
The Prostrations of Forgetfulness

source: *silsilat ul-hudaa wa nnoor* – the series of guidance and light –
tape no. 183 (a), tape no. 133 (b), tape no. 259 (c), tape no. 406 (d), tape no. 81 (e)

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بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

Question no.6: (a) “What is the general rule of the *sujood us-sahu* (prostrations of forgetfulness)?”

Shaykh al-Albaanee (رَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ)¹ answers: “(It is due upon a person) under any circumstances if (something was done or not done in prayer) out of forgetfulness, **even if it is a Sunnah.**”

Question no.12: (b) “Is the *sujood us-sahu* before the salaam or after the salaam?”

Shaykh al-Albaanee (رَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ) answers: “Regarding every *sujood us-sahu*, its doer has the **choice** between prostrating before the salaam **or** after the salaam. And the detailed explanation that is mentioned in some books, especially the Hanbalee ones, that (the *sujood us-sahu*) is before the salaam for making additions (in the prayer), and after the salaam for omissions, **this is baseless.** Those who say it, they saw some occurrences to which the likes of this detail applied, but there are (also) occurrences that nullify this detail. Therefore, a person has the choice between 1-making the tasleem then prostrating, and 2-not making the tasleem and prostrating then making the tasleem of exiting the prayer.”

Question no.7: (c) “When is the *sujood us-sahu*, before the salaam or after it?”

Shaykh al-Albaanee (رَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ) answers: “The one who forgets in prayer has a choice: if he wants, he makes the tasleem (first) and **that is absolutely better**; and if he wants, he does not make the tasleem except after completing the two prostrations of forgetfulness.”

Question no.10: (d) “What does the one who forgets (in prayer) say during the *sujood us-sahu*?”

Shaykh al-Albaanee (رَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ) answers: “The **same** as the usual (dhikr² said during prostrating and sitting in-between the prostrations); i.e., there isn’t anything special.”

Question no.3: (e) “Does the prayer become invalid if the *sujood us-sahu* is left out on purpose?”

Shaykh al-Albaanee (رَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ) answers: “If he intentionally leaves out the *sujood us-sahu*, **the prayer does not become invalid.** But, he will be a sinner because of his leaving out the two prostrations of forgetfulness that the Messenger (of Allaah) (عليه السلام)³ has ordered.”

asaheeha translations

¹ (رَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ) (rahimahullaah) May Allaah have mercy on him

² words of remembrance of Allaah

³ (عليه السلام) (alaihis-salaam) Peace be upon him