

# Virtues of Salat Tahujjud (Qiam ul Lail)

Before we go on virtues of Qiam ul Lail, we should note the difference between 5 times obligatory Salah and Salat Tahujjud (Qiam ul Lail).

- 1) 5 times Salah is obligatory (Fard), if we do not perform, we'll be held responsible and accountable for it.  
Tahujjud salat is Nafil prayer, If we do not perform, we will not be held accountable.
- 2) The call for obligatory Salah comes from a person, but call from Tahujjud comes directly from Allah.
- 3) The call for obligatory Salah comes from a person, when he says "Come to Salah"/"Come to success", but call for Tahujjud comes from Allah Himself, *Abu Hurairah reviews that the Messenger of Allah (saws) mentioned: "Our Lord Descends to the bottom heaven throughout the final third of the night time, inquiring: `Who will name on Me in order that I'll reply to him? Who's asking one thing of Me so I'll give it to him? Who's asking for My forgiveness so I'll forgive him?`"[ Bukhari and Muslim.]*
- 4) The call of Fard is listen by everybody, but this call of Allah is listen by very few blessed people.
- 5) Fard Salah is performed by many Muslims, but Tahujjud Salah is performed by very few who Allah has selected.
- 6) Some people may perform Fard Salah to show off people or impress them as it is performed in front of many people, but in Tahujjud you do alone in the night, when nobody sees you or around you so no question of show off or hypocrisy.
- 7) Sometimes people go to Masjid for obligatory Salah to meet people and social chit chat and discuss your problem etc, but Tahujjud Salah you do to meet Allah, talk to him, tell your problems, ask His help and put your questions before Him.
- 8) Dua after obligatory Salah may be accepted by Allah, but Allah accept Dua after Tahujjud prayer as He himself asks it as mentioned in above Hadith in item # 3.
- 9) The last but not the least, Allah gives "Taufeeq" ability for Tahujjud prayers only to those to which Allah has decided to listen to his slaves grievances, His thanks and praise, because they are the closest people to Allah.

According to Imam Ibn Josi, when you sit in the dark hours of night in front of Allah, then act like a child, that is when he asks something from parents and he doesn't get it, he cries and cries until he gets that thing. Similarly you becomes like a child and cry and cry and ask Allah whatever you want until you get it.

## Some Virtues of Salat Tuhujjud:

According to scholars this Salat was obligatory on Prophet (SAW) Allah Most High said, "Establish worship at the going down of the sun until the dark of the night, and (the recital of) the Qur'an at dawn. Lo! (the recital of) the Qur'an at dawn is ever witnessed. And some part of the night awake for its recital, as voluntary worship for you. It may be that your Lord will raise you to a praised estate." [Qur'an, 17: 78-79]

Abu Hurayra (Ra) reports that the Prophet (Sallallahu Alaihi Wasallam) said, "The best prayer after the obligatory prayers is the night prayer." [Muslim]

Abu Hurayra (Ra) reports that the Prophet (Sallallahu Alaihi Wasallam) was asked, "What prayer is most virtuous, after the obligatory prayers?" He said, "Prayer in the depths of the night." [Muslim, Abu Dawud, Tirmidhi, Nasa'i, Ibn Majah]

Abd Allah ibn Salam (Ra) reports that the Prophet (Sallallahu Alaihi Wasallam) said, "O people! Spread the salams, feed others, maintain family ties, and pray at night when others sleep and you will enter Heaven safely." [Tirmidhi, Hakim]

Abu Umama al-Bahili (Ra) reports that the Prophet (Sallallahu Alaihi Wasallam) said, "Hold fast to night prayer, for it was the way of the righteous before you, a way of drawing closer to your Lord, an expiation for wrong deeds, and a shield from sin." [Tirmidhi, and others] In some narrations, there is an addition, "And it repels sickness from the body."

Ibn Mas'ud (Ra) said, "The virtues of night prayer over day prayer is like the virtue of secret charity over open charity." [Tabarani]

The scholars explain that this refers to voluntary prayers.

"Night prayer is superior to day prayer because: It is more concealed and closer to

sincerity. The righteous early Muslims (salaf) used to strive hard to hide their secrets [f: i.e. the actions between them and Allah]."

**Hasan [al-Basri] said,** "It used to be that a person would have guests staying over and he would pray at night without his guests knowing."

And because night prayer is harder on the lower self, because night is a time of rest from the tire of day, so leaving sleep despite the lower self being desirous of it is a tremendous struggle (*mujahada*). Some have said, "The best of works are those the lower self is forced to perform."

And because recitation in night prayer is closer to contemplation, because things that busy the heart are mostly absent at night, so the heart is more attentive and is with the tongue in understanding, as **Allah Most High said,** "Lo! The night vigil is (a time) when impression is more keen and speech more certain. [Lo! You have by day a chain of business. So remember the name of your Lord and devote yourself with a complete devotion.]" (Qur'an, 73: 6-7) It is because of this that we have been commanded to recite the Qur'an in night prayer in a steady recital (*tartil*).

And it is because of this that night prayer is a shield from sin.

And because night vigil time is the best of times for voluntary worship and prayer, and the closest a servant is to his Lord.

And because it is a time when the doors of the sky are opened, supplications answered, and the needs of those who ask fulfilled.

Allah has praised those who wake up at night for His remembrance, supplication, and to seek forgiveness and entreat Him, saying:

"They forsake their beds to cry unto their Lord in fear and hope, and spend of what We have bestowed on them. No soul knows what is kept hid from them of joy, as a reward for what they used to do." [Qur'an, 32: 16-17]

**And He said,** "Those who pray for pardon in the watches of the night." [Qur'an, 3: 17]

**And,** "[The (faithful) servants of the Merciful are they who walk upon the earth modestly, and when the foolish one address them answer: Peace;] And who spend the night before their Lord, prostrate and standing" [Qur'an, 25: 63-64]

**Allah most negated similitude between those who pray at night and those who do not:** "Is the one who worships devoutly in the watches of the night, prostrate and standing, fearful of the Hereafter and hoping for the mercy of his Lord, (to be accounted equal with a disbeliever)? Say: are those who know equal with those who know know? But only people of understanding will pay heed." [Qur'an, 39: 9]"

## **Benefits of Tahajjud (The Night Prayer):**

- 1 - Implementing the Sunnah of the Messenger of Allah (Sallallahu alayhi was sallam) which he never use to miss
- 2 - A way of getting your Dua's accepted
- 3 - A way of getting your sins forgiven
- 4 - By performing it, it will bring light to your face and soul
- 5 - It helps you fight your desires
- 6 - It makes you closer to Allah
- 7 - It builds the love of the Hereafter in your heart
- 8 - It softens the heart and humbles you in front of Allah
- 9 - It strengthens the Qur'an that you have memorized