

السلامة والسلامة والسلامة والسلامة

السلامة والسلامة والسلامة والسلامة والسلامة والسلامة

Question:

Is it Mustahab (preferable) to consider an odd number of rak'ahs (rows) in the Janāzah prayers?
Can a rak'ah be left incomplete taking this into consideration?

Answer:

The virtue of Janāzah rak'ah being performed with three rak'ahs is proven from many traditions (Aḥādith).

Marthad ibn Abdullah (RA) reports that when Mālik ibn Nu'ayrah (R.A.) used to lead the Janāzah rak'ah and the people were less, he used to split them into three rak'ahs and then he

would say that Nabi (SAW) said, 'The person upon whom three rak'ahs of Muslim's read Janāzah rak'ah, then indeed Jannah is obligatory for him.'

(Tirmidhi vol.1 pg.200. There is a similar narration in Abu Dawūd).

Due to these Aḥādith the Fuqahā have preferred to have three rak'ahs, to such an extent that if they are only seven people present in a Janāzah then one will lead the rak'ah, three shall stand in the first rak'ah, two in the second and one person in the third rak'ah.

(Fatāwā Alamgīrī vol.1 pg.164; Shāmī vol.2 pg.214; Al Nuṣūf fil Fatāwā pg.82;

Kabīrī pg.588; Al Fiqhul Muṭanāfi vol.1 pg.309)

An odd number of rak'ah's is Mustaḥab in Janāzah rak'ah.

(Fatāwā Maḥmūdiyyah vol.16 pg.474; Fatāwā Haqqāniyyah vol.3 pg.446)

In conclusion, three rak'ahs are Mustaḥab. If they are many people which make up five or seven rak'ahs then this will be excellent, however if they are less people which only complete four rak'ahs, then the fourth rak'ah should not be left incomplete to form the fifth rak'ah to gain the virtue of an odd number of rak'ahs because the virtue has already been achieved by three rak'ahs.

If more than three rak'ahs of an odd number are formed without any difficulty then this will obviously be best.

Allah alone knows best

Fatāwā Darul Uloom Zakariyyā, Vol. 2, Pg 745-746

Mufti Raḥmān-ḥaq

Faculty of Ifṭā

Darul Uloom Zakariyya

25 Muharram 1428

14 February 2007