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Lesson 43: Prayer of Ihtiyat and Sajdah al-Sahw

Salat al-ihitiyat

You have been taught that in some doubts about the number of the *rak'ats* of prayer you have to pray one or two *rak'ats* of *Salat al-ihitiyat*. Here I am explaining how to pray that prayer.

Soon after finishing the prayer (in which the doubt had occurred and which requires *Salat al-ihitiyat* for its completion and validation) without looking away from qibla or doing anything which makes a prayer invalid, you are to stand up and make the *niyyah*. (if the *Salat al-ihitiyat* is to be performed sitting, then remain sitting after the first prayer and make the *niyyah*). *Niyyah* is to be done in the following way: "I pray *Salat al-ihitiyat* one (or two) *rak'at(s) wajib qurbatan ilal- Laah*." Then say *Takbiratul-Ihram*. Recite only Surah al-Hamd in whisper. Go to *ruku'* then do *sajdah*; recite *tashahhud* and *salaam*. Your *Salat al-ihitiyat* is finished.

If you have to recite two rakats of *Salat al-ihitiyat*, then you should stand up for the second *rak'at* just after the second *sajdah* of the first *rak'at* in the usual way. Recite the second *rak'at* also with just Surah al-Hamd, without even *qunut*, and then finish the prayer in usual way.

Sajdah al-Sahw

Sajdah al-sahw is *wajib* when:–

1. One has talked by mistake in prayer; or
2. Has left one *sajdah* by mistake; or
3. Has forgotten *tashahhud* by mistake; or
4. Has recited *salaam* by mistake at a wrong place; or
5. Has added or omitted by mistake any such thing which is not *ruk'n*; or
6. In the 4-*rak'at* prayer has doubt after the second *sajdah* whether it was the fourth or the fifth *rak'at*.

How to do Sajdah al-Sahw

Soon after finishing the prayer, *niyyah* should be done as follows: " I do *sajdah al-sahw* in lieu of *tashahhud* (or *salaam* or *sajdah* or *qiyam* etc.. as the case may be) *wajib qurbatan ilal-Laah*." Then *sajdah* should be done. In *Sajdah* you have to say once "*Bismillahi wa billahi Assalaamu alayka ayyuhan-Nabiyyu wa rahrnatullahi wa barakatuh*." Then raise your head; sit properly; go to *sajdah* for the second time; recite the above-mentioned *dhikr* once; sit down properly; read *tashahhud* and *salaam*.

If you have forgotten *tashahhud* or one *sajdah* in the prayer, it is *wajib* to do its *qada* at once after the prayer; then the *sajdah al-sahw* is to be done just after the *qada tashahhud* or *sajdah*.

If after the prayer, but before the *qada* of the *sajdah* or the *tashahhud*, if any of such actions are done which invalidate the prayer (like turning away from qibla}, it is necessary to do the *qada* and the *sajdah al-sahw* as required, and then to repeat the prayer.

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