

Notes of Lectures on Fiqh

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Lecture #2 (Thursday 27 April 2006)

WHAT IS DOUBT (SHAK) AND CERTAINTY (YAOEEN) ?

- ✳ In Islamic fiqh, various terms are used to denote different levels of doubts:
 - Yaqeen** means to be completely sure or certain (i.e. a probability of 100%)
 - Itminan** means having a very high degree of satisfaction but less than 100% sure (around 98% probability).
 - Zan** or Takhmeen means having about 80% probability of being sure
 - Shak** (doubt) means having 50% probability (i.e. 50-50 chance on either side).
 - Rujhan** (leaning) means having more than 50% probability toward certainty.

DOUBTS DURING SALAT, WHICH REQUIRE ACTION TO BE TAKEN

- ✳ In nine cases, if a person has doubts about the number of rak'at recited in a four rak'at Salat, the Salat will not become batil (void), rather, you must think, and if you come to a decision in which certainty or probability is reached that leans to a particular way, then you must go with that way of conclusion and finish the Salat (as usual); but if you can not come to a decision based on certainty or probability and remains in a state of doubt, then you must act according to the actions as required by sharia, and then your Salat will be correct.
- ✳ If any of the following nine types of doubts occurs in the number of rakats during a wajib 4-rakat salat, **then the specified actions must be taken to keep the salat in order, as explained below:**

- (1) Doubt occurs, after 2nd Sajda, if it is 2nd or 3rd rakat, then
 - Assume:** it to be 3rd rakat, continue and complete salat, then immediately
 - Action:** Offer one rakat Salatul Ihtiyat (with standing) immediately.
- (2) Doubt occurs, after 2nd Sajda, if it is 2nd or 4th rakat, then
 - Assume:** it to be 4th rakat, continue and complete salat, then immediately
 - Action:** Offer 2-rakat Salatul Ihtiyat (with standing)
- (3) Doubt occurs, **at any stage**, if it is 3rd or 4th rakat, then
 - Assume:** it to be 4th rakat, continue and complete salat, then immediately
 - Action:** Offer one rakat Salatul Ihtiyat with standing (or 2 rakat Salatul Ihtiyat in sitting position)

(The following types of doubts are normally rare but actions are required if they happen.)

- (4) Doubt occurs, after 2nd Sajda, if it is 2nd or 3rd or 4th rakat, then
 - Assume** it to be 4th rakat, continue and complete salat, then immediately
 - Action:** Offer 2 rakat Salatul Ihtiyat (with standing) and also 2 rakat Salatul Ihtiyat in sitting position.

- (5) Doubt occurs, after 2nd Sajda, if it is 4th or 5th rakat, then
Assume: it to be 4th rakat, continue and complete salat, then immediately
Action: Offer Sajdah Sahv
- (6) Doubt occurs, in Qiyam, if it is 4th or 5th rakat, then
 You should sit down immediately, and recite tashhud and salam to finish salat.
Action: Offer 1 rakat Salatul Ihtiyat with standing, or 2 rakat sitting and also Sajdah Sahv
- (7) Doubt occurs, in Qiyam, if it is 3rd or 5th rakat, then
Assume it to be 4th rakat, continue and complete salat, then immediately
Action: Offer 2 rakat Salatul Ihtiyat with standing and also Sajdah Sahv
- (8) Doubt occurs, in Qiyam, if it is 3rd or 4th or 5th rakat, then
Assume it to be 4th rakat, continue and complete salat, then immediately
Action: Offer 2 rakat Salatul Ihtiyat with standing and 2 rakat Salatul Ihtiyat sitting and also Sajdah Sahv
- (9) Doubt occurs, in Qiyam, if it is 5th or 6th rakat, then
Assume it to be 4th rakat, continue and complete salat, then immediately
Action: Offer Sajdah Sahv

✳ If one of the above doubts, which makes the Salat void, happens, first you must think (on that doubt) a little bit, and in the event that nothing comes to mind and the doubt remains, then you can break the Salat; but it is better that you should think to such an extent so as not to break the form of Salat, or (you should think to such an extent) so that you do not lose hope over establishing certainty or a probable conclusion.

METHOD OF SALATUL IHTIYAT

- ✳ When Salatul Ihtiyat becomes wajib, then you must stand up immediately after completing the normal wajib salat without doing anything which breaks the salat, and then:
- Perform Niyyat in your mind only that you offer one rakat (or 2 rakat) Salatul Ihtiyat wajib qurbatan ilallah, and say Takbeeratul Ihram (Allaho Akbar) silently.
 - Recite Bismillah and Surah Fatiha silently.
 - Perform Ruku and Sujood with usual zikr silently. (stand up for 2nd rakat if it is 2-rakat Salatul Ihtiyat, and complete second rakat exactly like the 1st rakat)
 - Recite Tashahhud and Salam silently.

SOME SPECIAL RULES FOR SALATUL IHTIYAT

- Niyyat must not be uttered in words (it must be in mind only)
- Full salatul ihtiyat including Takbeeratul Ihram and Bismillah must be recited silently.
- No Qunoot allowed. No second Surah allowed. No Tasbeehat Arba'a allowed.
- If Salaul Ihtiyat and/or Salatul Ihtiyat in sitting position and/or Sajdah Sahv become wajib, then they must be performed in the correct order: first perform Salaul Ihtiyat with standing, then perform Salatul Ihtiyat in sitting position, then perform Sajdah Sahv.
- If you forgot to offer Salatul Ihtiyat after it became wajib, then you must repeat the whole wajib salat.