

99693 - A fabricated hadeeth about the reason why the five daily prayers were prescribed

the question

How authentic this Hadeeth is:

It was narrated that Ali, may Allah be pleased with him said: “While Allah’s messenger (PBUH) was sitting between the Ansaar and the Muhajireen, a group of Jews came to him and said: “Oh Muhammad! We ask you about words Allah has given to Moses Ben Imraan, Allah will not give them but to a sent messenger or a close angel. The prophet (PBUH) said: “Ask”. They said: “Oh Muhammad! Tell us about the five prayers that Allah obligated upon your nation”. The prophet (PBUH) said:

“Fajr prayer: the sun rises between two horns of Satan, to it every disbeliever prostrates. Every believer who prays Fajr in congregation for forty days Allah will grant him two warrants, to save him from hell and hypocrisy. They said: “The truth you said, Oh Muhammad!”

The prophet (PBUH) continues: “Dhuhr prayer: It is the time that hell flares up during. Every believer who prays this prayer Allah will prevent him from the flames of hell at the Day of Resurrection.

Asr prayer: Is the time of when Adam, peace be upon him, ate from the tree. Every believer who prays this prayer Allah will clear him of all his sins as if he was just born.

Maghrib prayer: Is the time Allah accepted Adam’s repentance. Every believer who prays this prayer and asks Allah for anything, Allah will definitely give it to him.

Isha prayer: The grave is dark; the Day of Resurrection is also dark. Every believer who walks in darkness to pray this prayer, Allah will prevent him from hell, and he will be given light by which

he passes the Siraat (a bridge over hell in the hereafter). It is the prayer that messengers before me prayed. Then he recited saying: “Guard strictly the five obligatory prayers especially the middle Salaat (i.e. ‘Asr)”

May Allah reward you!.

Detailed answer

After studying and researching this hadeeth, it is clear that it is false and is a fabrication against the Prophet (peace and blessings of Allaah be upon him); it is not correct to attribute it to him in any circumstances. There is a considerable amount of evidence for that.

1 – We did not find this hadeeth in any of the books that narrate ahaadeeth with isnaad, rather those who mentioned it narrated it from people without an isnaad. It is a well known principle in our religion that any hadeeth that was not narrated by the scholars of hadeeth with a saheeh isnaad is to be rejected.

2 – Another of the obvious signs that it is fabricated is the fact that we found this hadeeth quoted in the book of Abu'l-Layth al-Samarqandi (d. 375 AH). The name of his book is Tanbeeh al-Ghaafileen bi Ahaadeeth Sayyid al-Anbiya' wa'l-Mursaleen (p. 264-265). The scholars have stated that this book of his consists of false and fabricated ahaadeeth. Shaykh al-Islam Ibn Taymiyah (may Allaah have mercy on him) listed him in Talkhees al-Istighaathah (1/73) as being among the authors who could not tell sound reports from weak, and who has no experience of either narrated reports or of narrators, rather they narrated both saheeh and da'eef reports, and they did not distinguish between the two. And Imam al-Dhahabi said in his biography in Siyar A'laam al-Nubala' (16/323): he could accept fabricated ahaadeeth due to lack of knowledge. End quote.

3 – Another reason why it is to be rejected is that he says of Zuhr prayer that it is a time when Hell is stoked. But what is proven is that the time when Hell is stoked is just before the sun passes the meridian, just before Zuhr, but when the time for Zuhr begins, the time of mercy begins.

It was narrated that ‘Abd-Allaah ibn al-Saa’ib said: The Messenger of Allaah (peace and blessings of Allaah be upon him) used to pray four rak’ahs before Zuhr, after the sun had passed the meridian, and he said: “The gates of heaven are opened and I like to send forth a good deed at this time.”

Narrated by Ahmad (3/411); classed as hasan by Ibn Hajar in Nataa’ij al-Afkaar (6/3) and by Shaykh al-Albaani in al-Silsilah al-Saheehah (3404) and by the commentators on al-Musnad.

Another reason is that it goes against that which is mentioned in the saheeh ahaadeeth, that the five daily prayers are one of the unique characteristics of the ummah of Muhammad (peace and blessings of Allaah be upon him), and they were not enjoined on any of the Prophets who came before him. Although some of the scholars disagreed with that, this is the correct view in sha Allaah. Al-Suyooti wrote a chapter in al-Khasaa’is al-Kubra (2/303) entitled: Chapter on the unique characteristics of (the Prophet) (peace and blessings of Allaah be upon him) in that the five daily prayers were all enjoined upon him, which were not all enjoined for anyone else, and he was the first one to pray ‘Isha’, which no Prophet before him prayed. In this chapter he quoted a number of ahaadeeth, including the following:

It was narrated from Mu’aadh ibn Jabal that the Prophet (peace and blessings of Allaah be upon him) said: “Delay this prayer (‘Isha’) until it is dark, for you have been favoured with it over all other nations, and no nation prayed this prayer before you.”

Narrated by Abu Dawood (421); classed as saheeh by al-Albaani in Saheeh Abi Dawood.

4 – Another sign of the weakness of this hadeeth is that it defines the time when Adam ate from the tree, and the time when Allaah accepted his repentance. Such details are akin to what is mentioned in the Israa’eeliyaat (reports from Jewish sources) and reports that are narrated from the People of the Book, which makes it likely that this report was taken from them.

To sum up, this report is false and has no basis, so it is not permissible to narrate it or attribute it to the Prophet (peace and blessings of Allaah be upon him), or to quote it on websites or in chat rooms.

And Allaah knows best.