

Chapter – 12

Special Prayers in Ramadan

(تراویح)

Quran:

إِنَّا نَحْنُ نَزَّلْنَا الذِّكْرَ وَإِنَّا لَهُ لَحَافِظُونَ

{Indeed We have sent down the Quran, and indeed We Ourselves surely are its Guardians. (15:09)}

Hadith:

Narrated Abu Hurairah:

Allah's Prophet said, "Whoever prayed at night in the month of Ramadan out of sincere Faith and hoping for a reward from Allah, then all his previous sins will be forgiven." (Sahih Bukhari: 1884)

Narrated Abu Hurairah and Hamid bin Abdur Rahman:

Allah's Prophet said, "Whoever prayed at night the whole month of Ramadan out of sincere Faith and hoping for a reward from Allah, then all his previous sins will be forgiven". ---- Abdur Rahman bin Abdul Qari said, it was the early days of 'Umar's Caliphate. "One night in Ramadan I went out, in the company of 'Umar bin Al-Khattab, to the Prophet's mosque and found that the people are praying individually. Umar said, "In my opinion I would better collect these people under the leadership of one Qari". So, he made up his mind to congregate them behind Ubai bin Ka'ab. Then on another night I went again in his company and the people were praying behind their reciter. This was looking good. On that, 'Umar remarked "what an excellent بدعة (innovation in religion) this is!" (Sahih Bukhari: 1885)

Narrated 'Aisha:

One night of Ramazan, Prophet offered the prayer in the Mosque and the people followed him. In the next morning the people talked about it and then a large number of them gathered and prayed behind him. On the third night the mosque was full with a large number of people. Allah's Prophet came out and the people prayed behind him. ---- On the

fourth night the Mosque was overwhelmed with people and could not accommodate them, but the Prophet came out only for the Fajr prayer. When the Prayer was finished he addressed with the people and said, "Your presence was not hidden from me but I was afraid lest the night prayer should be enjoined on you and you might not be able to carry it on". --- But till his life the situation remained like that, i.e. the people prayed individually. (Sahih Bukhari: 1886)

Note: This hadith gives an impression that our Noble Prophet himself has initiated in his life the special prayers in Ramazan (Taraweeh).

Important Aspects of Islamic Doctrine

Obligatory (فرض):

(1) For Taraweeh prayer there is no instructions in Quran therefore it is not obligatory.

Essential (واجب):

(1) Similarly for this prayer our Prophet had never ordered therefore it is not essential as well.

Sunnah (سنة):

(1) Taraweeh is Sunnah. (2) Some Islamic Jurists have considered this prayer as Confirmed Sunnah and some scholars have given the grade of Sunnah Kifayah. (3) This is two Rakat prayers. (4) This prayer is offered in the month of Ramazan after Isha Prayers and before Witr.

Desirable (مستحب):

(1) Prayer to be offered in congregation in mosque. (2) Sitting for a while after every four Rakat. (3) During this sitting reciting special verses. (4) Reciting Quran loudly by Imam and completing the whole Quran in maximum 29 days of Ramazan.

Miscellaneous (متفرق)

(1) Two prayers set of two Rakat each is called "Tarweehah". In one night of Taraweeh there are total five Tarweehah. As such it has 20 Rakat in total (2) These 20 Rakat prayers are being offered in congregation persistently since the time of Khalifah Umer bin Al-Kattab. (3) Short recitation of Quran has been advised in daily Obligatory Prayers, but in Taraweeh long recitations have been permitted. This is because the whole Quran has to be recited and heard completely in the month of Ramazan. (4) With this exercise, Quran is being preserved every year a fresh, through the 'Huffaz' and the attentive 'Listeners'. (5) This prayer does not have Adhan or Iqama.

