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Salat-ul-Kusuf

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Ruling on Salat-ul-Kusuf

Q: What is the ruling on Salat-ul-Kusuf (Prayer at the time of a solar eclipse)? Do the two Hadiths of the Prophet (peace be upon him): [So when you see them \(in a state of eclipse\), invoke Allah and pray until it is over](#) and [hasten for the Salah \(Prayer\)](#) prove that it is obligatory?

A: Salat-ul-Kusuf is a stressed Sunnah (supererogatory act of worship following the example of the Prophet) based on the authentic Hadiths related in this regard. According to the scholars, it is not obligatory because when a man asked about Salah, the Prophet (peace be upon him) responded that he was obliged to perform the Five Obligatory Daily Salahs. The inquirer added: [Am I obliged to do anything else besides](#)

this? He (the Prophet) said: No, except that which you do voluntarily out of your own free will.

The manner of offering Salat-ul-Kusuf

Q: How should Salat-ul-Kusuf (Prayer at the time of a solar eclipse) and Salat-ul-Khusuf (Prayer on a lunar eclipse) be performed? Is there any difference between them? What is your opinion on the reports published by the papers about the timings of a solar or lunar eclipse?

A: There are authentic Hadiths in which the Prophet (peace be upon him) showed how Salat-ul-Kusuf can be performed. He (peace be upon him) ordered that people should be called to it by announcing As-salatu Jami`ah "Gather for Prayer".

The most authentic reports concerning this Salah show that it consists of two Rak`ahs (units of Prayer), and in each Rak`ah one should make two recitations and perform two Ruku`s (bowings) and two Sujuds (prostrations). The person should make lengthy recitation, Ruku` and Sujud. In the meantime, the first recitation and Ruku` should be longer than the second ones. The person should make Ruku` in the second Rak`ah for a shorter time than the two Ruku`s in the first one. During the second Rak`ah, the person should make the second recitation and Ruku` for a shorter time than the first in the same Rak`ah.

As for the two Sujuds, it is a Sunnah (action following the teachings of the Prophet) to be lengthy provided that this does not cause any difficulty to the Ma'mums (people being led by an Imam in Prayer) because this was the Prophet's (peace be upon him) way. Upon completing the Salah, the Imam (the one who leads congregational Prayer), if he is knowledgeable, is allowed to deliver a sermon and tell the people that the solar and lunar eclipses are two signs of Allah (Exalted be He) by which He frightens His Servants. The Muslims, upon seeing it, are prescribed to offer Salah, remember Allah (Exalted be He), make Du`a' (supplication) and Takbir (saying: "Allahu Akbar [Allah is the Greatest]"), give in

charity, and emancipate a believing slave until the end of the eclipse. The Prophet (peace be upon him) said: **Verily the sun and the moon are two signs among the signs of Allah by which He frightens His Servants and they do not eclipse on account of the death or birth of anybody. So when you see either of them, observe Prayer, and supplicate to Allah**

(Exalted be He) till it is cleared from you. Another narration reads: **So whenever you see them, haste to remember Allah, invoke Him and ask Him for forgiveness.**

It is narrated in some Hadiths that the person should give in charity and emancipate slaves.

The astronomical reports about the timing of the eclipse must not be taken as the basis for offering Salat-ul-Kusuf. Some people of knowledge, including Shaykh-ul-Islam Ibn Taymiyyah and his knowledgeable disciple Ibn Al-Qayyim (may Allah be merciful to both of them) supported this view saying that the astronomers may sometimes be wrong; thus, these reports can not be reliable, and people should not offer Salat-ul-Kusuf depending on them. Rather, they have to offer the Salah upon seeing the eclipse when it is happening.

The publications of the astronomers' reports about the timing of eclipse should be banned by the Ministry of Information, lest some people should be deceived by them. These publications may make people less frightened upon seeing the eclipse. Allah (Exalted be He) has made them to frighten the people. Therefore, they remember, fear, invoke Allah, and treat His Slaves properly. May Allah grant us success.

The solar eclipse Prayer is announced by calling out "Al-Salah Jami`ah"

Q: Mr. M.G. From the United Arab Emirates asks: "It is related that the solar eclipse Prayer is announced by calling out "Al-Salah Jami`ah (Gather for Prayer)". Should one then call out once or repeat it? How many times should it be repeated? Please advise, may Allah reward you.

A: It is authentically reported that Narrated by Al-Bukhari, Book on Friday, Chapter on congregational Prayer during an eclipse, no.1045; and Muslim, Book on eclipse, no. 901, and the wording is his. [the Prophet \(peace be upon him\) gave the order to gather people for the eclipse Prayer by calling out, "Al-Salah Jami`ah".](#)

It is an act of Sunnah (action following the teachings of the Prophet) for the caller to repeat this until he thinks that people have heard him, and there is no limit for this according to our knowledge. May Allah grant us success.

Khutbah after Salat-ul-Kusuf as an act of Sunnah

Q: Is delivering a Khutbah (sermon) after Salat-ul-Kusuf (Prayer at the time of a solar eclipse) considered an act of Sunnah (supererogatory act of worship following the example of the Prophet)?

A: It is an act of Sunnah to deliver Khutbah after offering Salat-ul-Kusuf, as the Prophet (peace be upon him) did so.

Allah (Glorified and Exalted be He) says: [Indeed in the Messenger of Allâh \(Muhammad صلى الله عليه وسلم\) you have a good example to follow.](#) The Prophet (peace be upon him) said: [So whoever turns away from my](#)

[Sunnah does not belong to me.](#) This serves the public interest of the Muslims, helps them understand their religion, and warns them against invoking Allah's Wrath and Punishment. It is sufficient to do so after finishing Salah. May Allah grant us success.