

## 2a – The Blessings of Prayer

✚ When you recite the Adhan and the Iqamah, two rows of angels will perform the Prayer behind you.

✚ But, if you said the Iqamah (only), one row of the angels would perform the Prayer behind you.

✚ Imamm Muhammad al-Baqir (AS) has quoted the Prophet of Allah (S) as saying:

■ When a believing servant stands for the Prayer, Allah looks at him until he finishes.

■ His Mercy shadows over your head, the angels surround you from all sides up to the horizon of the heaven, and Allah assigns an angel to stand at your head, saying:

■ O Worshipper! If you know who is looking at you, and to whom you are supplicating, you will look nowhere else, nor will you leave your position.

✚ Also, whoever performs 2 units of Prayer without paying attention to any worldly matter, Allah will forgive him his sins.

✚ The Aimmah (AS) have said:

■ Prayer is what angels love,

■ Prayer is the practice of the Prophets (AS),

■ Prayer is the light of understanding,

■ Prayer is what makes faith strong,

■ Prayer is what makes actions accepted,

■ Prayer increases sustenance,

■ Prayer keeps you away from illness,

■ Prayer is what Shaytan hates,

■ Prayer is a weapon to confront your enemies,

■ Prayer is what will assist you with the Angel of Death (AS),

■ Prayer is the light in your grave,

■ Prayer is an answer to Munkar and Nakeer (AS), and

■ Prayer is what will help you in the grave till the Judgment Day.

## 2b – Treating Prayer Lightly

✚ People have observed the Prophet of Allah (S) the following:

■ The Prophet of Allah used to talk to us and we used to talk to him.

■ But when the time for the Prayer arrived he appeared as if he did not know us and we did not know him, as his attention was fully directed to Allah.

✚ People have also observed that whenever the Aimmah (AS) used to perform Wudhu, their faces changed color and they trembled.

✚ When they were asked about the reason, the reply was:

■ When one is going to stand before the Owner of The Throne, his color ought to turn pale and his joints to tremble.

✚ The Prophet (S) has said:

■ The one who takes Prayer without due consideration is not of me.

■ No! By Allah (SWT)! Such a person will not reach the Pond of al-Kawthar.

✚ According to the Prophet (S), one who takes Prayer without due consideration he will be raised with Qarun and Haman, so that it will be right for Allah to put him in Hell together with the hypocrites.

✚ Imam Jafar al-Sadiq (AS) has said:

■ Don't be negligent in regard to your Prayers.

✚ The Prophet (S) said on his deathbed:

■ One who takes Prayer without due consideration, then he does not belong to me, nor the one who takes intoxicating drinks. And, by God! He will not reach me at the Pond (of Al-Kawthar).

✚ al-Khumeini (RA) has the following advice to those people who treat the performance of the Five Daily Prayer lightly and of no concern:

● A devoted person should be observant of the times of his worship under every circumstance.

● Of course, he should observe the timings of Prayer, which is the most important of the acts of worship, and carry it out in the earliest part of its time, refraining from engaging in any other work during those times.

● In the same way as he assigns a certain time to making an earning and for study and debate, he should do the same in respect of these acts of worship.

● During this time, he must be free from other pre-occupations, so that he can achieve concentration of the heart.

## 2c — The Presence of the Heart in Prayer

✚ Imam Jafar al-Sadiq (AS) has said:

■ I love that person who attends to God with his heart at the time of Prayer and does not pre-occupy his heart with any mundane matter.

■ Whenever a devotee turns with his heart to God, the Exalted, during Prayer, God looks at him with Mercy.

■ Allah turns towards him the hearts of the faithful who regard him with affection, following God's love of him.

✚ The Commander of the Faithful, Imam Ali (AS) says:

■ If the one who worships Allah knew to what extent His (Allah's) Mercy surrounded him during Prayer, he would never raise his head from the state of prostration.

✚ Prayer has been called a believer's heavenly journey that protects him from moral indecencies.

✚ Ayatullah Ibrahim Amini says:

● Prayer is a pure sparkling stream of spirituality that whosoever enters it five times a day will purify his soul from all sorts of pollution and contamination.

✚ The Aimmah (AS) have also said:

■ Prayer, half of it may be accepted, or one-third, or a quarter, or one-fifth, or even one-tenth.

■ Another Prayer may be folded like an old dress, and be thrown back at the face of its owner.

■ No part of the Prayer is yours except that part which you perform with an attentive heart.

✚ Imam Muhammad al-Baqir and Imam Jafar al-Sadiq (AS) have further said:

■ Nothing of your Prayer is yours except that which you did with an attentive heart.

■ So, if one performed it completely without attention, or neglected its disciplines, it would be folded and thrown back at its owner's face.

✚ Imam Jafar al-Sadiq (AS) warns us that:

■ When a servant stands to offer Prayer, Allah pays attention to him and does not shift His attention until the servant goes away from His remembrance for the third time.

■ When this happens, Allah too turns His attention away from the worshipper.

● Therefore, the heart's presence is a must in every single act in Prayer and that is the only way to achieve the merits hidden in this great obligation.

● It is narrated that in the above instances, if the worshipper returns his attention and struggles not to lose his concentration, then his past sins are erased and he shall be granted such blessings that his reward cannot be counted.

✚ Allah (SWT) says:

■ Pay attention to Me, because I and the Angels are paying attention to you (in your Prayer).

✚ You should be aware that your heart engages itself into accounting, planning, reviewing past and future problems, solving academic problems, very often recollecting during Prayer, and topics, which were forgotten by him completely.