

Salaatut Tasbeeh

Q: Salaah-487: (1) What are the virtues of performing the Salaatut tasbeeh?

(2a) What is the method of performing the Salaatut Tasbeeh?

(2b) Is there any fixed time for this salaah?

(2c) How should the Tasbeehaat be counted?

(2d) If the Tasbeehaat are omitted or forgotten at any stage, how are they made up?

Answer: (1) Rasulullaah SAW. said to his uncle Hadhrat Abbaas RADI. "O my beloved uncle! Should I not give you a valuable gift? Should I not tell you something special? Should I not fulfil ten of your tasks and do ten services for you? It is an act which if you carry out, Allaah will forgive all your sins, whether they are past or future, old or new, deliberate or mistaken, major or minor, secret or public. The act is Salaatut Tasbeeh." Bearing this in mind, the Salaatut Tasbeeh should be performed at least once in a lifetime.

(2a) The Ahadeeth have outlined the following two methods of performing the Salaatut Tasbeeh:

THE FIRST: The salaah is performed as four Rakaahs. After Surah Faatiha in each Rakaah, recite a Surah and then 15 times the Tasbeeh:

(Subhaanallaah wal Hamdulillaah wa Laa Ilaaha Illallaahu Wallaahu Akbar')

Some narrations state that one may also add the words:

('Laa Howla wa Laa Quwwata Illa Billaah')

Make Ruku thereafter and after the Tasbeeh of Ruku, recite the above Tasbeeh ten times. Thereafter, recite (SAMIAL HULIMAN HAMID) and stand up from Ruku. Recite the above Tasbeeh another ten times while standing. Then go into Sajdah and after the Tasbeeh of Sajdah, recite the above Tasbeeh another ten times. Then sit up from the Sajdah and recite the Tasbeeh a further ten times while sitting. The second Sajdah is then performed in which another ten of the above Tasbeehs should be recited after the normal Tasbeeh of Sajdah. Thereafter, when standing up for the next Rakaah, ten Tasbeehs should be recited before commencing Surah Faatiha. The four Rakaahs are then completed in the same manner bearing in mind that ten Tasbeehs should also be recited before the Tashahhud of the second and final Rakaahs. The Tasbeeh is therefore recited seventy five times in each Rakaah. The total number of Tasbeehs therefore add up to three hundred in the four Rakaahs.

THE SECOND: In this method, the Tasbeeh is recited as follows:

>??? 15 times after the Thanaa and before the surah Fatiha

>??? 10 times after the Qiraa'ah and before the Ruku

>??? 10 times in Ruku (after the Tasbeehaat of Ruku)

>??? 10 times in Qaumah

>??? 10 times in sajdah (after the Tasbeehaat of sajdah)

>??? 10 times in jalsa

>??? 10 times in sajdah (after the Tasbeehaat of sajdah)

>??? The Tasbeeh need not recited after the sajdah, as in then first method

In the second Rakaah, recite the Tasbeeh 15 times as soon as on stands up from Sajdah and then 10 times after the Qiraa'ah, as stated above. The Tasbeeh is therefore recited seventy five times in each Rakaah. The total number of Tasbeehs therefore add up to three hundred in the four Rakaahs.

While the chain of narrators for the first method is stronger, one may practice on either method, depending on which method one finds easier for oneself. It is also correct to alternate between the two methods because both have been reported in the Ahadeeth and the pious predecessors have been practicing both.

While any Surah may be recited in the Qiraa'ah, there are narrations stating that one should recite Surah Zilzaal in the first Rakaah, Surah Aadiyaat in the second, Surah Nasr in the third and Surah Ikhlāas in the fourth Rakaah. Other narrations state that one should recite surah Takaathur in the first Rakaah, Surah Asr in the second, Surah Kaafiroon in the third and Surah Ikhlāas in the fourth Rakaah.

(2b) There is no fixed time for this salaah and it may be performed any time during the day or night apart from the Makrooh times of salaah. It is however best to perform it after Zawaal.

(2c) The Tasbeehaat should never be counted by tongue, otherwise the salaah will be nullified. Although permissible, it will be Makrooh to count while keeping the fingers closed or using a Tasbeeh (rosary). The best method is to keep the finger in their place while performing the salaah and to press them down each time to keep count.

(2d) If an amount of the Tasbeeh is omitted or forgotten in one posture, it needs to be made up in the next. It should however not be made up in the Qaumah or the Jalsah, but rather in a longer posture such as the Ruku, Sajdah, Qiyaam or Qa'dah.

The prescribed three hundred Tasbeehaat should be completed and one must not purposely add to it, otherwise the stated rewards will not be attained according to some Ulema. There will,

of course, be no harm if one added to the Tasbeehaat in error. If Sajdah Sahw needs to be performed in the Salaatut Tasbeeh, no Tasbeehaat should be recited in the Sajdah Sahw because three hundred need to be completed in four Rakaahst. However, if there was a shortfall, they may be compensated for by reciting them in the Sajdah Sahw.^a And Allaah knows best what is most correct.

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