

Chapter – 29

Prayer

(نماز)

❖ إِيَّاكَ نَعْبُدُ. ❖

We worship You (Allah). (01:05)

❖ فَصَلِّ لِرَبِّكَ وَانْحَرْ. ❖

So offer prayers and sacrifice to your Lord alone. (108:02)

Prayer (صلاة) is a combination of the system of worships of all Creatures. For example, Tree is standing and worshipping God. Man also stands (قيام) for his worship. Animals are bowing down and worshipping God. Man also bows down for ركوع. The creeping plants are down to earth. Man also comes down to earth in سجده. Mountains are standstill in its place. When man sits during his worship virtually he acts like a mountain. God says:

وَأِنْ مِنْ شَيْءٍ إِلَّا يُسَبِّحُ بِحَمْدِهِ وَلَكِنْ لَا تَفْقَهُونَ تَسْبِيحَهُمْ

{And there is not a thing except that it proclaims His purity with praise, but you do not understand their proclamation of purity. (17:44)}

Dear People! In prayer which worship is not there! In prayer you cannot eat; this is a color of Fasting. You cannot talk; this is a kind of “Maryam’s Fast”. It has exclamations (تكبيرات) that pronounce the greatness of Allah سبحانه و تعالی. Quran exists in prayer. Praises of God, سُبْحَانَ رَبِّيَ الْأَعْلَى & سُبْحَانَ رَبِّيَ الْعَظِيمِ, is in prayer. Sitting for salutation (التحيات) is a prototype of the midnight journey (معراج) of the Noble Prophet to the Highest Heaven.

In this journey, when Prophet Muhammad صلى الله عليه وسلم met with Allah تعالى سبحانه و تعالی he said:

التَّحِيَّاتُ لِلَّهِ وَالصَّلَوَاتُ وَالطَّيِّبَاتُ

(All salutations and prayers and good pure things are for God)

God said:

السَّلَامُ عَلَيْكَ أَيُّهَا النَّبِيُّ وَرَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ وَبَرَكَاتُهُ

(O Prophet! Peace be up on you
and Allah's graciousness and His blessings)

Noble Prophet replied:

السَّلَامُ عَلَيْنَا وَعَلَى عِبَادِ اللَّهِ الصَّالِحِينَ

(Peace be upon all of us and on righteous servants of God)
Look! Here by saying الصَّالِحِينَ the Prophet included us, the sinners.

Then every angel said:

أَشْهَدُ أَنْ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ وَ أَشْهَدُ أَنَّ مُحَمَّدًا عَبْدُهُ وَ رَسُولُهُ

(I bear witness that there is no deity except God
and I bear witness that Muhammad is His Servant and Messenger)

So, in prayer, there is offering of God's blessings for the Noble Prophet too. And in the last there is supplication (دعا) for all..

By collective prayers (in mosque) a person negates its individuality. He brings good people closer to him, so that due to these persons he may possibly be granted the acceptance of his own prayer. A collective prayer can achieve 27 times more reward as compared to offering lonely prayer. Be remembered that many lamps will give more light as compared to one lamp. Collective prayer may give stronger perception and vision. Thought waves of sincere persons may effect on individual. Everybody has some electrical currents. When more people are gathered more electrical currents would generate.

Dear People! By collective prayers, implementation of discipline and obeying Imam is exercised five times a day. In this, there is compulsion of following the orders of the Chief of prayers. Look! Till that time no one was chief you were free, but once a Chief is selected then his compliance become essential. ---- Prayer starts on order. All stand in straight line with closed hands. Bowing for ركوع and bowing down for سجده take place on orders. Sitting for التحيات is also the pursuance of orders. Even the prayer is finished after getting orders.

Collective prayer has an army drill. It gives habit of standing in a straight row. ---- What is this Call for Prayer (اذان)? It is like beating army trumpet. On the trumpet beat, if any soldier does not report for exercise he is treated as 'rule breaker' and he will be ousted from army. ---- Look at the prayer! How every part of the body is in action! Prayer is such an easygoing exercise that men, women, children, and old all can do it. ---- This is an exercise for lazy people. And for hard workers it gives rest, recess and interval.

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