



A Ma'mum (a person being led by an Imam in Prayer)'s recitation of the Qur'an in Prayer

Fatwa No. 1689

Q: When a person attends Salah (prayer) while the Imam is in Ruku` (bowing) and about to say "Sami' Allah Liman Hamidah" (Allah hears he who praises Him), some people say to him: "You have to follow the Imam," while others say: "You have to recite Surah Al-Fatihah."

A: If a person joins the Salah while the Imam is in Ruku` before raising his head,

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it will be as if he had attended a complete Rak`ah. The evidence for this is the Hadith reported by Abu Bakrah Al-Thaqafy (may Allah be pleased with him) ﴿ "He reached the Prophet (peace be upon him) in the mosque while he was bowing in prayer and he too bowed before joining the row and he mentioned it to the Prophet (peace be upon him) and he said to him: May Allah increase your love for the good, but do not repeat it again (bowing in that way)." ﴾ This Hadith was reported by Ahmad, Al-Bukhari, Abu Dawud, Al-Nas'iy and Ibn Hiban. This Hadith is proof for counting the Rak`ah because the Prophet (peace be upon him) did not ask him to perform his Salah again. The basic rule in legislation is generality. This is said by the Four Imams (Imams Abu Hanifah, Malik, Al-Shafi`y, and Ahmad) and the majority of scholars.

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

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