

Chapter – 07

Odd Numbered Prayer

(نماز وتر)

Quran:

أُمَّةً قَائِمَةً يَتُلُونَ آيَاتِ اللَّهِ آنَاءَ اللَّيْلِ وَهُمْ يَسْجُدُونَ

{Some who are firm on the truth; they recite the verses of Allah in the night hours and prostrate. (03:113)}

Hadith:

Narrated Ibn 'Abbas:

Once I passed the night in the house of Maimuna (his aunt). I slept across the bed while Allah's Prophet and his wife slept length-wise. The Prophet slept till midnight or nearly so and woke up rubbing his face and recited ten verses from Surat -Aal-Imran. Allah's Prophet went to perform ablution. I did the same and stood beside him. The Prophet put his right hand on my head and then prayed two Rakat five times and then ended his prayer with Witr prayer. He lay down till the Mauddin came then he stood up and offered two Rakat Sunnah of Fajr prayer and then went out and lead the Fajr prayer. (Sahih Bukhari: 937).

Narrated Abdullah bin 'Umar, Aisha and Anas bin Sirin:

Night prayer is offered as two Rakat followed by two Rakat and so on, and if you want to finish it, pray only one Rakat which will be Witr for all the previous Rakat. Al-Qasim said, "Since we attained the age of youth we have seen some people offering a three-Rakat prayer as Witr and all that is permissible." The Prophet used to offer two Rakat Sunnah of Fajr prayer after Adhan before going for the Fajr prayer. (Sahih Bukhari: 938 to 940).

Narrated 'Aisha:

Allah's Prophet offered Witr prayer at different nights at various hours extending (from the 'Isha' prayer) up to the last hour of the night. (Sahih Bukhari: 941).

Narrated 'Aisha:

The Prophet used to offer his night prayer while I was sleeping across in his bed. Whenever he intended to offer the Witr prayer, he used to wake me up and I would offer the Witr prayer too. (Sahih Bukhari: 942).

Narrated 'Abdullah bin 'Umar:

The Prophet said, "Make Witr prayer as your last prayer of the day." (Sahih Bukhari: 943).

Important Aspects of Islamic Doctrine

Obligatory (فرض):

(1) In Quran there is no clear instructions regarding Witr prayer therefore it does not stand as Obligation.

Essential (واجب):

(1) Some Islamic Jurists consider this prayer as essential.

{Note: Imam Abu Hanifah gives three hadiths in favor of Witr prayer as 'essential':

(a) It is narrated by Buraidah Aslami that the Noble Prophet said "offering Witr prayer is essential, those who do not offer they are not amongst us". (Masnad Ahmad).

(b) It is narrated by Umro bin al-aas; in of the Friday Speeches the Noble Prophet said: "God has added one additional prayer that is Witr. Offer this prayer between Isha and Fajr. (Masnad Ahmad).

(c) It is narrated by Umro bin al-aas; the Noble Prophet said that the person who forgets to offer prayer of Witr, he may offer when he remembers for it. (Sunan Abi Daood).

By all the above said hadiths it can be inferred that the Witr is practically as 'obligation', by faith it is 'essential', and by evidence it is a 'Sunnah' prayer.}

(2) According to the Fiqh Hanafi, after third Rakat and before kneeling, offer "Dua-e- Qunoot" in the standing position. (3) The left Witr prayer has to be offered later whenever possible.

Sunnah (سنة):

(1) Some Islamic Jurists consider Witr prayer as Confirmed Sunnah. (2) There are two "Dua-e- Qunoot" that have been taught by the Noble Prophet. One of the two would be enough to recite. (3) Persons who cannot wake up for the night prayers they should offer Witr before going to sleep.

Desirable (مستحب):

(1) In the first Rakat of Witr, recitation of Surat-al-Aala, in the second Rakat Surat-al-Kafirun, and in the third Surat-al-Ikhlis is preferable.

Miscellaneous (متفرق)

(1) According to Fiqh Hanafi, Witr prayers are three Rakats with one Salam. (2) Our Noble Prophet generally used to offer this prayer with Tahajjud (تهجد) prayers, and just to make all of them as Witr he used to offer one Rakat in the end separately. (3) If Dua-e-Qunoot is not learnt by heart any other Dua can be offered. (4) In one night only one Witr is offered, more than that is not needed. So if it has been offered before sleep then its repetition with Tahajjud is not necessary. (5) In the month of Ramazan Witr prayer is offered in congregation just after Traweeh.



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