

Notes of Lectures on Fiqh

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Lecture #6 (Thursday 25 May 2006)

RULES FOR ACTIONS AND RECITATIONS IN SALATUL JAMAAT

✳ You must make the Niyyat (intention) that you are offering Salat in Jamaat behind that particular Imam wajib Qurbatan Ilallah, and say Takbeeratul Ihram (Allah-o-Akbar) soon after the Takbeeratul Ihram by the Imam.

✳ The Niyyat and Takbeeratul Ihram (Allah-o-Akbar) by the followers must be said only after the Imam completes his Takbeeratul Ihram. It is mustahab that soon after the Imam, the person just behind the Imam should say Takbeer, then the persons to his right and to his left say Takbeer, and then the followers in row behind them will say, and so on, in a quick and orderly manner. But if someone in the back row says Takbeer before the persons in his front row, his salat will be OK provided the people in the front row were ready to say Takbeer, though not yet pronounced it.

✳ All acts of the salat by the followers must be performed just after the act by the Imam. This means, acts like bowing for ruku, raising head from ruku, going into sajda and raising head from sajda, standing up for next rakaat, must NOT be done before that act by the Imam.

✳ If you intentionally perform any of above act before the act of the Imam, your Salatul Jamaat will become batil (invalid). But if you make such mistake forgetfully, your Salatul Jamaat is valid, but you should be careful not to repeat such mistakes.

✳ If you forgetfully rise from Ruku or Sajdah before the Imam, you must return to the Ruku or Sajdah position (as the case may be) provided that the Imam is still in that position.

✳ In the first two rakaat, it is wajib on you not to recite Suras, but you must listen to the Suras recited by the Imam. If the Imam is reciting Suras silently (as in Zohr and Asr salat), it is mustahab for you to recite zikr (Subhan Allah) silently.

✳ You must recite all other things (e.g. zikr in ruku and sajda, qunoot, Tashahhud and Salam) in salat yourself along with the Imam. Even if you precede the Imam in these recitations, your salat is OK.

JOINING SALATUL JAMAAT BY LATE-COMERS

✳ If you arrive late, first try to find out which rakaat Imam is performing. You can only join the salaah when the Imam is in the standing position before ruku, or he is in ruku position.

✳ If you find that Imam is reciting Suras in the first or second rakaat, or is reciting Qunoot, then you can join the jamaat immediately by performing Niyyat and saying Takbeeratul Ihram.

- ✳ If you find that the Imam is in Ruku, make your Niyyat, say Takbeeratul Ihram and go straight into Ruku. This will be counted as your first rakaat.
- ✳ If you find that the Imam is standing in his 3rd or 4th rakaat, then you should wait until the Imam goes into ruku position, and then make Niyyat, say Takbeeratul Ihram, and join him in Ruku. This will be counted as your first rakaat.
- ✳ If you join Salatul Jamaat in 2nd, 3rd, or 4th rakaat for your 4-rakaat wajib salat, then after the Imam finishes his salat, you must continue to complete the remaining rakaats of your salat yourself as furada (individual) salat.
- ✳ If you joined Salat al-Jamaat in the third Rak'at of the Imam, then when you reach in next Rak'at, it will be Imam's fourth rakaat, but it will be your second rakaat. Then you must read surah al-Fatiha and another Surah, and do your best to reach the Imam while in Ruku'. If you find that there would not be enough time for the second Surah and Qunut, then Surah al-Fatiha alone will suffice.
- ✳ Suppose you joined Salat al-' Asr when the Imam is in his second Rak'at, then, when the Imam is reciting Tashahud in his second rakaat, then according to Ihtiyat, you must sit in a position, flexing your legs, keeping fingers and feet on the ground, and listen to the Tashahhud being recited by the Imam (because it was your first rakaat).
- ✳ Similarly, when it is the last Rak'at of the Imam but you still have the balance of rakaat to complete, it is Mustahab that you flex your legs with your fingers and feet still on the ground and wait until the Imam has finished reciting the Salam and then stand up to complete your remaining rakats alone.
- ✳ When a person arrives so late that he finds the Imam is in his last Tashahhud, he would still be able to obtain the reward of Jama'at. He should make the Niyyat, say the Takbiratul Ihram and sit to join the Tashahhud. Then when the Imam has completed his Salat with the Salam, he should rise to begin the first Rak'at and he does not have to make the Niyyat or say the Takbir again.