Qaza Namaz that does not exist

By: Khurshid Imam

Question: When to offer Qaza namaz?

Arabic word Salah = Namaz = PrayerQaza namaz = missed prayer that you want to offer later.

Answer: *Qaza namaz* refers to the missed prayer. If someone did not offer *salah* on time then it is understood that he can offer it later.

".... prayers are enjoined on believers at fixed times". Quran 4:103

- 1. Fajir has 2 rakah [units] of obligatory [fard] prayer.
- 2. Zuhar has 4 rakah [units] of obligatory [fard] prayer.
- 3. Asar has 4 rakah [units] of obligatory [fard] prayer.
- 4. Maghrib has 3 rakah [units] of obligatory [fard] prayer.
- 5. Isha has 4 rakah [units] of obligatory [fard] prayer.

There is no obligatory prayer than above namaz. It is important to note that **Allah has prescribed** *salah* **on its fixed time**. So much is the emphasis on fixed time *salah* that **even during war**, *salah* **has to be offered on its time**. Imagine! If there has to be a situation when *salah* should NOT be offered on its time then it should be during war but even that is not the case.

Quran 4:102 explains in details - how a group should offer *salah* during war. Even though one has to shorten the prayer in such situation yet there is no exemption from offering *salah* on its time. Even if someone is ill during war then also he is not told that he should offer *salah* later or he should compensate for missed *salah* later.

Then how can we think that we can offer *salah* LATER if we have missed it. Quran says that if someone has missed fast during month of *Ramdhan* because of illness or journey then he should fast LATER after *Ramdhan*. Refer to Quran 2:184-185.

But when it comes to *Salah* then nowhere does Quran say that one should compensate for missed prayer later. On the contrary, Quran says that *Salah* is FARD on prescribed times. **Fasting later** is allowed by Quran but same is not the case with *Salah*.

Salah is obligatory on its time. When time for Salah has gone then there is no meaning of missed Salah. For example if you missed breakfast and woke up at 1 pm then you cannot eat 'breakfast'. Either you will have lunch or dinner but breakfast you cannot have because its time has gone. Similarly, once you missed Fajir and time of Fajir has passed then there is no meaning of qaza Fajir salah.

Also, before telling anyone - "I could not wake up for *Fajir salah*" - please check if ACTUAL case is "I did NOT wake up for *salah*". It has become fashion

If one misses *salah* and later on offers *namaz* in the name of *qaza namaz* then it will be considered as *nafil* [optional] prayer and it will give *sawab*, but it will be **never** "compensation" or equivalent to the *salah* missed. So, even if one offers so called *qaza namaz* after knowingly missing the *namaz*, it will be considered that he did not offer that *fard salah*. If someone missed *salah* in spite of all his efforts then *inshallah* God will forgive.

Today – it has become fashion that people miss *salah*; they don't make effort to offer salah; later on they offer *qaza salah* for the missed prayer. They should remember that they have earned sin by missing *salah* and *qaza salah* will not be compensation or expiation for the missed *salah*.