

The Remedy for Whispering (of Satan) in the Prayer

Q When I begin to pray, I am afflicted by a kind of whispering and thoughts, and sometimes I do not know what I have recited, nor how many *Rak'ahs* I have prayed. Please tell me what I should do.

A It is prescribed for the worshipper - man or woman - to approach the prayer with humility towards Allāh and to call to mind that he stands before his Lord, so that Satan will stay away from him and the whispering will be reduced, in implementation of Allāh's Words:

﴿قَدْ أَفْلَحَ الْمُؤْمِنُونَ ﴿١﴾ الَّذِينَ هُمْ فِي صَلَاتِهِمْ خَاشِعُونَ﴾

«Successful indeed are the believers. Those who offer their prayers with all solemnity and full submissiveness.»^[1]

If the whispering becomes frequent, it is prescribed to seek refuge with Allāh from Satan, as the Prophet ﷺ ordered 'Uthman bin Abi Al-'As, when he informed him that Satan had confused his prayers. And when the worshipper becomes uncertain as to the number of *Rak'ahs* he has prayed, he should assume the minimum, base his estimation upon what he is sure of, and then complete his prayer. Afterwards he performs two prostrations of forgetfulness before making the *Taslim*, based upon the narration of Abu Sa'id, may Allāh be pleased with him, from the Prophet ﷺ in which he said:

«إِذَا شَكَّ أَحَدُكُمْ فِي صَلَاتِهِ فَلَمْ يَدْرِ كَمْ صَلَّى ثَلَاثًا أَمْ أَرْبَعًا فَلْيَطْرَحِ الشَّكَّ وَلْيُبْنِ عَلَى الْيَقِينِ، ثُمَّ يَسْجُدُ سَجْدَتَيْنِ قَبْلَ أَنْ يُسَلِّمَ، فَإِنْ كَانَ صَلَّى خَمْسًا شَفَعْنَ لَهُ صَلَاتَهُ وَإِنْ كَانَ صَلَّى إِنَّمَا لِأَرْبَعٍ كَانَتْ تَرْغِيمًا لِلشَّيْطَانِ»

«If any of you is in doubt regarding his prayer, and he does not know how much he has prayed, three or four (*Rak'ahs*),

[1] Al-Baqarah 23:1-2.

then let him cast aside doubt and base his estimation upon what he is sure of. Then prostrate twice before making the *Taslim*; if he has prayed five, his prayer will be an intercessor for him, and if he has completed the prayer correctly, it will be a humiliation for *Satan*.»^[1]

And Allāh is the Granter of success.

Ibn Baz

Supplication in Prayer .

Q Is it permissible for the worshipper to supplicate in his obligatory prayers, for example, after performing the pillars, saying after his words: "*Subhana Rabbi Al-'Ala*" (Glorified be my Lord, the Most High) such things as: "*Allāhummaghfir lee warhamnee*" (O Allāh! Forgive me and show mercy to me) and the like? I request that you inform me of what is the beneficial and salutations be to you.

A It is lawful for the believer to supplicate in his prayers in the place of supplication, whether the prayer be obligatory or non-obligatory. The place of supplication in prayer is in prostration, between the prostrations and before the *Taslim*, as it has been authentically reported from the Prophet ﷺ that he used to supplicate between the prostrations, seeking forgiveness, and it has also been authentically reported from him that he used to say between prostrations:

«اللَّهُمَّ اغْفِرْ لِي وَارْحَمْنِي وَاهْدِنِي وَاجْبُرْنِي وَارْزُقْنِي وَعَافِنِي»

Allāhummaghfir lee warhamnee wahdinee wajburnee warzuqnee wa 'aafinee.

«(O Allāh! Forgive me, show mercy to me, guide me,

[1] Muslim no. 571.