

Q: 48 – Title: I have come across a Hadith in Fazail Haj regarding the virtues of reading 40 Namazes in Musjid Nabawi,one attains freedom from hypocrisy,fire of hell & punishment. (Hadith No 7)

Question

I have come across a Hadith in Fazail Hajj regarding the virtues of reading 40 Namazes in Musjid Nabawi,one attains freedom from hypocrisy,fire of hell & punishment. (Hadith No 7)

My question regarding this Hadith is:

1) In order to receive these merits,is it a COMPULSORY CONDITION that these 40 Namazes be read in succession? Or is it just an encouragement? I have intention to first go to Madina for 3 days,go for Umra in between & return to Madina for 5 days!

2) In order to receive these merits,does a person have to read ALL these Namazes with Takbeer Oola?

3) Kindly define Takbeer Oola?

I would highly appreciate a clear speedy reply for all my abovementioned questions with references.

Answer

In the name of Allah, Most Gracious, Most Merciful

Assalaamu `alaykum waRahmatullahi Wabarakatuh

Firstly, the Hadith in reference to the question is as follows:

عن أنس بن مالك رضي الله عنه قال قال رسول الله صلى الله عليه وسلم من صلى أربعين صلاة في هذا المسجد (مسجد النبوي) من غير أن يفترق بينهن كتب الله له freedom from the hellfire, escape from punishment, and freedom from hypocrisy will be written for him” (Musnad Ahmed)

عن أنس بن مالك رضي الله عنه قال قال رسول الله صلى الله عليه وسلم : من صلى أربعين صلاة في هذا المسجد (مسجد النبوي) من غير أن يفترق بينهن كتب الله له freedom from the hellfire, escape from punishment, and freedom from hypocrisy will be written for him” (Musnad Ahmed)

“Anas ibn Malik (RadyAllahu Anhu) says that Rasulullah (Sallallahu Alayhi Wasallam) said: Whoever prays forty salats in my masjid (Masjid an-Nabawi) without missing a salah between then freedom from the hellfire, escape from punishment, and freedom from hypocrisy will be written for him” (Musnad Ahmed)

The chain of this Hadith has been classified as weak by Muhaddithun. Nevertheless, it is considered mustahab to offer the forty prayers in Masjid an-Nabawi.

Hereunder are the answers to your queries:

- 1) It is necessary to offer the forty prayers in succession as is clearly mentioned in the Hadith. (Fatawa Mahmudiyyah, 10/441. Faruqiyya)
- 2) It is not clearly mentioned in this Hadith whether the prayers must be observed with the takbeer ula. However, a similar Hadith which is more general has been mentioned in Tirmidhi (in the chapter mentioning the reward for observing prayer with the takbeer ula) saying:

عن أنس بن مالك رضي الله عنه قال قال رسول الله صلى الله عليه وسلم من صلى أربعين صلاة في هذا المسجد (مسجد النبوي) من غير أن يفترق بينهن كتب الله له freedom from the hellfire, escape from punishment, and freedom from hypocrisy will be written for him” (Musnad Ahmed)

“Anas ibn Malik (RadyAllahu Anhu) narrates that Rasulullah (Sallallahu Alayhi Wasallam) said: Whoever observes prayer for forty days in congregation with the takbeen ula, he will become free of two things: freedom from the hellfire and freedom from hypocrisy” (Tirmidhi, 1/56, HM Saeed)

Therefore, we can say one should observe the prayers with the takbeer ula.

3) According to Imam Abu Hanifah (Rahimahullah), takbeer ula is fulfilled as long as one catches the first rakat of salah, not takbeer tahreemah.

اگر پہلے رکعت میں تکیبیر پڑھ لیں تو تکیبیر اولیٰ پوری ہوگی۔ اگر پہلے رکعت میں تکیبیر نہ پڑھ لیں تو تکیبیر اولیٰ نہیں ہوگی۔ (ابو حنیفہ رحمہ اللہ)

(Al-Arful Shazzee, P. 131, HM Saeed)

It is important however that one makes an effort to come to the masjid as early as possible before the commencement of salah.

مکہ میں مسجد نبویؐ کی طرف جانا چاہیے تاکہ صلاہ کے شروع ہونے سے پہلے وہاں پہنچ سکیں۔ اگر صلاہ شروع ہو چکی ہو تو مسجد میں داخل ہونا بھی جائز ہے۔ (ابو حنیفہ رحمہ اللہ)

(Al-Mu'jam al-Awsat-Tabraani)

And Allah knows best

Wassalaamu `alaykum

MI. Asif Umar,
Student Darul Iftaa
Checked and Approved by:
Mufti Ebrahim Desai
Darul Iftaa, Madrassah In'aamiyyah