

Importance Of Namaz



Since Adam (alaihissalam), there was salat ^[1] once a day in every shari'at ^[2]. All that had been performed were brought together and were made fard (obligatory) for us. Although performing salat is not a pillar of iman (belief), it is a pillar of iman to believe that salat is fard. **'Salat'** means **'dua'** (supplication). The ibadat (worshipping) that is commanded by the Shari'at and which we all know was named **'salat'**. Performing the five daily prayers of salat is fard-i 'ayn ^[3] for every Muslim who has reached the age of puberty. That it is fard is openly stated in the Qur'an and hadiths. Five daily prayers of salat became a commandment on the Mi'raj ^[4] night. The Mi'raj happened on the twenty-seventh night of the month of Rajab a year before the Hegira. Before the Mi'raj, only the morning and afternoon prayers were performed.

Ibn Jawzi wrote in his tafsir Almuqni: Abu Bakr-i Siddiq (radiyallahu 'anh) said that, when the time of a daily prayer of salat comes, angels say, **'O the sons of Adam, stand up! Extinguish the fire prepared to burn human beings by performing salat.'** " In a hadith-i sharif ^[5], it was said, **"The difference between the Believer and the unbeliever is salat,"** that is, the Believer performs salat, and the unbeliever does not. Munafiqs ^[6], however, sometimes perform it and sometimes do not. Munafiqs will undergo very bitter torment in Hell. Abdullah ibn Abbas (radiyallahu 'anh), the leader of mufessirs, said that he heard Rasulullah say, **"Those who do not perform salat will find Allahu ta'ala angry on the Day of Resurrection. "**

The imams of hadith unanimously said, **"A person who does not perform a salat in its due time intentionally, that is, if he is not sorry for not performing a salat while its due time is ending, will become a kafir or will lose his iman during his death. What will become of those who do not remember salat or see salat as a duty?"** The Ahl as-Sunnat ^[7] savants unanimously said, **"Ibadat are not a part of iman. "** But there was not a unanimity concerning salat.

[1] salat: i) prayer; (with salam)= salawat; ii) ritual prayer of at least two rak'as; **"namaz"**, in Persian; salat janaza: funeral prayer.

[2] Shari'at: (pl. of Shari'a) i) rules and commandments as a whole of the religion. ii) religion.

[3] fard 'ain: fard for every Muslim; obligation for every Muslim.

[4] Mi'raj: i) the Prophet's ascension from Jerusalem to heaven. ii) Prophet's Ascension from Jerusalem to the skies.

[5] hadith (sharif): i) a saying of the Prophet ('alaihi 's-salam).; al-Hadith ash-sharif: all the hadiths as a whole; ii) 'ilm al-hadith; iii) Books of the hadith ash-sharif. iv) Al-hadith al-qudsi, as-sahih, al-hasan: kinds of hadiths (for which, see Endless Bliss, II).

[6] munafiq: one in the disguise of a Muslim but disbelieves Islam, but believing in another religion; a hypocrite.

[7] Ahl as-Sunna (wa'l-Jama'a): the true pious Muslims who follow as-Sahabat al-kiram. These are called Sunni Muslims. A Sunni Muslim adapts himself to one of the four Madhhabs. These madhhabs are Hanafi, Maliki, Shafi'i and Hanbali.