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Second question from Fatwa No. 5127

Q 2: What is the Islamic ruling on subvocal recitations during the first two Rak`ahs (units of prayer) of Maghrib (Sunset) and `Isha' (Night) Prayers?

A: It has been authentically reported that the Prophet (peace be upon him) used to recite the Qur'an aloud in the two Rak`ahs of Fajr (Dawn) Prayer and the first two Rak`ahs of Maghrib (Sunset) and `Isha' (Night) Prayers. Loud recitation during these prayers is an act of Sunnah (commendable act). The Prophet's Ummah (nation) are obliged to follow in his footsteps. This is based on the Qur'anic Ayah (verse) in which Allah (may He be Exalted) says: (Indeed, in the Messenger of Allâh (Muhammad peace be upon him) you have a good example to follow for him who hopes for (the Meeting with) Allâh and the Last Day, and remembers Allâh much.) It is also authentically reported that the Prophet (peace be upon him) said: (Pray as you have seen me praying.) If, however, a person recites the Qur'an in a low voice during a Jahri Salah (Prayer recited out loud), they will be doing an act contradicting the Sunnah (whichever reported from the Prophet) though their prayer is not nullified.

May Allah grant us success! May peace and blessings be upon our Prophet Muhammad, his family and Companions!

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