
The traveller praying a different prayer behind a resident Imaam

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بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

Shaykh al-Albaanee (رَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ) ¹ quotes from the book ‘Fiqh-us-Sunnah’:

“...if a traveller does not find another traveller to lead him in prayer, then he should shorten the prayer and pray by himself. It is disliked to be led in prayer by a resident person.”

Shaykh al-Albaanee (رَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ) says:

‘I say: As for this dislike, then even though it is devoid of evidence, it also opposes the Sunnah which was narrated by the scholar of the Ummah, Abdullaah bin ‘Abbaas (rad iyallaahu `anhu) ².

Musa bin Salamah mentioned: ‘We were with Ibn Abbaas (rad iyallaahu `anhu) in Makkah and I said to him: ‘When we are with you we pray four rak’ah prayers and when we return to our temporary residences we pray two rak’ah prayers?’ He answered: ‘that is the Sunnah of Abul-Qassim (صلى الله عليه وسلم) ^{3 4}.

Additional evidence reported from Saheeh al-Bukhaaree:

On the authority of Jaabir bin ‘Abdullah (rad iyallaahu `anhu) who said, “Mu’adh bin Jabal (rad iyallaahu `anhu) used to pray with the Prophet and then go to lead his people in prayer once he led the ‘Ishaa prayer and recited Soorah “al-Baqarah.” Somebody left the prayer and Mu’adh (rad iyallaahu `anhu) criticised him. The news reached the Prophet (صلى الله عليه وسلم) ⁵ and he said to Mu’adh (rad iyallaahu `anhu), ‘**You are putting the people to trial,**’ and repeated it thrice (or said something similar) and ordered him to recite two medium Soorahs of Mufassal.” (‘Amr said that he had forgotten the names of those Soorahs).

Also narrated by Jaabir bin ‘Abdullah (rad iyallaahu `anhu) that Mu’adh (rad iyallaahu `anhu) used to pray with the Prophet (صلى الله عليه وسلم) and then go and lead his people (tribe) in the prayer. ⁶

¹ (رَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ) (rahimahullaah) May Allaah have mercy on him

² (rad iyallaahu `anhu) May Allaah be pleased with him

³ Narrated by Ahmad with an authentic chain and it was also narrated in a summarized form by Muslim, Abu ‘Awaana and other than them. It has been researched in ‘al-Irwa’ (571).

⁴ Taken from ‘Tamam al-Minnah’ p.371 by Shaykh al-Albaanee (رَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ)

⁵ (صلى الله عليه وسلم) May the peace and blessings of Allaah be upon him

⁶ Both hadeeth have been mentioned in the Book of *adhaan* from Saheeh al-Bukhaaree