafī scholars including ʿĪsām ibn Yūsūf Abū ʿAsamah al-Balḫī (died 210 H); the student of Imām Abū Yūṣuf as I explained in the introduction. ‘Abdullāh ibn Ahmad reported from his father [i.e. Imām Ahmad] to his Masā’il, (p. 60) related: ‘It is reported from ‘Uqbah ibn ʿĀmir that he said about raising the hands in the Salāt: “He earns ten good deeds for each such movement.” This is supported by the hadith qudsi “…whoever performs a good deed shall be rewarded ten times up to seven hundred times”, which is recorded by Bukhārī and Muslim, corroborates the said statement.’ See Sahih al-Targhib wal-Tarhib #16. As for the pause, Ibn al-Qayyim and other scholars estimated its time to be the time needed to take his breath.
³ Ibid.
⁴ Ibid.
as Allāh commands him to do... then he should say takbīr, praise Him and glorify Him, and then recite whatever is made easy for him to recite from that which Allāh has taught him and permitted, then he should say takbīr and make rūkūʿ; and place his hands on his knees [while bowing] until his joints settle in their places and relaxed...”

6.1 Description of al-Rūkūʿ

He (ﷺ) would place his palms on his knees,⁶ and ordered people to do likewise,⁷ and he ordered ‘the man who prayed badly’ to do so too as was mentioned previously.

He (ﷺ) used to secure his knees with his hands as though grasping them,⁸ and would space his fingers out [while they are on his knees].⁹

He (ﷺ) ordered ‘the man who prayed badly’, saying: “When you make rūkūʿ, place your palms on your knees, then space your fingers out, and remain in such position until every limb settles in its place.”¹⁰
He (ﷺ) used to spread and distance his elbows from his sides.¹¹

He (ﷺ) used to spread his back and keep it straight [while being in the posture of bowing],¹² such that if water were poured on it, it would remain settled on it.¹³ He (ﷺ) also said to ‘the man who prayed badly’: “When you make rūkūʿ, place your palms on your knees, spread

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⁵ Abū Dāwūd, Nasāʾī and Hākim who declared it šāhīḥ and Dhahabī agreed with him.
⁶ Bukhārī and Abū Dāwūd
⁷ Bukhārī and Muslim.
⁸ Bukhārī and Abū Dāwūd
⁹ Hākim who declared it šāhīḥ and Dhahabī and al-Ṭayālṣī agreed with him. Its is given in Ṣaḥīḥ Abū Dāwūd #809.
¹⁰ Ibn Khuzaymah and Ibn Hibbān in their Sahīhs.
¹¹ Tirmidhī and was graded šāhīḥ by Ibn Khuzaymah.
¹² Bayhaqī with authentic chain of narrators and Bukhārī.
¹³ Taḥārānī in his Muʿjam al-Kabīr and Muʿjam al-Saghīr, ’Abdullāh ibn Aḥmad in Zawā'id al-Musnad and Ibn Mājah.
your back [straight] and keep a secure grasp on your knees.”

He (ﷺ) would neither let his head be lower than the level of his back nor let it be higher [than his back] but rather he would be in between.

6.2 The Obligation of Serenity in al-Rukū'ī

He (ﷺ) used to have a tranquil bowing posture, which is what he ordered ‘the man who prayed badly’ to do so, as was mentioned previously.

He (ﷺ) used to say: “Complete your rukū' and sujūd, for by the One in whose Hand is my soul, I can see you when you rukū' and sujūd behind my back.”

He (ﷺ) saw a man a praying but not completing his rukū' properly and pecking in his sujūd; so he said: “If this man dies upon this state, he will die upon a faith other than that of Muhammad; he pecks his prayer just like how a crow pecks at blood. The example of him who does not complete his bowing and pecks in his sujud is like a hungry person eating one or two dates; it does not do him any good at all.”

Abū Hurayrah (ради Аллāху 'анбū) said: “My close friend forbade

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14 Ahmad and Abū Dāwūd with a şahīh isnād.
15 Abū Dāwūd and Bukhārī in his Juz' al-Qira'ab with a şahīh isnād.
16 Muslim and Abū ‘Awānah.
17 Bukhārī and Muslim.
Albānī said: The Prophet (ﷺ) could see people behind his back as that is one of his miracles. However, this ability was only limited to the prayer as there are no evidences indicating he could do that all the time.
18 Abū Ya'la in his Munaḍ (340 and 349/1), al-Ājurri in al-Ārba'in, al-Bayhaqi and Tabarānī (1/192/1), al-Diyya' in al-Muntaqā min al-Ahādīth al-Sihāb wal-Hisām (1/276), Ibn 'Asākir(2/226/2 and 414/1 and 8/14/1 and 76/2) with ḥasan isnād, and Ibn Khuzaymah in his Şahīh (1/82/1), and the first part of the hadith has a corroborating Mursal report recorded by Ibn Baṭṭah in al-Ţabānīh(5/43/1).
me from pecking in my prayer like a roaster, from looking around like a fox, and from squatting like a monkey." 19

He (ﷺ) said: "The worst thief is he who steals from his prayer." The Companions asked: "O Messenger of Allāh! How does a person steal from his prayer?" He replied: "He does not complete its rukū' and sujūd." 20

Once, he (ﷺ) was praying, when he glanced out of the corner of his eye at a man not settling his backbone in rukū' and sujūd. After the man finished his prayer, he (ﷺ) said: "O assembly of Muslims! There is no prayer of the one who does not straightens his back in rukū' and sujūd." 21

He (ﷺ) said in another ḥadīth: "The prayer of a man is invalid until he straightens his back in rukū' and sujūd." 22

6.3 The Ḥadbār of al-Rukū'

He (ﷺ) used to say different types of Ḥadbār (pl. Ḏibkēr) and supplications, one of the following at a time:

[1]

مَنْحَانَ رَبِّي الْعَظِيم
Subhāna Rabbi'l-'Azīm
How perfect is my Lord, the Supreme!
(three times) 23

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19 Al-Ṭayālṣī, Ahmad and Ibn Abī Shaybah and it is a ḥasan ḥadīth as I explained in my comments on al-Abkām of ‘Abdul Ḥaqq al-Iṣbīlī #1348.
20 Ibn Abī Shaybah (1/89/2), Ṭabarānī and Ḥākim who declared it šaḥīḥ and al-Dhahabī agreed with him.
21 Ibn Abī Shaybah (1/89/1), Ibn Mājah and Ahmad with a šaḥīḥ isnād. See Sīsilah Abādāth al-Ṣahīḥab #2536.
22 Abū ‘Awānah, Abū Dāwūd, and al-Sahmī #61, and Dāraquṭnī graded it šaḥīḥ.
23 Ahmad, Abū Dāwūd, Ibn Mājah, al-Dāraquṭnī, al-Ṭahāwī, al-Bazzar, Ibn Khuzaymah in his Ṣaḥīḥ #606, Ṭabarānī in his Muṣjam al-Kabīr

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But sometimes he used to say it more than three times.24

Once, in the night prayer, he (ﷺ) repeated it excessively until the length of time of his standing in prayer was nearly the length of time of his ruku’, not only did he recite [in one rak‘ah] three long Sūrahs, al-Baqara, al-Nisā’ and Al-‘Imrān, but further supplicated and asked for Allāh’s forgiveness, as was previously mentioned in the section of ‘Recitation in Night Prayer.’

2

Subḥāna Allāhi wa-biḥamidih

How perfect is my Lord, the Supreme, praised be He (three times)25

3

Subbūh,26 Quddūs, Rabbul-Mala’ikati wal-Rūḥ

Perfect (are You), Blessed (are You), Lord of the angels and the Spirit.27

4

Subḥānak Allāhumma wa-biḥamidika, Allāhumma Ighfir li

How perfect You are O Allāh, and Praises are for You. Oh Allāh, forgive me.

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24 Albānī said: Tābarānī reported in his Mu‘jam al-Kabīr, that seven Companions used to say it more than three times, which stands as evidence against those who objected to saying it more than three times such as Ibn al-Qayyim and others.

25 Sahīh hadith, recorded by Abū Dāwūd, al-Dāraquṭnī, Ahmad, Tābarānī and Bayhaqī.

26 Abū ʿĪsāq said: Subbūh means ‘the one who is free of any defect’, while Quddūs means ‘the Blessed’ or ‘the Pure’. Ibn Sayyidah said: Glorified and Blessed are Attributes of Allāh, Mighty and Sublime, because He is glorified and sanctified by others. (Lisān al-ʿArabī)

27 Muslim and Abū ‘Awānah.
He (ﷺ) would say it often in his *rukūʿ* and *sujūd*, acting upon [the command of] the Qurʾān.28

Allāhumma laka rakʿatu, wa-bika āmantu, wa-laka Aslamtu, [anta ‘Rabbī], khasha’ laka samʿī wa-baṣarī, wa-mukh-khi wa ‘izāmī (in another narration: wa-‘izāmī), wa ‘aṣābī, [wama - astaqlat bihi qadamī lil-lāhi rabbil-‘Ālimīn].

O Allāh, to you I have bowed and in You I have believed, and to You I have submitted! [You are my Lord], my hearing, my sight, my mind, my bones [and my tendons stand in humility before You, and all that which my feet carry are for the sake of Allāh, Lord of all worlds].29

Allāhumma laka rakʿatu, wa-bika āmantu, wa-laka Aslamtu, wa’alyka tawakkaltu, anta Rabbī, khasha’ samʿī wa-baṣarī, wa dammī wa-lahmi wa ‘izāmī wa ‘aṣābī, lil-lāhi rabbil-‘Ālimīn.

O Allāh, to you I have bowed and in You I have believed, and to You I have submitted, and upon you I have relied! You are my Lord, my hearing, my sight, my blood, my flesh, my bones and my tendons are for the sake of Allāh, Lord of all worlds.30

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28 Bukhārī and Muslim.

Implementing the Qurʾān refers to the saying of Allāh: “*Then glorify with the Praises of your Lord, and seek His Forgiveness, for He is Oft-Returning.*” [al-Naṣr (110):3]

29 Muslim, Abū ‘Awānah, al-Ṭahāwī and al-Dāraqūṭnī

30 Nasāʿī with a ṣāhih isnād.

Albānī said: Scholars differed on whether it is prescribed to say all the above mentioned
This he (ﷺ) used to recite in his Night Prayer.\(^{31}\)

### 6.4 Lengthening the al-Rukū’

He (ﷺ) would make his rukū’, his standing after rukū’ and sujūd, and the sitting between the two sajdahs nearly the same in length.\(^{32}\)

### 6.5 Forbiddance of Reciting Qur’ān in rukū’

He (ﷺ) forbade the recitation of Qur’ān in rukū’ and sujūd.\(^{33}\) He

\[\text{adhkār}\] in one bowing or not; Ibn al-Qayyim was hesitant about which view is more stronger as indicated in his book \textit{Zād al-Ma‘ād} while al-Nawawī affirmed that it is prescribed to do so as he mentioned in his book \textit{al-Adhkār}, when he said: ‘It is the best to say all these \textit{adhkār} [in bowing], if one is able to. In fact, it is the best to do in respect to the \textit{adhkār} of other sections.’ However, Abū’l Ṭāyibīb Siddiq Hasān Khan commented on that in \textit{Nuzul al-Abrūr}, (p.84): ‘A person should say just one of the relevant \textit{adhkār} in [one single] bowing, not say them all in one bowing, as I do not find any evidence which supports saying them all together in one bowing. The Prophet (ﷺ) did not say all of these \textit{adhkār} in one pillar, but rather he used to so say any of these \textit{adhkār} in one pillar, and then select another one to say in another pillar. Truly, following the way of the Prophet (ﷺ) is better than innovating.’ The latter view is what I find as the truth, by the permission of Allāh. However, it is evident in that the Prophet (ﷺ) prolonged this pillar and other pillars, as shall be explained afterwards, until its length of time is near the length of time of the pillar of standing. Hence, if a person intended to follow this act of the Sunnah [i.e. prolonging the pillars], he will not be able to do so except by either following the view adopted by Imām Nawawī which states that all these \textit{adhkār} be said in one pillar, which Ibn Nāṣr reported on (p.76) of his book \textit{Qiyām al-Layl} from Ibn Ḥarīj from ‘Aṭā, or by repeating the \textit{dhikr}, which is closer to the Sunnah. And, Allāh knows best.

\(^{31}\) Abū Dāwūd and Nāṣrī with a šāhīh isnād.

\(^{32}\) Bukhārī and Muslim. Its \textit{takhrij} is given in \textit{al-Irwā’} al-Ghālīl #331.

\(^{33}\) Muslim and Abū ‘Awānah.
(ṣ) used to say: “I was commanded not to recite Qur’ān in rukū‘ and ṣujūd. Therefore glorify your Lord, the Mighty and the Sublime, in rukū‘ and exert yourself in supplication in ṣujūd for your supplications are liable to be answered.”

6.6 Standing Upright after Rukū‘ and What to Say in it

Then, he (ṣ) used to rise up from rukū‘ while saying:

سَمِعَ إِنَّ الْهَلْلَةَ
Sāmi‘-Allāhu liman ḥamidah
Allāh hears the one who praises Him.

He (ṣ) also ordered ‘the man who prayed badly’ to say so, when he said to him: “No person’s prayer is complete until... he says takbīr..., then makes rukū‘, and then said: سَمِعَ إِنَّ الْهَلْلَةَ until he is standing straight.” When he (ṣ) raised his head, he would stand straight until every vertebra returned to its place [i.e. he returned to the posture he had prior to bowing].

Then he (ṣ) would say while standing upright:

رَبَّنَا وَلَكَ الحَمْدُ
Rabbanā wa-laka al-Ḥamdu
Our Lord, and to You be all praise.

He has commanded everyone to do so whether behind an Imām or not, by saying: “Pray as you have seen me praying.”

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34 Ibid.
35 Bukhārī and Muslim
36 Abū Dāwūd and Hākim who declared it ṣaḥīḥ and Dhahabi agreed with him
37 Bukhārī and Abū Dāwūd see Sahih Abū Dāwūd #722.
38 Bukhārī and Ahmad.
39 Ibid.
He (ﷺ) said: “The Imām is made to be followed...when he says: سُمِّعْ اللَّهُ الْقَبِيلَةَ وَالْخَلْقَ, then say: اللَّهُمَّ اسْتَجِبْ لَكَ لِلْحَمْدَ, and Allāh will hear You, for indeed, Allāh, Most High, said upon the tongue of his Prophet (ﷺ): سُمِّعْ اللَّهُ الْقَبِيلَةَ وَالْخَلْقَ.” ⁴⁰

He (ﷺ) also explained that further in another ḥadīth, saying: “…for he whose saying coincides with that of the angels will have his past sins forgiven.” ⁴¹

He (ﷺ) used to raise his hands when standing upright ⁴² according to the ways mentioned in the section: “Opening Takbīr.”

While standing, he (ﷺ) used to say, as mentioned earlier:

[1]

ربّنا وَلَكَ الحَمْدُ
Rabbānā wa-lāka al-Ḥamdu

Our Lord, and to You be all praise.⁴³

Or

[2]

ربّنا لَكَ الحَمْدُ

Or

⁴⁰ Muslim, Abū ’Awānah, Ahmad and Abū Dāwūd.

Albānī said: This hadith does not indicate that the one praying behind the Imām does not say “سبحان الله!” just like the Imām, nor does it indicate that the Imām does not say “سبحان الله!” just like the ones praying behind him. This is because the context of the hadith was not to explain what the Imām and those praying behind him should say, but rather to explain that the praising of the one praying behind the Imām should be said after the statement of the Imām [i.e. Allāh hears who praises Him]. This is supported by the fact that the Prophet (ﷺ) used to say the statement of praise when he was leading the prayer, and also falls under the general order of the Prophet (ﷺ): “Pray as you have seen me praying”, which implies that those praying behind the Imām should say what the Imām says. That said, this ought to be contemplated by some of the respected people who differred with us on this subject as that may have convinced them of our view. For further information about this issue, I recommend visiting the letter of al-Ḥāfiz al-Suyūṭī about this topic, which he included in his book al-Ḥāwi li-Fatwā (1/529), that he titled: Daf’ al-Ṭabīn fī Ḥukm al-Tasmī. ⁴¹ Bukhārī and Muslim, and Tirmidhī graded it ṣaḥīḥ.

⁴² Bukhārī and Muslim.

⁴³ Ibid.
Rabbanā laka al-Hamdu
Our Lord, to You be all praise.⁴⁴

And sometimes, he (الله) used to add at the beginning of the two statements.

[3], [4]

الله
Allāhuma
O Allāh⁴⁵

He (الله) used to order to do this, saying: “When the Imām says: ﴿سُبْحَانَ اللَّهِ الَّذِي ﻋَلَى ﺧَلْقِ السَّماوَاتِ وَالْأَرْضِ وَمَا ﻋَبِثَ مِنْ شَيْءٍ بَعْدَهُ﴾, then say, ﴿لَهُ ﺑِذْرُوا ﺑِهِ ﺑِاحْدَاثٍ﴾, for he whose saying coincides with that of the angels will have his past sins forgiven.”⁴⁶

Sometimes, he (الله) used to add to the above statements,

[5]

مولى السماوات، وويلاء الأرض، وويلاء ما شتى من شيء بعد
Mil’ as-samāwāt wa mil’al-arḍi, wa mil’a mā shī’ta min shay’in ba’d.

(A praise that) Fills the heavens and the earth and whatever You will after that.⁴⁷

Or add:

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⁴⁴ Ibid.
⁴⁵ Buxhārī and Ahmad
Albānī said: Ibn al-Qayyim erred when he denied the authenticity of this report in his book Zād al-Ma’ād as he believed that the report that has both “O Allāh” and the word “and” in this supplication is weak. This is because it is documented in Buxhārī, Musnad’ Ahmad and al-Nasāʿī by way of Abū Hurayrah which is transmitted through two routes, and al-Dārāmī documented it in his Sunan from Ibn ‘Umar (rādiy Allāhu ‘anhu), and al- Bayhaqī documented it from the way of Abū Sa’īd al-Khudrī (rādiy Allāhu ‘anhu), and al-Nasāʿī from the way of Abū Mūsā al-Asgharī (rādiy Allāhu ‘anhu).
⁴⁶ Buxhārī and Muslim; al-Tirmidhī declared it ṣaḥīḥ.
⁴⁷ Muslim and Abū ‘Awānāh.
Section Six: The Bowing (al-Ruku')

[6] مَلِّ الْكَبْرَاتِ، وَمَلِّ الْأَرْضِ، وَمَلِّ الْمَيَا وَمَلِّ الْمَيِّتَةَ مِنْهُمْ}

Mil’ as-samāwātī wa [mil’al-ardī, wa mā baynah humā, wa mil’a mā shi’ta min shay’in ba’d.

(A praise that) Fills the heavens and the earth and what lies between them, and whatever You will after that.\(^{48}\)

And, sometimes, he (ﷺ) used to add to the statement,

[7] أَهْلُ الْشَّهَاءَ وَالْجَهَّلِ، لَا مَانِعٌ لَّا أَعْطَىَ، وَلَا مَعْطَىٰ لَّا مَنَعْتُ، وَلَا يَنْتَفَعُ ذَٰلِكَ الْجَمِيعُ

Ahlath-thanā wal-majdi, là māni’a limā a’ṣayta, wa là mu’tiya limā mana’ta, wa là yanfa’u thal jaddi minkal jadd.

(You Allāh) are most worthy of praise and majesty, there is none who may deny us what You give, and none who may give what You deny. The might of the mighty person will not benefit (him) against You.\(^{49}\)

Or say:

[8] مَلِّ الْكَبْرَاتِ، وَمَلِّ الْأَرْضِ، وَمَلِّ الْمَيَا وَمَلِّ الْمَيِّتَةَ مِنْهُمْ}

Mil’ as-samāwātī wa mil’al-ardī, wa mā baynah humā, wa mil’a mā shi’ta min shay’in ba’d. Ahlath-thanā wal-majdi, aḥaqqu mà qāl al-‘abdu, wa kullunā laka ‘abdun. [Allāhumma] là māni’a limā a’ṣayta, wa là mu’tiya limā mana’ta, wa là yanfa’u thal jaddi minkal jadd.

(A praise that) Fills the heavens and the earth and what lies

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\(^{48}\) Ibid.

\(^{49}\) Muslim and Abū ’Awānāh.
between them, and whatever else You please. (You Allāh) are most worthy of praise and majesty, and what the slave has said - we are all Your slaves. Oh Allāh, there is none who may deny us what You give, and none who may give what You deny. The might of the mighty person will not benefit (him) against You.\textsuperscript{50}

Sometimes, he would say the following during night prayer:

\begin{center}
\begin{flushright}
[9]

Li-rabbī al-ḥamdu, li-rabbī al-ḥamdu

To my Lord is the praise, to my Lord is the praise
\end{flushright}
\end{center}

until the length of time of that becomes equal to the length of time of his \textit{ruku'\textsuperscript{i}}, which was nearly equivalent in length to his first standing in which he had recited \textit{Sūrah al-Baqarah}.\textsuperscript{51}

\begin{center}
\begin{flushright}
[10]

Rabbanā wa lakal-hamdu, ḥamdān kathīrān ṭayyibān
mubārakān fi, mubārakān ‘alayhi, kamā yuḥibu rabbannā wa yardā.

Our Lord, praise is yours, abundant, good and blessed praise, externally blessed, as our Lord loves and is pleased with.
\end{flushright}
\end{center}

A man was praying behind the Prophet \textit{(ﷺ)} said this statement after he had raised his head from \textit{ruku'\textsuperscript{i}} and said: \textit{Subhāh Allāh ʿālīm ẓāli‘ī.} When the Messenger of Allāh \textit{(ﷺ)} had finished his prayer, he said: “Who was the one speaking just now?” The man replied: “O Messenger of Allāh! It was I” So the Messenger of Allāh \textit{(ﷺ)} said: “I saw more than thirty angels racing each other to be the first one to write it

\textsuperscript{50} Muslim, Abū ‘Awānah and Abū Dāwūd

\textsuperscript{51} Abū Dāwūd and al-Nasāʿī. It is also found in \textit{al-Irs̱ār} \#335.
down.”

6.7 Prolonging this Standing and the Obligation to be Serene in it

He (ﷺ) used to make the length of time of this standing similar to the length of time of his ṭūb as stated previously. In fact, he (ﷺ) used to prolong it until a person may think that the Prophet (ﷺ) has forgotten [due to his standing for so long].

He used to instruct them to be at ease in it; hence, he said to ‘the man who prayed badly’: “…next, raise your head until you are standing straight [and every bone has taken its proper place]” (in another narration: “When you rise, make your spine upright and raise your head until the bones return to their joints.”)

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52 Mālik, Bukhārī and Abū Dāwūd
53 Bukhārī, Muslim and Ahmād. It is also found in al-Īrāq #307.
54 Bukhārī and Muslim
55 Dārānī, Ḥākim, al-Shāfī‘ī and Ahmād.

Albānī said: The intended meaning of the above haddith is clear and obvious as it is about having tranquility when standing up after rising from bowing. As for using this haddith and some other similar ahādith by some of our brothers from the Hijaz (i.e. Saudi Arabia) to state it is prescribed to place the right hand on the left hand in this position is farfetched from the meaning of the haddith that is famous among jurists as the haddith of ‘the man who prayed badly’. In fact, their understanding of this haddith is invalid because none of the routes of the haddith, let alone any of its reported wordings, ever mentioned placing of the hands in the first standing. That being the case, it cannot be acceptable to interpret the part about “each joint return to its place” to mean placing the right hand on the left hand after rising from bowing! Of course, this is if we hypothetically assume that the overall meaning of all the different wordings of this report may suggest their interpretation. However, the haddith explicitly indicates a different meaning! Besides all that, the placing the hands is not what comes to mind when this haddith is mentioned because the bones mentioned in this report refer to the backbones, as stated previously, and this is supported by the action of the Prophet (ﷺ) when “he stood up erect until each joint returned to its place”; hence I ask you to be just and fair when you ponder on this part! That said, I have no doubt that placing the hands on the chest in this standing [after rising from bowing] is a misguided innovation because it was not mentioned at all in any of the ahādith about prayer, of which there are
He (ﷺ) also mentioned: “The prayer of any person shall not be complete if he does not do it”, and he (ﷺ) used to say: “Allāh, Exalted be He, does not look at the prayer of a servant who does not make his backbone upright in between his bowings and prostrations.”  

56 too many. Besides, if this act [i.e. placing the hands on chest after rising from bowing] had a basis, it would have been transmitted to us even through one route. On top of all that, none of the righteous predecessors practiced it and none of the renowned of scholars of hadīth ever mentioned it, as far as I know.

The view I adopt does not contradict the statement of Imām Aḥmad, which Shaykh al-Twayjīrī mentioned in his letter (pp.18-19), when he quoted him ‘It is optional; a person may let his hands down on his sides after rising from bowing, if he likes, or place them on his chest’, which is what Ṣāliḥ the son of Imām Aḥmad meant in (p. 90) of the book in which he documented his father’s answers to various questions. This is because he [i.e. Imām Aḥmad] did not raise that statement to the Prophet (ﷺ), rather he said it is based on his Ijtihād and his opinion, and opinions can be wrong sometimes. Therefore, when there is an authentic proof standing against an innovation - such as this subject at hand, the statement of the Imām does not negate the nature of such an act as being an innovation, as concluded by Shaykh al-Islām Ibn Taymiyyah (may Allāh have mercy on his soul) in some of his books. In fact, I find the statement of Imām Aḥmad is a proof that he did not find any authentic report to prove that placing the hands on the chest after rising from bowing is a Sunnah; therefore he left the matter optional. That said, does the respected Shaykh [i.e. al-Twayjīrī] think that if this act is a Sunnah, would Imām Aḥmad make it also optional for people to place the right hand on the left hand while standing before ruku? The aforesaid sufficed to prove that placing the right hand on the left hand after rising from bowing is not from the Sunnah, and it is what has been intended.

The above is a brief explanation about this issue, which can be further detailed and explained, but this is not the right place to do so. It is explained in the place I pointed out in the introduction of the fifth edition of this new edition [al-Albānī is referring to his Arabic new fifth edition].

56 Aḥmad and Ṭabarānī in Muṣjam al-Kabir with a šāḥīḥ isnād.
SECTION SEVEN

The Prostration (al-Sujūd)

Then he (ﷺ) used to say takbir then go down into sajdah,¹ and he (ﷺ) ordered 'the man who prayed badly' to do so, saying to him: “The prayer of any person shall not be complete unless he says: سَبَيعَ اللَّهُ لَنَّ عَدْنَاء, until he stands up erect then says: اللَّهُ أَكْرَمْ, then prostrates until his joints settle.”²

Also, when he (ﷺ) wanted to perform sajdah, he would say takbir, [separate his hands from his sides] then perform sajdah.³

Sometimes, he (ﷺ) would raise his hands when performing sajdah.⁴

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¹ Bukhārī and Muslim
² Abū Dāwūd, Ḥākim who declared it ṣaḥīḥ and Dḥahabī agreed with him.
³ Abū Ya‘lā in his Musnad (284/2) with a good isnād and Ibn Khuzaymah (1/79/2) with another ṣaḥīḥ isnād.
⁴ Nasā’ī, al-Dāraquṭnī and al-Mukhlaş in al-Fawā'id (1/2/2) with a ṣaḥīḥ isnād.

Albānī said: Raising the hands in this place is reported from ten Companions and a group of the righteous predecessors, some of which are: Ibn 'Umar, Ibn 'Abbās, al-Ḥasan al-Baṣrī, Tāwūs, 'Abdullāh Ibn Tāwūs, Nāfi' the servant of Ibn 'Umar, Sālim Ibn Nafi, al-Qāsim Ibn Muḥammad, 'Abdullāh Ibn Dīnār and 'Aṣā', confirmed that it is a prescribed act in Prayer. 'Abdul Raḥmān Ibn Mahdi said: “This act is from the Sunnah” and it was practiced by Imām Aḥmad ibn Ḥanbal and it is one of the views reported by Mālik and al-Shāfi‘ī.
7.1 Placing the Hands First on the Ground when Prostrating

He (ﷺ) used to place his hands on the ground before his knees.⁵

He (ﷺ) ordered, saying: “When one of you performs sajdah, he should not kneel like a camel, but should place his hands before his knees.”⁶

He (ﷺ) also said: “Indeed, the hands prostrate just as the face [i.e. forehead] prostrates; so when one of you places his face [on the

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⁵ Ibn Khuzaymah (1/76/1), al-Dāraquṭnī, Ḥākim who declared it šāhīḥ and al-Dhahabi agreed with him.

Albānī said: The opposing ḥadith [stating that he (ﷺ) used to prostrate placing his knees on floor before his hands] is unauthentic, which is the view of Imām Mālik, and Imām Aḥmad as stated by Ibn al-Jawzi in al-Tābiq (108/2), and al-Marwazi reported in his Masā’il (1/147/1) with šāhīḥ isnād that Imām al-Awzā’ī said: “I saw people go down on their hands before their knees [when prostrating].”

⁶ Abū Dāwūd, Tammām in al-Fawā’id (108/1), Al-Nasā’ī in his Sunan al-Ṣaḥābī and Sunan al-Kubrā (1/47 photocopied from the King ‘Abdul ‘Aziz University in Makkah) with a šāhīḥ isnād, and authenticated by ‘Abdul Ḥaqq al-Iṣḥāqī in al-Ahkām al-Kubrā (54/1) and said in Kitāb al-Tahajjud (56/1): “Its chain of narrators is better than the preceding one i.e. it is more authentic than the ḥadith of Wā’il which opposes it.” Aside of its contradiction to the authentic ḥadith about this ḥadith and the other ḥadith about placing the hands before the knees, its chain of narrators is weak as I explained in Silsilah Ḥadāth al-Du’i’ah #929 and al-Irwa’ #357.

Albānī said: You should know that opposing the way of camels by placing the hands before the knees is because camels go down on their knees first and the knees of camels are found in their hands as stated in Lisān al-‘Arab and other Arabic language lexicon. Al-Ṭahāwī mentioned similar meanings in Mustakil al-‘Athār and Sharh Ma‘ānī al-‘Athār, and so did Imām al-Qāsim al-Saraquṣṭī who reported in Gharib al-ḥadāth (2/70/1-2) with an authentic chain of narrators that Abū Hurayrah (radīy Allāhu ‘anhu) said “do not go down just like how a fleeing camel does.” The Imām commented on it: “This statement refers to prostration and the meaning of his statement is that one should not throw himself on the floor as a fleeing disturbed camel, but rather go down with comfort on his hands then his knees; and it was reported in a ḥadith that was raised to the Prophet (ﷺ) explaining this matter.” Then, he mentioned the above ḥadith. On the other hand, Ibn al-Qayyīm said concerning this explanation: “It is an illogical statement that is unknown to the experts of language” which is an odd objection that the previously mentioned references and many other references refute! I elaborated on this subject in my response to the letter of Shaykhs al-Twayjīrī, which I hope will be published.
Section Seven: The Prostration (al-Sujūd)

ground], place your hands [on the ground] too, and when you rise [from prostration], lift your hands too."\(^7\)

He (ﷺ) used to support himself on his palms [and spread them out]\(^8\), keeping his fingers close together\(^9\) and in the direction of the qiblah.\(^10\)

He (ﷺ) also used to place his hands at the level of his shoulders,\(^11\) and sometimes, he (ﷺ) used to place his hands at the level of his ears.\(^12\) He (ﷺ) used to place his nose and forehead on the ground.\(^13\)

He (ﷺ) said to the man whose prayer was performed improperly: “When you prostrate, make [your hands] firm [on the ground],”\(^14\) and in another narration, he (ﷺ) said to him: “When you prostrate, place your hands and forehead firmly [on the ground] until each bone settles in its proper place”\(^15\) He (ﷺ) also used to say: “There is no prayer for the one whose nose does not touch the ground that his forehead touches.”\(^16\)

He (ﷺ) used to make his knees and his toes firmly on the ground in prostration,\(^17\) and he (ﷺ) used to point the front of his feet and

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\(^7\) Ibn Khuzaymah (1/79/2), Ahmad, al-Sirāj, Hākim who declared it šāhiḥ and al-Dhahabī agreed with him. It is also found in al-Irwā’ #313.

\(^8\) Abū Dāwūd, Hākim who declared it šāhiḥ and al-Dhahabī agreed with him.

\(^9\) Ibn Khuzaymah, al-Bayhaqī, Hākim who declared it šāhiḥ and al-Dhahabī agreed with him.

\(^10\) Bayhaqī with a šāhiḥ isnād, Ibn Abī Shaybah (1/82/2), and al-Sirāj

\(^11\) Abū Dāwūd, al-Tirmidhī who declared it šāhiḥ, Ibn al-Mulaqqin (27/3) who declared it šāhiḥ. It is also found in al-Irwā’ #309.

\(^12\) Abū Dāwūd and al-Nasā’ī with a šāhiḥ isnād.

\(^13\) Abū Dāwūd, Tirmidhī who declared it šāhiḥ, Ibn al-Mulaqqin (27/3) who graded it authentic. It is also found in al-Irwā’ #309.

\(^14\) Abū Dāwūd and Ahmad with a šāhiḥ isnād.

\(^15\) Ibn Khuzaymah (1/10/1) with a ḥasan isnād.

\(^16\) Daraqutnī and Tabarānī (3/40/1) and Abu Nu’aym in Akhbār Ashabān.

\(^17\) Bayhaqī with a šāhiḥ isnād, Ibn Abī Shaybah (1/82/2), al-Sirāj from another route concerning direction of toes (2/363), Hākim who declared it šāhiḥ and al-Dhahabī agreed with him.
the tips of his toes toward the qiblah [in prostration].\textsuperscript{18} He (ﷺ) used to hold his heels together,\textsuperscript{19} and, hold his feet upright,\textsuperscript{20} and ordered to do likewise,\textsuperscript{21} and, he (ﷺ) used to bend his toes.\textsuperscript{22}

Hence, these are the seven parts that the Prophet (ﷺ) used to prostrate on, namely: the two palms, the knees, the feet, the forehead and the nose - considered the last two as one limb in prostration, as he (ﷺ) said: "I was ordered to prostrate (in another narration: we were ordered to prostrate) on seven bones: on the forehead - and he pointed to his nose - the hands (in another narration: the palms), the feet and the ends of the toes, and not to tuck up\textsuperscript{23} garment and hair."\textsuperscript{24}

He (ﷺ) also said: "When a slave [of Allāh] prostrates, seven limbs prostrates with him, namely: his face, his palms, his knees and his feet."\textsuperscript{25}

He (ﷺ) said about a man praying with his hair tied behind him, "The likeness of such a one is that of someone who prays with his hands bound (behind his back)."\textsuperscript{26} He (ﷺ) also said: "That is the

\textsuperscript{18} Bukhārī, Abū Dāwūd, Ibn Rahawayh in his Musnad (4/129/2). Ibn 'Umar used to prefer having all his body parts face the qiblah whilst praying to the point he used to make his thumb in the direction of the qiblah. Recorded by Ibn Sa'd (4/157)
\textsuperscript{19} Al-Tahāwī, Ibn Khuzaymah #654, Ḥākim who declared it ṣaḥīḥ and al-Dhahabī agreed with him.
\textsuperscript{20} Bayhaqī with a ṣaḥīḥ isnād
\textsuperscript{21} Tirmidhī and al-Sirāj, and Ḥākim who declared it ṣaḥīḥ and al-Dhahabī agreed with him.
\textsuperscript{22} Abū Dāwūd, At Tirmichi who declared it ṣaḥīḥ, Nasā'ī and Ibn Mājah.
\textsuperscript{23} Albānī said: The order of not tucking up the hair by putting it together or tucking up clothes for the purpose of preventing the hair or the garment from falling on the ground when bowing or prostrating is not limited to the case whilst praying. Hence, if a person happens to do that before commencing the Prayer, the majority of scholars will deem this hadīth applicable in such cases too. This view is supported by the hadīth in which the Prophet (ﷺ) forbade people to pray with their hair tied up as will be mentioned afterward.
\textsuperscript{24} Bukhārī and Muslims. It is also found in al-İrwa' #310.
\textsuperscript{25} Muslim, Abū 'Awānah and Ibn Ḥibbān.
\textsuperscript{26} Ibid.
saddle of the *shaytān*"^{27}, meaning: where the *shaytān* sits, referring to the knots in the hair."

He (**الهاء**) would not rest his fore-arms on the ground in prostration,^{28} rather, he would raise them off the ground and keep a distance between his arms and his sides such that the whiteness of his armpits could be seen from behind,^{29} and also "such that if a small lamb wanted to pass under his arms, it would be able to do so."^{30}

He would do this to such an extent that one of his Companions said: "We used to feel for the Messenger of Allāh (**الهاء**) from the amount he used to kept his hands away from his sides in *sujūd*."^{31}

He (**الهاء**) ordered to do likewise, saying: "When you prostrate, place your palms and raise your elbows",^{32} and "be moderate in prostration and none of you should spread his forearms along the ground like a dog (in one narration:...like a dog spreads them)."^{33} In another hadith: "None of you should rest arms on the ground the way a dog rests them."^{34}

He (**الهاء**) also used to say: "None of you should not spread your

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^{27} Albānī said: Ibn al-Athīr said: “The meaning of this hadith is that when the hair is untied, it will fall on the ground in prostration along with the face, therefore the person will be rewarded for that! However, if it was tied or plaited, it will not fall on the ground and hence not deemed as prostrating, which explains why the example of the man whose hands are tied up was given by the Prophet (**الهاء**) because in such a case the hands do not prostrate.” I say: It appears that this ruling is limited to men and does not include women, which is the view of Ibn al-‘Arabī that al-Shawkānī quoted.

^{28} Abū Dāwūd, Tirmidhī who graded it ḥasan, and Ibn Khuzaymah who declared it ṣaḥīḥ, Ibn Hibbān, and see *Ṣaḥīḥ Abū Dāwūd* #653.

^{29} Bukhārī and Abū Dāwūd

^{30} Bukhārī and Muslim. It is also found in *al-Irwā‘* #359.

^{31} Muslim, Abū ‘Awānah and Ibn Hibbān.

^{32} Abū Dāwūd and Ibn Mājah with a ṣaḥīḥ isnād.

^{33} Muslim and Abū ‘Awānah.

^{34} Bukhārī, Muslim, Abū Dāwūd and Ahmad

^{35} Ahmad and Tirmidhī with a saḥīḥ isnād

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forearms along the ground [like a beast], rest on your palms and keep your upper arms apart, for if you do so, every one of your limbs prostrates with you.”

7.2 Obligation of Having Serenity in Sujūd

He (ﷺ) used to command the completion of rukū‘ and sujūd, and compared someone not doing so to a starving person eating one or two dates that does not suffice his hunger, and described such a person as the worst thief among people.

He (ﷺ) also deemed the prayer of he who does not straighten his back in rukū‘ and sujūd, as invalid, explained in the section of rukū‘, and also ordered ‘the man who prayed badly’ to have serenity in his sujūd, as mentioned in the beginning of this section.

7.3 The Adhkār of Prostration

He (ﷺ) would say different adhkār and supplications in this posture:

[1]

Subḥāna rabī’ al-‘Ālā (three times)

How perfect is my Lord, the Most High.

Sometimes, he (ﷺ) would repeat it more than.

Once, he repeated it so much that his sujūd until the length of time

36 Already referenced in the section of bowing
37 Ahmad, Abū Dāwūd, Ibn Mājah, Dāraquṭnī, al-Ṭahāwī, Bazzār, Ṭabarānī in his Mu’jam al-Kabīr from seven Companions.
38 Refer to the sub-section: list of al-Adhkār said in bowing
of his prostration was almost equal to the length of time of his standing, in which he had recited three of the long Surahs: al-Baqarah, al-Nisa' and Al-Imrān in addition to the supplications and asking forgiveness, as has already been explained in the section of Night Prayer.

[2]

Subhāna rabī al-'Ālā wa-bihamdih

How perfect is my Lord, the Most High and Praise be He.

(three times)\textsuperscript{39}

[3]

Subbāh, Quddūs, Rabbul-Mala'ikati wal-Rūh

Perfect (are You), Blessed (are You), Lord of the Angels and the Spirit.\textsuperscript{40}

[4]

Subhānaka Allāhumma wa-bihamdika, Allāhumma Ighfir li

How perfect You are O Allāh, and Praises are for You. Oh Allāh, forgive me.

This he (ﷺ) would say it often in his rukū' and sujūd, acting upon [the command of] the Qur'ān.\textsuperscript{41}

[5]

Allāhumma laka sajadtu, wabika āmantu, wa-laka aslamtu, [wa-anū Rabī], sajada wajhī lil-lāli khalaqahu wa šawwahar,  

\textsuperscript{39} Sahih hadith. Recorded by Abū Dāwūd, Dāraquṭnī, Aḥmad , Ṭabarānī and al-Bayhaqi.  

\textsuperscript{40} Muslim and Abū 'Awānah.  

\textsuperscript{41} Bukhārī and Muslim.
[fa aḥsana ṣuwwarah], wa shaqqa sam'ahu wa-baṣarah, [fa] Tabāraka Allāhu aḥsan ul-khāliqīn.

O Allāh, to You I have prostrated and in You I have believed, and to You I have submitted. [Verily You are my Lord]. My face has prostrated before He Who created it and depicted it [and made it in the best image], and brought forth its faculties of hearing and seeing; [hence] Glorified is Allāh, the Best of Creators.²

[6] اللهُمَّ اغْفِرْ لِي ذُنُوبِي كُلَّها وَؤْفِقْ لِي جَلَّةً وَأُولَى أَخْرَجْهُ إِلَى عَلَيكَ وَبِكَ إِلَيْكَ

Allāhumma-ighfir lī thanbī kullah, diqqahu wa-jillah, wa awwalahu wa ākhirah, wa-‘alāniyyatahu wa-sirrah

"O Allāh, forgive me of all of my sins, the small and great of them, the first and last of them, and the known and hidden of them."³

[7] سَجَدَ لَكَ سَوَادِي وَخَيَالِي وَآمَنْتُ بِكَ مُوَلَّي ابْنِي ۖ رَغِّبَتْ عَلَى نَفْسِي

Sajada laka sawādī wa-khayālī, wa-āmana bika fuūdí, abū’ bini’mitaka ‘alayā, hadhī yadayā wā- janaytu ‘alā nafsī

[O Allāh], my body and shadow prostrates to You, in You, my heart has believed, I admit Your grace and bless upon me; this is my hand and all that with which I wronged myself.⁴

[8] سْبَحْنَآ ذِي الْجِبَّوْرِ وَالْمَكْرُ وَالْكِبْرَىَّ وَالْعَظْمَةَ

Subḥāna ‘l-jib’l-jabarūti, wa’l-malakūti, wa’l-‘azhāmati,

How preflect is He Who has all Power, Kingdom, Magnifi-

² Muslim, Abū ‘Awānah, al-Ṭahwī and Dāraqūtī.
³ Muslim and Abū ‘Awānah.
⁴ Ibn Naṣr, Bazzār, Ḥākim who declared it ṣahīh but Dhahabi objected to his grading. However, there are other reports corroborating this meaning.
cence, Greatness and Grandeur.

This he (ﷺ) used to his Night Prayer.⁴⁵

Subḥānaka [Allāhummā] wa biḥamdika, lā ilāha illā Ant.

How perfect You are [O Allāh], and Praises are for You, there is none worthy of worship except You.⁴⁶

Allāhummā-ighfir li mā ʿāṣrūt, wāma ʿammilt

O Allāh! Forgive all that which I concealed and all that which I exhibited.⁴⁷

Allāhummā ijjal fi qalbi nūrā, [wa- fi lisānī nūrā], waj'al fi samʿāt nūrā, waj'al ʿal faṣārī nūrā, waj'al min taḥtī nūrā. Waj'al min faqīrī nūrā, wa'an yami nūrā, wa'an yasarī nūrā, waj'al min aẓīmi nūrā, waj'al min khalfī nūrā, waj'jal li nūrā, [waj'al fi nafsī nūrā] wa'azīm li nūrā”⁴⁸

O Allāh, let there be light in my heart, [my tongue], my hearing, my sight, and place light below me and above me, and place light to my right and to my left, and place light in front of me, and light behind me, [and bring light into my spirit], and magnify and amplify for me light.⁴⁸

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⁴⁵ Abū Dāwūd and al-Nasāʾī with a ṣaḥīḥ isnād.
⁴⁶ Muslim, Abū ‘Awānāh, al-Nasāʾī and Ibn Naṣr
⁴⁷ Ibn Abī Shaybah (62/112/1), al-Nasāʾī and Ḥākim who declared it ṣaḥīḥ and al-Dhahabī agreed with him
⁴⁸ Muslim, Abū ‘Awānāh and Ibn Abī Shaybah in his Musannaf (12/106/2 and 112/1).
O Allah, I seek refuge in Your pleasure from Your dissatisfaction and in Your safety that You gave me from Your punishment, and I seek refuge in You from You. I cannot praise You as You deserve to be praised, You are as You have praised Yourself.49

7.4 Forbiddance of Reciting Qur’ān in Sujūd

He (ﷺ) forbade the recitation of Qur’ān in rukū‘ and sujūd, and commanded striving in, and a lot of, supplication in this posture, as explained previously. He (ﷺ) also said: “The closest a servant can be to his Lord is in prostration; so increase supplication in it”50

7.5 Lengthening the Prostration

He (ﷺ) used to make the length of his sujūd almost equal to that of his rukū‘ and sometimes, he used to prolong it due to the circumstances, as some his Companions said: “One day, the Messenger of Allah (ﷺ) came out to us for one of the evening prayers (Maghrib or ‘Isha’), carrying Hasan or Husayn (radyAllāhu ‘anhumā). The Messenger of Allah (ﷺ) came forward, put the child down and said takbir to start the prayer. Then he prostrated during the prayer and his prostration lasted for a long time. My father said: I raised my head and saw the child on the back of the Messenger of Allāh (ﷺ), so I

49 Ibid.
50 Muslim, Abū ‘Awānah and al-Bayhaqī. It is also found in al-Irwā’ #456.
went back to my prostration. When the Messenger of Allah (ﷺ) finished praying, the people said to him: “O Messenger of Allah, during your prayer you prostrated and it took a long time, until we thought that something had happened, or that you were receiving Revelation.” He (ﷺ) replied: “Nothing happened, but my son was riding on my back and I did not want to hurry him up until he had enough.”

In another narration: he (ﷺ) was praying and al-Hasan and al-Ḥusayn jumped on his back when he prostrated. When people tried to stop them, he pointed with his hand at them to let them be. After he finished praying, he made them sit in his lap and said: “whoever loves me should love them”

7.6 Excellence of Prostration

The Prophet (ﷺ) said: “There is no one among my nation whom I cannot recognise on the Day of Judgment”. They said: “How will you recognise them, O Messenger of Allah, among the multitude of created beings?” He responded: “If you enter a stables barn and found a horse with a white forehead and white lower legs [standing] in the middle of raven black horses, would you be able to recognise the different horse?” The questioner answered: “Of course.” The Prophet (ﷺ) said: “On that day, the foreheads of my nation will be illuminated and bright because of sujūd and their forearms and feet


52 Ibn Khuzaymah in his Sahîh #887 with ḥasan isnâd from the way of Ibn Mas‘ûd, Al Bayhaqî via mursal isnâd (2/263).

Albâni said: Ibn Khuzaymah listed this hadith under the title ‘Section: Evidence on that pointing in the Prayer - in a manner that make others understand what the pointer intend to say - does not nullify the Prayer or invalidate it.’ This titling indicates the type of understanding of texts that people of opinions have been deprived of! There are other aḥadîth found in both Bukhārî and Muslim and other hadîth books that support this understanding.
will be white [i.e. illuminated] because of ablution.”

He (ﷺ) said: “When Allāh intends to have mercy on whomsoever he wishes of the people of the Fire, He will order the angels to bring out whoever used to worship Allāh [i.e. died upon Islām]. The angels recognise them by the marks of sujūd on them, for Allāh forbade hellfire to devour the marks of sujūd; and hence they are removed from hellfire; for hellfire shall devour all of a son of Adam except the marks of sujūd.”

7.7 Prostration on the Ground and on Mats

He (ﷺ) would often prostrate on the ground, and his companions used to pray with him in intense heat, but if any of them was unable to settle his forehead on the ground firmly, he would spread out his garment and prostrate on it.

He (ﷺ) also said: “The whole earth has been made place of prayer and a means of purification for me and for my nation. Thus, wherever prayer becomes due on someone of my ummah, he has his place of worship and his purification next to him. Those before me used to think that this was too much: indeed, they would only pray in their churches and synagogues.”

53 Ahmad with a šahīh isrād, Tirmidhī recorded part of it and he graded it šahīh. It is also found in Sīcišah Abādith ar-Shāhihah.

54 Bukhārī and Muslim.

Albānī said: This hadith proves that Muslim sinners will not remain in hell forever, and the same is the case with those who believe Allāh is One and yet neglect praying due to laziness as proven in another report. See Sīcišah Abādith ar-Shāhihah #2054.

55 Albānī said: The Prophet (ﷺ) used to prostrate on the ground often because the ground of his Masjid was not furnished with mats or such types of material. This is indicated in many ahadith, some of which are the following hadith reported by Abū Sa’īd (radiuAllāhu ‘anhu).

56 Muslim and Abū ‘Awānah.

57 Aḥmad, al-Sirāj and al-Bayhaqī with a šahīh isnād.
Section Seven: The Prostration (al-Sujūd)

Sometimes, he (👤) would prostrate on mud and water, as it happened in the rainy night of the twenty first of Ramadān when the roof of the masjid leaked water as it was made with palm-branches. Abū Sa‘īd al-Khudrī (raḍy Allāhu ‘anhu) commented on this incident: “I saw with my eyes the traces of mud and water on the forehead and nose of the Messenger of Allāh (👤)”\(^{58}\)

Also, he (👤) would pray on a kbumrah\(^{59}\) and sometimes, he (👤) would pray on mat\(^{60}\) sometimes, he (👤) prayed on a mat whose color blacken due to prolonged use.\(^{61}\)

7.8 Rising from Prostration

Then, he (👤) used to raise his head from prostration while saying takbîr,\(^{62}\) and he (👤) ordered ‘the man who prayed badly’: “The prayer of any person is not be complete until... he prostrates until his limbs are at ease [in prostration], then says Allāhu Akbar, and then raises his head until he is sitting straight.”\(^{63}\) Sometimes, he (👤) used to raise his hands with this takbîr.\(^{64}\)

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58 Bukhārī and Muslim.
59 Ibid.
60 Muslim and Abū ‘Awānah.

Albānī said: This hadith is evidence that sitting on something equals the act of wearing it, hence it can be used to conclude that sitting on anything made of silk is prohibited since it is proven in authentic ahadith found in Bukhārī and Muslim, and other hadith books that wearing silk is forbidden. In fact, there are explicit texts forbidding one to sit on silk. That being the case let no one be overwhelmed by the view of some great scholars who allowed it.

61 Bukhārī and Muslim.
62 Bukhārī and Muslim
63 Abū Dāwūd, Ḥākim who declared it şâhîh and al-Dhahabî agreed with him.
64 Ahmad and Abū Dāwūd with a şâhîh isnâd.

Albānī said: Imām Aḥmad said: raising the hands should be made with every takbîr [in prayer]. Ibn al-Qayyīm said: “Ibn al-Athram was asked about when to raise the hands in prayer, and he answered: ‘in every lowering and every rising.’ I saw Abu Abdullāh (Imām Aḥmad) raising his hands in prayer in every lowering and in every rising.” (al-Badā‘i: 4/89).

This was also the view adopted by Ibn al-Mundhir, Abū ‘Ali, the Shāfi‘ī scholar, and it is one of the reported views of Mālik and al-Shāfi‘ī as mentioned in Tarb al-Talbīb. This
Then, he (ﷺ) used to lay his left [foot] along the ground and sit on it with [tranquility], and he (ﷺ) ordered ‘the man who prayed badly’: “When you prostrate, prostrate firmly [on the ground], and when you rise [from prostration], sit on your left thigh.”

He (ﷺ) used to keep his right foot upright, and points its toes toward the qiblah.

7.9 Resting on Both Heels and Feet between the Two Prostrations

Sometimes, he (ﷺ) would sit in the position of iq‘ā’ [resting on both heels and feet].

practice is proven to be done by Anas, Ibn ‘Umar, Nāfi’, Ṭawūs, al-Ḥasan al-Baṣrī, Ibn Sīrīn, and Ayyūb al-Sikhtiyānī as reported in Muṣannaf Ibn Abī Shaybah (1/106) with a saḥīḥ isnād. Bukhārī in his book, Juz’ Raf al-Yadayn, Abū Dāwūd with a saḥīḥ isnād, Muslim and Abū ‘Awānah. It is also found in al-Dirās #316.

Aḥmad and Abū Dāwūd with a saḥīḥ isnād.

Bukhārī and al-Bayhaqī

Nasā’ī with a saḥīḥ isnād.

Muslim, Abū ‘Awānah, Abū’l Shaykh in Mā raẕābnu Abī’l Zubayr ḫaṭṭ ghayyri Jābir (no.104-106), and al-Bayhaqī.

Albānī said: Ibn Al Qayyim (may Allāh have mercy on him) erred when he commented after mentioning that the Prophet (ﷺ) used to sit in the position of al-Iffārāsh [i.e. sitting on the left thigh with the right foot upwards and its toes pointed towards the qiblah]. “In this position [i.e. between the two prostrations] It was not preserved that the Prophet (ﷺ) ever sat in a position other than al-Iffārāsh.” I say in response: “How could such a statement be correct when the hadith about him sitting on both heels and knees is recorded from the way of Ibn ‘Abbās in Muslim, Abū Dāwūd and Tirmidhī who declared it saḥīḥ, and others (see Sīlahab Abūdīth as-Saḥīhab #383), and from the way of Ibn ‘Umar with a hasan isnād in al-Bayhaqī, and this report was graded saḥīḥ by Ibn Ḥajar. Also Abū Ishāq al-Harbī recorded in Gharīb al-Hadīth (5/12/1) a report with a saḥīḥ isnād that Ṭawūs saw Ibn ‘Umar and Ibn ‘Abbās sitting on their both heels and feet between the two prostrations. That being the case, the statement of Imām Mālik (may Allāh have mercy on his soul) “All of us can refute and be refuted except the one lying in this grave” then he pointed at the grave of the Prophet (ﷺ). Further, this Sunnah [i.e. sitting on both heels and feet in this position] was practiced by a group of Companions, Taḥfin and others. I have detailed this issue in al-ʿAsl.

Not to mention, this type of iq‘ā’ is different than the type of iq‘ā’ that the Prophet (ﷺ) forbade, as shall be explained in the section of ‘Sitting for Ṭashahhud’.

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7.10 Obligation of Having Serenity between the Two Prostrations

He (ﷺ) used to have [enough] serenity to have every bone settle back in its (proper) place, and he (ﷺ) ordered ‘the man who prayed badly’ likewise, and said to him: “The prayer of any of you will not be complete until he does that.”

Also he (ﷺ) used to lengthen it until it was almost the same length as of his prostration, and sometimes, he (ﷺ) would remain [in this position, sitting between the two prostrations] until one would think that he forgot.

7.11 The Adhkār between the Two Prostrations

He (ﷺ) used to say in this sitting:

[1]

اللَّهُمَّ (وَفِي لِفظ: رَبِّ) اغْفِرْ لِي، وَارْحَمْني، [وَأَعْفَاني،] وَارْفَعْني، [وَأَعْفَاني،] وَارْفَعْني

Allāhumma (in another narration: rabbi) maghfir li, warḥamnī, [wajburnī, [warfa‘nī], wahdīnī, [wa‘āfinī], warzuqnī.

“O Allāh (in another narration: O Lord)! Forgive me; bestow Your mercy on me; [suffice me]; [elevate my rank]; guide me; [protect me] and sustain me.”

70 Abū Dāwūd and al-Bayhaqī with a šāhīḥ isnād.
71 Abū Dāwūd, Ḥākim who declared it šāhīḥ and al-Dhahabī agreed with him.
72 Bukhārī and Muslim
73 Bukhārī and Muslim.

Albānī said: Ibn al-Qayyim said: “This is a Sunnah that people have abandoned after the end of the era of the Companions. However, whoever adheres to the Sunnah and never consider anything that may contradicts it, will never value anything that may oppose this guidance.”

74 Abū Dāwūd, Tirmidhī, Ibn Mājah, Ḥākim who declared it šāhīḥ and Dhahabī agreed with him.
Or sometimes he (ﷺ) would say:

[2]

ربي افقفر لي ربي افقفر لي
O Lord! Forgive me; forgive me”\(^{75}\)

He would say these two in the night prayer.

Then, he (ﷺ) used to say takbir then prostrate for the second prostration.\(^{76}\) He (ﷺ) ordered ‘the man who prayed badly’, after he ordered him to have serenity between the two prostrations, as was mentioned previously, saying: “Then say: Allāhu Akbar, and then you prostrate until your limbs are at ease [in prostration] and [then repeat it in your entire prayer].”\(^{77}\) Sometimes, he (ﷺ) would raise his hands when saying takbir.\(^{78}\)

He (ﷺ) used to do in this prostration the same as he did the first prostration then he would rise while saying takbir,\(^{79}\) and he (ﷺ) or-

\(^{75}\) Ibn Majah with a ḥasan isnād.

Albānī said: Imām Ahmad chose the last supplication, mentioned above, to say between the two prostrations. Ishāq Ibn Rāhawayh said: “It could be said thrice, if one likes. And, a person may say: ‘O Allāh! Forgive me; forgive me’ or ‘O Lord! Forgive me; forgive me’ as both were reported from the Prophet (ﷺ).” (Musnad Imām Ahmad and Ishāq Ibn Rāhawayh: from the narration of Ishāq al-Marzawī, p.19)

\(^{76}\) Though the reports indicate that the Prophet (ﷺ) used to say these supplications in his night prayer, they can also be said in the obligatory prayer because there is no difference between the obligatory and supererogatory prayer. Al-Shāfi‘i, Ahmad and Ishāq were with the view that it is permissible to say these supplications in obligatory and supererogatory prayer, as mentioned by Tirmidhī. Further, Imām al-Ṭahāwī was also with this view as he mentioned in Mushkil al-‘Athbār. [As a matter of fact], sound understanding corroborates this view because in every place in prayer, there is a prescribed dhibār to say, which therefore it makes it applicable to obligatory prayer too. And, that is an obvious matter.

\(^{77}\) Bukhārī and Muslim.

\(^{78}\) Abū Dāwūd, Ḥākim who declared it ṣaḥīḥ and al-Dhahabī agreed with him. The last part of this hadīth is recorded by Bukhārī and Muslim.

\(^{79}\) Abū ‘Awānah and Abū Dāwūd with two ṣaḥīḥ isnāds.

Albānī said: In one of the narrated views from Imām Aḥmad, Mālik and al-Shāfi‘i, it stated that they were with the view of raising the hands in this position.
dered ‘the man who prayed badly’ to do that i.e. he said to him after he ordered him to make the second prostration, as stated previously, “Then raise your head and say takbîr” 80 He also said to him: “[Then do all that in every bowing and every prostration]. If you do that, your prayer will be complete, and if you leave something, you have made your prayer incomplete.” 81 Also, sometimes he (ﷺ) would raise his hands [when rising from the second prostration]. 82

7.12 The Sitting of Rest (al-Istimāh)

Then, he (ﷺ) would sit down on his left leg while his back was straight until each bone returned to its place. 83

7.13 Supporting Oneself with the Hands on Rising for the Next Rak‘ah

Then, he (ﷺ) would place his hands on the ground, supporting oneself to stand up for the second rak‘ah. 84 Also, he (ﷺ) used to clench his fists during the prayer, supporting himself with his hands when standing up. 85

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80 Muslim and Bukhārī.
81 Abū Dāwūd, Ḥākim who declared it šahīḥ and al-Dhahabi agreed with him.
82 Ṭirāz and Tirmidhī who declared it šahīḥ.
83 Abū ‘Awānah and Abū Dāwūd with two šahīḥ isnāds.
84 Bukhārī and Abū Dāwūd.
85 Albānī said: Jurists call this posture: the resting sitting position. This was the view of al-Shāfi‘ī and a view that is reported to be adopted by Ahmad as stated in al-Tahqiq (1/111), and knowing how Imām Ahmad was always keen to adhere to the actions of Sunnah that are not opposed by another act of Sunnah, it is most likely that he adopted this view too. Ibn Hānī said in his book in which he recorded the answers of Imām Ahmad to his questions (1/57): “I saw Abū Abdullah (i.e. Imām Ahmad) rely on his hands when rising from prostration to the last rak‘ah, and sometimes he sat down and then got up.”
Albanī said: This is the view of Imām Ishāq Ibn Rāhawayh i.e. he stated in the book Masa’il al-Marzāwī (1/147/2): “It has always been the Sunnah of the Prophet (ﷺ) that a person, be it young or old, relies on his hands while getting up [from prostration].” See al-Iruwā‘ (2/82-83)
Bukhārī and al-Shāfi‘ī.
DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPHET'S PRAYER

When he (ﷺ) used to stand up in the second rak'ah, he would commence the rak'ah with the recitation of al-Fātiḥah after having a pause.⁸⁶ He (ﷺ) used to do in the second rak'ah the same thing he did in the first rak'ah except that he used to make it shorter than the first one, as stated before.

7.14 Obligation of Reciting al-Fātiḥah in Every Rakʿah

He (ﷺ) ordered 'the man who prayed badly' to recite al-Fātiḥah in the first rak'ah.⁸⁷ Then he ordered him to recite it in every rak'ah when he said “do that in your entire prayer”⁸⁸ (in one narration: “recite it in every rak'ah”).⁸⁹ He (ﷺ) also said in another narration “There is recitation in every rak'ah.”⁹⁰

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⁸⁶ Recorded by Abū Ishāq al-Ḫarbī with a faultless isnād, al-Bayhaqī, in its meaning, with a šāhīḥ isnād. As for the supposed report that the Prophet (ﷺ) used to stand up as speedy as a shot arrow without depending on his hands” is a fabricated report and all reports indicating such similar meaning are weak as I explained in Sīlah Abādīth al-Dā'ifah (562, 929 and 968). In fact, one of the respected people found my strengthening to the chain of narrators mentioned by al-Ḫarbī problematic and so I clarified that in my book Tamam al-Minna fi-Ta‘līq ‘alā Fiqh al-Sunnah, which I strongly recommend to read as it is important.

⁸⁷ Abū Dāwūd and Ahmad with strong isnād

⁸⁸ Bukhārī and Muslim

⁸⁹ Ahmad with good isnād.

⁹⁰ Ibn Mājah and Ibn Ḥībbān in his Šāhīḥ, Ahmad in Masā'il Ibn Hāni (1/52). Imām Mālik recorded in his al-Muwatta that Jābir (rady Allāhu ‘anh) said: “Whoever prays a rak'ah without reciting in it al-Fātiḥah, has not prayed; except in the case of praying behind an Imām.”
SECTION EIGHT

The First Tashabhud

8.1 Sitting For Tashabhud

Then, he (ﷺ) would sit down for tashabhud after finishing the second rak'ah. In the case of prayer comprising of two rak'ah such as Fajr, he would sit on his left foot with his right foot upwards and its toes pointed towards the qiblah. Just as he would sit between the two prostrations, and he (ﷺ) used to sit in the first tashabhud in the same manner in three or four rak'ah prayer.

He (ﷺ) also ordered the man whose prayer was performed improperly to do it when he said to him: “When you sit in the middle of the prayer, have tranquility and sit on your left thigh then perform tashabhud.”

Abū Hurayrah (ради Аллāху анху) said: “My friend [i.e. the Prophet (ﷺ)] forbade me from squatting (iq'ā) like a dog”, in another ḥadith:

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1 Nasā’ī (1/173) with a ṣaḥīḥ isnād.
2 Bukhārī and Abū Dāwūd
3 Abū Dāwūd and al-Bayhaqī with a ṣaḥīḥ isnād.
4 Al-Ṭayālṣī, Ahmad and Ibn Abī Shaybah. About iq'ā, Abū 'Ubaydah and others said: 'It is when a man presses his buttocks against

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“He (ﷺ) used to forbid the squatting of Shayṭān.”

When he used to sit for tashabhud, he would put his right palm on his right thigh (in one narration: on his right knee) and his left palm on his left thigh (in another narration: on his left knee, spreading upon it); and he (ﷺ) used to keep the end of his right elbow on his right thigh.

Also, he (ﷺ) forbade a man from sitting with his left hand leaning on the ground and said to him: “Verily, that is the prayer of the Jews”; in another wording, he (ﷺ) said: “Do not sit in such a manner! It is the sitting of those who are punished”; in another narration, he (ﷺ) said; “It is the sitting manner of those who incurred Allāh’s anger.”

8.2 Moving the Index finger in Tashabhud

He (ﷺ) used to spread his left palm on his left knee, and the fingers of his right hand close fisted save the index finger, which he used to point out toward the qiblah with his eyes fixed on it.”

the ground, keeps his shins upright, and leans his hands on the ground, the manner a dog does."

5 Muslim, Abū 'Awānah and others. It is also found in al-Irwā’ al-Ghālī #316.
6 Muslim and Abū 'Awānah.
7 Abū Dāwūd and Nasā’ī with a ṣaḥīḥ isnād.
8 Bayhaqī and Ḥākim who declared it ṣaḥīḥ and al-Dhahabī agreed with him. The takhrij of this hadith and the following hadith is in al-Irwā’ #380.
9 Ahmad and Abū Dāwūd with a ṣaḥīḥ isnād.
10 ‘Abdul-Razzāq and was declared ṣaḥīḥ by ‘Abdul-Ḥaqq al-Ishbīlī in al-Ahkām (no. 1284 - with my checking)
11 Muslim, Abū ‘Awānah, Ibn Khuzaymah. There is an addition recorded by both al-Ḥamaydī in his Musnad (1/131) and Abū Ya‘lā with authentic chain of narrators from the way of Ibn ‘Umar, which is: “and this is the shooting of the Shayṭān. Hence, let no one forgets doing it” Upon this: Al-Ḥamaydī raised his finger. Al-Ḥamaydī also related: Muslim Ibn Abī Maryam
Also, when he used to point out his index finger, he (ﷺ) would put his thumb on his middle finger, and sometimes he used to make a circle with his thumb and middle finger in a circular shape. When he (ﷺ) used to raise and move his index finger, making supplications with it and he used to say: “It is harder on the shayṭān than

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said: “A man told me that he saw the images of the Prophets in a church in the region of Shām which showed them praying while they are raising their fingers.” This is indeed one interesting benefit that has a ṣaḥīḥ isnād.

12 Muslim and Abū ‘Awānah.

13 Abū Dāwūd, Nasā’ī, Ibn al-Jārūd in al-Muntaqa #208, Ibn Khuzaymah (1/86/1-2), Ibn Hibbān in his ṣaḥīḥ #485 with a ṣaḥīḥ isnād, and Ibn al-Mullaqaq declared it ṣaḥīḥ (2/28). Ibn ‘Adi recorded in his book (1/287) a report corroborating the ḥadīth about moving the index finger and he commented on ‘Uthmān Ibn Maqṣam, the person who related it; “He is weak but his ḥadīth still can be recorded”.

14 Ibid.

Albānī said: Imām al-Ṭahāwī commented on the part “making supplication through it”: “This is a proof that this happened at the end of the Prayer.” I say: It is also a proof that it is the Sunnah to continue pointing and moving the finger until the taslim because supplication takes place before taslim. This is the Madhhab of Mālik and others. Ibn Hānī related in his book, p.80 that Imām Ahmad was asked: “should a man point his finger in the prayer? He answered: Yes, very much.” I say: It shows that moving the index in the tashābhud is an evident Sunnah that Imām Ahmad and other renowned Sunni Scholars practiced. That said, those who claim that moving the finger is an act that is inappropriate to do in the prayer should fear Allāh as they do not move it though they know it is proven Sunnah, and exaggerate in interpreting such reports in a fashion that neither corresponds to the Arabic language nor the understanding of the renowned scholars.

It is even odder seeing some people defending the Imām, in other cases, even if the view of the Imām opposes the Sunnah, justifying their defense, as that will protect the Imām from being defamed or disrespected. Then, this type of people overlook all that and reject this proven act of the Sunnah, and mock those who practice it although they know, or may not know, that mocking it also means mocking the Imāms, whom they often defend, because they happen to practice it too! In fact, this mockery extends to harming the Prophet (ﷺ) too because it is him who taught us this act; hence mocking this act of Sunnah entails mocking him, and the punishment of that is as Allāh said: “What is the recompense of those amongst you (who act like that)?” [al-Baqarah (2):85].

As for putting down the index finger after pointing out or to restrict the pointing to the affirmation (saying lā ilāha: ‘there is no god...’) and negation (saying ilālah: ‘...except Allāh’), is all baseless and contradicts the Sunnah as indicated in the above hadīth.

As for the ḥadīth in which it states that he pointed out without moving it, its chain of narrators is weak as I have examined in Da’if Abū Dāwūd #175, and even if I assume it ṣaḥīḥ, the ḥadīth negates an act while the ḥadīth above affirms it and it is known among scholars, when two texts exits, one of which negates while the other one affirms, it is the text that affirms that scholars accept.
iron, referring to the forefinger.\textsuperscript{15}

Also, the Companions of the Prophet (ﷺ) used to remind each other, that is, about pointing with the finger when supplicating.\textsuperscript{16} He (ﷺ) used to do that in both tashabhud,\textsuperscript{17} once, he (ﷺ) saw a man supplicating with his two fingers, so he said: "Make it one; make it one, and he pointed out with his forefinger".\textsuperscript{18}

8.3 Obligation of the First Tashabhud, and Legality of Supplication During It

Then, he (ﷺ) would recite after each two rak'ah "al-Tahiyyah";\textsuperscript{19} and the first thing he (ﷺ) used to recite at the sitting was: "al-Tahiyyat lillah..."\textsuperscript{20}

When he forgot to perform [the tashabhud] after the first two rak'ahs, he would prostrate for forgetfulness (sajdah al-sahu).\textsuperscript{21}

He (ﷺ) said: "Whenever you sit after the two rak'ah, then say: al-Tahiyyah.... and then each of you should select the supplication he likes best and supplicate to Allâh, [with it],\textsuperscript{22} in another narrations,

\textsuperscript{15} Ahmad, Bazzâr, Abu Ja'far, al-Bukhtîrî in al'-Amâlî (1/60), Ṭabarâni in his book al- Dwâd (73/1), 'Abdul-Ghañî al-Maqdisî in his Sunan (2/12) with a şâhîh isnâd, al-Rûwyâni in his Msnad (2/249), and Bayhaqî.
\textsuperscript{16} Ibn Abî Shaybah (2/123/2) with a şâhîh isnâd
\textsuperscript{17} Nasâ'î and Bayhaqî with a şâhîh isnâd.
\textsuperscript{18} Ibn Abî Shaybah (12/40/1) and (2/123/2), Nasâ'î, Hâkim who declared it şâhîh and al-Dhahabî agreed with him, and there is a report corroborating to it recorded by Ibn Abî Shaybah.
\textsuperscript{19} Muslim and Abû 'Awânah
\textsuperscript{20} Bayhaqî from the narration of 'Ā'ishah (radîyy Allâhu 'anâh) with a şâhîh isnâd as stated by Ibn al-Mullaqîn (2/28).
\textsuperscript{21} Bukhtîrî and Muslim. It is also found in al-İrwâ' al-Çihatî #338.
\textsuperscript{22} Nasâ'î, Ahmad and Ṭabarâni in his Mu'jam al-Kabîr (3/25/1) with a şâhîh isnâd.

Albânî said: The apparent meaning of this hadith indicates that it is prescribed to supplicate in the first and last tashabhud.
he (ﷺ) said: “In every sitting say: al-Tahiyyab...”23 and he (ﷺ) also ordered ‘the man who prayed badly’ to do that too, as mentioned previously.

He (ﷺ) used to teach his Companions the tashabhud just as he used to teach them a Sūrah from the Qur’ān,24 and it is the Sunnah to recite it quietly.25

8.4 The Different Wordings of al-Tashabhud

He (ﷺ) taught his Companions several types of tashabhud:

[1] The tashabhud of Ibn Mas‘ūd (radyAllāhu ‘anhu), who said: “The Messenger of Allāh (ﷺ) taught me the tashabhud while his palm were in my palms, in the same way he used to teach me the Sūrah of the Qur’ān:

الْحَبَّاتُ اللَّهِ، وَالصُّلُوَاتُ وَالْطِّبَاتُ، السَّلَامُ عَلَيْكَ أَيَّهَا النَّبِيُّ
وَرَحْمَةَ اللَّهِ وَبَرَكَانِهِ السَّلَامُ عَلَيْنَا وَعَلَى عِبَادِكَ اللَّهِ الصَّلَاحِينَ

All praise be upon you, O Prophet, and also the mercy of Allāh and His blessings. Peace be on us, and on the righteous slaves of Allāh. [For when one says that, it includes every righteous slave in the heaven and the earth.] I bear witness that none has the right to be worshipped except Allāh, and I bear witness that Muḥammad is His slave and Messenger.

23 Nasā’i with a šahīḥ isnād.
24 Bukhāri and Muslim.
25 Abū Dāwūd, Hākim who declared it šahīḥ and al-Dhahabī agreed with him.
Ibn Mas'ūd (rādiyyAllāhu 'anhu) commented: This was while he (ﷺ) was among us, however, after he was taken,, we [the Companions] would say:

السلام على النبي
al-Salāmu 'alā al-Nabiyyu

Peace be upon the Prophet

26 Bukhārī, Muslim and Ibn Abī Shaybah (1/90/2), al-Sirāj, Abū Ya'la in his Munad (2/258). It is also found in al-Imrā'ī#321.

Albānī said: The statement of Ibn Mas'ūd (rādiyyAllāhu 'anhu) indicates that the Companions (rādiyyAllāhu 'anhūm) used to say "السلام على النبي - al-Salāmu 'alayka ayyubān-Nabiyyu" only when the Prophet (ﷺ) was alive but after his death they started to say "السلام على النبي - al-Salāmu 'alā al-Nabiyyū", which must have been said according to the direction of the Prophet (ﷺ).

'Ā'ishah (rādiyyAllāhu 'anhu) was corroborating this as she used to teach people to say "السلام على النبي - al-Salāmu 'alā al-Nabiyyū" in the tashabhud which is a corroborating report that is recorded by al-Sirāj in his Munad (9/1/2), and al-Mukhlāṣ in al-Fuwā'id (11/54/1) with two şahīh isnāds.

Hāfīz Ibn Haṣrād said: It appears that the Companions used to say "السلام على النبي - al-Salāmu 'alayka ayyubān-Nabiyyu", during the life of the Prophet (ﷺ), which is a format that uses the letter "kāf" to indicate the presence of the addressed person. However, after the death of the Prophet (ﷺ) they stopped using this format and replaced it with a format indicating the absence of the person; hence they used to say "السلام على النبي - al-Salāmu 'alā al-Nabiyyū". In another place he also said: "Al-Subki said in Sharḥ al Minhāj after mentioning this report which can only be found in Munad Abū ‘Awānah that: “If this was proven to be done by the Companions of the Prophet (ﷺ), it indicates that using the format used to address a person in presence (i.e. adjoining the letter kāf) is not obligatory; hence it should be said: "السلام على النبي - al-Salāmu 'alā al-Nabiyyū" I say: The action of the Companions concerning this matter is established through authentic reports (i.e. he refers to the authentic report in Bukhārī) and I found a strong supportive route, that is: 'Abdul-Razzak narrated: Ibn Jarīj informed me that 'Atā informed him that the companions used to say during the life of the Prophet (ﷺ) "السلام على النبي - al-Salāmu 'alayka ayyubān-Nabiyyu" but after he passed away, they started to say: "السلام على النبي - al-Salāmu 'alā al-Nabiyyū". This report is transmitted through a şahīh isnād. As for the report narrated by Sa'īd Ibn Manṣūr from the way of Abū 'Ubaydah ibn 'Abdullāh ibn Mas'ūd who narrated that his father said that the Prophet (ﷺ) taught them the tashabhud. After he mentioned the tashabhud in the format he advocates, Ibn 'Abbās said: Rather, we used to say "السلام على النبي - al-Salāmu 'alayka..." as he (ﷺ) was alive. Ibn Mas'ūd said: That is what he taught us and that is what I know. This indicates that Ibn 'Abbās said what he said after investigating the matter and that Ibn Mas'ūd did not consult him in this matter. However, the narration from Abū Ma'āmar is more authentic (i.e. the narration of Bukhārī) because Abū 'Ubaydah did not hear the ḥadīth from his father and on the top of

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The *tasbahud* of Ibn ‘Abbās (rādiy-Allāhu ‘anhumā) reported: The Messenger of Allāh (ṣallī-Allāhu ‘alayhī wa-sallīm) used to teach us the *tasbahud*, in the same way he used to teach us [the Sūrah from] the Qur‘ān:


All compliments, blessed words, prayers, pure words are due to Allāh. Peace be on you, O Prophet, and also the mercy of Allāh and His blessings. Peace be on us and on the righteous slaves of Allāh. I bear witness that none has the right to be worshipped except Allāh, and [I bear witness] that Muḥammad is the Messenger of Allāh (in one narration: ...is His slave and messenger)

The *tasbahud* of Ibn ‘Umar (rādiy-Allāhu ‘anhumā), who related that the Messenger of Allāh (ṣallī-Allāhu ‘alayhī wa-sallīm) said in his *tasbahud*:

that the chain itself is weak.” There are many expert scholars such as al-Qaṣṭalānī, al-Zarqānī, al-Laknawi and others who quoted the above statement of Ḥāfīz without criticizing any of what he said, which indicates their approval.

²⁷ Muslim, Abū ‘Awānah, al-Shāffī and Nasā‘ī.
Al-Tahiyatulillah, wa al-Salawatu [wa] al-Ṭayyibat, al-Salāmu 'alayka ayyuhān-Nabiyyu wa-rahat-ul-lāhi - wa-barakātuh,
- al-Salāmu 'alayna wa 'alā 'ibadillāh al-Ṣālihīn. Ash-hadu an lā ilāha illallāh - wahdahu là sharika lahu - wa-ashhadu anna Muḥammadan 'abduhu wa-Rasūluh.

All compliments, prayers and good words are due to Allāh. Peace be on you, O Prophet, and also the mercy of Allāh - and I added to it: ...and His blessings. - Peace be on us and on the righteous slaves of Allāh. I bear witness that none has the right to be worshipped except Allāh - and I added to it: ...alone, He has no partner, - and I bear witness that Muḥammad is His slave and messenger.28

[4] The tasbahud of Abū Mūsā al-Ashʿarī (radyAllahu ‘anhu), who said that the Messenger of Allāh (ﷺ) said: "...and when you are sitting, so let the first thing you should say be:

الْحَمْوَاتُ وَالْجِبْاهُ الْمَلِكِيَّةَ، الْسَلَامُ عَلَيْكُمْ أَبَا النُّبِيِّ وَرَحْمَةُ اللّهِ عَلَيْكُمْ، أَشْهَدُ أَنَّ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا هُوَ أَحَدُ وَلَا شَرِيكَ لَهُ أَنَّ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا هُوَ أَحَدُ وَلَا شَرِيكَ لَهُ

Al-Tahiyatul-Ṭayyibat al-Salawatu lillah, al-Salāmu 'alayka ayyuhān-Nabiyyu wa-rahat-ul-lāhi wa-barakātuh, al-Salāmu 'alayna wa 'alā 'ibadillāh al-Ṣālihīn. Ash-hadu an lā ilāha illallāh - wahdahu là sharika lahu - wa-ashhadu anna Muḥammadan 'abduhu wa-Rasūluh

All compliments, good words and prayers are due to Allāh. Peace be on you, O Prophet, and also the mercy of Allāh and His blessings. Peace be on us, and on the righteous slaves of Allāh. I bear witness that none has the right to be worshipped except Allāh [alone, He has no partner], and I bear witness that Muḥammad is His slave and Messenger as they are seven words that make up the greetings of prayer"29

28 Abū Dāwūd and Dāraquṭnī who declared it ṣaḥīh
29 Muḥsin, Abū 'Awānah, Abū Dāwūd and Ibn Mājah
[5] The *tashhabbud* of 'Umar ibn al-Khaṭṭāb (*radiyAllāhu 'anhu*), who used to teach people the following *tashhabbud* while he was standing on the pulpit, saying:

الجَبَاتُ الطَّلَبَاتِ الصَّلَواتِ اللَّهُ السَّلاَمُ عَلَيْهِ النَّبِي وَرَحْمَةُ اللَّهُ
وَبِكَارَائِهِ، السَّلاَمُ عَلَيْهِ وَعَلَى عَبَّادِ اللَّهِ الصَّالِحِينَ، أَسْتَهْدِنَّ أَنْ لَنْ إِلَّا
إِلَّا اللَّهُ وَحْدَهُ لَا شَرِيكَ لَهُ، وَأَسْتَهْدِنَّ أَنْ نَحْتَدَّ عَبَّادَهُ وَرَسُولَهُ.


All compliments are due to Allāh; all pure titles are due to Allāh; all good words [are due to Allāh]; all prayers are due to Allāh. Peace be on you, O Prophet, and also the mercy of Allāh and His blessings. Peace be on us and on the righteous slaves of Allāh. I bear witness that none has the right to be worshipped except Allāh, and I bear witness that Muḥammad is His slave and Messenger.³⁰

[6] The *tashhabbud* of Ṭāʾīšah bint Abi Bakr (*radiyAllāhu ‘anbūmā*);

³⁰ Mālik and Bayhaqī. Though this report is not explicitly raised to the Prophet (*rasūluAllāhu*) but it is deemed as if it is raised to the Prophet (*rasūluAllāhu*) because it is obvious that such wording cannot be said out of one’s opinion. And, if it was as such, then it cannot be less favored than the other different wordings, as Ibn ‘Abd al-Barr said.

Albānī said: It should be noted that none of the previously mentioned types of *tashhabbud* includes the additional part "*wa maqāfīratub*", after the word "*wabarakaṭub*"; therefore it cannot be given any weight or consideration. In fact, some of the righteous predecessors objected to the use of such an addition i.e. Ṭabarānī recorded in his *Mu’jam* (3/56/1) with a šāhiḥ isnād that Ṭālḥah ibn Muṣarrīf said: Rābi’ Ibn Khayṭham added the word "*wa maqāfīratub*", after the word "*wabarakaṭub*". Al-Qamāmah criticised that and said: We only say what we were taught, that is: "*al-Šalāmu* ‘alayka ayyuhān-Nabīyyu wa-raḥmat-ul-lāhi wa-barakātub*". It is obvious that Al-Qamāmah learned this from his teacher, Abdul-lāh ibn Maṣ‘ūd (*radiyAllāhu ‘anhu*). It was reported that ‘Abdullāh ibn Maṣ‘ūd was teaching a man the *tashhabbud* and when he reached the part "*Ash-hadu an là īlāha illallāh*", the man added: "*waḥdahu là sharīka lahu*", ‘Abdullāh said: Indeed! But, we only recite what we are taught. This report is recorded by Ṭabarānī in his *Mu’jam al-Awsat* #2848 with a šāhiḥ isnād, if al-Mussayyab al-Kāhilī heard from Ibn Maṣ‘ūd.
al-Qāsim Ibn Muḥammad said: ‘Ā’ishah used to teach the *tashabhud* and point with her hand saying:


All compliments, good words, prayers, all pure titles are due to Allāh; Peace be upon the Prophet and on the righteous slaves of Allāh. I bear witness that none has the right to be worshipped except Allāh, and I bear witness that Muḥammad is His slave and messenger.

8.5 Sending Prayers (*salāḥ*) on the Prophet (ﷺ) and When to be Said in Prayer

He (ﷺ) used to send prayers (*salāḥ*) on himself in the first *tashabhud* and as well as other places. He (ﷺ) prescribed this prayer for his nation, ordering them to send prayers on him after sending *salām* on him, and he taught them various ways to do so:

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31 Ibn Abī Shaybah (1/293), al-Sa'āj, al-Mukhillaq, and Bayhaqī (2/144).
32 Abū ‘Awānah in his *Saḥīh* (2/324) and Nasā’ī.
33 Albānī said: The Companions asked the Prophet (ﷺ): “O Messenger of Allāh! We have learnt how to greet you [in the *tashabhud*] but how should we recite the prayer on you?” He replied: “Say: Allāhumma ṣallī ‘alā Muḥammad...”. The Prophet (ﷺ) in this hadith did not specify this to the first or the second *tashabhud*, hence it can be used as evidence to prove that it is [prescribed to say the *salāwāt* on the Prophet in the first *tashabhud*], which is the view of ʿImām al-Shāfiʿī as he stated in *al-Umm*, and it is the view that his Companions deemed it the most correct one as declared by al-Nawawī in *al-Majmūʿ* (3/460) and al-Rawdāb al-Ṭālībīn (1/263 - the edition of the Islāmic Office Publishing House). It is also the view of al-Wazīr Ibn Habirah al-Ḥanbalī as stated in *al-Iṣbah*, and was quoted and agreed on by Ibn Rajab in
Section Eight: The First Tašabbud

اللهُمَّ صلَّ على محمد، وعلى آله ويبنيه، وعلى أرواحه وذرئها، كما صلبت على آل إبراهيم، إنك حميد جليل.

وبارك على محمد، وعلى آل إبراهيم، وعلى أرواحه وذرئها، كما باركت على آل إبراهيم، إنك حميد جليل.


O Allāh! send prayers on Muḥammad35, and on his household, and on his wives and progeny, as you sent prayers on the family of Ibrāhīm; You are indeed Worthy of Praise, Full of Glory. And send blessings on Muḥammad, and his household, and his wives and progeny, as you sent blessings on the family of Ibrāhīm; You are indeed Worthy of Praise, Full of Glory.

= Dhayl al-Ṭabaqāt (1/280). In fact, there are many hadith regarding saying the prayer on the Prophet (ﷺ) in the tašabbud in general without specifying whether it is the first or the last tašabbud, which I indicated without quoting them because they do not comply with the conditions I adopted to identify hadith as šaḥīḥ although the meanings of these reports support each other. Not to mention, opponents have no authentic evidence to establish their view. It should be noted that: the view that states it is disliked to say it [i.e. Allāhumma šallī ‘alā Muḥammad wa ‘alā ‘Alī-Muḥammad] in the first tašabbud is baseless and they have no evidence to support it. In fact, I consider the one who does not say it in the first tašabbud as a person who does not comply with the order of the Prophet (ﷺ) in this regard.

34 Aḥmad and al-Ṭahāwī with a šaḥīḥ isnād. The two šaḥīḥs (Bukhāri and Muslim) has this report without the part “Ahli Baytihi”.

35 Albaṇī said: The most appropriate explanation of what the prayer on the Prophet (ﷺ) means is the one provided by Abūl-‘Āliya who said: “The prayer of Allāh on His prophet refers to His praise and glorification for the Prophet while the prayer of angels and others on the Prophet refers to asking Allāh to glorify and praise him. The intended meaning of this prayer is to ask Allāh to increase it and not the prayer per se. This was mentioned by Ḥāfīẓ Ibn Hajr in Fath al-Bāri who also rejected the famous view that the prayer of Allāh refers to His Mercy. Ibn al-Qayyim detailed this subject sufficiently in his Jalā’ al-Afsāh.”
اللهُمَّ صَلِّ عَلَى مُحَمَّدٍ وَعَلَى آلِ مُحَمَّدٍ، كَمَا صَلَّيْتَ عَلَى إِبْرَاهِيمٍ وَعَلَى آلِ إِبْرَاهِيمٍ، إِنَّكَ حَمِيدٌ حَمِيدٌ، اللَّهُمَّ بَارَكْ عَلَى مُحَمَّدٍ وَعَلَى آلِ مُحَمَّدٍ، كَمَا بَارَكْتَ عَلَى إِبْرَاهِيمٍ وَعَلَى آلِ إِبْرَاهِيمٍ، إِنَّكَ حَمِيدٌ حَمِيدٌ


O Allāh! send prayers on Muḥammad, and on the family of Muḥammad, as you sent prayers on [Ibrāhīm, and on] the family of Ibrāhīm; You are indeed Worthy of Praise, Full of Glory. O Allāh! send blessings on Muḥammad, and on the family of Muḥammad, as you sent blessings on [Ibrāhīm, and on] the family of Ibrāhīm; You are indeed Worthy of Praise, Full of Glory.36


O Allāh! send prayers on Muḥammad, and on the family of Muḥammad, as you sent prayers on Ibrāhīm, [and the family of Ibrāhīm]; You are indeed Worthy of Praise, Full of Glory. And send blessings on Muḥammad, and on the family of Muḥammad, as you sent blessings on [Ibrāhīm, and] the family of Ibrāhīm; You are indeed Worthy of Praise, Full of

36 Bukhārī, Muslim and Nasā’ī in his work ‘Amal al-Yaum wa al-Laylah (162/54), al-Ḥamaydi (138/1) and Ibn Mandah (68/2) who said: “This is a ḥadīth whose authenticity is agreed on”
Glory.\textsuperscript{37}


O Allâh! send prayers on Muhammad [the Unlettered Prophet], and on the family of Muḥammad, as you sent prayers on [the family of] Ibrâhîm; and send blessings on Muhammad [the Unlettered Prophet] and the family of Muḥammad, as you sent blessings on [the family of] Ibrâhîm; You are indeed Worthy of Praise, Full of Glory.\textsuperscript{38}

Allâhumma šallî `ală Muḥammad `abdika wa-rasûlika, kamâ šallayta `ală [Āli]-Ibrâhîm, wa-bârik `ală Muḥammad, [`abdika wa-rasûlika], wa `ală Āli-Muḥammad, kamâ bârakta `ală Ibrâhîm [wa `ală Āli-Ibrâhîm].

O Allâh! send prayers on Muḥammad, Your slave and messenger, as You sent prayers on [the family of] Ibrâhîm. And send blessings on Muḥammad [Your slave and messenger], [and the family of Muḥammad] as you sent blessings on Ibrâhîm [and on the family of Ibrâhîm].\textsuperscript{39}

\textsuperscript{37} Ahmad, Nasā‘î, Abū Ya‘lā in his \textit{Musnad} (44/2) with a saḥîh isnâd.

\textsuperscript{38} Muslim, Abū ‘Awānah, Ibn Abî Shaybah in his \textit{Musannaf} (2/132/1), Abû Dâwûd, Nasâ‘î (159-161) and Ḥâkim who declared it saḥîh.

\textsuperscript{39} Bukhârî, Nasâ‘î, al-‘Tahâwî, Ahmad, Ismâ‘îl al-Qâdî in \textit{Fi ḥal al-Ṣalât ‘alâal-Nabîy} (p. 28, 1\textsuperscript{st} edition, p. 62 - 2\textsuperscript{nd} edition, with my checking).

O Allah! send prayers on Muḥammad and [on] his wives and progeny, as You sent prayers on [the family of Ibrāhīm]. And send blessings on Muḥammad, and [on] his wives and progeny, as You sent blessings on [the family of] Ibrāhīm; You are indeed Worthy of Praise, Full of Glory.\(^{40}\)


O Allah! send prayers on Muḥammad, and on the family of Muḥammad, and send blessings on Muḥammad, and on the family of Muḥammad, as you sent prayers and sent blessings on Ibrāhīm and the family of Ibrāhīm; You are indeed Worthy of Praise, Full of Glory.\(^{41}\)

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\(^{40}\) Bukhārī, Muslim and Nasā’ī (164/59)

\(^{41}\) Nasā’ī (159/47), al-Ṭahāwī, Abū Sa‘īd Ibn al-ʿArabī in al-Mu’jam (79/2) with a šāhiḥ isnād, and Ibn al-Qayyīm stated in Jalā’ al-Aḥlām, (p. 14-15), that it is narrated by Muḥammad Ibn ʿIshāq and then he declared it šāhiḥ.
8.6 Important Notes about Sending Prayers on the Prophet (ﷺ)

The First Note: It can be noticed that most of the different wordings of the prayer on the Prophet (ﷺ) does not mention Ibrāhīm alone but rather adjoins his family to his name such as the format: "As You have made the mention and praise of the family of Ibrāhīm transcendent." This is because the Arabic word 'āli', which translates to 'family', includes the man as well as his dependent household members. The example of this use can be noted in the Qur'ān: Allāh says,

إِنَّلِلَّهَ أَسْتَصْلَفَ عَلَى أَلْبَادٍ وَأَلْحَضَّرَهُ وَأَلْإِسْرَأِيْلَ

"Indeed, Allāh chose Adam and Nūh and the family of Ibrāhīm and the family of Imrān over the worlds"

[Al-Imrān (3):33]

and

إِنَّآ أَرْسَلْنَا عَلَيْهِمَا هَالِكًا إِلَّا أَلَّا لِوَلَدَهُ بِحَبْسٍ بِعَرْشٍ

"except the family of Lot - We saved them before dawn”

[Qamar (54): 34],

and

رَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ وَرَحْمَةٌ عَلَيْكَ أَهْلِ الْيَتَابِ

"May the mercy of Allāh and His blessings be upon you, people of the house.”

[Hud (11):73]

and the statement of the Prophet (ﷺ): "O Allāh, exalt the mention of the family of Abū Awfā".

Shaykh al-Islām Ibn Taymiyyah said:
DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPHET’S PRAYER

“The most narrated reports stated the part “kamā ʿsallayta ʿalā Ibrāhīm” and “kamā bārakta ʿalā Ibrāhīm” and some reports only mentioned Ibrāhīm alone without mentioning his family and that is because he is the main person and all his family are included accordingly even if not mentioned. And some other reports mentioned the family of Ibrāhīm alone to make a reference to him.”

It is noteworthy to mention that scholars attempted to understand the reason of the comparison in his statement, “kamā ʿsallayta ʿalā Ibrāhīm” for it is true that the model for comparison is normally superior to the one being compared; here, the opposite is the case, since Muhammad (ﷺ) is of a rank higher than the rank of Prophet Ibrāhīm (ʿalayhis-salām), and so the prayer on him sought from Allāh in the statement should be more excellent than any prayers received or to be received by anyone else. In light of these facts, scholars provided ten answers that can be found in Fāṭḥ al-Bārī and Jalā’ al-Aṣfāḥān, some of which are farfetched, but only one opinion seems to be strong and was accepted by Ibn Taymiyyah and Ibn al-Qayyim. The said view states that:

“The family of Ibrāhīm includes prophets unlike the family of Muḥammad. That being the case, when a person asks Allāh to bestow on the Prophet (ﷺ) a prayer that is similar to the prayer He bestowed on Prophet Ibrāhīm (ʿalayhis-salām) and his family that comprises of other Prophets, the family members of the Prophet (ﷺ), who do not reach the rank of Prophets, will therefore receive that which they deserve, leaving the prayer of Allāh that is exclusive to Prophets, including Ibrāhīm (ʿalayhis-salām), to be bestowed on the Prophet (ﷺ), hence he will be granted a privilege that others do not have!”

Ibn al-Qayyim commented on the above mentioned explanation:

“This is the best explanation of all other explanations. However, it is even better to say that Muḥammad (ﷺ) is from the
family of Ibrāhīm (‘alayhis-salām). In fact, he is the best of the family of Ibrāhīm (‘alayhis-salām) i.e. ‘Ali Ibn ʿAlī (rādīy Allāhu ʿanhumā) that he commented on the verse: “Indeed, Allāh chose Adam and Nūh and the family of Ibrāhīm and the family of Ibrāhīm over the worlds” [Āl-ʿImrān (3):33]: “Muḥammad is from the family of Ibrāhīm. This verse is a textual evidence because knowing that other Prophets are included in the family of Ibrāhīm (‘alayhis-salām) then it befits more to say that the Messenger of Allāh Prophet Muḥammad (ṣallī Allāhu ʿalayhi wa salām) is also from his family.

That being the case, when we say “kamā ṣallaytaʿalā Ibrāhīm”, it will also include the Prophet (ṣallī Allāhu ʿalayhi wa salām) and all the Prophets from the offspring of Ibrāhīm. In this statement [i.e. the prayer we ask from Allāh to be on the Prophet and Ibrāhīm], Allāh, Most High, orders us to invoke him to have His prayer on the Prophet (ṣallī Allāhu ʿalayhi wa salām) and his family specifically as much as we ask Him to have His prayer, in general, on the family of Ibrāhīm, one of whom is the Prophet (ṣallī Allāhu ʿalayhi wa salām). Thus, his family receives that which they deserve while the prayer which suits prophets, is granted to him (ṣallī Allāhu ʿalayhi wa salām). With no doubt, the prayer that Allāh bestows on the family of Ibrāhīm and accordingly the Prophet (ṣallī Allāhu ʿalayhi wa salām), since he is one of his family, is more perfect than the prayer that the Prophet (ṣallī Allāhu ʿalayhi wa salām) receives alone.

Therefore, we ask Allāh to send His prayer on him specifically, which evidently is better than what Ibrāhīm (‘alayhis-salām) received. This explains the wisdom of likening the prayer on the Prophet to the rayer on Ibrāhīm, and indicates that the intended prayer on the Prophet (ṣallī Allāhu ʿalayhi wa salām) is greater than the prayer on him that he receives indirectly through the prayer on the family of Ibrāhīm. The wording of the statement appears to mean that we ask Allāh to have His prayer on the Prophet similar to the one He had on Ibrāhīm and his family, but it implies that the “compared to”, Ibrāhīm in this case, receives less than what the “compared person”, Muḥammad (ṣallī Allāhu ʿalayhi wa salām) does in this case, because he receives the prayer given to the family of Ibrāhīm in addition to the prayer specific to him,
which shows that he has a rank higher than the rank of Ibrāhīm and his family, including the Prophets, and so this prayer indicates his superior virtue and high rank over all other Prophets.

So, may Allāh glorify and honour the mention of the Prophet and his family, and save him and his family from all the trials of this life and the hereafter, and reward him with the best reward that a prophet may ever receive for his nation! O Allāh! send prayers on Muḥammad, and on the family of Muḥammad, and send blessings on Muḥammad, and on the family of Muḥammad, as you sent prayers and sent blessings on Ibrāhīm and the family of Ibrāhīm; You are indeed Worthy of Praise, Full of Glory.”

_The Second Note:_ The respected reader will notice that despite the different wordings of the statements concerning the prayer on the Prophet, all of them include the prayer on the family, wives and offspring of the Prophet (ﷺ). That being said, limiting the prayer on the Prophet (ﷺ) without mentioning them is not according to the Sunnah and does not comply with the command of the Prophet. Thus, any of the complete statements that were reported to be said from the Prophet (ﷺ) should be recited in both the first and the second _tashabhud_. This is the adopted view of Imām al-Shāfi‘ī who said in _al-Umm_ (1/102): “The wordings of the first and second _tashabhud_ are the same and I mean with the word “_tashabhud_”, both the _tashabhud_ and the prayer on the Prophet (ﷺ) that both are obligatory to recite [in the first and the second _tashabhud_].”

As for the report that states that he (ﷺ) did not recite anything else except the _tashabhud_ after the first two _rak‘ah_ it is a weak report as I have concluded in _Silsilah Ahādīth al-Ḍa‘ifah_ #5816.

It is from the wonders of this era and because of the academic chaos that made Muḥammad Is‘āf al-Nashāshibī dare to challenge
in his book *al-Islām al-Ṣaḥīh*, and has the audacity to reject the sending of prayers on the family of the Prophet (ﷺ) when sending prayers on him, despite it being firmly established in the Bukhārī and Muslim, and elsewhere, despite the authentic reports from many Companions such as Ka‘b Ibn ‘Ujrah, Abū Ḥumayd al-Sā‘īdī, Abū Sa‘īd al-Khudrī, Abū Mas‘ūd al-Anṣārī, Abū Hurayrah and Ṭālḥah Ibn Ubaydullāh *(radiyAllāhu ‘anhum)*. Some of these reports showed that the Companions asked the Prophet (ﷺ): *“How do we send prayers on you?”* and then the Prophet (ﷺ) taught them the aforesaid different wordings. Al-Nashāshibi argues that the verse,

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\text{“O you who have believed, ask [Allāh to confer] blessing upon him and ask [Allāh to grant him] peace.”}
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*al-Abzāb (33): 56*

did not include anyone with the Prophet (ﷺ), hence no one else but him should be mentioned. Then he exaggerates in his objection when he refused to accept that the Companions asked him about the prayer on him since the meaning of prayer is known to them, which means supplication, therefore, since they knew the meaning of prayer, it does not make sense that they asked him about it! This argument is obviously misleading because they did not ask him about the meaning of prayer so he didn’t object to it but rather inquired about the wording that should be used in the prayer, as evident in all the previously mentioned reports. That being the case, there is nothing to wonder at because their question was about the prescribed way which cannot be known except through the legislator. The example of this case is like when Allāh says *“Establish the Prayer”* then they inquire about the prescribed way to perform prayer though they understand the linguistic meaning of prayer, as it is obvious. Further, it is also fallacious to argue that as Allāh did not mention anyone with the Prophet (ﷺ), no one should be mentioned with him because it is known to all Muslims that the Prophet (ﷺ) is the one
who explains the words of the Lord of Worlds. Allāh, Most High, says:

أَنْ تُلْهَىِّ الْأَجْرَاءُ لِلنَّاسِ مَائِرًا مِّنَ الْيَوْمِ

“Truly, We have sent down to you the Qur‘ān to explain to people what have been revealed to them”

[al-Nahl (16): 44].

And, the Prophet (ﷺ) explained how to recite the prayer on him and as he included his family in it then it is a must to accept it because Allāh says,

وَمَا أَنْعَمْ نَصِيرًا مَثْلُ حَيْثُ

“[O believers] adhere to all that the Messenger ordain for you”

[al-Hashr (56): 7]

and the authentic famous ḥadīth of the Prophet (ﷺ): “I was given the Qur‘ān and its equal with it [i.e. the Sunnah]”42

I wonder what al-Nashāshibī, and those who may fall into the trap of his words, would say about those who may deny the tashabhud in prayer or condemn women for leaving the prayer and fasting during their menses on the grounds that Allāh, Most High, did not mention the tashabhud in Qur‘ān and only mentioned the standing, bowing and prostrating, and did not mention in the Qur‘ān that menstruating women are excused from praying and fasting during their menses? I wonder whether he would agree with them or object to what they said. If they agree with such arguments, which I hope they don’t, then it is obvious that they have deviated and opposed Muslims, and if they reject such arguments then that is the truth! And this is the same response we encounter with the fallacious argument of al-Nashāshibī.

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42 It is also found in Takhrīj Misbkhāt al-Masābīb #163 and #4247.
Section Eight: The First Tasabhud

O Muslim, beware! Do not attempt to understand the Qur’an without consulting the Sunnah, for you will never be able to even if you were as knowledgeable as Sibawayh in Arabic language! Learn from the example of al-Nashāshibī who is one of the great expert linguists in the Arabic language in this century but he deviated when he was too proud with his knowledge in Arabic language, thus attempted to understand the Qur’an without consulting the Sunnah, which he denied! The examples are too many to mention in this book and what I have mentioned so far should be sufficient! And Allāh is the One who guides to success.

The Third Note: Readers can also notice that none of the different wordings in the Ṣalāt on the Prophet (ﷺ) includes the word ‘Sayyid (master)’, therefore later scholars differed on whether it is prescribed to use it in the Ibrāhīmi Ṣalāt or not. However, as it is too lengthy to mention in this book or to list the names of the scholars who objected to the use of this word in the al-Ṣalāt on the Prophet, then it is clear that one must adhere strictly to the teachings of the Prophet (ﷺ) since he was asked about what a person should say and replied to it ordering people: “Say, Allāhumma ṣallī ‘alā Muhammad.” Nonetheless, I would like to quote the statement of Ḥāfiz Ibn Ḥajr al-‘Asqalānī, who is one of the greatest Shafi‘i scholars who combined the knowledge of fiqh and hadith concerning this subject, as it spread among the later Shafi‘i scholars that which is the opposite of his teaching.

Ḥāfiz Muhammad Ibn Muḥammad Ibn Muḥammad al-Gharābili (born in 790 and died in 835AH) who was accompanying Ḥāfiz Ibn Ḥajr all the time, said:

“Ḥāfiz Ibn Ḥajr, may Allāh benefit us with his life, was asked about the use of the word ‘Sayyid (master)’ in the al-Ṣalāt on the Prophet (ﷺ) in the prayer and outside it, regardless of its

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43 One of the famous grammarian and scholar of the Arabic language.
ruling as being obligatory or preferable, such as saying: Allāhumma ṣallī ‘alā Sayyidīnā Muḥammad, or the master of mankind or the master of the sons of Adam? Or should one just suffice with saying: Allāhumma ṣallī ‘alā Muḥammad? And which one is better; to say the word ‘Sayyid (master)’ since it is one of his established attributes or to avoid using it since there are no reports indicating the use of such a word in the prayer on him?

He, May Allāh be pleased with him, answered: “Indeed, following the wording used in the reports raised to the Prophet (ﷺ) is better. No one should say, he (ﷺ) may not have used it out of his humbleness just as he did not say ʿṣallalāhu ʿalayhi wa sallam’ when he mentioned his name in it though his nation is prescribed to say that whenever his name is mentioned. This is because we say: If that practice was favoured, it would have been reported from any of the Companions or the Tabīʿīn, and we have not found any report indicating that they said it despite the large number of reports from them.

Imām al-Shāfīʿī, may Allāh raise his ranks, is one of those who glorifies the Prophet (ﷺ) the most and he said in the introduction of his book, which is the book that his followers rely on, “Allāhumma ṣallī ‘alā Muḥammad every time his name is mentioned by those who remember him and every moment his name is forgotten by the heedless”. It appears that he adjoined the last part to the prayer on him because of his interpretation to the authentic ḥadīth in which it says: “Subḥān Allāh, the number of His Creation” and it is established that the Prophet (ﷺ) said to one of the mothers of the believers - his wife - when he saw her excessively glorifying and exalting Allāh, “I have recited some words after you, if the words I recited were weighted they would have outweighed yours” then he mentioned the words he recited, and he used to love comprehensive supplications.

Al-Qādiʿ ‘Iyād dedicated a section in al-Shiḥā, regarding the manner of al-Ṣalāt on the Prophet (ﷺ) under which he listed reports from
the Companions and Tabi'īn. However, none of which included the word ‘Ṣayyidinā (our master)’. The following are some of the reports mentioned:

i. The narration of ʿAli bin Abī Ṭālib (rādīy Allāhu ‘anhu), that he used to teach people the manners of al-Salāt on the Prophet (ṣ) by saying: “O Allāh; the Flattener of earths and the Creator of the high heavens, bestow Your lofty prayers, and Your increasing blessings, and any remaining prayers upon Muḥammad; your slave and Messenger, the opener of what is closed.”

ii. It was also reported that ʿAli bin Abī Ṭālib (rādīy Allāhu ‘anhu) used to say: “The prayers of Allāh; the Beneficent, the Merciful, of the Angels whom draw near to Him, the Prophets, the truthful sincere ones, the righteous martyrs, and of whatever exalts You, O Lord of Worlds! Be upon Muḥammad son of ‘Abdullāh, Seal of the Prophets, leader of the God-fearing.”

iii. It was reported from ‘Abdullāh Ibn Masʿūd (rādīy Allāhu ‘anhu) used to say: “O Allāh, bestow Your prayers, Your blessings and Your Mercy on Muḥammad, your slave and messenger; the Imām of goodness and the messenger of mercy...”

iv. Al-Ḥasan al-Ḥaṣrī used to say: whoever wants to have a cupful of drink from the hand of al-Muṣṭaphā [i.e. the Prophet], he should say: “O Allāh! Bestow your prayer on Muḥammad, his family, his Companions, his wives, his children, his offspring, his household members, his in-laws, his helpers, his followers, and all those who love him.”

The above reports are most of what al-Qāḍī ‘Iyāḍ recorded in al-Shīfā concerning the wordings of al-Salāt on the Prophet (ṣ) that the Companions and Tabi'īn used to recite:

44 Allāhumma dāhī al-madhūwvāt wabārī al-masmūkāt ij’al sawābīq Ṣalāwatik wa nawāmi barakātik wa zā’id taḥiyatik ‘alā Muḥammad ‘abdika wa rasūlika, al-fāțihu limā Aghliq.
45 Ṣalawātu-Allāhī al-Barri al-Raḥim, wal Malai'kah al-Muqarrabīn, wal-Nabīyyīn wal Siddīqīn wal-shuhadā al-Ṣāliḥīn, warna sabāha laka min shay’ ya Rabb al-‘Ālamīn! ‘alā Muḥammad ibn ‘Abdillāh khāṭīm al-Nabīyyīn wa-Imām al-Muttaqīn...
46 Allāhumma i’al-Ṣalawātaka wa barakātaka wa raḥmataka ‘alā ‘abdika wa-Rasūlika, Imām al-khayri wa rasūla al-raḥmah...
47 Allāhumma Salli ‘alā Muḥammad wa ‘alā ālihi wa aṣḥābihi wa azwājihi wa awlādihi wa dhurriyyatihī wa ahli-baytihi wa as-hārihi wa anṣārihi wa ashya‘a’ihi wa muḥībbih.
As for the report stating that Ibn Mas‘ūd (rādiyAllāhu ‘anhu) used to say the word ‘Sayyid (master)’ in his prayer on the Prophet: “Allāhumma, ījāl faḍā’il Śalawātika wa raḥmatik wa barakātik ‘alā sayyid al-mursalin...” is recorded by Ibn Mājah and its chain of narrators is weak. The ḥadīth of ‘Alī (rādiyAllāhu ‘anhu) mentioned above at the beginning is recorded by Ṭabarānī has an acceptable chain of narrators and I explained its unique words in Faḍal al-Nabi (ﷺ) written by Abū‘l-Ḥasan Ibn al-Fāris.

Shāfi‘i scholars mentioned in their books that if a man swears that he will recite the best prayer on the Prophet (ﷺ), the way to fulfill his vow is to say: “O Allāh! May the mention and praise of Muḥammad transcendent every time the heedless ones remember him and every time the heedless ones forget to remember him.”

Al-Nawawī said: “The correct thing to be said in such case [to fulfill his swearing] is: ‘O Allāh! May the mention and praise of Muḥammad; his household, his wives and his offspring be transcendent as You have made the mention and praise of the family of Ibrāhīm transcendent...To the end of it.”

However, some later scholars objected to his view and argued that there is nothing in any of the two different wordings used for sending prayer on the Prophet that he mentioned that may prove the superiority of either, let alone there is no text reported to indicate so. As for the judging, which of the two statements are more superior then the wordings of “O Allāh! May the mention and praise of Muḥammad be transcendent every time the heedless ones remember him and every time the heedless ones forget to remember him” is obviously better.

This subject is famous in jurisprudence books, and the purpose of mentioning the statements of jurists concerning the best wordings to use in the prayer on the Prophet is to show that none of them
ever considered the word ‘Sayyid (master)’ because if it was preferable to use it, you will not find all of them overlooking such a word! Indeed, all the goodness is in adhering to the Prophet (ﷺ). And Allâh knows best.” End of Quote!

The view that Ḥâfîz Ibn Ḥajr, may Allâh bestow His mercy on him, is also the view adopted by Ḥanâfî scholars: i.e. they affirm that is not prescribed to use the word that indicates the mastership of the Prophet (ﷺ) in order to adhere to the direct noble command of the Prophet. This is because adhering to his commands is the truth-ful evidence of someone’s love for him. Allâh says, in its meaning,

قَلْ إِنِّي كَانُواَ يُبَيِّنُونَ اللّهُ قَبْلَيْنِ يَتَبَيَّنُ كَلِمَتِهِمَّ اللّهُ

“Say, if you truly love Allâh, then follow me and Allâh shall love you”

[al-Baqarah (2): 31]

This is why Imâm al-Nawawî said in al-Rawdh (1/265): “The most perfect prayer on the Prophet (ﷺ) is “O Allâh! May the mention and praise of Muḥammad; his household, his wives and his offspring be transcendent as You have made the mention and praise of the family of Ibrâhîm transcendent...To the end of it.’, which is the third type of prayer, mentioned above, and he did not mention the word ‘Sayyid (master)!"

The Fourth Note: You should know that the first and fourth wordings of the prayer on the Prophet (ﷺ) are what the Prophet taught his Companions to say when they asked him what wordings they should use when reciting prayer on him. This was used to prove that these wordings are the best because the Prophet (ﷺ) would not choose for the Companions, let alone himself, to recite except the best and most honorable wordings. This is why al-Nawawî said if a person swears to say the best prayer on the Prophet (ﷺ), he will not fulfill it except by saying the wordings he (ﷺ) taught his Companions. Al-
Subkî explained that reciting any of these two wordings shows that a person recites the prayer on the Prophet (ﷺ) with certainty, while any other type of wording indicates doubts, because when the Companions asked “How do we send prayers on you?” He (ﷺ) said: “say such and such”, hence he specified the prayer on him to be what he taught them. End. This was mentioned by al-Haythamî in al-Durr al-Mandûd (25/2) and then he mentioned in (27/1) that the prayer on the Prophet (ﷺ) happens if anyone recites any of the ways mentioned in the authentic ahâdîth.

*The Fifth Note:* You should know that it is not prescribed to select parts of the different wordings of prayer on the Prophet (ﷺ) then combine all that together and come up with a new wording, and the same applies to the types of tâshabbud because doing so is an innovation. The Sunnah is to recite each of the above mentioned types from time to time i.e. one time to recite the first and the second time to recite another one and so forth, as Shaykh al Islâm, Ibn Taymiyyah explained in Majmû’ al-Fatâwâ (69/253/1) under the topic “The Takbîr in the two ‘Îds’.

*The Sixth Note:* The renowned scholar Şiddîq Hasan Khan mentioned in Nuzûl al-Abrâr bi’l-’Ilm al-Ma’thûr min al-Adîyâh wa-l-’Adhîkûr, (p. 161), after he listed many ahâdîth about the virtue of sending prayers on the Prophet (ﷺ):

“There is no doubt that scholars of hadîth and narrators of the purified Sunnah are the Muslims who recite the Prayer on the Prophet the most because it is one of their tasks in this noble knowledge to send prayer on him in every hadîth they mention; hence their tongues remain moist with his mention (ﷺ). All books of Sunnah and hadîth, regardless of their types whether they are Jami’ or Musnad or Mu’jam or Jaz’, etc, include thousands of ahâdîth, the smallest of which is al-Jâmi’ al-Saghîr of al-Suyûtî which includes ten thousand ahâdîth, so what do you think about the other books? This
group is the saved one who deserves the company of the Prophet (ﷺ) the most on the Day of Judgment and the ones who will be most pleased with his intercession. No one will reach equal status except those who present better than what they have offered! If you seek good and safety, be a scholar of ahādith or try to be among the people of ḥadith otherwise it does not matter... because there are no benefits to receive if you were less than that.”

I ask Allāh, Exalted be He, to make me among those scholars of ahadith who deserve the company of the Prophet (ﷺ) the most, and may this book be evidence of being as such.

He (ﷺ) also set the guidance of du‘ā’ in this tashabhud as well, saying, when you sit after every two rak‘abs, then say: al-Tabiyyat... and then he should select of the supplications what is most pleasing to him.”

8.7 Standing up for the Third and then the Fourth Rak‘ab

Then, he (ﷺ) used to stand up to perform the third rak‘ab whilst saying takbīr, and he (ﷺ) ordered ‘the man who prayed badly’: “....then, repeat it in every bowing and prostration” as mentioned previously.

When he (ﷺ) stood from the sitting position, he would say takbīr, and then stand up and he (ﷺ) would raise his hands with this takbīr sometimes.

48. Nasā‘ī, Aḥmad and Ṭabarānī from the narration of Ibn Mas‘ūd (radīy Allāhu ‘anhu), the details are given in Sīsilah Abādīth as-Sāhibah #878 where I also addressed the fiqh of this hadith. There is a route corroborating this hadith in Majma’ al-Zawā‘id (2/142) from the narration of Ibn al-Zubayr (radīy Allāhu ‘anhumā).

49. Bukhārī and Muslim

50. Abū Ya‘lā in his Musnad (284/2) with a sahih isnād, the details are given in Sīsilah Abādīth as-Sāhibah #604.

51. Bukhārī and and Abū Dāwūd
DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPHET’S PRAYER

If he (ﷺ) wanted to stand up for the fourth rak‘ab, he would say Allāhu Akbar,\textsuperscript{52} which he ordered ‘the man who prayed badly’ to do it as explained previously, and sometimes, he (ﷺ) used to raise his hands\textsuperscript{53} with this takbeer sometimes.

Then, he (ﷺ) used to sit on his left foot, at ease, until each bone returned to its place, then stand up, supporting himself on the ground; and he would clench his fists,\textsuperscript{54} supporting himself with his hands when standing up.\textsuperscript{55}

He would recite al-‘Ātiḥah in both these rak‘abs, and he ordered ‘the man who prayed badly’ to do that. In Zuhr prayer, he would sometimes add a few verses to this, as has been explained in the section: ‘Recitation in Zuhr Prayer’.

8.8 \textit{Qunūt} in the Five Obligatory Prayer During Times of Calamites

When he (ﷺ) wanted to supplicate for or against someone, he would perform \textit{qunūt},\textsuperscript{56} in the last rak‘ab [of his prayer after rising from] bowing; right after saying: “Allāh hears he who praises Him, O Allāh to You all is all praise.”\textsuperscript{57} He (ﷺ) used to supplicate loudly,\textsuperscript{58} and he (ﷺ) would raise his hands,\textsuperscript{59} and those behind him (ﷺ) used

\begin{footnotes}
\item[52] \textit{Ibid.}
\item[53] Abū ‘Awānah and Naṣā‘i with a šāhīḥ isnād
\item[54] Bukhārī and Abū Dāwūd
\item[55] Al-Harbi in \textit{Gharib al-Ḥadīth}. Bukhārī and Abū Dāwūd recorded what indicate such meaning. As for the ḥadīth, he (ﷺ) forbade that a man should support himself with his hand when getting up during prayer is weak and munkar as I have explained in \textit{Sīṣīs Ābādīṭh al-Ḍaˈifāb} #967.
\item[56] \textit{Qunūt} has different meanings but in this context it means: supplicating in the prayer whilst being in the position of standing.
\item[57] Bukhārī and Ahmad
\item[58] \textit{Ibid.}
\item[59] Ahmad and Tabarānī with a šāhīḥ isnād.
Albānī said: To raise the hands in \textit{qunūt} is the madhhab of Ahmad and also Iṣḥāq Ibn
\end{footnotes}

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to say: Āmin.\textsuperscript{60}

He (ﷺ) used to practice qunūt in all the five obligatory prayer,\textsuperscript{61} however, he (ﷺ) only say qunūt in them when he wanted to supplicate for people or to supplicate against people.\textsuperscript{62} In one occasion he supplicated in the qunūt: “O Allāh! Safeguard al-Walīd Ibn al-Walīd, Salamah Ibn Hisham and ‘Ayyash Ibn Abī Rabī‘ah! O Allāh! Inflict Your severe torture on [the tribe of] Muṣar and strike them with (famine) for years like that of the time of Yūsuf!”\textsuperscript{63} In another longer version of the ḥadīth it has the addition: “O Allāh curse [the tribes of] Liḥyān, Ru‘l, Dhakwān and ‘Uṣayyah who disobeyed Allāh and His Messenger.”\textsuperscript{64}

Then, after he (ﷺ) finished the qunūt, he would say: “Allāhu Akbar”, then prostrate.\textsuperscript{65}

8.9. Qunūt in al-Witr

He (ﷺ) used to do qunūt in the Witr prayer\textsuperscript{66} sometimes,\textsuperscript{67} and he

Rāhawayh, cf. Marwazi’s Masa’il (p. 23). As for wiping the face with the hands after finishing the supplication in qunūt, it was not reported; hence it is an innovation. As for the reports about wiping the face with hands after completing supplication outside the prayer, all are weak, some of which are weaker than the other reports. I have detailed this subject in Da‘if Abū Dāwūd #262 and Sīsilah Aḥādīth as-Ṣaḥīhah #597, wherein I have investigated the grading of these reports. This is why al-‘Īz Ibn ‘Abdul-Salam said in one of his fatāwa: “This [i.e. wiping the face after supplication in prayer] is only done by the ignorant.”

\textsuperscript{60} Abū Dāwūd and al-Sarāj, and Ḥākim who declared it ṣaḥīḥ and al-Dhahabi agreed with him and others.

\textsuperscript{61} Abū Dāwūd, al-Sarāj and Dāraquṭnī with two ṣaḥīḥ isnāds.

\textsuperscript{62} Ibn Khuzaymah in his Šaḥiḥ (1/78/2), al-Khaṭib in Kitāb al-Qunūt with a ṣaḥīḥ isnād.

\textsuperscript{63} Ahmad and Bukhārī

\textsuperscript{64} Muslim

\textsuperscript{65} Nasā‘I, Aḥmad, al-Sarāj (109/1) and Abū Ya‘lā in his Mursad with a ṣaḥīḥ isnād.

\textsuperscript{66} Ibn Naṣr and Dāraquṭnī with a ṣaḥīḥ isnād

\textsuperscript{67} Albānī said: The reason for saying that he used to do it sometimes is because the companions, who reported the prayer of al-Witr, did not mention that the Prophet (ﷺ) recited qunūt in it. If he (ﷺ) used to practice it all the time then they would have narrated it. It is

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He (ﷺ) taught al-Ḥassan ibn ʿAlī (radiy Allāhu 'anhumā) to say after finishing the recitation of Qur'ān in his Witr the following supplication:

اللَّهُمَّ اهْلِبِني فِي مَنْ هَذَايْنَتْ، وَعَافِينِي فِي مَنْ عَاقِبَتْ، وَتَوَلَّينِي فِي مَنْ
تَطَيَّبَتْ، وَتَبَارَكَ لِي فِي اِعْتِيَاتِي، وَقَبَّرْنِي مَنْ قَبِسَتْ، [فَأُلْكُ]
تَفْهِمْ وَلَا يَفْعَلْ عَلَيْكَ، [وَأُلْكُ] إِنَّهُ لَيَبْلُ مِنْ يَلَبَتْ، [وَلَا يُبْرُرْ]
مَنْ عَاقِبَتْ، [تَبَارَكَ رَبِّي وَتَعَالَيْتَ. لَا مَنِجَهُ بِكَ] إِنَّا إِلَّا إِلَيْكَ

Allāhumma aḥdīnī fīman ʿafayt, waʿāfinī fīman ʿafayt, watawallanī fīman tawallayt, wabārik lī fīma aʿatayt, waqinī sharra ma dādayt, [fa]-innaka taqdi waḷā yuqda ʿalayk,[wa] innahū la yadhīlū man wālayt, [walā yaʿazza man ʿadayt], tabārakta rabbanāwata ʿalay, lā manjā mënka illā ilaykt.

only Ubayy Ibn Ka'b (radiy Allāhu 'anhu) who narrated it, which indicates that he used to do it sometimes. In light of this fact, it proves that qunāt in al-Witr is not obligatory, which is the view of the majority of scholars. This is why Ibn al-Hamām, the researching hanafi scholar admitted in Fath ul-Qadir (1/306 and 359-360) that the view stating that it is obligatory is a weak opinion that has no evidence to support it. This acknowledgement shows his fairness and that he is far from blind following as his statement opposes the view of his Madhabbāb.

68 Ibn Abī Shaybah (12/41/1), Abū Dāwūd, Nasāʾī in al-Sunan al-Kabīr (218/1-2), Ahmad, Tabarānī, Bayhaqī, Ibn ʿAsākir (4/244/2) with a saḥiḥ isnād, Ibn Mandah in al-Tawḥid (70/2) recorded only the supplications he (ﷺ) used to recite with another with a saḥiḥ isnād. It is also found in al-Irwā’ #426.

69 Ibn Khuzaymah in his Sahih (1/119/2) and Ibn Abī Shaybah.

Note: The part “wala yaʿazza man ʿadayt” is an addition that is established in authentic abādīth as stated by Ḥafiz Ibn Ḥajr in al-Tājūsī, and which I verified in al-Āṣl. On the other hand, al-Nawawī may have overlooked this point and stated in Rawdah al-Tūsīn (1/253) that it is an addition added by scholars just like the addition of “fālaka al-ḥamdu ʿalā màqadaya, astaṣḥfīruna wa atīyun ilayka” and surprisingly he said after a couple of lines after he made that statement: “Scholars agreed to condemn al-Qāḍī Abī al-Ṭayyib for his objection to the part “wala yaʿazza man ʿadayt” as it was narrated in a report recorded by Bayhaqī. And Allāh knows best”

Albānī said: Nasāʾī recorded a report that has the addition at the end of it which is: “Allāhumma ʿalā fī al-nạlī al-nummi - may Allāh send prayers on the unlettered Perprophet”. =
Section Eight: The First Tashabhud

O Allâh, guide me amongst those whom You have guided, safeguard me from all harm amongst those whom You have safeguarded, support me amongst those whom You support and bless for me what You have granted me. Protect me from the evil You have decreed for verily You decree and none can decree over You. Indeed, he whom You support is never humiliated and ashamed and he whom You take as an enemy is never honoured or glorified. O our Lord, Most deserving of everlasting praise and Exalted are You. Indeed, there is no escape from You except to You.

However, the isnâd of this report is weak and the report was also weakened by Hâfiz Ibn Ḥajr, al-Qastalâni, al-Zurqânî and others. Therefore, I have not included this part in the body of this book, according to my method where I gather all the additions and then incorporate them in the main report, as it does not comply with the conditions I have stated in the introduction of this book. Al-ʻIzz Ibn ʻAbdul-Salam said in one of his fatâwa (66/1): “There are no authentic reports stating the prayer on the Prophet (SAW) in the qunût; hence nothing should be added to the prayer of the Prophet”. This statement shows one should not be too lenient with using the concept of good innovation (bid'ah hasanah) as some latter scholars are. However, I retreated my position concerning adding the prayer on the Prophet (SAW) as it has been proven through the report that states that Ubayy Ibn Ka‘b (radiyAllâhu ‘anhu) led the people in the qiyyam of Ramâdân and recited the prayer on the Prophet (SAW) at the end of his qunût. This incident took place during the rule of ʻUmar Ibn al-Khaṭṭâb (radiyAllâhu ‘anhu) and was recorded by Ibn Khuzaymah in his Sahîh (1097). The same practice was also established to be authentic from Abû Ḥalîmah Mu‘âdh al-ʻAnṣârî who also led people in Ramâdân during the time of ʻUmar, and this report was recorded by Ismâ‘îl al-Qâdî #107. That being the case, adding the prayer on the Prophet (SAW) at the end of the qunût is deemed a lawful act that the righteous predecessors practiced, therefore it should not be said that this addition is an innovation (bid'ah). And Allâh knows best.
SECTION NINE

The Final Tashahhud

9.1 The Obligation of Tashahhud

Then, after completing the fourth rak'ah, he (ụm) used to sit to recite the final tashahhud, and his orders concerning what to be performed in this position are the same as his orders regarding the first tashahhud except that he (ụm) used to sit in the mutawarrikan position [in which he would sit on his buttock].¹

He (ụm) used to sit on his left upper thigh on the ground, both his feet protruding from one side [i.e. the foot comes out from underneath the right].² He (ụm) would place his left leg underneath his (right) thigh and shin,³ and he (ụm) would keep the right foot upright on its toes.⁴ But, sometimes he (ụm) would spread it.⁵ He (ụm) used

¹ Bukhārī

Albānī said: The Sunnah is to sit in the al-Iṣtirāb position [i.e. place the left foot on the ground and sit on its ankle, while keeping the right foot standing vertically on its toes, which are pointed towards the direction of the qiblah] in the prayer that is composed of two units such as Fajr. This distinction is made by Imam Ahmad as reported in Masā'il Ibn Hāni (p. 79).

² Abū Dawsūd and Bayhaqī with a ṣaḥīḥ isnād.
³ Muslim and Abū 'Awānāh
⁴ Bukhārī

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to hold his left knee with his left palm and leaned on it. 5

He set the example of sending prayers on him (ﷺ) in this tashabbud, just as in the first tashabbud; the ways of sending prayer on him (ﷺ) have been mentioned in the section: sending prayers on him.

9.2 The Obligation of Sending Prayers on the Prophet (ﷺ)

The Prophet (ﷺ) heard a man supplicating in his prayer without glorifying Allâh, Most High, and sending prayers on the Prophet (ﷺ), so he commented: “This man has been hasty!” Then, he called him and said to him and others: “When one of you prays, begin with praising and glorifying your Lord, Exalted be He, then follow it with sending prayers (in one narration: he should send prayers) on the Prophet (ﷺ), and then supplicate as he want.” 7

Also, he (ﷺ) heard a man praying and during which he glorified Allâh and praised Him, sending prayers on the Prophet (ﷺ) in prayer, upon that, the Prophet (ﷺ) said to him: “Supplicate and you shall be answered, and ask Him [for all that you want] and you shall be granted [what you wish].” 8

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5 Muslim and Abû Awânah.  
6 Ibid.  
7 Aḥmad, Abû Dâwûd, Ibn Khuzaïmah (1/83/2), Ḥâkim who declared it ṣâḥîḥ and al-Dhahabî agreed with him.  
Albâni said: You should know that this ḥadîth indicates that the prayer on the Prophet (ﷺ) is obligatory in the last tashabbud as per his command. This view is advocated by Imâm al-Shâfi‘î and Imâm Aḥmad in the final two reported views from him, not to mention that it is also the view adopted by a group of Companions and others. In fact, al-Îjurî said in al-Sharî‘ah, (p. 415): “Whoever does not recite the prayer on the Prophet (ﷺ) in the last tashabbud is required to repeat his prayer”. That being said, whoever described the view of Imâm al-Shâfi‘î concerning the subject matter as odd was unfair as elucidated by the renowned jurist al-Haytâmî in al-Durr al-Manûd‘ al-sâhib al-Maṣâm al-Mahmûd (section 13-16). 
8 Nasâ’î with a ṣâḥîḥ isnâd.
9.3 The Obligation to Seek Refuge [with Allāh] from Four Things before Supplicating

He (ﷺ) used to say: “When you finish the last tashabhud, seek refuge with Allāh from four things, saying:

اللَّهُمَّ إِلَيْكَ أَعْوَدُ بِلَحْمِ عَدَابِ جَهَنَّمَ، وَبِعَدَابِ الْقَبْرِ،
وَبِنِيَةَ الْمَهَابِلِ، وَبِنِيَةَ [فِتْنَة] الْمَسِيحِ الْمُسَجِّلِ

Allāhumma inni a‘ūdhu bika min ‘athābil-qabri, wa min ‘athābi jahannama, wa min fitnat al-mahyā wal-mamāti, wa min sharri [fitnah] al-masih al-dajjāl.

O Allāh! I take refuge in You from the torment of fire, from the punishment in the grave, from the trials and tribulations of life and death, and from the evil of the trial of the false Christ. Then, ask Allāh for all that you want.”

He (ﷺ) used to recite the said supplication in his tashabhud.⁹ Also, he (ﷺ) used to teach it to the Companions, may Allāh be pleased with them, just as he used to teach them the Surabs of the Qur‘ān.¹¹

9.4 Supplication before the Salām, and its Various Types

The Prophet (ﷺ) used to recite different supplications in his prayer,¹² he also endorsed other supplications, and “ordered the

9 Muslim, Abū ‘Awānah, Nasā‘ī, Ibn al-Jārūd in al-Muntaqā (p.27). It is also found in al-Irwā' #350.
10 Abū Dāwūd and Aḥmad with a ṣaḥīḥ isnād.
11 Muslim and Abū ‘Awānah.
12 Albānī said: The reason that I said “in his prayer” instead of saying “in the tashabhud” is because the textual evidence mentions the prayer without limiting it to tashabhud or other places. Thus, it includes every position in which supplication is deemed appropriate such as supplicating in the prostration and tashabhud, which the Prophet (ﷺ) encouraged us to invoke Allāh in these two positions as have been stated previously.
worshipper to select of them what he wishes.”¹³ They are:


O Allāh, I seek refuge in You from the punishment of the grave, and I seek refuge in You from the temptation and trial of the false Christ, and I seek refuge in You from the trials and tribulations of life and death. O Allāh, I seek refuge in You from sins and indebtedness.¹⁴

Allāhumma innī aʿūdhu bika min-sharri mā ‘amīlutu wa-min sharri mā lam aʿamal [baʿdu].

O Allāh, I seek refuge in You from the evil of the sins that I

¹³ Bukhārī and Muslim.

¹⁴ Bukhārī and Muslim.
have committed and from the evil of abstaining from committing good deeds.\textsuperscript{15}

\textit{Alláhumma ḥasíbni ḥisábán yásírân}

O Alláh, Judge me leniently [on the Day of Judgement]\textsuperscript{16}


O Alláh, by Your knowledge of the unseen and Your power over creation, keep me alive so long as You know such life to

\textsuperscript{15} Nasâ‘î with a šâḥîh isnâd, Ibn Abî ‘Āṣîm in \textit{al-Sunnah} \#370, with my checking; the addition is from the latter

\textsuperscript{16} Ahmad and Hâkim who declared it šâḥîh and al-Dhahabî agreed with him.
be good for me and take my soul if You know death to be better for me. O Allāh, I ask you to grant me the trait of being fearful of You in secret and in public and I ask You to make me utter only the truth, in times of pleasure and anger. I ask you to make me spend reasonably in times of wealth and poverty and I ask You for interminable enjoyable wealth and joy which will never cease. I ask You to make me pleased after experiencing what You have decreed upon me, and for an easy life after death. I ask You for the sweetness of looking upon Your Face and longing to meet You in a manner which entails neither a calamity which will bring about harm nor a trial which will cause deviation. O Allāh, beautify us with the adornment of Ḭimān and make us of those who guide and are rightly guided.¹⁷

[5] He (ﷺ) taught Abu Bakr (radīy Allāhu ‘anhu) to say:

اللَّهُمَّ إِنِّي ءَاذَانَتُ فَلَعَنْتُ عَلَيْهِ لَهُ إِنَّكَ
قَفَعْتُ مِنْ ذَٰلِكَ وَارْضَعْتُ إِلَيْكَ اللَّهُمَّ الرَّحْمَٰن

Allāhumma inni zalamtu nafsī zulmān kathārān, wa-laghfiru-th-thunūba illa ant, faghfir-li maghfiratan min ‘indik warhamni, innaka ant al-Ghafūr al-Rahīm.

O Allāh, I have indeed excessively wronged myself and none can forgive sins except You, so grant me a Forgiveness from You and bestow Your mercy upon me. Truly, You are the Most Forgiving, the Most Merciful.¹⁸

[6] He (ﷺ) instructed ‘Āʾishah (radīy Allāhu ‘anhā) to say:

اللَّهُمَّ إِنِّي أَسْأَلُكَ مِنَ الْخَيْرِ كَلَّهُ [عَالِجَةَ وَأَجِلَّةَ] مَا عَلَّمْتُ مَنَّا وَمَا
لَمْ أَعْلَمْ، وَأَعْمَلْتُ وَأَصْفَحْتُ مِنَ الشَّرِّ كَلَّهُ [عَالِجَةَ وَأَجِلَّةَ] مَا عَلَّمْتُ مَنَّا
وَمَا لَمْ أَعْلَمْ، وأَصْفَحْتُ وَأَسْأَلُكَ (وَبِرَوَايةِ اللَّهُمَّ إِنِّي أَسْأَلُكَ) الجَلَّةَ وَمَا

¹⁷ Nasā’ī and Ḥakīm who declared it ṣaḥīh and al-Dhahabī agreed with him.
¹⁸ Bukhārī and Muslim.
“Alláhumma inní as’aluka minal-khayri kullih, [‘ajilíhi wa ‘ajilíhí], mà ‘alímu minhu wa mà lam ‘alam, wa a’údhu bika minal-sharri kullíhi, ‘ájilíhí wa ‘ájilíhí, mà ‘álímu minhu wa mà lam ‘alam, wa as’aluka (in another report: Alláhumma inní as’aluka) al-jannata wa mà qarraba ilayha min qawilín aw a’ímal, wa a’údhu bika minal-nár wa mà qarraba ilayha min qawilín aw ‘amal, wa as’aluka (in another report: Alláhumma inní as’aluka) min [al] khayri mà sa’alaka ‘abduka wa rassúluka [Muḥammad (ṣallalláhu ‘alayhi wa sallam)], wa a’údhu bika min sharri mà asta’átha minhu ‘abduka wa rasúluka Muḥammad [ṣalalláhu ‘alayhi wa sallam], wa as’aluka mä qaḍayta li min amrín an taj’alá ‘áqibthahu [lí] rushdán.”

O Alláh, I ask You to grant me all the goodness; that which is immediate and that which is yet to come in this life and the hereafter; all that which I know of and all that which I do not know about. And, I take refuge in You from all the evil, that which is immediate and that which is yet to come in this life and the hereafter; that which I know of and that which I do not know about. O Alláh, I ask You to let me enter Paradise and direct me to all words and actions that will draw me closer to it, and I take refuge in You from Hellfire and all that will draw me closer to it. O Alláh, I ask You from all the goodness that Your slave and Messenger, Muḥammad [ṣallalláhu ‘alayhi wa sallam] asked you from, and I take refuge in You from the evil of what Your slave and Messenger Muḥammad [ṣallalláhu ‘alayhi wa sallam] sought Your refuge from. And, I ask You to decree that the outcome of all
that you have decreed upon me to be good.\textsuperscript{19}

[7] He (ﷺ) asked a man: “What do you say in your prayer?” The man replied: “I recite the \textit{tasbhhud} then I ask Allâh to grant me paradise and I seek His refuge from the Fire. By Allâh, I neither understand the words you and Mu'âdh \textit{hum} [in the prayer after the \textit{tasbhhud}]”. The Prophet (ﷺ) replied: “The words we \textit{hum} revolve around what you asked from Allâh.”\textsuperscript{20}

[8] Once, he (ﷺ) heard a man saying:

\begin{center}
\begin{tabular}{c}
اللهُمَّ إِنِّي أَسَأَلُكَ بِأَنَّكَ أَنَّكَ [الْوَرَابِيَةُ] الأَحْدُ
scssc
الْسَّمَّارُ الْأَلْبِيِّ لَمْ يَبْلْدُ وَلَمْ يُولَّدَ وَلَمْ يُكْنِ أَنْ تَفْقُرَ أَحْدَثُ - أَنْ
scssc
تَفْقُرُ لَيْ دُوِّبُ إِنْ تَفْقُرَ أنْ تَعْفِرَ الرَّحْمَٰنُ
\end{tabular}
\end{center}


O Allâh, I ask You, O Allâh, (in another report: by Allâh); the One, the Eternal Refuge Who neither begets nor is born, nor is there to Him any equivalent, to forgive my sins. Indeed, You are the Most forgiving, the Compassionate [to believers].

The Prophet (ﷺ) said: “he has just been forgiven; he has just been forgiven.”\textsuperscript{21}

[9] He (ﷺ) heard another man saying in his \textit{tasbhhud}:

\textsuperscript{19} Ahmad, al-Tayîlî, Bukhârî in \textit{al-Adab al-Mufrad}, Ibn Majah, Hâkim who declared it \textit{sahîh} and al-Dhahabi agreed with him. I did its \textit{takhrij} in \textit{Silsilah Ahâdîth al-Şâbîb} #1542.

\textsuperscript{20} Abû Dâwûd, Ibn Mâjah and Ibn Khuzaymah (1/87/1) with a \textit{sahîh} isnâd.

\textsuperscript{21} Abû Dâwûd, Nasâî, Ahmad and Ibn Khuzaymah, and Hâkim who declared it \textit{sahîh} and al-Dhahabi agreed with him.
Allāhumma inni Asa-luka binna laka al-ḥamdu, lā ilāha illā ant, [waḥdaka lā sharīka laka], [al-Mannān], [yā] badiʿ assamawāt wal-ardī, yā dhal-Jalālī wal-Ikrām, yā Ḥayyū yā Qayyūm, ḥinnī asaʾluka [al-janna wa aʿūdhu bika min al-nar].

O Allāh, I ask You, for all praise is to You alone. There is no god worthy of worship except You. You are One with no partner. [O Allāh], You are Al Mannan [i.e. the Bestower who showers His slaves with His favours and abundance grace], who originated both earth and heavens [without a previous example or design]! O Lord of Majesty and Honour, O Ever-Living One, O Self-Existing One, I ask You Paradise and I take refuge in You from Fire.

Upon hearing it, the Prophet said: “Do you know what this man has just said in his supplication?” The Companions replied: “Allāh and His Messenger know!” He said: “By the One in whose hands is my soul, He asked Allāh by His Great Name22 (in another report:

22 Albānī said: This ḥadīth endorses the intercession through the Beautiful Names and Attributes of Allāh, which reflects the commands of Allāh in the Qurʾān: “And to Allāh belongs the best names, so invoke Him by them.” [al-Aʿrāf (7): 180]. As for interceding through other things such as the status or right or position of the Prophet (ﷺ), Abū Ḥanīfah, May Allāh bestow His mercy upon him, stated that it is disliked, which is the view adopted by his students too, and when they state a matter is disliked in its absolute format, they intend to mean it is forbidden. However, it is unfortunate to see most people today, including many shaykhs, never use this prescribed type of intercession that all scholars agree upon, and rarely find any of them interceding to Allāh through His Names and Attributes, all the while, they ensure to use the innovated type of intercessions, the least of that is what is disputable. But, they keep practicing it all the time as if it is impossible not to use any other type of intercession. Shaykh al-Islām Ibn Taymiyyah authored a good book about this subject that he titled al-Tawwassul and al-Wasīlah, which I recommend the reader to read it as it is significant and unique. Then, I recommend to also read the material I wrote concerning the issue of intercession which I titled al-Tawwassul, Its types and Rulings, which was printed =
His Greatest Name), which if one supplicate through it, his prayers will be answered and his wishes will be granted.”

[10] He used to say at the end before he performs the \textit{taslim}:

\begin{center}
\begin{block}{c}
\textit{Allāhumma īghfīr li mā qaddamtu wa mā akkhartu wamā asrartu wamā a'alantu wamā asraftu wamā anta a'alamu bihi minnī, anta al muqaddimu wa anta al mu'akkhiru, lā ilāha illā ant.}
\end{block}
\end{center}

O Allāh, forgive me for my past sins and for all that which I postponed while I should not have postponed, and for my concealed and overt deeds, and for my extravagance and for whichever sins You know that I have committed but I have not noticed. You put forward whoever You wish to worship You and hold back whoever You wish to defer from worshipping You. None has the right to be worshipped except You.\footnote{Abū Dāwūd, Nasā‘ī, Ahmad, Bukhārī in \textit{Al Adab Al Mufrad}, Tabarānī, Ibn Mandah in \textit{al-Tawbīd} (44/2 and 67/1 and 70/1-2) with a šāhī isnād.}
SECTION TEN

al-Taslim

Then, he (ﷺ) used to [turn his face] to the right side and say:

‎السلام عليكم ورحمة الله
Assalāmu 'alaykum wa-raḥmatu Allāh
Peace and Allāh’s Mercy be on you

until one can see the whiteness of his right cheek, then turn his face to the left side and say:

‎السلام عليكم ورحمة الله
Assalāmu 'alaykum wa-raḥmatu Allāh
Peace and Allāh’s Mercy be on you

until one can see the whiteness of his left cheek.¹

Sometimes, he (ﷺ) used to add to the end of taslim on the right:

وباركك
wabarakātuh

¹ Muslim #582 with similar meaning, Abū Dāwūd, Nasā'i, Tirmidhī who declared it ṣaḥīḥ

172
...and His blessings (be on you).²

When he said:

السلام عليكم ورحمة الله
assalāmu 'alaykum wa-raḥmatu Allāh
Peace and Allāh’s Mercy be on you

to his right, he would sometimes shorten the taslim when he turned his face to the left side:

السلام عليكم
assalāmu 'alaykum
Peace be on you.³

Sometimes, he (ﷺ) only sufficed with one taslim only [i.e. he (ﷺ) turned his face] to the right side a bit, or a little then said

السلام عليكم
assalāmu 'alaykum
Peace be on you.⁴

They used to gesture with their hands when saying the taslim to the right and left; when the Messenger of Allāh (ﷺ) saw them, he said: “What is the matter with you, gesturing with your hands as if they were tails of rebellious horses? When any of you say the taslim, he should look towards his companion and not indicate with his hand.”

² Abū Dāwūd, Ibn Khuzaymah (1/87/2) with a šahīḥ isnād, and 'Abdul Ḥaqq al-Ishbīlī in his al-Aḥkām (56/2) in which he also declared it šahīḥ, al-Nawawī and Ibn Ḥajīr, 'Abdul-Razzāq in his al-Musannaf (2/219), Abū Ya'la in his Musnad (3/1252), Tabarānī in his Mu'jam al-Kabīr (3/67/2) and his Mu'jam al-Awsat (1/2600/2), and Dāraquṭnī from another route.
³ Nasā'i, Ahmad and Al-Sa'ūdī with a šahīḥ isnād.
⁴ Ibn Khuzaymah, Bayhaqī, Al-Dīyā' in al-Mukhtārā, 'Abdul-Gḥānī al-Maqdīsī in his Sunan (243/1) with a šahīḥ isnād, Ahmad, Tabarānī in his Mu'jam al-Awsat (32/2), Al-Bayhaqī, Ḥākim who declared it šahīḥ and Al-Dhahabi agreed with him., Ibn al-Mullāqīn (29/1). Its takhrīj is in al-Imām under hadith #327.
[When they prayed with him [afterward] they did not gesture with their hands.] (In another report he (ﷺ) said: “It suffices you to place your hand on your thigh then salute the greeting of *taslim* to your brother who is on your right and left sides.)

10.1 The Obligation of *al-Taslim*

He (ﷺ) used to say: “...it (the prayer) ends with the *taslim*.”

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5. Muslim, Abū ʿAwānah, al-Sarāj, Ibn Khuzaymah and Ṭabarānī.

Albānī said: The *Ibādyyah* sect distorted this ḥadīth and recorded in their unknown *Musnad* of Ṭabī‘i using a different wording in order to use it as evidence on the invalidity of prayer should a person raise his hands with *takbīr*. This altered report was used by al- Siyyābī whom I refuted in the introduction of this book. See also *Silsilah Ahādīth al-Ḍa‘īfah* #6044.

6. Ḥākim who declared it saḥīḥ and al-Dhahabī agreed with him. The complete ḥadīth was mentioned previously in “Section on Takbīr.”
In Conclusion

All the above mentioned reports explaining the prayer of the Prophet (ﷺ) apply to both men and women. This is because there is nothing in the Sunnah that indicates the exemption of women from some of these actions. In fact, the statement of the Prophet (ﷺ): "Pray as you have seen me praying" is general and so includes women too. Ibn Abī Shaybah recorded in his Musannaf (1/75/2) with a šaḥīḥ isnād that Ibrāhīm al-Nakhī said: "The woman should pray as the man prays."

As for the report about the woman should join (her body parts) and gather herself when prostrating and that she prostrates differently than men is a mursal report and hence cannot be used as evidence. The said report is recorded by Abū Dāwūd in al-Marāsīl (117/87) from the way of Yazīd Ibn Abī Ḥabīb and its checking can be found in Silsilah Ahādīth al-Ḍa’īfah #2652.

As for the report that Ibn ‘Umar used to order his women to sit while folding their legs when sitting in the prayer, it isnād is not authentic, for it contains ‘Abdullāh ibn al-‘Amrī who is a weak narrator. This report was quoted by Imām Ahmad and recorded by his son, ‘Abdullāh (p. 71). In contrast, Bukhārī reported in al-Tārīkh al-Ṣagīr (p. 95) with a šaḥīḥ isnād that Umm al-Dardā’ used to sit in her prayer like how men sit in their prayer and she was known as being a scholar of Islāmic jurisprudence.

This is all that I could collect from reports concerning the description of the prayer of the Prophet (ﷺ), from its beginning (i.e. takbīr) and to its end (i.e. tasālim). I ask Allāh, Most High, to make this work sincerely for His sake only and a source of guidance to the Sunnah of His Prophet (ﷺ).
Glorified be Allāh, and Praised. Glorified be You, O Allāh, and Praised. I bear the witness that there is no god worthy of worship except You. I seek forgiveness from You and repent to You. O Allāh! send prayers on Muḥammad, and on the family of Muḥammad, and send blessings on Muḥammad, and on the family of Muḥammad, as You sent prayers on Ibrāhīm and the family of Ibrāhīm; You are indeed Worthy of Praise, Full of Glory.
Other works published by Dār as-Sunnah
Description of the

Prophet’s Prayer

Imām Muḥammad Nāṣir al-Dīn al-Albānī

Prayer is a fundamental act of worship and central to Islām; its importance cannot be emphasized enough. Muslims strive to perfect their prayer for it is indeed a dividing line between faith and disbelief, and will also be the first thing mankind is question about by Allāh on the Day of Judgment. Therefore much has been dedicated to the topic of prayer from the vast body of Islāmic literature - from its rulings to the finer details of its characteristics etc.

Ṣifātul Salāt al-Nabī is a renowned work of the Imām and scholar of ḥadīth, Muḥammad Nāṣir al-Dīn al-Albānī (may Allāh bestow His Mercy upon him). The original work in Arabic was a unique milestone lending a fresh approach in presenting the topic. We are therefore proud to present before the reader, the English translation of it. The intent behind the compilation of the book was clearly noted by the author, and he stated, "I did not come across a book (on prayer) that covered the topic comprehensively, so I felt obliged to produce a book that collected together as many features of the Prophet’s prayer سے as possible, from the takbir (opening of the prayer) to the tasleem (concluding of the prayer)...."

He further asserted his preferred methodology employed in the book, by adopting strict principles of adhering to the authentic Sunnah, and the difficult task he faced in ensuring this course was adhered to. The book has since developed into a study text and a primer that is deliberated and taught throughout the Muslim expanse. It sets a standard in reviving a holistic approach to prayer - and thereby a means towards perfecting one’s servitude to Allāh.

It is our hope that this new English rendering will ensure an earnest continuation in helping Muslims follow the guidance of the Prophet سے in their daily worship. And that the application of this book becomes a catalyst for those who love the Prophet سے in fulfilling his command to, "Pray as you have seen me praying."

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