

The Sunnah of Fajr when the Fardh had already commenced

Q: Salaah-258: When a person reaches the Masjid after the Fardh of Fajr has already started, should he perform his Sunnah Rakaahs first or join the Jamaa'ah immediately?

Answer: If he is able to join even a single Rakaah after performing the Sunnah Rakaahs, he should complete the Sunnah and then join the Jamaa'ah. In fact, some scholars have stated that the Sunnah should not be omitted even if one manages to join only the Qa'dah. These Sunnah Rakaahs should however be performed at home if the house is nearby or at the door of the Masjid or outside the Masjid. If the Jamaa'ah is taking place outside the Masjid, he should perform the Sunnah inside or anywhere else. If there is no other place, then he may perform it in the Masjid but behind a pillar (but anywhere apart from the Jamaa'ah). However, if there is no other place but where the people are performing salaah, he must then leave out the Sunnah and join the Jamaa'ah. This is because it is Makrooh to perform the Sunnah in the rows or even behind the rows when there is no pillar or other screen between.

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