

بِسْمِ اللّٰهِ الرَّحْمٰنِ الرَّحِیْمِ

## **The First Thing a Person Should Place on the Ground when going into Sujood (prostration)**

Source: Adapted from the commentary of The Sunan of Ad Daarimee published by Daarur Rayaan Lit Turaath  
Translator: Abu ‘Abdis Salaam Siddiq Al Juyaanee

ααα

On the authority of Waa’il Bin Hajr (*radi Allah ‘anhu*), he said, “I saw the Messenger of Allah (*sallAllahu ‘alaihi was sallam*) placing his knees down before his hands when going into sujood, and raising up his hands before his knees (when getting up). “[1]

On the authority of Abu Hurairah (*radi Allah ‘anhu*), verily the Messenger of Allah (*sallAllahu ‘alaihi was sallam*) said, “When one of you prays he should not go down like the camel goes down, (therefore) put your hands down before your knees.”[2]

---

[1] This hadeeth has been collected by Abu Daawood in the Book of Salaat under the chapter, “The way in which he put his knees down before his hands.” It was also collected by An Nisaa’ee in the Book of Tatbeeq under the chapter, “The first thing which reaches the ground from a person when prostrating;

as well as under the chapter “Raising the hands off of the ground before the knees.”<sup>1</sup>

[2] This hadeeth has been collected by Abu Daawood in the Book of Salaat under the chapter, “The way in which he put his knees down before his hands.” It was also collected by An Nisaa’ee in the Book of Tatbeeq under the chapter, “The first thing which reaches the ground from a person when prostrating; as well as under the chapter “Raising the hands off of the ground before the knees.” It was also collect by Imaam Ahmad and it is a hadeeth which is authentic.

Al ‘Allaamah Ahmad Shaakir said in his checking of At Tirmidhee,

“It is apparent from the statements of the scholars in examining the hidden weaknesses of these two hadeeth, that the hadeeth of Abu Hurairah (*radi Allah ‘anhu*) is authentic and stronger than the hadeeth of Waa’il (*radi Allah ‘anhu*). This is because the hadeeth of Abu Hurairah (*radi Allah ‘anhu*) is a “hadeeth of a statement”, which is stronger and takes precedence over a “hadeeth of an action.” This is in accordance to the stronger opinion of that which is stronger with the scholars who specialize in the Science of the Principles and Fundamentals of Islaamic Jurisprudence.”

Verily, the scholars have greatly differed in this issue. Imaam Al Awzaa’ee and Imaam Maalik leaned toward it being preferable to put the hands down before the knees. This is also one of the statements reported on Imaam Ahmad, just as it has been mentioned in ‘Al Mughnee’ by Imaam Ibn Qudaamah. Many of the scholars of hadeeth held this opinion. This opinion is also

---

<sup>1</sup>Translator’s Note: Imaam Al Albaanee graded this hadeeth as being unauthentic.

confirmed from the actions of Ibn ‘Umar (*radi Allah ‘anhu*) who said that the Prophet (*sallallahu ‘alaihi was sallam*) (himself) used to do it. Imaam Bukhaaree mentioned this statement in his “Saheeh”. Naafi’ said,

“Ibn ‘Umar (*radi Allah ‘anhu*) use to put his hands down before his knees.”

This statement reached and was conveyed by Ibn Khuzaimah, Al Haakim, Al Bayhaqee and other then them by way of ‘Abdul ‘Azeez Ad Daraawuridee on ‘Ubaidillah Bin ‘Umar on Naafi’ with an authentic chain.

However, in the Shaafi’ee madhab it is preferred to put the knees down before the hands when making sujood. Imaam At Tirmidhee and Al Khataabee said,

“This is the way of most of the ‘Ulamah.”

Al Qaadee Abu Tayyib narrates this on most of the scholars of Fiqh. Ibn Al Munthir also narrates it on ‘Umar (*radi Allahu ‘anhu*); as it is narrated on An Nakha’ee, Muslim Bin Yasaar, Sufyaan Ath Thawaree, Imaam Ahmad, Ishaq and the people of intellectual deduction.

Refer to the explanation of Ath Tirmidhee with the checking of Ahmad Shaakir, “Sharh Muhaththab” by Imaam An Nawwawee, and “Subulus Salaam” with its checking.

ααα