



Prolonging Salah

The second question of Fatwa no. 4582

Q 2: I lead people in Salah (prayer) at one of the Masjids (mosques) of the village. The people who pray behind me ask me not to prolong Salah as they know that I belong to a certain Islamic organization. Should I shorten Salah knowing that all those who pray behind me are young men and none of them are old? Should I only recite less than ten Ayahs (verses) of the Holy Qur'an? What is the Islamic ruling for this?

A: It is an act of Sunnah (regular practice of the Prophet) that the Imam should take into consideration the conditions of those who pray behind him, especially those of weak health. He has to follow the example of the Prophet (peace be upon him) in performing Salah. However, a person is not considered to be prolonging Salah if he recites only ten Ayahs of the Holy Qur'an. The Prophet (peace be upon him) used to recite Mufassal Surahs (the last 65-70 chapters of the Qur'an) in Fajr (Dawn) Prayer and used to recite short and sometimes long Surahs in Maghrib (Sunset) Prayer.

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He also used to recite medium Surahs in Zhuhr (Noon), `Asr (Afternoon) and `Isha' (Night). Mufassal Surahs of the Qur'an start from Surah Qaf until Surah Al-Nas.

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

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