

## 60180 - The bid'ah of salaah al-raghaa'ib

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### the question

Is salaah al-raghaa'ib Sunnah and is it mustahabb to offer this prayer?.

### Detailed answer

Praise be to Allah.

Salaah al-raghaa'ib is one of the innovations (bid'ahs) that have been introduced in the month of Rajab. It is done on the night of the first Friday in Rajab, between Maghrib and 'Isha', and is preceded by fasting on the first Thursday of Rajab.

Salaah al-raghaa'ib was first introduced in Bayt al-Maqdis (Jerusalem) in 480 AH. There is no report that the Prophet (peace and blessings of Allaah be upon him) did it, or any of his companions, or any of the best generations or imams. This alone is sufficient to prove that it is a reprehensible innovation, and it is not a praiseworthy Sunnah.

The scholars have warned against it and pointed out that it is innovation and misguidance.

Al-Nawawi (may Allaah have mercy on him) said in al-Majmoo' (3/548)

The prayer which is known as salaah al-raghaa'ib, which is twelve rak'ahs that are offered between Maghrib and 'Isha' on the night of the first Friday in Rajab, and praying one hundred rak'ahs on the night of Nuf Sha'baan (halfway through Sha'baan) are both reprehensible innovations. No one should be deceived by the fact that they are mentioned in Qoot al-Quloob and Ihya' 'Uloom al-Deen, or by the hadeeth which is quoted in these two books, because all of that is false. No one should be deceived by some of those imams who were confused about the ruling on these prayers and wrote essays stating that they are mustahabb, for they are mistaken in that. Imam Abu

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Muhammad 'Abd al-Rahmaan ibn Isma'eel al-Maqdisi wrote a valuable book showing that they are false, and he did well in that, may Allaah have mercy on him. End quote.

Al-Nawawi also said in Sharh Muslim:

May Allaah curse the one who fabricated and introduced that, for it is a reprehensible innovation, one of the innovations which constitute misguidance and ignorance, and it involves obvious evils. A number of imams have written valuable works explaining that those who offer this prayer and the one who invented it are misguided, and they quoted a great deal of evidence to show that it is wrong and false, and that those who do it are misguided. End quote.

Ibn 'Aabideen said in his Haashiyah (2/26):

It says in al-Bahr: Hence we know that it is makrooh to gather for salaah al-raghaa'ib, which is done on the first Friday of Rajab, and that it is an innovation.

The scholar Noor al-Deen al-Maqdisi wrote a good essay on this topic which he called Rad' al-Raaghib 'an Salaah al-Raghaa'ib, in which he covered most of the comments of earlier and later scholars among the four madhhabs. End quote.

Ibn Hajr al-Haytami (may Allaah have mercy on him) was asked: Is it permissible to offer salaah al-raghaa'ib in congregation or not?

He replied:

Salaah al-raghaa'ib is like the prayer that is known as laylat al-nusf min Sha'baan (half way through Sha'baan). These are two reprehensible innovations and the hadeeth which speaks of them is mawdoos (fabricated). It is forbidden to offer these prayers either individually or in congregation." End quote.

Al-Fataawa al-Fiqhiyyah al-Kubra, 1/216

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Ibn al-Haaj al-Maaliki said in al-Madkhal (1/294):

Among the innovations that have been introduced in this noble month (i.e., Rajab) is that on the night of the first Friday thereof, they pray salaah al-raghaa'ib in the mosques, and they gather in some mosques and do this innovation openly in the mosques with an imam and congregation, as if it is a prescribed prayer... the view of Imam Maalik (may Allaah have mercy on him) is that it is makrooh to do this prayer, because it was not done by those who came before, and all goodness is to be found in following them (may Allaah be pleased with them). End quote.

Shaykh al-Islam Ibn Taymiyah (may Allaah have mercy on him) said:

As for innovating a prayer which is done regularly with a certain number of rak'ahs, with a certain recitation and at a certain time in congregation, like these prayers that are being asked about here – such as salaah al-raghaa'ib on the first Friday of Rajab, and halfway through Sha'baan, and the night of the twenty-seventh of Rajab, and so on – these are not prescribed in Islam, according to the consensus of the imams of Islam, as was stated by the reliable scholars. No one established such a thing but those who are ignorant and innovators. Things like this open the door to changing the laws and rituals of Islam and becoming like those who instituted things which Allaah has not ordained. End quote.

Al-Fataawa al-Kubra, 2/239

Shaykh al-Islam was also asked about it and he said:

This prayer was not offered by the Messenger of Allaah (peace and blessings of Allaah be upon him) or by any of the Sahaabah or the Taabi'een or the imams of the Muslims. The Messenger of Allaah (peace and blessings of Allaah be upon him) did not enjoin it and neither did any of the salaf or imams. They did not suggest that this night has any virtue for which it should be singled out. The hadeeth which is narrated concerning that from the Prophet (peace and blessings of

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Allaah be upon him) is false and fabricated, according to scholarly consensus. Hence the scholars said that it is forbidden and not mustahabb. End quote.

Al-Fataawa al-Kubra, 2/262

It says in al-Mawsoo'ah al-Fiqhiyyah (22/262):

The Hanafis and Shaafa'is stated that praying salaah al-raghaa'ib on the first Friday of Rajab, or on Laylat al-nusf min Sha'baan, in a specific manner or with a specific number of rak'ahs, is a reprehensible innovation.

Abu'l-Faraj ibn al-Jawzi said: Salaah al-raghaa'ib is a fabrication that is falsely attributed to the Messenger of Allaah (peace and blessings of Allaah be upon him). They stated that these prayers are a bid'ah and are forbidden for a number of reasons. There is no report from the Sahaabah, Taabi'een or imams about these two prayers. If they were prescribed in Islam then the salaf would not have been unaware of them. Rather they were introduced in the 400s (fifth century AH). End quote.