

## THE IMPORTANCE OF OBLIGATORY WORSHIPS

*Assalamu Alaykum wa Rahmatullah,  
Auzu Billahi Minashaytanir Rajeem. Bismillahir Rahmanir Raheem,  
Wassalatu Wassalamu ala Rasulina Muhammadin Sayyidul Annwalin wal Akhirin,  
Madad Ya Rasulallah, Madad Ya As'habi RasuLillah, Madad Ya Mashayikhina,  
Shaykh Abdullah Daghestani, Shaykh Nazim al-Haqqani. Dastur.  
Tariqatunas sobba, wal khayru fil jamiyya.*

Worships are things ordered by Allah. It is not alright to not worship and do other things which Allah has not ordered. Prayer (namaz), fasting, and zakat are all worships. You could give pots of money if you like and not do them, yet it cannot make up for one rakat of prayer. It is the same for fasting. The person with an excuse pays the atonement and it counts instead of the fast. However, it does not work if one leave fasting without an excuse and says, "I will not fast. I will give money instead." It does not work saying, "I will not go to Hajj. I will play the ney instead." Here, these are what are called innovations (bidah). These are the things our Holy Prophet (SAW) forbid.

After doing the obligatory (fard) worships, you can chose to make 1000 salawat, say "Allah" 10,000 times, make zikr standing or sitting where you are - these are all worships. Because Allah said, "Remember (make zikr), and make salawat on our Holy Prophet." These are alright after doing the obligatory worships. However, as we said, if you do not worship and do other things, they do not count as worship. Service (khidma), this and that, none of them substitute for worship. We need to know this.

To follow the way of the Ahl-e Sunna wal Jamaat is to reach safety. There are two kinds of paths in being Muslim. Our Holy Prophet showed us: he drew a path on the sand. He said, "There is the right path, and there are so many other paths around it." "Follow this one, this is the main path." Follow the path that is in the middle, which goes straight. This path is never crooked or twisted. Those who follow it reach safety. The others are ruined. The others will suffer in vain, and even if in the end they say "La Ilaha Illah, Muhammadun Rasulullah" they will suffer in the hereafter for not doing their worships. Allah will settle their accounts. They will enter paradise after Allah gives them their punishment. But they could stay in hell for years or thousands of years. Follow the right way while you are alive so you do not have to suffer pain. Take the right way, take the shortcut.

As we said, there are plenty of ways. Some do all kinds of innovations and leave worships. Others call what you do an innovation and do nothing. There are people who pray the fard-e 'ayn (obligatory on all) and do not make tasbeeh or pray any of the sunna when they enter the mosque. They consider you ahl-e bidah (people of innovation) when you pray the sunna. That is useless too. Let us be Ahl-e Sunna wal Jamaat and let us all follow the right path Inshallah. Let us not deviate from the right path. May Allah make us stand firm. May Allah also give guidance to those who have deviated from the right path. May He give common sense and intelligence.

Wa Minallah at-Tawfeeq. Al-Fatiha.

Hadrat Shaykh Muhammad Mehmet Adil  
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Sabah Namaz, Akbaba Dargah