



**The second question of Fatwa no. 15619**

**Q 2: Is it necessary to offer a specific number of Rak`ahs (units of Prayer) for Qiyam-ul-Layl (standing for optional Prayer at night)**

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**every night or is it done according to one's ability?**

**A:** It is prescribed for a Muslim to offer eleven Rak`ahs on standing for optional night Salah (Prayer), as this was the number mostly observed by the Prophet (peace be upon him). It was authentically reported that `Aishah (may Allah be pleased with her) said: [«The Messenger of Allah \(peace be upon him\) did not observe more than eleven Rak`ahs \(of optional night Salah\), be it in Ramadan or any other month.»](#) Also, it is permissible for a person to offer as much supererogatory Rak`ahs during the night as they like, because when the Prophet (peace be upon him) was asked about night Salah, he said: [«\(Optional\) Night Salah is two Rak`ahs \(units of Prayer\) followed by two Rak`ahs \(and so on\), and when one of you fears the break of dawn \(Fajr Prayer\), let them offer a single Rak`ah to make the Salah they have offered Witr \(Prayer with an odd number of units\).»](#) The Messenger of Allah (peace be upon him) also said: [«The most excellent Salah after the prescribed ones is Salah during the night.»](#) The night Salah is to be concluded with Witr (Prayer with an odd number of units) by praying a single Rak`ah.

May Allah grant us success! May peace and blessings be upon our Prophet Muhammad, his family and Companions!

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**Source: Fatwas of the Permanent Committee**