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Night Salah

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The manner of offering Night Salah

The fourth question of Fatwa no. (3686):

Q 4: It was mentioned in a Hadith that the Messenger of Allah (peace be upon him) used to offer four Rak`ahs (units of Prayer) perfectly. Did he recite Tashahhud (a recitation in the sitting position in the second/ last unit of Prayer) in the middle or not?

A: The Prophet (peace be upon him) used to begin Qiyam-ul-Layl (standing for optional Prayer at night) with two Rak`ahs, and then offer Salah (Prayer). It was authentically reported from `Aisha (may Allah be pleased with her) that she said, (The Prophet (peace be upon him) used to offer four Rak`ahs in a perfect manner, and then other four Rak`ahs in a perfect manner. Afterwards, he would offer three Rak`ahs.) Narrated by Al-Bukhari and Muslim. In another narration by Al-Bukhari and Muslim, she (may Allah be pleased with her) said, (He (peace be upon him) used to offer ten Rak`ahs (at night), saluting after each two Rak`ahs and then offering the Witr with a single Rak`ah.) This wording interprets the one before it. It is concluded that each two Rak`ahs are separated with Tashahuud and Taslim (salutation of peace ending the Prayer). This is what he (peace be upon him) usually did. There are other forms authentically attributed to him in Tahajjud (optional late night Prayer), which were mentioned by Muslim in his Sahih (authentic) Book of Hadith and others. You can refer to them if you wish.

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

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