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The Muhaddith of The Era

Revive a Sunnah: Saying, ‘Sami’-Ilaahu liman hamidah,’ in the Prayer at the right time

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بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

The Imaam (رَحِمَهُ اللَّهُ)¹ said, “This is also a Sunnah which has been abandoned ... one of the Sunnahs which has been abandoned is that most of the Muslims if not all of them do not join the Imaam in saying, ‘Sami’-Ilaahu liman hamidah,’ they suffice with, ‘Rabbanaa wa lakal-hamd,’ so one form of dhikr to be said at that time has been squandered and another form of dhikr has been mistakenly added in its place—what I mean is: there is a transition from being in the rukoo’ to standing up, at this time the words of remembrance that are said are, ‘Sami’-Ilaahu liman hamidah,’ whether it’s the Imaam or someone praying alone, when is, ‘Sami’-Ilaahu liman hamidah,’ said? As soon as he lifts [his head].

So let us take an example, there is someone bowing, [he says], ‘Sami’-Ilaahu liman hamidah,’ when does he say, ‘Rabbanaa wa lakal-hamd?’ When he is [finally] standing.

What do the people following the Imaam nowadays do? The Imaam says, ‘Sami’-Ilaahu liman hamidah,’ and they say, ‘Rabbanaa wa lakal-hamd,’ so to start they have forfeited the Sunnah which is that along with the Imaam they [should also] say, ‘Sami’-Ilaahu liman hamidah,’ just as they say, ‘Allaahu Akbar,’ along with him, and [in addition to that] they put another Sunnah in the wrong place, [i.e., they start saying, ‘Rabbanaa wa lakal-hamd,’ when the Imaam is saying, ‘Sami’-Ilaahu liman hamidah.’] is this clear?

This is a reminder, and a reminder benefits the believers.”²

¹ (رَحِمَهُ اللَّهُ) (rahimahullaah) May Allaah the Most High have mercy on him

² Al-Hudaa wan-Noor, 183.