

Juristic Questions

Juristic Questions



**Sayyid Abd al-Husayn Sharaf al-Din
al-Musawi**

**Translated by
Abdullah al-Shahin**

Al-Islam.org

Sub Title:

مسائل فقهية

Author(s):

[Sayyid Abd al-Husayn Sharaf al-Din al-Musawi](#) [1]

Publisher(s):

[Ansariyan Publications – Qum](#) [2]

These are juristic questions discussed in a clear and firm way. They depend upon the true evidences and follow the straight way. It is enough for them to be a result of a high learned mind and a wonderful pen depending upon the accurate scientific theories so that they are directed easily towards the bright way of rightness and assisted by those accurate theories.

[Get PDF](#) [3] [Get EPUB](#) [4] [Get MOBI](#) [5]

Translator(s):

[Abdullah al-Shahin](#) [6]

Topic Tags:

[Islamic Law](#) [7]

The Publisher's Foreword

Sayyid Sharafuddeen (may Allah have mercy upon him) was a great figure of jurisprudence, jihad and Islamic unity. He spent his blessed age in the way of that. He produced a great scientific heritage and strove in his jihad for the sake of the solidarity of the umma. Neither his scientific works nor his jihad could ever be forgotten and they would serve the Islamic matter for ever.

His style in writing was distinguished with clearness, accuracy, utmost objectivity and respecting the others' opinions; therefore the hearts of his friends and enemies together were attracted to him.

He played a great role in achieving wide juristical cordiality among the different Islamic sects through his wonderful writings, from among which we chose this valuable booklet although it was small but we hoped to achieve the same high aims the author had achieved.

May Allah have mercy upon the great honored jurisprudent Sharafuddeen and may the all make use of

his abundant knowledge!

Ansariyan Publications – Qum

Preface

These are juristic questions discussed in a clear and firm way. They depend upon the true evidences and follow the straight way. It is enough for them to be a result of a high learned mind and a wonderful pen depending upon the accurate scientific theories so that they are directed easily towards the bright way of rightness and assisted by those accurate theories.

This is a book among tens of books written by our honored great uncle Imam Sharafuddeen, who has supplied the Arabic library with what makes the seekers of the truth ladle from this pure knowledge and makes them appreciate his apposite thinking, truthfulness of evidences, impartiality and defending the rightness.

In this valuable research you will find a correct knowledge depending upon the Book of Allah and the Sunna of His messenger for the author hasn't depended upon other than them. Although the jurisprudential points discussed in this research are few, you will get a great benefit out of them.

Imam Sharafuddeen discussed these certain questions especially and made them the subject of his short thesis because these secondary questions were the source of much argument and disagreement. Much ado and fierce attacks often and often aroused about these points, hence Imam Sharafuddeen tried to ease the fierceness of the attackers and to lead the fair prudent ones towards the truth. On the other hand, he wanted to clear that the Shia wouldn't adopt any religious matter, unless they were certain and sure that it was derived from the holy Quran and the true Sunna.

These questions are true examples giving you a clear image about the successful conclusion and fair jurisprudential investigation. You notice in them the high justification for they don't care for other than clear evidences and true excuses derived from the holy Book of Allah and the sacred Sunna of the Prophet (s).

Nooruddeen Sharafuddeen

Offering Two Prayers At One Time

There was no disagreement among all the Islamic sects about the permissibility of offering Dhuhr prayer and Assr prayer at one time in Arafa.^{[1](#)} It was called antecedence.^{[2](#)} The same was said about offering Maghrib and Isha' prayers at one time in Muzdalifa.^{[3](#)} This was called delaying.^{[4](#)} In fact there was no any disagreement about preferring offering each two prayers together and considering that as a part of the Prophet's Sunna but the Muslims disagreed upon offering two prayers together in other than these two cases.

The point of the dispute was about the permissibility of offering two prayers (whether Dhuhr and Assr or Maghrib and Isha') in the time of one of them like anteceding one of them as had been done in Arafa or delaying one as had been done in Muzdalifa.

The infallible imams of the Prophet's progeny had declared clearly that it was permissible (to offer two prayers together) at all but offering each one in its certain time would be better. The Shia followed their imams in this concern in every age and in every side of the earth. They often offered Dhuhr prayer and Assr prayer at one time and Maghrib and Isha' at one time whether they were in travel or not and whether there was an excuse for that or not. It was not different for them whether anteceding one of the first two prayers or delaying one of the other two prayers.

The Hanafites^{[5](#)} prohibited offering two prayers at one time at all except in Arafa and Muzdalifa in spite of that their Sihah^{[6](#)} had true traditions confirming the permissibility of that but they interpreted them according to their own thoughts. We will show you the invalidity of their thoughts later on inshallah.

As for the Shafi'is, the Malikites and the Hanbalites,^{[7](#)} they permitted that in travel with some disagreements among them in case when there were no excuses like raining, mud, illness or fear. Also they were in dispute about the conditions of travel that might permit to offer two prayers together.^{[8](#)}

Our evidence, according which we worshipped Allah in this matter, was the true traditions of our infallible imams (s). But we might argue with the Sunni sects according to their own Sihah, in which many traditions were mentioned talking about the permissibility of offering two prayers at one time.

Muslim^{[9](#)} said in his *Sahih*:

a. Yahya bin Yahya told us from Malik from Abuz Zubayr from Sa'eed bin Jubayr that ibn Abbas had said: "The Prophet (s) offered Dhuhr and Assr prayers together (at one time)^{[10](#)} and offered Maghrib and Isha' prayers together where there was no fear nor was he on travel."

b. Abu Bakr bin Abu Shayba narrated from Sufyan bin Oyayna from Amr bin Dinar from Abush Sha'tha' Jabir bin Zayd that ibn Abbas had said: "I offered prayers with the Prophet (s) eight times, in which he

offered each two prayers at one time. I think he delayed Dhuhr prayer and preceded Assr prayer and delayed Maghrib prayer and preceded Isha' prayer." Muslim said: "I think so too."[11](#)

c. Abur Rabee' az-Zahrani narrated from Hammad bin Zayd from Amr bin Dinar from Jabir bin Zayd that ibn Abbas had said: "The Prophet (s) offered Dhuhr and Assr prayers together and Maghrib and Isha' together seven or eight times in Medina."

d. Abur Rabee' az-Zahrani narrated from Hammad from az-Zubayr from bin al-Khareet that Abdullah bin Shaqeeq had said: "One day Abdullah bin Abbas made a speech after the Assr prayer until the sun set and the stars appeared in the sky. People began to cry: The prayer! The prayer! Then a man of Tameem,[12](#) who was so bold and who wouldn't abate nor would he give up, came to ibn Abbas saying: "The prayer! The prayer!" Ibn Abbas said to him: "Do you teach me the Sunna?!" Then he added: "I have seen the Prophet (s) offering Dhuhr and Assr prayers at one time and offering Maghrib and Isha' prayers at one time." Abdullah bin Shaqeeq said: "I doubted about that. I went to Abu Hurayra and asked him. He confirmed the saying of ibn Abbas."[13](#)

e. Ibn Abu Omayr narrated from Wakee' from Imran bin Hadeer that Abdullah bin Shaqeeq al-Aqeeli had said: "A man said to ibn Abbas: The prayer! Ibn Abbas kept silent. Then the man said: The prayer! He kept silent. Then he said: The prayer! Ibn Abbas said: "Do you teach us the prayer?! We often offered the prayers together at the time of the Prophet (s)."

An-Nassa'iy mentioned a tradition narrated by Amr bin Harm from Abush Sha'tha' that ibn Abbas offered Dhuhr and Assr prayers with no period of time separating between them because of business. He justified that by referring to the Prophet (s).[14](#)

f. Ahmed bin Yunus and Oun bin Salam narrated from Zuhayr from Abuz-Zubayr from Sa'eed bin Jubayr that ibn Abbas had said: "The Prophet (s) offered Dhuhr and Assr prayers at one time in Medina without fear or travel."[15](#) Abuz Zubayr said: "I asked Sa'eed why the Prophet (s) did so. He said: I asked ibn Abbas the same question and he said: the Prophet (s) did so in order not to embarrass any one of his umma."[16](#)

g. Abu Bakr bin Abu Shayba and Abu Kurayb narrated from Abu Mo'awiya and Abu Kurayb and Abu Sa'eed al-Ashajj narrated from Wakee' and Abu Mo'awiya from al-A'mash from Habeeb bin Abu Thabit from Sa'eed bin Jubayr that ibn Abbas had said: "The Prophet (s) offered Dhuhr and Assr prayers at one time and offered Maghrib and Isha' prayers at one time in Medina where there was no fear or rain." ...Wakee' asked Ibn Abbas why did the Prophet (s) do so and ibn Abbas said: "...in order not to embarrass his umma." In the tradition of Abu Mo'awiya also it was said to ibn Abbas: What did the Prophet (s) want by doing so? Ibn Abbas said: He (the Prophet (s)) wanted not to embarrass his umma."

h. Yahya bin Habeeb al-Harithi narrated from Khalid bin al-Harth from Qurra bin Khalid from Abuz Zubayr from Sa'eed bin Jubayr that ibn Abbas had said: "The Prophet (s) offered Dhuhr and Assr prayers at the same time and offered Maghrib and Isha' at the same time on his travel during the battle

of Tabook.” Sa’eed said: “I asked ibn Abbas that what led the Prophet (s) to do that. He said: he wanted not to embarrass his umma.”

i. Yahya bin Habeeb narrated from Khalid bin al-Harth from Qurra bin Khalid from Abuz Zubayr from Aamir bin Wa’ila Abut Tufayl that Mu’ath bin Jabal had said: “During the battle of Tabook the Prophet (s) offered Dhuhr and Assr prayers together and offered Maghrib and Isha’ prayers together. I asked what led him to do that. It was said that he didn’t want to embarrass his umma.”

These true traditions mentioned in the Sihah were clear in showing the reason behind the legislation of offering two prayers at one time. It was to let people have some ease in offering the prayers and not to be burdened with them because separation between the prayers—offering each one in its certain time—might be somehow difficult for the most of people, who would be busy with their works and affairs of living. The last two traditions were not restricted to travel or other excuses like illness, raining, fear or others as they were by themselves but they referred to generality that the permissibility of offering two prayers at one time was absolute and not limited to special cases. Therefore you found that Imam Muslim didn’t mention these traditions under the chapter of “offering the prayers together where there was no travel” to be as evidences for the absolute permissibility of that and this showed his prudence, knowledge and fairness.

The traditions mentioned by Muslim were according to the conditions depended by al-Bukhari in deciding the truthfulness of traditions and the narrators also were depended upon by al-Bukhari so what made him (al-Bukhari) not mention all the traditions talking about the subject? What led him to be satisfied with a few of them? And why didn’t he assign a certain chapter about the true traditions talking about offering prayers at one time whether in travel or not although that most imams of the different sects had acknowledged the permissibility of offering two prayers at one time? And why did he choose the weakest traditions in proving the subject? I don’t think that al-Bukhari was one of those, who changed the words from their (right) places and concealed the truth which they themselves knew well!

Here is what he has chosen of traditions in his *Sahih* talking about this subject:

a. Abun Nu’man narrated from Hammad bin Zayd from Amr bin Dinar from Jabir bin Zayd that ibn Abbas had said: “The Prophet (s) offered Dhuhr and Assr prayers in the same time and offered Maghrib and Isha’ prayers in the same time in Medina seven or eight times.” Ayyoub said: “Perhaps it was in a rainy night.” He said: “Perhaps!”

(They follow but conjecture) as Allah says!

b. Adam narrated from Shu’ba from Amr bin Dinar from Jabir bin Zayd that ibn Abbas had said: “The Prophet (s) offered prayers together seven or eight time.”

c. From ibn Omar, Abu Ayyoub and ibn Abbas that the Prophet (s) offered Maghrib and Isha’ prayers (together) in the time of one of them rather than the other.

Mentioning this very few traditions from among much many true traditions evidencing the subject was enough to confirm what we said about al-Bukhari.

Also it was confirmed by the saying of ibn Mass'ood: "The Prophet (s) offered—in Medina—Dhuhr and Assr prayers together and offered Maghrib and Isha' prayers together. He was asked about that and he said: I did so lest my umma would be embarrassed." It was mentioned by at-Tabarani.[17](#)

It was mentioned that Abdullah bin Omar was asked: "Why did the Prophet (s) offer Dhuhr and Assr prayers together and Maghrib and Isha' prayers together in Medina where he was not on travel?" He said: "He did so in order that his umma not to be embarrassed."[18](#)

Anyhow all the Sunni jurisprudents acknowledged the permissibility of offering the prayers in one time and they were certain that these traditions were true in evidencing this matter.

You can refer to whatever you like of their comments on these traditions talking about the permissibility of offering two prayers in one time.[19](#)

Yes! They interpreted the tradition according to the doctrines of their sects; therefore they became in a dark confusion.

The comment of an-Nawawi on these traditions mentioned in his book *Sharh Sahih Muslim* was enough to show you the truth. He said, after considering the traditions as clear evidence confirming the permissibility of offering the prayers together in residence: "The ulema had different interpretations and thoughts. Some of them justified that by saying that the Prophet (s) had offered the prayers together because of the rain.

This was the thought of some of the first great personalities.[20](#) But this was a weak justification according to the second tradition of ibn Abbas when saying (...without fear or rain). Some of them pretended that the sky was cloudy so the Prophet (s) offered the Dhuhr prayer but when the clouds dispelled, it appeared that it was the time of Assr prayer then the Prophet (s) offered the Assr prayer.[21](#) This was also vain because if it was possible for Dhuhr and Assr prayers, it wouldn't be possible for Maghrib and Isha' prayers.

Some of them pretended that the Prophet (s) had delayed the first prayer (Dhuhr) until the end of its time and so when he had finished offering it, the time of the Assr prayer came and then he offered it; therefore his gathering the two prayers was just formal.[22](#) This was weak and vain too because it contradicted the meaning of the tradition so clearly. The doing of ibn Abbas when he made his speech and the people cried: the prayer, the prayer, but he didn't pay any attention to them and he justified his delaying the Maghrib prayer until the time of the Isha' prayer and then Abu Hurayra confirmed that and didn't deny it when he was asked; all that refuted the above interpretation."

Ibn Abdul Birr, al-Khitabi and others denied this interpretation too. They said that offering prayers

together was a kind of authorization and if it was formal, it would be so difficult to offer each prayer in its time because the beginnings and the ends of prayers' times couldn't be perceived by most of the scholars so how about the ordinary people! They said that ibn Abbas' saying (...he wanted not to embarrass his umma) was clear evidence proving the authorization of offering prayers together. Offering prayers together, which was cleared by the true traditions, was either by preceding the second prayer to be offered with the first one or by delaying the first prayer to be offered with the second one. They said that it was this meaning, which was understood from the wording of these traditions. This was the very point of the dispute.

An-Nawawi said: "... and some of them interpreted the traditions as if offering prayers together was because of illness or something like that. This was the thought of Ahmed bin Hanbal and the judge Husayn and it was adopted by our companions; al-Khitabi, al-Mutawalli and ar-Rawyani. This was the apparent meaning according to the wording of the traditions."

No evidence in the traditions showing what they said. Saying so was but fabrication as al-Qastalani had said in his book *Sharh Sahih al-Bukhari*.[23](#)

Some of the scholars criticized him (an-Nawawi) too by saying: "It was said that offering prayers together was because of illness. An-Nawawi confirmed this saying. But this justification was not correct because if the Prophet (s) had offered the prayers together because of illness, then no one would have offered prayers with him except those who were ill, whereas the Prophet (s) had offered the prayers with a group of his companions as it had been narrated by ibn Abbas in a true tradition."[24](#)

Since there was no interpretation accepted by the ulema about the traditions talking about offering the prayers together, so some of the Sunnis adopted the thought of the Shia about the matter unknowingly. An-Nawawi mentioned them after he had refuted their false interpretations. He said: "Some of the scholars permitted offering prayers together in residence (in one's place of living-not being in travel) if it was necessary for those, who would not take it as a habit. This was the thought of ibn Seereen and Ashhab, who were Malik's companions. So was the thought of al-Qaffaal ash-Shashi *al-Kabeer*, who was one of ash-Shafi'iy's companions as it was said by al-Khitabi. The same was thought by Abu Iss-haq al-Mirwizi and some of the scholars of Hadith. Ibnul Munthir acknowledged this thought when he said: "The saying of ibn Abbas confirmed this thought when he said that the Prophet (s) didn't want to embarrass his umma where he didn't justify it by illness or anything else. Allah is the most aware!" This was his own saying.[25](#) Some others of the Sunni scholars[26](#) had said the same."

Some of the Sunni researchers in our time might adopt our thought, as I was told by more than one of them, but they didn't dare to inform the public of that or ihtiyat (precaution) might prevent them from that because separating the prayers (offering each one in its certain time) would be better than offering them together but an important thing escaped them that separating prayers led many people, who would be busy with their jobs during the time of prayers, to give up offering the prayers whereas offering prayers together would be more possible to make them keep to their prayers. Hence the jurisprudents would

better give a fatwa to permit the public to offer the prayers together in order to make it easy for them and not difficult. (***Allah desires ease for you, and He does not desire for you difficulty*** 2: 185), (***...and He has not laid upon you any hardship in religion*** 22:78).

The evidence of offering the prayer together absolutely is clear according to the holy Quran and the Sunna. The Quran has declared that the times of obligatory prayers are three only; a common time for Dhuhr and Assr prayers, a common time for Maghrib and Isha' prayers and a third time for the Fajr (dawn) prayer. Allah says: (***Keep up prayer from the declining of the sun till the darkness of the night and the morning recitation; surely the morning recitation is witnessed.*** 17:78)

Imam ar-Razi said when interpreting this verse in his *Tafseer*:²⁷ “If we interpret ghasaq²⁸ (dusk) as the beginning of darkness in the sunset, so according to this account mentioned in the verse, the times of prayers are three; the time when the sun declines, the beginning of the sunset and the time of the dawn. This requires that the time when the sun declines, is to be a common time between Dhuhr and Assr prayers, the beginning of the sunset is to be a common time between Maghrib and Isha' prayers. This determines the permissibility of offering the prayers together absolutely.²⁹ But the evidence shows that offering prayers together in residence without an excuse is not permissible so it becomes obligatory for offering prayers together that there must be an excuse like travel, raining or other things.”

We strove in researching for what he had said that offering prayers together in residence without an excuse wouldn't be permissible but we, by Allah, couldn't find anything leading to it. Yes, the Prophet (s) offered prayers together when there was an excuse but he also offered prayers together when there was no any excuse for that lest he would embarrass his umma. We had no any objection that offering each prayer in its certain time would be better; therefore the Prophet (s) had preferred it except when there was an excuse as he used to do with mustahabs.³⁰

- ^{1.} Dhuhr means noon and Assr means afternoon. Arafa is a place near Mecca visited by the pilgrims during the hajj.
- ^{2.} It means offering Assr prayer before its time by offering it within the time of Dhuhr prayer but it must not be offered before Dhuhr prayer.
- ^{3.} Maghrib means sunset (time of sunset) and Isha' means evening. Muzdalifa is place in Mecca visited by the pilgrims during the hajj.
- ^{4.} It means delaying Maghrib prayer until the time of Isha' prayer to be offered together.
- ^{5.} The Hanafite was one of the main four Sunni sects.
- ^{6.} Sihah are the books of Hadith.
- ^{7.} Shafi'is, Malikites and Hanbalites are the main Sunni sects besides the Hanafites.
- ^{8.} Some of them said that only the religious travel like the hajj, the minor hajj and the sacred war permitted offering the prayers at one time and some said that it was permissible except in the travel of disobedience (when traveling to commit sins) while some put certain conditions about special kinds of travels and others didn't put any condition by saying that any kind of travel might permit offering the prayers at one time. All that was detailed in the books of their jurisprudence.
- ^{9.} Muslim was one of the main persons, who had collected the prophetic traditions in books called Sihah (Sahih is the singular form). He was highly trusted by the Sunni sects.
- ^{10.} You know well that they mean by offering two prayers at one time that is to offer them at the time of one of them whether by anteceding the Assr prayer to be offered with the Dhuhr prayer or delaying the Maghrib prayer to be offered with the Isha' prayer. This was their purpose of this saying since the age of the companions until nowadays and this was the

point of the dispute as it was mentioned before.

[11.](#) This tradition was mentioned by Ahmed bin Hanbal in his Musnad vol. 1 p.221 and in the same page there was a tradition narrated by ibn Abbas saying: “The Prophet (s) offered prayers together seven or eight times while he was in Medina and not on travel.”

[12.](#) Tameem was a name of a tribe.

[13.](#) How this world was so insignificant near Allah and how people were indifferent to the Prophet’s family that they doubted about ibn Abbas then to go to Abu Hurayra to be certain about the truth!! This tradition was also mentioned by Ahmed bin Hanbal in his Musnad vol. 1 p.251.

[14.](#) It was also mentioned by az-Zarqani in his Sharh al-Muwatta’ vol. 1 p.263.

[15.](#) Also it was mentioned by Malik in his Muwatta’ and by Ahmed in his Musnad.

[16.](#) He didn’t want to burden his umma with the obligations that perhaps someone couldn’t find enough time to offer each prayer in its certain time because of the different affairs of living.

[17.](#) Refer to Sharh al-Muwatta’ by az-Zarqani, vol. 1 p.263.

[18.](#) Kanzul Ommal, vol.4 p.242.

[19.](#) Refer to an-Nawawi’s book Sharh Sahih Muslim, az-Zarqani’s Sharh Muwatta’ Malik, al-Asqalani, al-Qastalani and Zakariyya al-Ansari in their books when explaining al-Bukhari’s Sahih and refer to everyone commenting on the books of Hadith that included the tradition of ibn Abbas talking about the matter of offering two prayers in one time. They considered the tradition as true and they became certain about the possibility of offering the prayers together in residence (not in travel) just not to embarrass the umma. I don’t know, by Allah, what made them turn away from this possibility! It might be because of their situation towards Ahlul Bayt (the Prophet’s progeny)!

[20.](#) Like Imam Malik, ash-Shafi’iy and some people of Medina.

[21.](#) This is just guess, falseness and divination.

[22.](#) Abu Haneefa and his companions interpreted all these traditions of gathering the prayers together to be formal gathering and so they prohibited offering two prayers together at all and this was very odd of them. We didn’t need to argue with them because many ulema had refuted their thought.

[23.](#) Refer to Irshad as-Sari fee Sharh Sahih al-Bukhari by al-Qastalani, vol.2 p.293. The author said: “Some of them interpreted ibn Abbas’ tradition to mean that offering prayers together was because of illness and an-Nawawi confirmed this interpretation but he was criticized of being contradicting the apparent meaning of the tradition and that his limiting the tradition to this reason was unjustified.”

[24.](#) Refer to Sharh Muwatta’ Malik by az-Zarqani, vol. 1 p.263.

[25.](#) Sharh Sahih Muslim, vol.4 p.455.

[26.](#) Like az-Zarqani in his book Sharh Muwatta’ Malik and everyone, who had commented on the tradition of ibn Abbas talking about offering prayers together like al-Asqalani, al-Qastalani and others.

[27.](#) Vol.5 p.428.

[28.](#) The Arabic word mentioned in the Quranic verse.

[29.](#) But if we interpreted ghasaq as the utmost darkness of the midnight—as it was narrated from Imam Sadiq (s)—then the time of the four prayers; Dhuhr, Assr, Maghrib and Isha’ would begin from the declining of the sun until midnight. Dhuhr and Assr prayers participated in the time since the declining of the sun until the sunset but Dhuhr prayer must be offered before Assr prayer and Maghrib and Isha’ prayers participated in the time since the sunset until midnight but the Maghrib prayer must be offered before the Isha’ prayer. As for the Fajr prayer, Allah had assigned its time by saying: (...and the morning recitation; surely the morning recitation is witnessed).

[30.](#) Mustahab: A voluntary and meritorious act of worship.

Is Basmala A Quranic Verse? Is It To Be Recited In Prayers?

The Muslim scholars disagreed on this matter. [1](#) Malik and al-Awza'iy thought that it was not a part of the Quran and they prohibited their followers from reciting it in the prayers whether it was in the beginning of sura of Hamd [2](#) or in the beginning of the second sura and whether it was recited loudly or softly but they permitted to be recited in nafila. [3](#)

Abu Haneefa, ath-Thawri and their followers recited basmala with sura of Hamd but they said that it must be recited softly even in the loud-recited prayers. [4](#) This showed that they agreed with Malik and al-Awza'iy. We didn't find any evidence justifying that except that they didn't consider it as part of the Quran.

Ash-Shafi'iy recited basmala loudly in loud-recited prayers and softly in soft-recited prayers and considered it as a verse of sura of Hamd. So was the thought of Ahmed bin Hanbal, Abu Thour and Abu Obayd.

Different sayings were mentioned about the thought of ash-Shafi'iy concerning basmala; whether he believed that it was a part of every sura except Bara'a [5](#) (9) or it was not a verse except in sura of Hamd. But his companions agreed upon that basmala was a verse of all the suras [6](#) and justified the two different sayings mentioned about their Imam's thought. [7](#)

As for us-the Shia-we agreed, according to our infallible imams, upon that basmala was a complete Quranic verse of every sura except Bara'a and whoever left reciting it in the prayer intendedly, his prayer would be vain whether the prayer was wajib (obligatory) or mustahab. It must be recited loudly in loud-recited prayers and it was desirable (mustahab) to be recited loudly in soft-recited prayers. [8](#) It was a piece of a verse in sura of an-Naml. The traditions of our infallible imams were clear in denying the sayings of their opponents. Imam Sadiq (s) said: "What?! They attacked the greatest verse of the Book of Allah the Almighty and they pretended that it was a heresy and then they spread their heresy about the verse (*In the name of Allah, the Beneficent, the Merciful*). [9](#)

Our evidence from the Sunni side is the traditions mentioned in their Sihah and how many they are!

1. Ibn Jurayj narrated from his father from Sa'eed bin Jubayr that ibn Abbas when talking about the Quranic verse (***And certainly We have given you seven of the oft-repeated (verses) and the grand Quran*** 15:87) had said: "It is the Fatiha [10](#) of the Book; *In the name of Allah, the Beneficent, the Merciful. All praise is due to Allah, the Lord of the Worlds...etc.*). Ibn Jurayj said: "I asked my father: Did Sa'eed tell you that ibn Abbas had said that (*in the name of Allah, the Beneficent, the Merciful*) was a Quranic verse? He said: Yes!" [11](#)

2. Ibn Abbas said: "The Prophet (s), whenever Gabriel came to him and recited ***in the name of Allah, the Beneficent, the Merciful***, knew that it was a sura."[12](#)

3. Ibn Abbas said: "The Prophet (s) didn't know that a sura was completed until a new ***in the name of Allah, the Beneficent, the Merciful*** was revealed to him."[13](#)

4. Ibn Abbas said: "The Muslims didn't know that a sura was completed until ***in the name of Allah, the Beneficent, the Merciful*** was revealed. When it was revealed, they became certain that the previous sura was completed."[14](#)

5. Umm Salama said: "The Prophet (s) used to recite (***in the name of Allah, the Beneficent, the Merciful. All praise is due to Allah, the Lord of the Worlds...etc.***) and scanned it verse by verse."[15](#)

Umm Salama said in another way: "The Prophet (s) recited in the prayer (***in the name of Allah, the Beneficent, the Merciful***) and counted it as the first verse and then recited (***All praise is due to Allah, the Lord of the Worlds***) and counted it as the second, then (***The Beneficent, the Merciful***) as the third, (***Master of the Day of Judgment***) as the fourth, then (***Thee do we serve and Thee do we beseech for help***) and gathered his five fingers."[16](#)

6. Na'eem al-Mujamir said: "I was behind Abu Hurayra (in offering the prayer) when he recited (***in the name of Allah, the Beneficent, the Merciful***) then he recited al-Fatiha until he finished it and said amen and the people said amen! When he finished the prayer, he said: "I swear by Him, in Whose hand my soul is, that I am the most similar to the Prophet (s) in offering the prayer."[17](#)

Abu Hurayra said: "The Prophet (s) used to recite (***in the name of Allah, the Beneficent, the Merciful***) loudly in the prayers."[18](#)

7. Anass bin Malik said: "Once Mo'awiya offered a prayer in Medina and he recited (***in the name of Allah, the Beneficent, the Merciful***) loudly for al-Fatiha but he didn't recite it for the second sura. When he finished the prayer, some of the Muhajireen and the Ansar,[19](#) who heard him, shouted at him: "O Mo'awiya! Did you steal the prayer or forget?" When he offered the prayer after that, he recited bassmala for the second sura." Al-Hakim mentioned this tradition in his Mustadrak and considered it true according to (Imam) Muslim's conditions.[20](#) The tradition was mentioned by others like Imam ash-Shafi'iy,[21](#) who commented on it. It would be better to quote his comment. He said: "Mo'awiya was a very powerful ruler, so unless reciting bassmala loudly was a certain verdict among all the companions of the Muhajireen and the Ansar, they wouldn't dare to object to him when he didn't recite bassmala."[22](#)

I would like to comment on this tradition to draw the attention of every researcher to the evidence this tradition had that confirmed our thought (the Shia's thought) about bassmala in the prayer and that it was not permissible to recite bassmala with al-Fatiha only and not to recite it with the second sura, otherwise the companions wouldn't have objected to Mo'awiya unless the matter of bassmala had been like the Shia's thought.

8. It was narrated from another way that Anass had said: “I heard the Prophet (s) reciting (***in the name of Allah, the Beneficent, the Merciful***) loudly in the prayer.”[23](#)

9. Muhammad bin as-Sariy al-Asqalani said: “I offered Fajr and Maghrib prayers behind al-Mu’tamir bin Sulayman innumerable times. He recited (***in the name of Allah, the Beneficent, the Merciful***) loudly before al-Fatiha and before the second sura. I heard al-Mu’tamir saying: I haven’t failed to imitate my father’s prayer and my father said: I haven’t failed to imitate Anass’ prayer and Anass said: I haven’t failed to imitate the Prophet’s prayer.”[24](#)

This tradition and other traditions showed that they (the Sunnis) used to recite bassmala with the second sura after al-Fatiha in the prayers like the Shia. Many other traditions confirmed this matter.[25](#)

Qatada said: “Anass bin Malik was asked that how the Prophet (s) recited in his prayers. He said: “He used to stress his reciting.” Then he recited (bismillahir-rahmanir-raheem)[26](#) and he stressed ar-rahman (the Beneficent) and ar-raheem (the Merciful).”

Hameed at-Taweel narrated that Anass bin Malik had said: “I offered prayers behind the Prophet (s), Abu Bakr, Omar, Othman and Ali. All of them recited bassmala loudly.”

All the previous traditions were mentioned by Abu Abdullah Muhammad bin Abdullah al-Hakim an-Nayssaboori in his Mustadrak. He said after the last tradition: “I mentioned this tradition to be evidence for the previous traditions. These traditions showed clear objection to the tradition narrated by Qatada that Anass had said: “I offered prayers behind the Prophet (s), Abu Bakr, Omar and Othman and I didn’t hear any of them reciting (***in the name of Allah, the Beneficent, the Merciful***).”

Then al-Hakim said: “Many other traditions narrated by Othman, Ali, Talha bin Obaydillah, Jabir bin Abdullah, Abdullah bin Omar, al-Hakam bin Omayr ath-Thimali, an-Nu’mān bin Basheer, Samra bin Jundub, Burayda al-Aslami and Aa’isha bint Abu Bakr concerning this subject. I didn’t mention them in order not to overburden the reader with them. I chose from among what might fit this chapter. Also I mentioned in this chapter those, who recited bassmala loudly in their prayers, of the companions, the successors and the successors’ successors.”[27](#)

Ar-Razi mentioned in his at-Tafseer al-Kabeer[28](#) that al-Bayhaqi had mentioned in his Sunan some traditions about reciting bassmala loudly in the prayer narrated by Omar bin al-Khattab, ibn Abbas, ibn Omar and ibn az-Zubayr. Then ar-Razi said: “As for Ali bin Abu Talib (may Allah be pleased with him), it was proved recurrently that he recited bassmala loudly in his prayers and whoever imitated Ali bin Abu Talib in his religion, would be guided. The evidence for that was the saying of the Prophet (s): “O Allah! Turn the rightness with Ali wherever he turns.”

It would be a sufficient evidence for bassmala to be a Quranic verse in the beginning of every sura except Bara’a, that all the companions, their successors and the successors’ successors of every generation of the umma had agreed unanimously, since the Quran had been written down until

nowadays, upon writing down bassmala at the beginning of every sura except Bara'a.

They wrote it down as they wrote every other Quranic verse without any difference between them whereas they had agreed unanimously upon not writing anything that was not of the holy Quran unless they would put a distinguishing mark in order not to be mixed up with the Quranic words. Didn't you see how they distinguished the names of the suras, the symbols of the sections, the parts...etc. and put them out of the text of the Quran in order to be known that they were not of the Quran so that the Quran would be protected as it had been revealed? You knew well that the umma had never agreed unanimously upon any matter as it had agreed upon this matter and this was enough evidence proving that bassmala was independent Quranic verse coming at the beginning of every sura written by the ancestors and the successors.

It was mentioned that the Prophet (s) had said: "Every important task that doesn't begin with (in the name of Allah, the Beneficent, the Merciful) will be amputated."[29](#) and: "Every important task that doesn't begin with (in the name of Allah, the Beneficent, the Merciful) will be amputated or mutilated."[30](#)

It is certain that the holy Quran is the best of what Allah, the Almighty has revealed to His apostles and prophets and that every sura in it is important and great that Allah has challenged all the people, who failed to produce a sura like the Quranic suras. So would it be possible for the Quran to be amputated? Allah, His Quran and its suras be exalted highly above any raving!

The prayer is the success and the best of doings as it is announced from above the minbars and the minarets. It is known by everyone. Nothing is to be compared with it after believing in Allah, His prophets and the Day of Resurrection. Then is it possible for Allah to legislate the prayer so amputated and mutilated? Neither a pious nor a dissolute one dares to say so but the pious imams Malik, al-Awza'iy and Abu Haneefa (may Allah be pleased with them) were distracted from these necessities; and every mujtahid would be rewarded and not to be blamed whether being right or wrong when trying his best to deduce his conclusion from the legal evidences.

The excuse of our opponents

They justified the matter with some excuses:

First: if bassmala was a verse of al-Fatiha and was a part of every sura of the Quran, then repeating (***the Beneficent, the Merciful***)[31](#) would be necessary to be repeated one hundred and thirteen times throughout the Quran.

The answer: the situation might require repeating if it was to pay much attention to some great affairs in order to be taken in consideration with much carefulness. The holy Quran had many examples of this thing; for example in sura of ar-Rahman (55), al-Mursalat (77) and al-Kafiroon (109). Was there anything of the affairs of this life and the afterlife deserving utmost attention and greatest carefulness like

the name of Allah, the Beneficent, the Merciful? Were the prophets delegated, the angels sent down and the Books revealed without ***in the name of Allah, the beneficent, the merciful*** or His guidance? Were the heavens and the earths constructed but with ***in the name of Allah, the beneficent, the merciful?***[32](#)

(O men! call to mind the favor of Allah on you; is there any creator besides Allah who gives you sustenance from the heaven and the earth? There is no god but He; whence are you then turned away) 35:3.

Second: the tradition narrated by Abu Hurayra that the Prophet (s) had said: “Allah the Almighty says: I have divided the prayer between Me and My servant into two halves. If the servant says: ***All praise is due to Allah, the Lord of the Worlds***. Allah says: My servant praises Me. If he says: ***The Beneficent, the Merciful***. Allah says: My servant thanks Me. If he says: ***Master of the Day of Judgment***. Allah says: My servant glorifies Me. If he says: ***Thee do we serve and Thee do we beseech for help***. Allah says: this is between Me and My servant...etc.”

Their evidence in this tradition was that he didn't mention (***in the name of Allah, the Beneficent, the Merciful***) with the verses of al-Fatiha. They said that if it was a verse of al-Fatiha, he would mention it.

The answer: this tradition was contradicted by a tradition narrated by ibn Abbas when saying: “Allah says: I have divided the prayer between Me and My servant. If the servant says: ***in the name of Allah, the Beneficent, the Merciful***. Allah says: My servant calls me...etc.”[33](#) The tradition was too long but our evidence was that it included bassmala and so it contradicted Abu Hurayra's tradition. In fact Abu Hurayra himself narrated a tradition that the Prophet (s) used to recite bassmala loudly in the prayer and that he himself used to recite it loudly in his prayer. He said: “I am the most of you in imitating the Prophet's prayer.” This tradition was mentioned previously.

Third: the tradition narrated by Aa'isha that the Prophet (s) began his prayer with takbeer[34](#) and reciting (al hamdu lillahi rabbil aalameen).[35](#)

The answer: this couldn't be an evidence for them because Aa'isha made (al hamdu lillahi rabbil aalameen) as a name for this sura exactly as when one said: “I recited (qul huwal-lahu ahad)”[36](#) to mean that he recited sura of al-Ikhlass or when saying that someone recited (inna fatahna laka fathan mubeena)[37](#) to mean that someone recited sura of al-Fat~h and so on. So the meaning of the tradition was that the Prophet (s) began his prayer with takbeer and reciting this sura, whose beginning was ***in the name of Allah, the Beneficent, the Merciful***.[38](#)

Fourth: the tradition narrated by ibn Mughaffal when saying: “My father heard me reciting ***in the name of Allah, the Beneficent, the Merciful***. He said to me: “O my son! Beware of changing the Sunna! I offered prayers with the Prophet (s), Abu Bakr, Omar and Othman. I didn't hear any of them reciting it (bassmala).”[39](#)

The answer: the scholars of jarh and ta'deel[40](#) didn't know who ibn Mugaffal was. They didn't mention

any of his traditions. Ibn Rushd mentioned him when talking about bassmala in his book Bidayatul Mujtahid⁴¹ and brushed him away when quoting the saying of Abu Omar bin Abdul Birr that ibn Mughaffal was unknown man.

Fifth: Shu'ba narrated from Qatada that Anass bin Malik had said: "I offered prayers with the Prophet (s), Abu Bakr, Omar and Othman. I didn't hear any of them reciting ***in the name of Allah, the Beneficent, the Merciful.***"⁴² Another one narrated by Hameed at-Taweel that Anass said: "I offered prayers behind Abu Bakr, Omar and Othman. All of them didn't recite ***in the name of Allah, the Beneficent, the Merciful.***"⁴³

The answer: you found in our evidence mentioned previously true traditions narrated by Anass contradicting these two traditions. You might refer to them.

Imam ar-Razi mentioned this tradition of Anass in his *Tafseer* and said: "The answer to this tradition is in many ways;

First: Sheikh Abu Hamid al-Isfarayeeni said: "Six traditions were narrated from Anass in this concern. The Hanafites narrated from him three traditions. One of them was his saying: I offered prayers behind the Prophet (s), Abu Bakr, Omar and Othman. They began the prayer with (***All praise is due to Allah, the Lord of the Worlds.***)

The other was his saying: ...they didn't mention ***in the name of Allah, the Beneficent, the Merciful.***

The third saying: ...I didn't hear any of them reciting ***in the name of Allah, the Beneficent, the Merciful.***

These three traditions agreed with the thought of the Hanafites and there were three other traditions contradicting this thought;

one of them was his tradition about Mo'awiya, who didn't recite bassmala in the prayer and then the Muhajireen and the Ansar objected to him and this showed that reciting bassmala loudly in the prayer was a certain matter, which was agreed upon unanimously among them.

The other one: Abu Qulaba narrated from Anass that the Prophet (s), Abu Bakr and Omar used to recite bassmala loudly in the prayers.⁴⁴

The third one: that Anass was asked about reciting bassmala loudly or softly and he answered: "I don't know about this matter." Ar-Razi said: "It was clear that Anass' traditions about this matter became so confused and contradictory and hence we had to depend upon other evidences...and also there was another suspicion in his traditions that Ali (s) exaggerated in reciting bassmala loudly but when the Umayyads seized the rule, they exaggerated in forbidding from reciting bassmala loudly in order to remove everything referring to Ali (s).⁴⁵ Anass might be afraid of the Umayyads; therefore his sayings became confused.

Whatever we doubted about something, we would never doubt about that if there was a contradiction between the sayings of persons like Anass and ibn al-Mughaffal and the sayings of Ali bin Abu Talib (s), who kept on that until the end of his life, certainly depending upon the sayings of Ali would be better. This was a final answer...and whoever took Ali as the imam of his religion, would certainly lay hold on the firmest handle of religion and life...etc.”[46](#)

All praise is due to Allah Who guided us to this, and we would not have found the way had it not been that Allah had guided us.

- [1.](#) Basmalah is saying (bissmillah~ir rahman~ir raheem: in the name of Allah, the Beneficent, the Merciful).
- [2.](#) It is the first sura in the Quran that must be recited in every prayer. It is also called al-Fatiha.
- [3.](#) Nafila means not wajib (obligatory) prayer. It is (mustahab). Refer to ibn Rushd's Bidayetul Mujtahid, vol. 1 p.96. Ar-Razi said in his at-Tafseer al-Kabeer, vol. 1 p. 100 about bassmala: "Malik and al-Awza'iy said that it was not a part of the Quran except in sura of an-Naml (27) and that it was not be recited whether loudly or softly except in mustahab prayers in Ramadan.
- [4.](#) In Fajr, Maghrib and Isha' prayers sura of Hamd and the second sura must be recited loudly and in Dhuhr and Assr prayers the two suras must be recited softly.
- [5.](#) Sura of Bara'a didn't begin with bassmala.
- [6.](#) Refer to at-Tafseer al-Kabeer by ar-Razi, vol. 1 p. 104.
- [7.](#) They said that the disagreement was not about considering bassmala as a verse or not but it was about whether bassmala was a complete Quranic verse or a piece of a verse of each sura.
- [8.](#) Imam ar-Razi, in his at-Tafseer al-Kabeer when talking about bassmala, mentioned many evidences about reciting bassmala loudly. In one of them he said that Imam Ali (s) thought that bassmala was to be recited loudly in all the prayers. He said: "This evidence is strong in my self and deep-rooted in my mind. It will never be removed at all."
- [9.](#) Refer to Majma'ul Bayan by at-Tabarsi when talking about bassmala in vol. 1.
- [10.](#) Sura of Hamd; the first sura of the Quran.
- [11.](#) Refer to al-Hakim's Mustadrak when interpreting sura of al-Fatiha and ath-Thahabi's Talkhees, vol.2 p.257.
- [12.](#) Al-Hakim's Mustadrak, vol. 1 p.231.
- [13.](#) Al-Hakim's Mustadrak and ath-Thahabi's Talkhees, vol. 1 p.231 (printed together as one book).
- [14.](#) Al-Hakim in his Mustadrak, vol. 1 p.232 mentioned the tradition and said: "It was a true tradition according to the two sheikhs; al-Bukhari and Muslim." Ath-Thahabi in his Talkhees mentioned it and considered it true according to the two sheikhs too.
- [15.](#) Al-Hakim's Mustadrak and ath-Thahabi's Talkhees, vol. 1 p.232.
- [16.](#) Mentioned by al-Hakim in his Mustadrak after the previous tradition.
- [17.](#) The Shia don't recite (amen) after al-Fatiha. They consider it neither a part of al-Fatiha nor a part of the Quran at all. Neither the Shia scholars nor their imams have narrated something of that, whereas the Sunni have depended upon it as a norm of them and they have mentioned many traditions confirming it; one of them is this tradition of Abu Hurayra.
- [18.](#) Al-Hakim mentioned this tradition in his Mustadrak after the previous tradition. Al-Bayhaqi mentioned it in his as-Sunan al-Kabeera. Refer to ar-Razi's Tafseer, vol. 1 p. 105.
- [19.](#) Muhajireen; the first Muslims, who emigrated from Mecca to Medina. Ansar; the people of Medina, who believed in the Prophet (s) and supported him and his companions.
- [20.](#) Ath-Thahabi mentioned it in his Talkhees al-Mustadrak and considered it true according to Muslim's conditions. Al-Hakim and ath-Thahabi considered this tradition to be the contrary of the tradition narrated by Qatada that Anass said: "I offered prayers behind the Prophet (s), Abu Bakr, Omar and Othman. I didn't hear any of them reciting in the name of Allah, the beneficent, the merciful." This tradition is null as we shall explain that soon inshallah.
- [21.](#) Refer to his Musnad p. 13.
- [22.](#) At-Tafseer al-Kabeer by ar-Razi, vol. 1 p. 105.

- [23.](#) Al-Hakim's Mustadrak and ath-Thahabi's Talkhees. They said that all the narrators of this tradition were reliable and they considered it as contrary to the tradition narrated by Qatada from Anass.
- [24.](#) Al-Hakim in his Mustadrak and at-Thahabi in his Talkhees mentioned this tradition and said that all its narrators were reliable. They considered this tradition as evidence to refute the vain tradition narrated by Qatada from Anass.
- [25.](#) It was mentioned by Imam ash-Shafi'iy in his Musnad p. 13 that ibn Omar hadn't given up reciting bassmala with al-Fatiha and the second sura in his prayers.
- [26.](#) (In the name of Allah, the Beneficent, the Merciful).
- [27.](#) Al-Hakim's Mustadrak, vol. 1 p.234.
- [28.](#) vol. 1 p. 105.
- [29.](#) Mentioned by Abdul Qadir ar-Rahawi in his Arba'een narrated by Abu Hurayra, mentioned by as-Sayooti in his al-Jami' as-Sagheer, vol.2 p.91 and al-Muttaqi al-Hindi in his Kanzul Ommal, vol. 1 p. 193.
- [30.](#) Mentioned by ar-Razi in his Tafseer, vol. 1 when talking about bassmala.
- [31.](#) It was repeated in the third verse of al-Fatiha besides the first verse (in the name of Allah, the Beneficent, the Merciful).
- [32.](#) The faithful person begins all his/her works with in the name of Allah, the Beneficent, the Merciful. If he/she eats, drinks, stands up, sits down, comes in, goes out, takes, gives, reads, writes, dictates, makes speech or slaughters a sacrifice, he/she will say: in the name of Allah, the Beneficent, the Merciful. When the midwife holds the new-born baby during its birth, she says: in the name of Allah, the Beneficent, the Merciful. When the faithful person is dying, he/she says: in the name of Allah, the Beneficent the merciful and when he/she is put into the tomb it is said: in the name of Allah, the Beneficent the merciful and when he/she is resurrected, he/she says: in the name of Allah, the Beneficent the merciful and when he/she attends before Allah, he/she says: in the name of Allah, the Beneficent the merciful and is there a shelter or a resort then save Allah?
- [33.](#) Kanzul Ommal by al-Muttaqi al-Hindi, vol. 1p.320.
- [34.](#) Saying (Allahu akbar; Allah is great).
- [35.](#) All praise is due to Allah, the Lord of the Worlds.
- [36.](#) Say: He is Allah, the One! 112: 1.
- [37.](#) Surely We have given to you a clear victory. 48: 1.
- [38.](#) This was the summary of what Imam ash-Shafi'iy had said when refuting their justification out of this tradition.
- [39.](#) Imam ar-Razi mentioned this tradition in his Tafseer, vol. 1 p. 106 and then said: "Anass and ibn Mughaffal mentioned the three caliphs in their traditions and didn't mention Ali. This showed that Ali recited bassmala loudly in the prayers."
- [40.](#) Jarh means to prove that a narrator of a tradition is not trusty. Ta'deel means to prove that a narrator is trusty and reliable.
- [41.](#) Vol. 1 p.97.
- [42.](#) mentioned by Muslim in his Sahih, chap. Of bassmala.
- [43.](#) Refer to Malik's Muwatta'.
- [44.](#) We mentioned previously the tradition narrated by Hameed at-Taweel that Anass had said: "I offered prayers behind the Prophet (s), Abu Bakr, Omar, Othman and Ali. All of them recited bassmala loudly."
- [45.](#) Such was the conduct of the Umayyads towards Imam Ali and his progeny in many of the divine laws until the rightness and falseness were confused. There is no power save in Allah, the Almighty!
- [46.](#) Refer to at-Tafseer al-Kabeer by ar-Razi, vol. 1 p. 106- 107.

Reciting Quran In The Prayer

The jurisprudents disagreed upon reciting Quranic suras in the prayer. Abu Bakr al-Assamm, Isma'eel bin Olya, Sufyan bin Oyayna and al-Hasan bin Salih thought that reciting Quran in the prayer was not

wajib but it was mustahab.

This was irregularity in thinking, contradicting the evidences and violating the consensus of the umma.

They depended upon a tradition narrated by Abu Salama and Muhammad bin Ali that once Omar bin al-Khattab had offered the maghrib prayer and he didn't recite the suras in it. He was asked about that. He said: "How about the ruku' and sujood?" [1](#) They said: "Alright." He said: "Never mind then!"

This was Omar's own thought and he didn't ascribe it to the Prophet (s). He might think that leaving reciting the suras inattentively wouldn't invalidate the prayer. Allah is the most aware.

Al-Hasan al-Basri and others thought that reciting suras was obligatory (wajib) in one rak'a. [2](#) This was like the previous thought in its irregularity and violating the consensus.

They justified their thought by interpreting the Prophet's saying: "No prayer (will be correct) except with (reciting) al-Fatiha." They thought that if al-Fatiha was recited in the prayer even one time, the prayer would be correct.

The answer: this tradition didn't regard the prayer when it was offered with al-Fatiha and didn't decide whether it was valid or not but it regarded it when it was without al-Fatiha and decided that it was not a prayer like the Prophet's saying: "No prayer (is accepted) without wudu' (or tayammum)." The tradition "No prayer (will be correct) except with (reciting) al-Fatiha" showed the obligation of reciting al-Fatiha in the prayer. Al-Fatiha was a necessary part of the prayer whereas wudu' was a condition determining the validity of the prayer.

Imam Abu Haneefa and his companions thought that reciting al-Fatiha was not wajib in the prayer. They thought that reciting anything of the Quran would be enough. Abu Haneefa was satisfied with reciting one verse of the Quran even if it was one word like ("**Mudhammatan** 55:64": both inclining to blackness) but his companions Abu Yousuf and Muhammad bin al-Hasan ash-Shaybani were satisfied with three short verses like ("**Then he looked. Then he frowned and scowled. Then he turned back and was big with pride.** 74:21-23) or with one verse that was as equal as three short verses or a little more. The Hanafites kept to this in their prayers. [3](#)

Abu Haneefa permitted translating the Quran that was to be recited in the prayer into any foreign language for those, who couldn't speak Arabic well, [4](#) but his two companions permitted translating just for those, who were unable to speak Arabic, not for those, who could speak bad Arabic.

Reciting the Quran in the prayer was wajib according to their doctrine in the two rak'as-prayers like Fajr prayer, Friday prayer and the traveler's prayers (Qasr) [5](#) but as for three or four-rak'as prayers, reciting the Quran was wajib in any two rak'as of the prayer. The prayer had the option to choose between the first two rak'as, the last two rak'as, the first and the third, the first and the fourth, the second and the third or the second and the fourth. If a prayer recited the Quran in the first two rak'as, he would be free in the

last two rak'as whether to recite the Quran, recite tasbeeh⁶ or to be silent as long as the time of one tasbeeh.

They depended upon a tradition narrated by Abu Hurayra when saying: "One day the Prophet (s) entered the mosque. A man came in, offered the prayer and then came to greet the Prophet (s). The Prophet (s) replied his greeting and said to him: "Go back and offer your prayer because you didn't offer it (correctly)." The man came back and offered his prayer as same as the first one. Then he came to the Prophet (s) and greeted him. The Prophet (s) replied his greeting and said to him: "Go back and offer your prayer because you didn't offer it." He did that for three times. The man said to the Prophet (s): "I swear by Him, Who has sent you with rightness! I don't know more than this. Please teach me!" The Prophet (s) said: "When you stand up to offer the prayer, say Takbeer then recite what is easy of the Quran as possible as you can, then bow then stand erect then prostrate yourself then sit. Do this throughout your prayer."

They depended upon the Prophet's saying (recite what is easy of the Quran as possible as you can) as their evidence in this matter.

Neither Abu Hurayra nor his traditions had any value near us. He was not trusted or reliable. We detailed all the facts about him in a book called (Abu Hurayra). Whoever liked to know the shiny truth, let refer to it.

This tradition might be not true because it was confused and not clear. We examined the tradition and didn't find any clear explanation that might fit the prophets (s). The tradition lacked many necessary things that the umma had agreed upon unanimously. It didn't mention anything about the intention of the prayer, sitting during the last tashahhud⁷, saying (blessing and peace be upon Muhammad and his progeny), tasleem⁸ and other things. It didn't fit the Prophet (s) with his high morals to let that man offer invalid prayer for three times and that might not be permissible for him (s).

Abu Dawood mentioned this story narrated by Rifa'a bin Rafi' al-Ansari⁹ that the Prophet (s) had said to the man, who didn't offer his prayer correctly: "When you stand up towards the Qibla, say takbeer and then recite al-Fatiha and whatever you like to recite."

Ahmad bin Hanbal and ibn Habban mentioned this story narrated by Rifa'a that the Prophet (s) had said to the man, who didn't offer his prayer correctly: "...then recite al-Fatiha and then recite whatever you like." ¹⁰

It was certain that Abu Hurayra would never equal Rifa'a whether in his doings or sayings. When there was any contradiction, the traditions of Rifa'a would certainly be preferred to the traditions narrated by Abu Hurayra. Therefore we found that al-Qastlani when explaining the tradition of Abu Hurayra in his book Fat-hul Bari tried his best to interpret the tradition to be in accordance with the tradition of Rifa'a.

Whoever looked for the sayings of the ancestors and the successors when talking about Abu Hurayra's

tradition, would find them all, except the Hanafites, either refuting¹¹ or interpreting¹² the tradition to be in accordance with their thoughts. Refer to *Sharh Sahih* al-Bukhari and *Sharh Sahih* Muslim to see their sayings about Abu Hurayra's tradition in details.¹³

Abu Hurayra himself contradicted his tradition when he narrated other traditions saying: "I heard the Prophet (s) saying: The prayer won't be correct unless al-Fatiha is recited in it."¹⁴ Abu Hurayra also said: "The Prophet (s) ordered me to announce in Medina that no prayer (would be correct) without (reciting some of the) Quran, even if it was al-Fatiha and something more."¹⁵ He also said: "I heard the Prophet (s) saying: Whoever offers a prayer without reciting al-Fatiha, his prayer is aborted, his prayer is aborted, his prayer is aborted."¹⁶

Then why did the Hanafites depend upon the outward meaning of the saying (recite what is easy of the Quran as possible as you can) mentioned in Abu Hurayra's tradition and give up the clear and true prophetic traditions talking about the prayer? In fact they depended upon what contradicted the many true traditions and objected to all the other sects of the Muslims and what they gave up was confirmed by the true prophetic traditions and by all the other sects of the Muslims.

The Hanafites might depend upon the Quranic verse (***therefore read what is easy of the Quran*** 73:20) as their evidence for this matter.

The answer: this verse had nothing to do with the subject of reciting Quranic suras in the prayer at all. The interpreters had explained this verse clearly. Let him, who wants to see its real meaning, refer the interpretations of the Quran.

The Hanafites justified the permissibility of reciting the translation of the Quran in the prayer according to some sayings;

First: Ibn Mass'ood recited to some foreigners: (***Surely the tree of the Zaqqum is*** (ta'am al-atheem) ***the food of the sinful*** 44:43-4). One of the foreigners recited (ta'am al-atheem) as (ta'am al-yateem; the orphan). Ibn Mas'ood said to him: "Say: Ta'am al-fajir."¹⁷ Then ibn Mass'ood said: "It is no mistake to recite (al-hakeem; wise) instead of (al-aleem; aware). The mistake is to put a verse of mercy instead of a verse of torment."

The answer: this was too far from our subject and if the saying was true, it would just show ibn Mass'ood's own thought and it would never be taken as evidence.

Second: the Quranic verses (***And most surely the same is in the scriptures of the ancients*** 26:196) and (***Most surely this is in the earlier scriptures; the scriptures of Ibrahim and Musa*** 87:18-9).

Their evidence out of these verses was that the umma agreed upon that the Quran had not been in its Arabic wordings whether in the scriptures of the ancients or the scriptures of Abraham and Moses but it was its meanings that had been mentioned in those scriptures in Hebrew and Syriac.

The answer: this was like the previous justification in not having anything to do with the subject. In fact it was much farther than that one.

Third: the Quranic verse (...**and this Quran has been revealed to me that with it I may warn you.** 6:19) and the foreigners didn't understand Arabic unless the meaning would be translated to them into their language; therefore the warning was to be in their language.

The answer: this would be possible as evidence for the permissibility of translating the holy Quran into the foreigners' languages so that they could make use of its maxims, morals, orders and prohibitions. This was something and jargonizing in the prayer would be something else. Would any Arab or foreigner not understand that reciting al-Fatiha did mean to recite the sura as it had been revealed with its original wording written down in the holy Quran? Would any one of good tact not feel that the spirit of the Quran would be deprived of if it was recited in a foreign language whether eastern or western?

I didn't think that Imam Abu Haneefa would fail in his justifications to a degree that he might fall down to the bottom! It was because he relied upon analogy and approval in deducing the legal verdicts. Hence he found that it would be nice for the foreigners if the Quran was translated into their languages in order to be recited in their prayers. He found that it would be easier for them to understand the meanings and to be more submissive in their prayers. He compared the foreigner's reciting the Quran in his language with his listening to the sermons and learning the lessons in his language. This was the theory of Atatürk in offering the prayer. He didn't take it from Abu Haneefa but it was just telepathy! What helped Atatürk with this theory that he didn't appreciate the legal evidences; in fact he didn't know them and didn't want to know them. He determined what he approved. If the Sharia had something leading to the permissibility of acting according to the approval, they would justify their thought but how far!

Ash-Shafi'iyy, Malik, Ahmed and others thought that reciting al-Fatiha in all wajib and mustahab prayers in Arabic was obligatory. Their evidence for that was Abu Hurayra's tradition talking about the story of the nomad, who couldn't offer his prayer correctly and then the Prophet (s) taught him how to offer the prayer, ordered him to recite some of the Quran in his prayer and then said to him: "Do this in all of your prayers."[18](#)

You already knew our thought about this tradition when we said that we had brushed it aside and that it had no value near us.

The Shia believed, according to their infallible imams, that reciting al-Fatiha in correct Arabic was obligatory in the first two rak'as of every wajib and mustahab prayer[19](#) for the single prayer (one, who offers a prayer alone) and for the imam (one who leads the others in offering the prayer).

As for the ma'moom,[20](#) he didn't have to recite al-Fatiha because the imam[21](#) would undertake that instead of him. As for the last two rak'as, it would be obligatory for the ma'moom either to recite the sura or to recite tassbeeh.[22](#) The imam was not to undertake reciting the sura or tassbeeh instead of the ma'moom in the last two rak'as.

Our evidence (the Shia's evidence) in all of that was the sayings of our infallible imams, who were the equal of the Quran.

Reciting al-Fatiha by the Prophet (s) in the first two rak'as of the prayer was confirmed by all the Sihah and Musnads (the books of Hadith) according to the tradition narrated by Abu Qatada al-Harith bin Rib'iy and others.

What the Prophet (s) used to do in his prayer would be obligatory²³ for the all because he had said: "Offer the prayer as you saw me offering it." As it was proved that the Prophet (s) had recited al-Fatiha in the last two rak'as, it was also proved that he had recited tassbeeh in them. The wording of tassbeeh was as the following (subhanal-lah wel hamdu lillah wela ilaha illallah wel-lahu akbar) according to the imams of the Prophet's progeny (s). The tradition, narrated by Sa'd bin Abu Waqqass and mentioned in al-Bukhari's *Sahih* and other Sihah and Musnads, confirmed this.

The people of Kufa complained to Omar against Sa'd until they said to him that Sa'd hadn't offered the prayer correctly. Sa'd said: "By Allah, I offered the prayer in a way like the prayer of the Prophet (s) without a bit of difference. I expatiated (on reciting al-Fatiha and the other sura) in the first two rak'as and I lightened in the last two rak'as (hastening in them by only reciting tassbeeh or al-Fatiha alone without the second sura)." Allah is the most aware!

¹. Ruku' : bowing in prayer. Sujood: prostration.

². One unit of the prayer.

³. Refer to their jurisprudence especially the book (Ghunyaatul Mutamalli).

⁴. Refer to at-Tafseer al-Kabeer by ar-Razi, vol. 1 p. 108. Ar-Razi said: "Know that the thought of Abu Haneefa about this matter was so odd; therefore the jurisprudent Abul Layth as-Samarqandi and the judge Abu Zayd ad-Daboosi declared to avoid his doctrine."

⁵. Qasr: is a shortened form of prayer. The traveler is to offer two rak'as instead of four in Dhuhr, Assr and Isha' prayers.

⁶. Tasbeeh means glorifying Allah with certain wordings.

⁷. Saying shahada.

⁸. Tasleem: saying (as-salaamu alaykum...) at the end of the prayer.

⁹. He fought with the Prophet (s) in the battle of Badr, Uhud and all the other battles. His two brothers Khallad and Malik fought with him in Badr. He fought with Imam Ali (s) in the battles of al-Jamal and Seffeen. He was one of the best supporters of Imam Ali (s).

¹⁰. Irshad as-Sari fee Sharh Sahih al Bukhari, vol.2 p.441.

¹¹. like some of the Mu'tazilites and all the Shia.

¹². The scholars of the Sunni sects other than the Hanafites.

¹³. Imam an-Nawawi said in Sharh Sahih Muslim: "...and as for his saying: (recite what is easy of the Quran as possible as you can), it referred to al-Fatiha or something besides al-Fatiha because it was possible for the ordinary people." Imam as-Sindi said in his Sharh Sahih al-Bukhari: "...his saying: (recite what is easy of the Quran as possible as you can) was because what was possible for people like that man was al-Fatiha. It was mentioned in other traditions that the Prophet (s) had specified al-Fatiha for that man."

¹⁴. Refer to Sahih of Abu Bakr bin Khuzayma and an-Nawawi's Sharh Sahih Muslim.

¹⁵. Sunan of Abu Dawood.

¹⁶. Mentioned by Abu Dawood in his Sunan and Muslim in his Sahih.

¹⁷. Fajir and atheem nearly have the same meaning; fajir means dissolute and atheem means sinful.

[18.](#) Imam an-Nawawi ash-Shafi'iyy said in his book Sharh Sahih Muslim when talking about the obligation of reciting al-Fatiha in the prayer: "All the ulema—the ancestors and the successors—agreed upon the obligation of reciting al-Fatiha in every rak'a according to the Prophet's saying to the nomad, who couldn't offer his prayer correctly: "Do this in all of your prayers." An-Nawawi, ash-Shafi'iyy and others, who thought that al-Fatiha must be recited in every rak'a of the prayers, couldn't justify Abu Hurayra's tradition unless by considering the Prophet's saying "Recite what is easy of the Quran as possible as you can" to refer to al-Fatiha especially.

[19.](#) It is obligatory among the Shia to recite a complete sura after al-Fatiha in the first two rak'as of the five wajib prayers. This had been confirmed by the Prophet (s) according to the tradition narrated by Abu Qatada and mentioned by al-Bukhari in his Sahih and by others. It is possible among the Shia not to recite the second sura in some cases. Not reciting the second sura becomes obligatory when the time left for the prayer is very short or in some necessary cases. As for mustahab prayer, al-Fatiha only is obligatory. This means that reciting al-Fatiha is a condition determining the validity of the prayer.

[20.](#) Ma'moom is one, who offers the prayer behind an imam.

[21.](#) According to the Prophet's saying: "Who offers the prayer behind an imam, the imam's reciting (of the Quran) will suffice him." This tradition was mentioned in the jurisprudential books of the four Sunni sects. There was a saying related to Imam Ali and eighty of the great companions mentioned in the same books that the ma'moom was forbidden from reciting (Quran) in the prayer. In fact there was another saying showing that the prayer of the ma'moom would be invalid if he recited of the Quran after his imam. Among the Shia the strongest choice for the ma'moom is not to recite the Quranic suras in the first two rak'as of the soft-recited prayer and in the first two rak'as of the loud-recited prayers if the ma'moom can hear the reciting of the imam or even the humming of his reciting according to the Quranic verse (And when the Quran is recited, then listen to it and remain silent, that mercy may be shown to you) 7:204. When the ma'moom can't hear the sound of his imam, he may recite the suras. In fact it will be mustahab for the ma'moom to recite them.

[22.](#) Tassbeeh is saying (subhanal-lah—glory be to Allah— wel hamdu lillah—(and) praise be to Allah—wela ilaha illallahu—(and) there is no god but Allah—wellahu akbar—(and) Allah is great).

[23.](#) As it was said by Imam as-Sindi in his commenting on the tradition of Sa'd mentioned in al-Bukhari's Sahih.

Takbeeratul Ihram

The Shia agreed, according to their pure imams, unanimously upon that *takbeeratul ihram*[1](#) was a necessary pillar of every wajib and mustahab prayer. Without *takbeeratul ihram* the prayer would be invalid. The only form of *takbeeratul ihram* was (Allahu akbar). If the prayer began his prayer with anything else than Allahu akbar even if it had the same meaning, his prayer would be invalid. Also saying it in any language other than Arabic would invalidate the prayer. It was enough for us that *takbeeratul ihram* was obligatory that the Prophet (s) had never begun any of his prayers except with it. You already knew that the Prophet (s) had said: "Offer the prayer as you saw me offering it."

The obligation of *takbeeratul ihram* was confirmed by the Quran, the Sunna and the consensus of the umma. Allah said: (**And your Lord do magnify** 74:3).[2](#) The consensus of the umma agreed upon that the verse referred to *takbeeratul ihram* and the orders of Allah were to be obeyed obligatorily. According to the consensus of the umma too that other than saying (Allahu akbar) at the beginning of the prayer was not obligatory. The Prophet (s) said: "The key of the prayer is the tahoor,[3](#) its tahreem[4](#) is saying Allahu akbar and its tahleel[5](#) is by saying tasleem."[6](#) This tradition was mentioned by Abu Dawood in his

Sunan.

The Hanafites said that tahreem was not a pillar of the prayer but it was related to standing up towards the qibla. They said that it was not necessary to say *takbeeratul ihram* in Arabic and they permitted translating it into any language the prayer liked whether he was able or unable to speak Arabic. They said that *takbeeratul ihram* would be valid if the prayer said instead of (Allahu akbar) (subhanallah) or (la ilaha illallah) or any of the attributes of Allah the Almighty on condition that it was not to be said more than the attribute of Allah. The prayer could say (Allah), (ar-Rahman; the Beneficent) or any one of the other attributes of Allah to begin his prayer. This was their belief and their evidence for that was only approval!

- [1.](#) Saying (Allahu akbar). It is the necessary (key) for the prayer to be valid.
- [2.](#) The verse in Arabic is (wa (and) rabbaka (your god) fa-kabbir (say: Allahu akbar; Allah is great).
- [3.](#) Tahoor is either pure water used for wudu' or pure soil used for tayammum. Tayammum is ablution with soil when there is no water.
- [4.](#) Tahreem is making the prayer as a sacred sanctum that saying or doing anything else than the prayer's parts during offering the prayer will be haram.
- [5.](#) Tahleel means making one free from the restrictions of the prayer.
- [6.](#) Tasleem is saying (as-salamu alaykum wa rahmatullahi wa barakatuh) to end the prayer.

Traveler's Taqseer And Fast Breaking

Legislating taqseer

Legislating taqseer¹

The four rak'a-prayers are shortened into two rak'as in travel whether it is in the case of fright or safety. All the umma agree upon this unanimously. Allah says:

(And when you journey in the earth, there is no blame on you if you shorten the prayer, if you fear that those who disbelieve will cause you distress 4: 101).

Ya'la bin Umayya said: "I asked Omar bin al-Khattab: is ***(there is no blame on you if you shorten the prayer, if you fear that those who disbelieve will cause you distress)*** while the people are safe now? He said: "I wondered at what you have wondered at and asked the Prophet (s) about that. He said: It is a charity that Allah has granted to you. You are to accept His charity." It was mentioned in Muslim's *Sahih*.

Ibn Omar said: "I accompanied the Prophet (s) in travel. He didn't offer more than two rak'as until he went to the better world. I accompanied Abu Bakr (in travel). He didn't offer more than two rak'as until he

died. I accompanied Omar. He didn't offer more than two rak'as until he died. Then I accompanied Othman. He didn't offer more than two rak'as until he died. Allah had said: (***Certainly you have in the Messenger of Allah an excellent exemplar***)”[2](#) 33:21.

Anass bin Malik said: “We traveled with the Prophet (s) from Medina to Mecca. He offered the prayers in two rak'as until we came back to Medina.”[3](#)

Ibn Abbas said: “The Prophet (s) stayed in Mecca for nineteen days. He offered qasr prayers.”[4](#)

The Prophet (s) offered qasr prayers although he stayed for nineteen days because he hadn't had the intent of residence.[5](#)

The historians confirmed that the Prophet (s) had led the people of Mecca in offering the four-rak'a prayers after the hijra. He made tasleem (to end the prayer) after two rak'as but before that he had told the people to complete their prayer until the fourth rak'a and apologized to them that he and his companions, who had come with him from Medina, were travelers.

Ibn Abu Shayba narrated that the Prophet (s) had said: “The best of my umma are those, who witness that there is no god but Allah and Muhammad is the messenger of Allah, become happy when doing benevolence, ask for forgiveness when doing badly and shorten the prayer when traveling.”

Anass bin Malik said: “I offered the Dhuhr prayer with the Prophet (s) in Medina in four rak'as and offered the Assr prayer in Thil Hulaifa in two rak'as as a traveler.”[6](#)

There were many other true traditions confirming that Allah the Almighty had legislated shortening the prayer in travel.

Legislating fast breaking

There was no doubt that Allah had legislated fast breaking in Ramadan for whoever traveled to a distance that made him/her shorten his/her prayer. The umma agreed upon this unanimously and the Quran and the Sunna confirmed it clearly.

Allah said: (***The month of Ramadan is that in which the Quran was revealed, a guidance to men and clear proofs of the guidance and the distinction; therefore whoever of you is present in the month, he shall fast therein, and whoever is sick or upon a journey, then (he shall fast) a (like) number of other days; Allah desires ease for you, and He does not desire for you difficulty, and (He desires) that you should complete the number...***) 2:185.

When the Prophet (s) traveled during Ramadan, he broke his fasting and declared to the people that he had broken his fasting. He considered fasting in travel as disobedience. He said: “It is not of piety to fast in travel.” We shall quote all the tradition later on.

Abu Qulaba narrated—as it was mentioned in the Sihah—that the Prophet (s) had said to a man of bani Aamir: “Allah has freed the traveler from fasting and halved the prayer for him.”⁷

He, who investigated the Sunna and the sayings of the imams about taqseer and fast breaking in travel, would find that the fatwas and the consensus of the umma had confirmed that Allah had legislated fast breaking in Islam. If travel required one of them; taqseer or fast breaking, to be done, it would be the very reason for the other to be done undoubtedly.

The conditions of taqseer

The Muslim scholars disagreed upon the conditions of taqseer. Some of them thought that taqseer was obligatory for the traveler. This was the belief of the Shia according to their imams. So was the belief of Abu Haneefa, his companions and all the people of Kufa.⁸

Some scholars thought that both qasr and tamam (complete) prayers were optional for the traveler like the optionality of kaffara.⁹ This was the belief of some companions of ash-Shafi'iy.

Some thought that qasr prayer was a certain rubric of the Prophet (s). This was the belief of Malik according to the most famous saying narrated from him.

Some thought that taqseer was a concession (granted by Allah) and offering tamam prayer would be better. Ash-Shafi'iy thought so according to his most famous sayings. So it seemed to his companions.

The Hanbalites said that qasr was permissible and was better than tamam but tamam prayer was not makrooh.¹⁰

Our evidence

The Shia believed that qasr was wajib depending upon true prophetic traditions mentioned in the Sunni books of Hadith and upon the certain traditions of the infallible imams of Ahlul Bayt (s).

From among the traditions mentioned in the Sihah of the public (the Sunni sects) was this tradition mentioned by Muslim in his *Sahih* that ibn Abbas had said: “Allah obligated via your prophet’s tongue that the prayer was to be four rak’as in residence and two rak’as in travel.” This showed clearly that the traveler was ordered to offer Dhuhr, Assr and Isha’ prayers in two rak’as and that the resident was ordered to offer them in four rak’as; therefore the prayer of the traveler wouldn’t be valid unless it was two rak’as and the prayer of the resident wouldn’t be valid unless it was four rak’as because worship wouldn’t be valid unless it was performed according to the divine orders.

Muslim mentioned another tradition in his *Sahih* that Musa bin Salama al-Huthali said: “I asked ibn Abbas how to offer my prayer in Mecca (he was a traveler in Mecca). He said: Two rak’as; it is the Sunna of Abul-Qassim¹¹ (s).”

He certified that the prayer of the traveler was to be two rak'as according to the Prophet's Sunna.

Muslim mentioned another tradition in his *Sahih* that az-Zuhri narrated from Orwa that Aa'isha had said: "The prayer had been legislated firstly as two rak'as and then the prayer in travel was fixed and the prayer in residence was completed (became tamam)." Az-Zuhri said: "I said to Orwa: Then why does Aa'isha offer tamam prayer in travel? He said: She interpreted [12](#) as Othman did."

Muslim mentioned Aa'isha's tradition from another way that she said: "Allah had legislated the prayer as two rak'as and then He made it tamam in residence and it was fixed in travel as it had been legislated firstly."

If this tradition was true so it would be naturally that the prayer of the traveler when it was offered in four rak'as wouldn't be valid if there was no divine order about that. From the first, Allah had legislated the prayer to be two rak'as and then He fixed it for the traveler, so if the traveler offered it in four rak'as, he would be heretic exactly as if he had offered the Fajr prayer in four rak'as or offered the four-rak'a prayer in residence in two rak'as.

From among the sayings of the infallible imams was this tradition narrated by Zurara bin A'yun and Muhammad bin Muslim. They asked Imam Baqir (s): "What do you say about the prayer in travel? How and how many (rak'as) is it?" He said: "Allah says: (***And when you journey in the earth, there is no blame on you if you shorten the prayer...*** 4: 101) so taqseer is wajib in travel as tamam is wajib in residence." They said: "We said to him: Allah says: (***there is no blame on you if you shorten the prayer***) and doesn't say: (Shorten the prayer!) So how does it become wajib like tamam prayer?" He said: "Doesn't Allah say: (***Surely the Safa and the Marwa are among the signs appointed by Allah; so whoever makes a pilgrimage to the House or pays a visit (to it), there is no blame on him if he goes round them both...*** 2: 158) Don't you see that tawaf [13](#) is obligatory because Allah has mentioned it in His book and the Prophet (s) has done it? So is about taqseer in travel. Allah has mentioned it in His book and the Prophet (s) has done it." They said: "Then did he, who offered four rak'as in travel, have to offer his prayer again (in two rak'as)?" He said: "If the Quranic verse of taqseer had been recited and interpreted to him and he offered four rak'as, then he had to offer his prayer again but if the verse hadn't been recited to him and he hadn't known about it, then he didn't have to offer his prayer again." Imam Baqir (s) added: "All the prayers in travel are to be two rak'as except Maghrib prayer, which is three rak'as and has no taqseer, because the Prophet (s) has left it three rak'as whether in travel or residence."

Imam at-Tabarsi said in Majma'ul Bayan after mentioning this tradition: "In this tradition there is a certain evidence showing that the prayer of the traveler is not like the prayer of the resident. The entire sect (the Shia) agreed upon this and agreed upon that the prayer of the traveler was not qasr. It was mentioned that the Prophet (s) had said: "The prayer of the traveler is two rak'as but not qasr."

The author of al-Kashshaf said when talking about the verse of taqseer: "Abu Haneefa considered

taqseer in travel as obligatory and not concession and doing other than it was not permissible. Omar bin al-Khattab said: The prayer in travel is two rak'as. It is tamam and not qasr according to the Prophet (s)."¹⁴

The excuse of ash-Shafi'iy and those who consider taqseer as not wajib

They justified their belief in some ways:

First: the apparent meaning of the Quranic verse (***there is no blame on you if you shorten the prayer***) showed permissibility and not obligation.

The answer: the previous saying of Imam Baqir (s) was sufficient to refute this excuse. Imam az-Zamakhshari said in his Kashshaf: "As if people at those days got used to tamam prayers so in order not to think that there would be a defect in their prayers if they offered them in shortened form, the verse denied that they might be blamed so that they were to feel assured and satisfied when offering qasr prayers."

Second: Othman and Aa'isha used to offer tamam prayers in travel.

The answer: Othman and Aa'isha interpreted the evidences of taqseer and they mistook.

Some Sunni scholars justified that by saying: "Othman was ameerul mo'mineen (the commander of the believers) and Aa'isha was the mother of the believers so they both were in continuous residence because wherever they traveled they would be among their family and in their home and country."

What a funny justification it was! Did they consider the Prophet (s) as a stranger to the world of the believers? No one had narrated that the Prophet (s) offered tamam prayers in his travels. Neither did Abu Bakr, Omar or Ali. So all of them were strangers according to this justification. Might Allah be with them!

Third: famous traditions mentioned by Muslim in his *Sahih* showing that the companions often traveled with the Prophet (s). Some of them offered qasr prayers and some offered tamam prayers. Some of them remained fasting and some broke their fasting. They didn't criticize each other.

The answer: nothing of these traditions was proved by the Shia besides that they objected to the certain traditions narrated from our infallible imams, who were equal to the Quran. In fact these traditions contradicted themselves. You will see the details soon inshallah.

No doubt that the traditions of the infallible imams of the Prophet's progeny would be preferred to the others' traditions when there was any objection between them especially when they were confirmed by some traditions narrated by the Sunni.

The conditions of fast breaking

The Muslim jurists disagreed upon the conditions of fast breaking in travel. The Sunni jurists thought that fast breaking in travel was a concession and if the traveler kept on his fasting, his fasting would be valid. They depended upon some traditions mentioned by Muslim in his *Sahih*;

Abu Sa'eed al-Khidri said: "We went to fight with the Prophet (s) in one of the battles on the sixteenth of Ramadan. Some of us kept on fasting and some broke fasting. Neither the faster criticized that, who broke his fasting, nor that who broke fasting criticized the faster."

From another way that Abu Sa'eed said: "We traveled with the Prophet (s) in Ramadan. Neither the faster criticized that, who broke fasting, nor that, who broke fasting, criticized the faster."

The answer: these traditions, if we supposed that they were true, were annulled by traditions narrated by the Sunni and other traditions narrated by the Shia from the infallible imams (s).

Here are some of the traditions narrated by the Sunni;

Muslim mentioned in his *Sahih* that Jabir bin Abdullah had said: "The Prophet (s) went to Mecca in Ramadan of (Aamul Fat-h; the year of conquest). He fasted until he reached Kira'ul Ghameem and the people fasted with him. Then he asked for a cup of water. He lifted the cup until the people saw it and then he drank of the water. Then it was said to him: "Some people are still fasting." He said: "They are disobedient. They are disobedient."

Muslim mentioned another tradition narrated by Jabir saying: "Once the Prophet (s) was in travel when he saw a man surrounded by some people and it was shadowed over him. The Prophet (s) asked: "What's the matter of him?" They said: "He is fasting." The Prophet (s) said: "It is not righteousness to fast in travel."

These traditions annulled those ones because these traditions came after those ones according to the witness of the Sunni. What confirmed this was a tradition mentioned by Muslim in his *Sahih* and by others that Obaydillah bin Abdullah bin Otba said that ibn Abbas had told him that the Prophet (s) traveled (to Mecca) in the year of conquest. He fasted until he reached al-Qadeed and then he broke his fasting. Then he said: "The Prophet's companions followed the most recent of his affairs."

Muslim mentioned in his *Sahih* that az-Zuhri had said: "Fast breaking was the most recent act of the two acts and certainly the most recent and the most recent of the Prophet's acts would be followed."

Muslim mentioned in his *Sahih* that ibn Shihab had said: "The Muslims followed the most recent of the Prophet's acts and believed that they annulled the previous ones."

If it was supposed that the fasting of some of the Prophet's companions in travel was valid, certainly that

would be before their submission to fast breaking and before his saying “it is not righteousness to fast in travel” and his saying about the fasting ones “they are disobedient! They are disobedient!”

As for the Shia, they agreed upon that fast breaking in travel was obligatory. This was the belief of Dawood bin Ali al-Isfahani and his companions. So was the belief of a number of the Prophet’s companions like Omar bin al-Khattab, his son Abdullah, Abdullah bin Abbas, Abdur Rahman bin Ouff, Abu Hurayra, Orwa bin az-Zubayr and the infallible imams of the Prophet’s progeny (s).

It was mentioned that Omar bin al-Khattab had ordered a man, who had fasted in travel, to fast again (in residence because fasting in travel wouldn’t be valid). So were the belief of the Shia and the belief of Dawood.

Yousuf bin al-Hakam said: “I asked ibn Omar about fasting in travel. He said: If you give a man an alms and he returns it to you, won’t you become angry? It is an alms from Allah to you. Don’t return it!”

Abdur Rahman bin Ouff said: “The Prophet (s) said: He, who fasts in travel, is like him, who breaks his fasting in residence.”

Ibn Abbas said: “Fast breaking in travel is obligatory.” Imam Sadiq (s) said: “He, who fasts during Ramadan in travel, is like that, who breaks fasting during Ramadan in residence.”

Imam Sadiq (s) also said: “If a man dies during fasting in travel, I won’t pray for him.” He also said: “Whoever travels has to break his fasting and to shorten his prayer except when his travel is for disobeying Allah.”

Al-Ayyashi narrated from Muhammad bin Muslim that Imam Sadiq (s) had said: “This Quranic verse (*...but whoever among you is sick or on a journey...2: 184*) was revealed in Kira’ul Ghameem at the time of the midday prayer. The Prophet (s) asked for a vessel of water. He drank of it and ordered the people to break their fasting. Some people said: “The day is about to elapse. Would we complete our day on fasting!” The Prophet (s) called them the disobedient. They were still called the disobedient until the Prophet (s) went to the better world.”

The saying of Allah suffices us as evidence confirming the obligation of breaking fast during travel. Allah says: (*...therefore whoever of you is present in the month, he shall fast therein, and whoever is sick or upon a journey, then (he shall fast) a (like) number of other days; Allah desires ease for you, and He does not desire for you difficulty...2: 185*). The verse confirms the obligation of breaking fast in some ways;

First: the order of fasting mentioned in the verse is addressed to the resident and not to the traveler. The verse says: (*therefore whoever of you is present in the month, he shall fast therein*) so the traveler is not ordered to fast. If he fasts, his fasting will be not of the religion and will be a heresy.

Second: what is understood from Allah’s saying (*therefore whoever of you is present in the month,*

he shall fast therein) is that whoever is not present (in his residence) doesn't have to fast. So the verse shows clearly that fasting in travel is not obligatory at all.

Third: the saying of Allah (**and whoever is sick or upon a journey, then (he shall fast) a (like) number of other days**) shows that he, who is sick or upon a journey, has to fast other days as equal as the days of his sickness or travel. This requires to break fasting during travel because no one says that the traveler has to gather between fasting during travel and later on to fast in lieu of the days he spends in travel. This contradicts the ease that Allah desires for His people according to the verse (**Allah desires ease for you, and He does not desire for you difficulty**).

Fourth: Allah's saying (**Allah desires ease for you, and He does not desire for you difficulty**). Ease here refers to fast breaking and difficulty refers to fasting during travel. Hence the meaning of the verse is that Allah wants from you to break fasting (in travel) and He doesn't want from you to fast (in travel).

The distance that determines taqseer and fast breaking

The Muslim scholars disagreed upon the distance that made it obligatory for a traveler to shorten the prayer and to break the fasting.

Abu Haneefa, his companions and the people of Kufa said that the least distance for the traveler to shorten his prayer and to break his fasting was a three-day travel. [15](#)

Ash-Shafi'i, Malik, Ahmad and many others said: "The prayer is shortened and fasting is broken in Ramadan after passing a distance of sixteen farsakhs [16](#) going only (not the total distance of going and coming back."

The Zahirites [17](#) said: "Taqseer and fast breaking is in every travel even in near travels."

Ibn Rushd said in his book al-Bidaya wen Nihaya when talking about the prayer in travel: "The reason behind their disagreement is because the reasonable meaning of taqseer and fast breaking in travel objects to the reported sayings in this concern. The effect of travel on taqseer and fast breaking is because of the hardship travel causes to the traveler.

If it is so, then taqseer and fast breaking will be wherever hardship is. According to Abu Haneefa hardship doesn't happen except after passing three stages (three-day travel) and according to ash-Shafi'i, Malik and Ahmad it happens after passing sixteen farsakhs. As for those, who didn't care but to the wording like the Zahirites, they said: "The Prophet (s) said that Allah had made the traveler free from fasting and halved the prayer for him. Hence whoever is called a traveler may shorten the prayer and break fasting." They evidenced their thought by a tradition mentioned by Muslim that Omar bin al-Khattab had said that the Prophet (s) used to shorten the prayer after about seventeen miles."

Hence the imams of the four Sunni sects didn't depend, when specifying the distance, upon an evidence

out of the Prophet's sayings or doings but they depended upon a philosophy called "the reasonable meaning". This would satisfy neither the infallible imams of the Prophet's progeny nor the Shia in deducing the legal laws.

When the people of Mecca, during the age of the Prophet (s), Abu Bakr and Omar, went out of Mecca towards Arafat, they offered qasr prayer in Arafat, al-Muzdalifa and Mina.¹⁸ This was confirmed by the all with no doubt.

Al-Bukhari and Muslim mentioned in their *Sahihs* that the Prophet (s) offered qasr prayer when he went out of Mecca to Arafat. So did Abu Bakr and Omar after the Prophet (s). Othman offered qasr prayer and then offered tamam prayer after six years of his caliphate and the people denied that of him.¹⁹

Imam Malik said that offering qasr prayer by the pilgrims in these places was a certain Sunna whether for the people of Mecca or the people of the distant countries.²⁰ You might refer to the jurisprudence of the Malikites.

The Shia says that the traveler has to offer qasr prayer after passing eight farsakhs²¹ whether going or four farsakhs going and four farsakhs coming back like the distance between Mecca and Arafat. It was the least distance, in which the Prophet (s) had offered qasr prayer and this was the most certain evidence. Praise be to Allah.

^{1.} Qasr is a shortened form of prayer. Taqseer (infinitive) is offering the shortened form of prayer (two rak'as instead of four) by a traveler.

^{2.} It was mentioned in Muslim's Sahih.

^{3.} Al-Bukhari's Sahih and Muslim's Sahih.

^{4.} Al-Bukhari's Sahih.

^{5.} If a Muslim intends (it is called the intent of residence) to stay for ten days or more, he will offer full prayers.

^{6.} Muslim's Sahih.

^{7.} The family of.

^{8.} The Hanafites agreed upon that qasr prayer was wajib for the traveler and if he offered tamam (full) prayer, he would be sinful because he delayed tasleem, which had to be done at the end of the second rak'a. They considered the other two rak'as as mustahab prayer because the wajib prayer must be the first two rak'as and so they considered the full prayer in travel as invalid.

^{9.} Atonement or expiation: making repayment for some failure to act, harm done to another, etc.

^{10.} Makrooh means undesirable act.

^{11.} A surname of Prophet Muhammad (s).

^{12.} She interpreted the verdict according to her own thinking.

^{13.} Tawaf is circumambulation; turning seven times around the Kaaba.

^{14.} If the prayer of the traveler was two rak'as and this two-rak'a prayer was tamam and not qasr and that was said by the Prophet (s) as Omar witnessed, then how would it be valid when it was offered in four rak'as? Would worship be valid if it was opposite to the law of Allah?

^{15.} Refer to al-Bidaya wen Nihaya by ibn Rushd.

^{16.} Farsakh is a unit of measurement. This distance is equal to eighty kilometers and six hundred and forty meters. It is equal to a travel of a day and a night according to the moderate movement of camels burdened with baggage. It is no matter for them if the distance is a little less in a mile or two.

^{17.} Zahirites in Arabic means "Literalists"), followers of an Islamic legal school that insisted on strict adherence to the literal

text of the Quran and Hadith as the only source of Muslim law.

[18.](#) Arafat, Muzdalifa and Mina are names of places near Mecca.

[19.](#) Al-Bukhari's Sahih vol. 1 chap. Prayer in Mina, Muslims Sahih, chap. Traveler's prayer.

Dr. Taha Husayn said in his book al-Fitnatul Kubra p. 178: "...then the Muslims criticized Othman when he violated the certain Sunna of the Prophet (s) and of Abu Bakr and Omar and of Othman himself in the first years of his caliphate. The Muslims criticized him when he offered tamam prayer in Mina whereas the Prophet (s) had offered qasr prayer. So had Abu Bakr and Omar. Othman himself offered qasr prayer in Mina some years of his caliphate. The Muslims discussed the matter with each other until Abdur Rahman bin Ouff came to Othman and said to him: "Didn't you offer two rak'as with the Prophet (s) here?" He said: "Yes, I did." Abdur Rahman said: "Didn't you offer two rak'as with Abu Bakr and Omar here?" He said: "Yes, I did." Abdur Rahman said: "Didn't you offer two rak'as when leading people in prayer here?" Othman said: "Yes, I did." Abdur Rahman said: "Then why did you change the Sunna?" Othman said: "I was informed that the nomads and rude people of Yemen said that the prayer of the resident was two rak'as." Abdur Rahman said to him: "Your fear is not justifiable. The Prophet (s) had offered two rak'as when Islam was still weak. Now Islam has spread everywhere, so you don't have to fear anything."

[20.](#) An-Nawawi mentioned this saying of Malik in his book Sharh Sahih Muslim when talking about the traveler's prayer.

[21.](#) The distance of eight farsakhs is about forty-four kilometers.

Temporary Marriage

[1. The way of this marriage](#)

The way of this marriage is that a free¹ adult Muslim or kitabi² woman accepts to marry herself to a Muslim man on condition that there is no any legal objection to this marriage according to Islam such as kinship (one's mother, grandmother or upward, sister, niece or niece's daughter, daughter, granddaughter or downward and aunt; father's sister or mother's sister), suckling milk (if both the man and the woman, who want to get married, have suckled milk from a same woman in their childhood), marriage (that the woman has another husband), iddah (a prescribed period, which a woman has to pass after her divorce or her husband's death before her remarriage) or any other legal prohibitions such as if the woman has been engaged by one of the man's sons or she was the man's wife's sister or other reasons.

Such a woman accepts to marry herself with a specified dower to a definite period according to a legal bond including all the conditions required to make the marriage valid. After agreement and consent, the woman says to the man: I marry myself to you with a dower of so and so and for a day, two days, a month, two months, a year or two years for example. She may mention a more specified period. The man says to her immediately: I accept. Agency is permitted in this bond for both of the man and the woman exactly as any other bond.

When the bond is concluded, the woman becomes the man's wife until the end of the period specified in the bond. As soon as the period ends, the wife separates from the husband without divorce. The

husband has the right to separate from the wife before the end of the period specified in the bond as a matter of granting the remained period to the wife and not a matter of divorce. The wife has, if the husband sleeps with her in the bed,³ to undergo iddah after the end of the temporary marriage. Her iddah is equal to a period of two menstruations if she still menstruates otherwise it will be forty-five days as the iddah of a bondmaid according to special conditions concerning the subject.

If the husband grants his wife the period of the temporary marriage or the period ends without sleeping with her, then she doesn't have to undergo the iddah just like the divorced wife of the ordinary (continuous) marriage if her husband hasn't slept with her.⁴

The iddah of the pregnant wife of temporary marriage lasts until she gives birth to her child like the iddah of the divorced wife of the ordinary marriage. The iddah of the wife, whose husbands dies before the period of the temporary marriage ends, is like the iddah of the wife, whose husband dies, in the continuous marriage.⁵

The child of the temporary marriage whether boy or girl is to be ascribed to the father as the other offspring of the continuous marriage. There is no difference between the child of the temporary marriage and that of the continuous marriage in the legal verdicts such as inheritance (**Allah enjoins you concerning your children: The male shall have the equal of the portion of two females** 4:11), the relationship with the sisters and brothers and their children, the uncles and aunts and their children (**and those who are akin are nearer one to another in the ordinance of Allah** 8:75) and all the other legal laws.

The very temporary marriage itself doesn't determine the obligation of inheritance between the spouses and the wife has no right of getting spending from her husband according to special laws concerning the subject.

This is the temporary marriage as it is and this is the point of the dispute between the Shia and the Sunni.

2. The consensus of the umma on the legality of the temporary marriage

All the Muslims agreed upon that Allah had legislated temporary marriage in Islam. No one of the Muslim scholars of the different sects doubted about this. In fact this was one of the necessities, which had been confirmed by the Prophet (s), and so no one of the ulema of the Prophet's umma would deny it. Whoever studied the jurisprudent of the different sects would find that they had agreed upon the legality of this marriage but they pretended that it was annulled. You shall see that soon inshallah.

3. The evidences of the Quran

It was sufficient for us as best evidence for legislating the temporary marriage that Allah had said:

(And those of whom ye seek content (by marrying them), give unto them their portions as a duty. 4:24)

The infallible imams of the Prophet's progeny agreed upon that this verse had been revealed about the temporary marriage.

Obayy bin Ka'b, ibn Abbas, Sa'eed bin Jubayr and as-Sadiy used to recite this verse in this way: ***(And those of whom ye seek content (by marrying them) until a specified period...)***.⁶ Imran bin Hussayn declared that this verse had been revealed about the temporary marriage and it had not been annulled but a man said according to his own thinking what he liked!⁷ Mujahid declared that this verse had been revealed about the temporary marriage.⁸

What confirmed this was that Allah had showed at the beginning of the sura the verdict of the continuous marriage by saying: (...***then marry such women as seem good to you, two and three and four.*** 4:3) until He said: ***(And give unto the women (whom ye marry) free gift of their marriage portions.*** 4:4). So if this verse ***(And those of whom ye seek content (by marrying them), give unto them their portions as a duty)*** concerned the continuous marriage too then there would be no use of repeating the same thing in the same sura but if it concerned the temporary marriage then it would talk about a new subject.

Those, who studied the Quran well, knew that the sura of an-Nissa' (4) had declared all kinds of the Islamic marriages. The continuous marriage and the marriage of mulk al-yameen⁹ were declared by this saying: (...***then marry such women as seem good to you, two and three and four; but if you fear that you will not do justice (between them), then (marry) only one or what your right hands possess***) and the marriage of the bondmaids was declared by this verse: ***(And whoever among you has not within his power ampleness of means to marry free believing women, then (he may marry) of those whom your right hands possess from among your believing maidens.*** 4:25) until Allah said: ***(so marry them with the permission of their masters, and give them their dowries justly.*** 4:25) whereas the temporary marriage was declared by this verse ***(And those of whom ye seek content (by marrying them), give unto them their portions as a duty).***

4. Temporary marriage in the Sunna

Many traditions were narrated by the infallible imams confirming the legality of the temporary marriage.

Al-Bukhari and Muslim mentioned many traditions about the temporary marriage narrated by Salama bin al-Akwa', Jabir bin Abdullah, Abdullah bin Mass'ood, ibn Abbas, Abu Tharr al-Ghifari, Imran bin

Hussayn, al-Akwa' bin Abdullah al-Aslami and Sabra bin Ma'bad. Ahmad bin Hanbal mentioned all these traditions in his Musnad besides traditions narrated by Omar and his son Abdullah.

Muslim mentioned in his *Sahih* vol.1 chap. of marriage, a tradition narrated by Jabir bin Abdullah and Salama bin al-Akwa'. They said: "The caller of the Prophet (s) came to us and said: The Prophet (s) permitted you to enjoy yourselves. He meant temporary marriage." The traditions concerning this subject are much more than to be quoted in this short chapter.

5. Those who said it was annulled and their excuses about that

The scholars and the people of the four Sunni sects said that temporary marriage had been annulled and prohibited justifying that according to traditions mentioned in al-Bukhari and Muslim's *Sahih*s.

We examined those traditions and found that they had many contradictions that we couldn't trust in them. Some traditions showed that the annulment was determined on the day of Khaybar (during the battle of Khaybar). Some of them showed that it was on the day of al-Fat~h (the conquest of Mecca). Some showed it was during the battle of Tabook. Some showed it was during Hijjatul Wada' (the last or farewell pilgrimage of the Prophet (s)). Some said it was during the in lieu-minor hajj and some said it was in the year (of the battle) of Awtas.

These traditions contradicted other true traditions mentioned by al-Bukhari and Muslim showing that there was no annulment. You will see these traditions soon inshallah.

In fact annulling and prohibiting temporary marriage was determined by the second caliph Omar after an event committed by Amr bin Hurayth and before that the companions often practiced temporary marriage during the reign of Abu Bakr and Omar before this event as they did during the age of the Prophet (s).

The true traditions narrated by Imran bin Hussayn, Abdullah bin Mass'ood, Abdullah bin Omar, Abdullah bin Abbas and Imam Ali showed that prohibiting temporary marriage had not been legislated by Allah or His messenger but it was determined by Omar. It was impossible that there was annulment legislated by Allah or His messenger but it was ignored by these great persons, who had high position in knowledge and faith, who had high position near the Prophet (s) and who kept to the Prophet (s) often and always. If there was annulment, some of those, who knew about it, would inform these persons of it but since no one objected to them when they ascribed this annulment to Omar hence we knew that the annulment was determined neither by Allah nor by His messenger (s).

Omar himself didn't pretend that the annulment was legislated by Allah or His messenger. He, when talking about prohibiting temporary marriage, clearly ascribed this prohibition to himself. If it was determined by Allah or by the Prophet (s), Omar would ascribe it to Allah or to the Prophet (s) and this would be more effective.

I thought that those, who came late after the time of the companions, had fabricated the traditions talking

about the annulment just to justify the situation of Omar when he interpreted the evidences according to his own thinking and then prohibited temporary marriage and threatened to punish whoever would practice it. Omar said: “Two pleasures were practiced at the time of the Prophet (s) but I prohibit them and punish for them; pleasure of hajj and pleasure of women (temporary marriage).”

It was odd that some of the successors had pretended that temporary marriage had been annulled by this Quranic verse (***And who guard their private parts except before their spouses or those whom their right hands possess.*** 23:5–6) pretending that the wife of temporary marriage was not to be considered as a wife or a possession of right hand (bondmaid). As for that she was not to be considered as possession of right hand, it was right but as for their pretense that she was not to be considered as wife, they thought that because she had no right of getting spending, inheritance or a specified night (if the husband had more than one wife).

The answer: the wife in the temporary marriage is a legal wife according to a legal bond of marriage. That she has no right of getting spending, inheritance or specified nights is because of special evidences concerning the laws of marriages as we have explained previously.

This verse was revealed in Mecca before the hijra according to the consensus of the umma; then how could it annul temporary marriage, which was legislated in Medina some years after the hijra?

What was odder of those, who said that this verse (***And who guard their private parts except before their spouses or those whom their right hands possess***) had annulled temporary marriage, that when we said to them: this verse might be revealed to annul the marriage of the bondmaids, who were possessed by other than the husbands and who were not considered as wives or possession of right hand. Then they said: this verse was revealed in Mecca whereas marrying bondmaids was legislated in Medina by this verse of sura of an-Nisa’:

(And whoever among you has not within his power amplex of means to marry free believing women, then (he may marry) of those whom your right hands possess from among your believing maidens. 4:25)

and the verses revealed in Mecca would never annul the verses revealed in Medina because what was revealed in Mecca preceded what was revealed in Medina. They said so and forgot that temporary marriage had been legislated in Medina by the verse of sura of an-Nissa’ too. We were afflicted of ignorant people but ***surely we are Allah’s and to Him we shall surely return.***

6. True traditions betraying the caliph

Muslim mentioned in his *Sahih* [10](#) a tradition that Abu Nadhra said: “Ibn Abbas used to order to practice temporary marriage but ibn az-Zubayr used to prohibit it. This was mentioned to Jabir. He said: Before me the tradition occurred. We used to practice temporary marriage at the time of the Prophet (s) but

when Omar became the caliph, he said: Allah permitted His messenger to do whatever he liked.^{[11](#)} Henceforth complete the hajj and the minor hajj and stop temporary marriage! If anyone is brought to me accused of practicing temporary marriage, I will stone him until he dies.”

Ahmad bin Hanbal mentioned in his Musnad^{[12](#)} that Abu Nadhra had said: “I said to Jabir that ibn az-Zubayr forbade from practicing temporary marriage while ibn Abbas permitted it. He said to me: Before me the tradition occurred. We used to practice temporary marriage during the time of the Prophet (s) and Abu Bakr, but when Omar became the caliph, he did a speech to the people saying: The Quran is the Quran and the messenger of Allah is the messenger of Allah. Two pleasures were at the time of the Prophet (s); one was the pleasure of hajj and the other was the pleasure of women (temporary marriage).”^{[13](#)}

This showed clearly that it was Omar, who had prohibited these two pleasures when he became the caliph.

Muslim mentioned in his *Sahih*^{[14](#)} that Ata’ had said: “Once Jabir bin Abdullah came to perform the minor hajj. We came to him in his house. The people asked him about some things and then asked him about temporary marriage. He said: Yes, we used to practice temporary marriage at the time of the Prophet (s), Abu Bakr and Omar.”^{[15](#)}

Muslim mentioned in his *Sahih* that Abuz Zubayr had said: “I heard Jabir bin Abdullah saying: We used to practice temporary marriage^{[16](#)} for a handful of dates or flour (as dower) at the days of the Prophet (s) and Abu Bakr until Omar prohibited it after the case of Amr bin Hurayth.”

In the same chapter of Muslim’s *Sahih* it was mentioned that Abu Nadhra had said: “I was with Jabir when someone came to him and said: Ibn Abbas and ibn az-Zubayr disagreed about temporary marriage. Jabir said: We used to practice it at the time of the Prophet (s) but later on Omar forbade us from doing it.”

Omar often said from above the Minbar: “Two pleasures were practiced at the time of the Prophet (s) but I prohibit them and punish for them; the pleasure of hajj and the pleasure of women (temporary marriage).”^{[17](#)}

Al-Qawshaji, the imam of the Ash’arites, said at the end of his research about imamate in his book *Sharh at-Tajreed*: “Omar said from above the minbar: Three things were practiced at the time of the Prophet (s) but I prohibit them and punish for them; temporary marriage, pleasure of hajj and “hayya ala khayril amal”.^{[18](#)}

Some people justified his doing by saying that it was his ijtiḥad^{[19](#)} after interpreting the evidences. The news talking about this thing were too many to be mentioned in this chapter.”

During the reign of Omar, Rabee’a bin Umayya bin Khalaf ath-Thaqafi practiced temporary marriage.

Malik mentioned in his Muwatta' chap. temporary marriage, that Orwa bin az-Zubayr had said: "Khawla bint Hakeem as-Salamiyya came to Omar and said to him: "Rabee'a bin Umayya got married to a woman in temporary marriage and the woman became pregnant from him." Omar came out drawing his garment after him and said: "It is the temporary marriage! If I had prohibited it since time ago, I would have stoned!" He meant that if he had prohibited temporary marriage since before, he would have stoned Rabee'a and the woman, with whom he had got married.²⁰ This speech showed clearly that prohibiting temporary marriage was his decision and not of any one else.

7. The deniers of Omar's decision

Imam Ali (s) denied that as it was mentioned by ath-Tha'labi and at-Tabari when interpreting the Quranic verse of temporary marriage in their *Tafseers*. They mentioned that Imam Ali (s) had said: "If Omar hadn't prohibited temporary marriage, no one would have committed adultery except a very few people."

Ibn Abbas denied that by saying: "Temporary marriage was a mercy that Allah had granted to the umma of Muhammad and unless he (Omar) prohibited it, no one would need to commit adultery except a very few people."

Ibn Abbas often declared openly that temporary marriage was permissible and he had many arguments with ibn az-Zubayr about it even when ibn az-Zubayr became the emir.²¹

Jabir denied that too as you already saw his saying previously.

Abdullah (Omar's son) denied his father's decision as it was mentioned by Imam Ahmad bin Hanbal in his Musnad.²² Abdullah bin Omar said when he had been asked about temporary marriage: "By Allah, we weren't considered as adulterers at the time of the Prophet (s)." Then he said: "I had heard the Prophet (s) saying: Before the Day of Resurrection there will be the antichrist and thirty or more of liars."

Once again he had been asked about temporary marriage and he said as it was mentioned by at-Tarmithi in his *Sahih*: "It is permissible." It was said to him: "Your father has prohibited it." He said: "If my father prohibited it whereas the Prophet (s) used to practice it, would we then give up the Prophet's Sunna and follow my father's saying?"

Abdullah bin Mass'ood denied Omar's decision as it was mentioned by Muslim and al-Bukhari in their *Sahih*s. Al-Bukhari mentioned in his *Sahih*²³ that Abdullah bin Mass'ood had said: "We fought with the Prophet (s) and we had nothing with us.²⁴ We Said: Don't we castrate ourselves? The Prophet (s) did forbid us from that and permitted us to practice temporary marriage then he recited to us: (***O you who believe! do not forbid (yourselves) the good things which Allah has made lawful for you and do not exceed the limits; surely Allah does not love those who exceed the limits*** 5:87). The interpreters said that this verse had denied strictly prohibiting temporary marriage.

Imran bin Hussayn denied Omar's decision. Ar-Razi said in his *Tafseer* that Imran had said: "Allah had revealed a verse about temporary marriage and He hadn't annulled it by any other verse. The Prophet (s) had ordered us to practice temporary marriage then a man decided according to his own thought what he liked." Ar-Razi said: "He meant Omar."

Al-Bukhari mentioned in his *Sahih* that Imran bin Hussayn had said: "The verse of temporary marriage had been revealed and we began to practice it at the time of the Prophet (s). No any other verse had been revealed to annul the first one and it was not prohibited by the Prophet (s) but when the Prophet (s) went to the better world, a man decided according to his own thinking what he liked."

Ahmad mentioned in his Musnad a tradition narrated by Abu Raja' that Imran bin Hussayn had said: "The verse of temporary marriage had been revealed and we practiced it at the time of the Prophet (s). No other verse had been revealed to annul it and the Prophet (s) hadn't prohibited it until he went to the better world."

Al-Ma'moon²⁵ ordered during his caliphate to announce the permissibility of temporary marriage. Muhammad bin Mansoor and Abul Ayna' came to him and found him brushing his teeth and repeating angrily: "Two pleasures were practiced at the time of the Prophet (s) and the time of Abu Bakr but I prohibit them!"²⁶ Then he said: "And who are you, o you scarab, to prohibit what the Prophet (s) and Abu Bakr used to practice!" Muhammad bin Mansoor wanted to talk with al-Ma'moon but Abul Ayna' made a sign to him and said to him: "A man saying about Omar so and so, how could we talk to him?" They didn't talk to him.

Yahya bin Aktham came in and became alone with al-Ma'moon. He warned him of sedition to be occurred and said to him that the people would think that he changed in Islam a great change and this would excite the public and the upper class against him because there would be no difference for them between announcing temporary marriage and announcing adultery. He still warned him until he made him give up for fear of the loss of his rule and life.

From among those, who denied prohibiting temporary marriage and who permitted and practiced it, was Abdul Melik bin Abdul Aziz bin Jurayj Abu Khalid al-Mekki, who died in 149 A.H. He was one of the famous scholars among the companions' successors. Ibn Khillikan mentioned his biography in his book *Wafiyyatul A'yan* and ibn Sa'd in his *Tabaqat* (Vol.5 p.361). The authors of *Sihah* depended upon his traditions. Ibn al-Qaysarani detailed his biography in his book *al-Jam' Bayna Rijal as-Sahihayn* p.314. Ath-Thahabi talked about him in his *Mizan* and mentioned that he had got married to about ninety women in temporary marriage and that he thought that temporary marriage was permissible. Ath-Thahabi said about him that he was the best jurisprudent among the people of Mecca at his time.

8. The Shia's thought about temporary marriage

The Shia agreed unanimously, according to their twelve imams, upon the permissibility of temporary

marriage. It sufficed the Shia as evidence that all the Muslims had agreed unanimously upon that Allah had legislated temporary marriage in His religion, the Prophet's caller had announced among people of its permissibility and that it had never been proved that Allah or His messenger had annulled it until the revelation stopped when Allah had chosen for His messenger to be near Him in the better world.

According to our (the Shia's) traditions narrated by our infallible imams (s) it was definitely proved that temporary marriage had never been annulled. Refer to Wassa'il ash-Shia ila Ahkam ash-Sharia.

In the Sunni books there were many traditions showing clearly that temporary marriage was still permissible during the reign of Abu Bakr and during a part of Omar's reign until he decided to prohibit it after the case of Amr bin Hurayth. What we mentioned about this subject in this short chapter was enough to show the truth.

Most surely there is a reminder in this for him who has a heart or he gives ear and is a witness.

50:37.

- [1.](#) Not slave.
- [2.](#) Kitabi means a Jew or a Christian.
- [3.](#) If she doesn't undergo menopause yet.
- [4.](#) And there is no iddah for the woman undergoing menopause.
- [5.](#) Whether she is slept with or not, whether undergoes menopause or not, whether pregnant or not. The iddah of the pregnant wife when her husband dies in both kinds of marriage is the longest of the two periods; either by giving birth to her child or after passing four months and ten days since the death of the husband.
- [6.](#) Many historians mentioned this in their books such as Imam At-Tabari in his Tafseer, vol.5 when talking about this verse, az-Zamakhshari in his Kashashaf, an-Nawawi in his book Sharh Sahih Muslim and ar-Razi in his Tafseer vol.3 p.201.
- [7.](#) You will see this man's saying soon inshallah.
- [8.](#) Refer to at-Tabari's Tafseer vol.5 p.9.
- [9.](#) Mulk al-yameen; the bondmaids that one had.
- [10.](#) Vol. 1 p.467.
- [11.](#) Would that I knew or anyone knew if there was any justification out of this word that might lead to prohibiting temporary marriage! Did Omar think that temporary marriage concerned the Prophet (s) only? I didn't think so!
- [12.](#) Vol. 1 p.52.
- [13.](#) He said that they were at the time of the Prophet (s) but only Omar himself knew why he had prohibited them!
- [14.](#) Vol. 1 p.535.
- [15.](#) Just at the first years of the caliphate of Omar because later on he prohibited it.
- [16.](#) His saying "we used to practice temporary marriage" showed that the companions used to do that and the Prophet (s), Abu Bakr and Omar, before he prohibited it, knew about it.
- [17.](#) It became clear that prohibiting temporary marriage was determined by Omar and neither by Allah nor by His messenger (s). Refer to ar-Razi's Tafseer when talking about the verse of temporary marriage.
- [18.](#) Hayya ala khayril amal is a part of the azan. It means: come to the best of doings!
- [19.](#) Ijtihad is examining the legal evidences in order to get a religious verdict.
- [20.](#) Mentioned by az-Zarqani in Sharh Muwatta' Malik.
- [21.](#) Refer to Sharh Nahjol Balagha, vol.4 p.489.
- [22.](#) vol.2 p.95.
- [23.](#) The second or third page in chap. of marriage.
- [24.](#) He meant that their wives were not with them.
- [25.](#) He was one of the Abbasid caliphs.

[26](#). This was the saying of Omar.

Wiping The Feet Or Washing Them In Wudu'

The Muslim scholars disagreed upon the kind of ablution of the feet from among the parts included in wudu'. The Sunni jurisprudents, including the four imams, [1](#) determined that washing the feet in wudu' was obligatory. Dawood bin Ali and an-Nassir lil-Haqq, who were from among the imams of the Zaydites, said it was obligatory to perform both of washing and wiping the feet. [2](#) Some of them might say that it was optional to choose between washing and wiping. [3](#) The Shia, according to their pure imams, thought that wiping the feet was prescribed by the holy Quran. [4](#)

The evidence of the Shia

The evidence of the Shia for this matter was the Quranic verse

(O you who believe! when you rise up to prayer, wash your faces and your hands as far as the elbows and wipe your heads and your feet to the (two) ankles. 5:6)

Imam ar-Razi sufficed us in showing the point of the argument in this verse when he declared: "The evidence of those, who thought that wiping the feet was obligatory, was based upon the two kinds of reciting the phrase (***and your feet***) mentioned in the verse of wudu'. Ibn Katheer, Hamza, Abu Amr an Aasim recited the phrase in genitive and Nafi', ibn Aamir and Aasim recited it in accusative. Reciting it in genitive determined that (***your feet***) was coupled to (***your heads***) and then as it was obligatory to wipe the head it would be obligatory to wipe the feet. As for reciting it in accusative, it also determined that it was obligatory to wipe the feet because the saying (***and wipe your heads***) made (***your heads***) as object and (***your feet***) was coupled to (***your heads***) so both of them were objects of the verb (***wipe***)"

This was his very saying. [5](#) But he said: "Many traditions were narrated about the obligation of washing the feet (in wudu'). Washing included wiping but wiping didn't. So washing was nearer in taking precaution and hence it had to be performed in wudu' as wajib. [6](#) Therefore it had to be determined that washing the feet would replace wiping them..."

You will see the thought of the infallible imams of the Prophet's progeny and their followers about the traditions talking about washing the feet soon inshallah.

As for his saying that washing included wiping, it was a clear fallacy because washing and wiping were two different acts literally, traditionally and legally. [7](#) It had to be determined then that washing wouldn't replace wiping but ar-Razi stopped between two precautions; either to contradict the Quranic verse or to contradict the traditions as he thought and so he contradicted himself when saying that washing included

wiping and that it was nearer in taking precaution. He thought by saying so that he would reconcile the verse with the traditions. Whoever pondered at the justification of ar-Razi would find that he was confused. Since the verse was clear in determining the obligation of wiping so he didn't need to put washing instead of wiping.

Some of the great jurists and linguists declared that the verse had showed the obligation of wiping the feet and not washing them. Among them was the jurist Sheikh Ibraheem al-Halabi in his book *Ghunyaat al-Mutamalli fee Sharh Munyat al-Musalli* according to the Hanafite school. He said: "The verse was recited (according to the rules of Arabic) by putting **"your feet"** either in accusative form or genitive form.

The most famous reciting was to put **"Your feet"** in accusative form by coupling it to **"your faces"** or in genitive form according to (neighboring). But the most correct form was to couple **"your feet"** to **"your heads"** because **"your feet"** wouldn't be coupled to **"your faces"** that the two phrases were separated by a different sentence (**and wipe your heads**). The rule in linguistics was not to separate between the two with a word so how about a full sentence."⁸

Among those, who followed this clear way in dealing with this verse, was Imam Abul Hasan Muhammad bin Abdul Hadi as-Sindi. He said: "Wiping the feet was declared by the verse because reciting the phrase in genitive form was clear according to the wording of the verse and reciting the phrase in accusative form would be not acceptable according to the linguists because the two coupled phrases were separated by a full sentence and so the apparent meaning of the verse showed wiping the feet."⁹ He also, like the others, tried to subject the Quran to the traditions that determined washing the feet.

Az-Zamakhshari philosophized in his *Kashshaf* when talking about this verse. He said: "The feet were among the (three) organs that were to be washed (in wudu') by pouring water over them. Perhaps it was considered as bad wasting, which was prohibited, so "the feet" were coupled to "the heads", which were to be wiped, not in order to be wiped but just to draw the attention to the necessity of economizing in pouring water over them. It was said **"to the ankles"** as an end of washing in order to clear the meaning for those, who thought that the feet were to be wiped, because no end was determined for wiping in the Sharia."

This philosophy of coupling "the feet" to "the heads" and in mentioning the end (limit) of washing the feet had nothing to do with deducing the legal verdicts out of the verse at all. The verse had nothing of that at all but it was his way in submitting the verse to his doctrine instead of deducing the legal verdicts out of the evidences the verse had. He was so odd in his affectation, which no one would listen to except who thought that washing the feet was irrefutable according to one's belief but as for it was the point of the dispute then no one would listen to because many of the Sunni had confessed that the verse declared the obligation of wiping the feet. The rules of Arabic determined that **"your feet"** was coupled to **"your heads"** which must be wiped according to the consensus, and this sufficed as clear evidence.

A look at the traditions of washing

The traditions talking about washing the feet were two kinds:

1. The traditions that didn't evidence washing like the tradition narrated by Abdullah bin Amr bin al-Aass and mentioned in al-Bukhari and Muslim's *Sahihs*. He said: "In one of our travels with the Prophet (s), the Prophet (s) retarded a little. Then he joined us when it was the time of Assr prayer. We began to wipe our feet (in wudu'). He said: Woe be to the heels from Hell!"^{[10](#)}

If this tradition was true, then wiping the feet would be the correct act of wudu' because the Prophet (s) didn't deny it but he confirmed it. He only denied the filthiness of the heels. Among the Muslims were ignorant bare-footed nomads, who often made water over their heels especially in travel, so he threatened them of Hell lest they offered prayer with those impure heels.

2. The traditions that referred to washing the feet in wudu' like the tradition narrated by Hamran the freed slave of Othman bin Affan. He said: "I saw Othman pouring water from his vessel over his hands and washed them three times and then he rinsed his mouth and his nose... then he washed each foot three times... then he said: I have seen the Prophet (s) doing wudu' like mine."^{[11](#)}

Another tradition of Abdullah bin Zayd bin Aasim al-Ansari when he was asked: "Would you do wudu' before us like the wudu' of the Prophet (s)?" He asked for a vessel of water. He poured some water over his hands...then he washed his feet to the ankles. Then he said: "The Prophet (s) did wudu' like this."^{[12](#)} There were other traditions having the same meaning.

We had some notes about these traditions as the following:

First: these traditions contradicted the holy Quran and the traditions of the infallible imams of the Prophet's progeny, who agreed upon the obligation of wiping the feet in wudu'. The Quran and the Prophet's progeny were the two weighty things the Prophet (s) had left for the umma. If the umma kept to them, it would never go astray. Hence every thing contradicted these two things would be brushed aside.

It sufficed as evidence for denying washing the feet in wudu' and refuting the traditions talking about it that the scholar of the umma and the vessel of the Quran and the Sunna, Abdullah bin Abbas often said: "Allah determined two washes and two wipes (in wudu'). Didn't you see that when He mentioned tayammum, He determined two wipes in stead of the two washes (of wudu') and cancelled the two wipes (of wudu')."^{[13](#)}

Abdullah bin Abbas often said: "Wudu' is two washes and two wipes."^{[14](#)}

When he was informed that ar-Rabee' bint Afra' al-Ansariyya pretended that the Prophet (s) performed wudu' at her house and washed his feet, he came to her asking her about that. When she told him of

that he said denyingly: “The people insisted on washing (the feet in wudu’) whereas I didn’t find in the Book of Allah save wiping.”¹⁵

Second: if these traditions were true, they would be recurrent and would be narrated by the all because knowing about the purity of the feet in wudu’ was a necessary need of the Muslims; men and women, frees and slaves, and it was a necessity needed every day and night. If it was else than the wiping mentioned in the Quranic verse, then it would be known by the Muslims, who lived at the time of the Prophet (s) and after that. It would be a certain thing among all the Muslim and it would spread in every country and at every age and there would be no way to deny it or to doubt about it. But since it was not so, the traditions appeared to be so weak and then to be brushed aside.

Third: the traditions talking about the kind of the purity of the feet contradicted each other. Some of them showed that it was to wash the feet in wudu’ like the traditions narrated by Hamran and ibn Aasim and some showed that it was to wipe the feet like the tradition mentioned by al-Bukhari in his *Sahih* and narrated by Ahmad, ibn Abu Shayba, ibn Abu Omar, al-Baghawi, at-Tabarani and al-Mawardi. All of them narrated the tradition from a trusted and reliable series of narrators.¹⁶ The tradition reached Abul Aswad from Abbad bin Tameem from his father, who said: “I saw the Prophet (s) performing wudu’ and wiping his feet.”

Also there was the tradition narrated by Zurara bin A’yun and Bukayr bin A’yun that Imam Baqir had imitated the Prophet’s wudu’ by wiping his head and his feet with the leftover water of his hands.

It was mentioned in Majma’ul Bayan that ibn Abbas had imitated the Prophet’s wudu’ and wiped his feet.

Since there was a contradiction between the traditions, so we had to depend upon the Book of Allah as our reference.

A look at their excuse of approval

The Sunni might justify washing the feet that they found it more suitable for the feet than wiping as that wiping the head was more suitable than washing it because the filthy feet often wouldn’t be purified unless they were washed unlike the head, which would often be purified by wiping.

They said that the reasonable interests could be reasons for performing the religious obligations until the Sharia noticed two meanings; one referred to interest and the other referred to worship. They meant by interest what referred to the perceptible things and by worship what referred to the purification of the soul.

We believe that Allah the Almighty has noticed His people in all what He has charged them with of the legal obligations. He hasn’t ordered them to do anything unless it is for their benefit and He hasn’t forbidden them from doing anything unless it causes corruption to them. In spite of that He hasn’t let the divine verdicts be decided according to the people’s thoughts whether they cause benefit or corruption.

He has ordered them to worship Him according to irrefutable evidences and He hasn't left to them any outlet to slip to other than His verdicts. The first of these evidences is the holy Quran. The Quran has determined wiping the heads and the feet in wudu' and it must be obeyed. As for the cleanness of the feet, it must be done before performing wudu' according to special conditions saying that the purity of the organs, which were to be washed or wiped in wudu', must be confirmed before performing wudu'.¹⁷ Washing the feet done by the Prophet (s) as it was mentioned in those traditions might be of this kind or it might be for cooling or it might be to exaggerate in cleanness after performing wudu'.

Note

Ibn Maja mentioned in his *Sunan* a tradition narrated by Abu Iss~haq that Abu Hayya had said: "I saw Ali perform wudu' and then he washed his feet to the ankles. He said: I wanted to show you how the Prophet (s) performed wudu'."

As-Sindi said: "This was a serious refutation against the Shia, who believed in wiping the feet, where Ali believed in washing the feet. Therefore the author mentioned it and began his chapter with it. He did well in mentioning this tradition in this concern. May Allah reward him good. The apparent meaning of the Quranic verse required to wipe the feet as it was narrated by ibn Abbas and so it must be interpreted to mean washing the feet."¹⁸

May Allah forgive him, ibn Maja and all the Sunni scholars. They knew well that this tradition was null in many ways:

First: Abu Hayya, the narrator of this tradition, was nobody and was one of the most obscure narrators. Ath-Thahabi mentioned him in his *Mizan* and said: "No one knew who he was." Then he mentioned that ibn al-Madeeni and Abul Waleed al-Fardhi had said: "He was unknown." He also said: "Abu Zar'a said: His name was never mentioned."¹⁹ Then ath-Thahabi said: "I researched more and more on Abu Hayya but I got nothing about him save ignorance and obscurity. This name might be fabricated by the one, who had fabricated the tradition. Allah is the most Aware!"

Second: this tradition was narrated from Abu Hayya by Abu Iss~haq only.²⁰ Abu Iss~haq became too old, dotard and often forgot; therefore the people brushed his traditions aside²¹ and no one narrated from him save Abul Ahwass and Zuhayr bin Mo'awiya al-Ju'fi,²² who were criticized by people for that.²³

There was no doubt that if a narrator became dotard, then all of his traditions narrated after his dotage would be null whether it was known that the traditions were narrated after the dotage like this tradition or it was unknown when they were narrated.

Third: this tradition contradicted the holy Quran and it contradicted the certain traditions of Imam Ali and his infallible sons (s) and then it must be brushed aside.

To the ankles

The ankle mentioned in the Quranic verse was the joint between the foot and the leg. Zurara bin A'yun and Bukayr bin A'yun asked Imam Baqir (s) about the ankles and he answered them so.^{[24](#)} So was mentioned by Sheikh as-Sadooq.^{[25](#)} The linguists said that every joint of bones was called “ka'b” ankle.

The Sunni scholars said that the two “ka'bs” ankles were the two protruding bones on the two sides of the leg. They justified that by saying that if the “ka'b” was the joint between the foot and the leg, then each leg would have one “ka'b” and so it should be said (and your legs to the “ka'bs” ankles)^{[26](#)} as each hand had one elbow so it was said (and your hands to the elbows).

I said: if it was mentioned in the verse (the two elbows), it would be right too without any confusion. Then the meaning would be (wash your faces and hands to the two elbows of each of you and wipe your heads and feet to the two ankles of each of you). The duality or plurality of the two words in the verse didn't affect the meaning and also the duality of one of them and the plurality of the other wouldn't affect the right meaning. Perhaps diversity in expression required that.

This would be if each leg had one ankle but if each leg had two ankles then there would be no way for their justification.

The anatomists confirmed that there was a round bone like the ankle of a cow or a sheep beneath the bone of the leg forming a joint between the leg and the foot. It was called ankle (ka'b) too.^{[27](#)} Hence wiping each foot ended to “ka'bayn” two ankles, which were the very joint and the round bone under it. In dualing the word “ankle” only without the word “elbow” in the verse there was a wonderful point referring to something that was not known except by the anatomists. Glory be to Allah, the Creator, the Aware, the Wise!

^{[1](#)}. Abu Haneefa, Malik, ash-Shafi'iy and Ahmad bin Hanbal; the imams of the four Sunni sects.

^{[2](#)}. Fakhruddeen ar-Razi talked about them in his Tafseer when explaining the verse of wudu'. He said that as if they became confused because of the contradiction between the verse and the traditions they depended upon; therefore they determined to perform both washing and wiping.

^{[3](#)}. Like al-Hasan al-Basri and Muhammad bin Jareer at-Tabari. Ar-Razi talked about them in his Tafseer and showed that they thought that both the Quran and the Sunna (the traditions they depended upon and thought they were true) must be followed and so they thought that both of washing and wiping were required, hence they said it was obligatory to choose one of them optionally.

^{[4](#)}. This was the belief of ibn Abbas, Anass bin Malik, Akrima, ash-Shi'bi and Imam Baqir as it was mentioned by ar-Razi in his Tafseer. This was not only the belief of Imam Baqir but also it was the belief of all our imams (s).

^{[5](#)}. At-Tafseer al-Kabeer vol.3 p.370.

^{[6](#)}. Precaution doesn't occur except by performing both of washing and wiping because they are two different acts.

^{[7](#)}. Washing means the pouring water over the object being washed even if it is a little whereas wiping doesn't mean pouring water but it is just to rub the wiped object by the hand.

^{[8](#)}. Refer to Ghunyatul Mutamalli p. 16.

^{[9](#)}. Refer to Sharh Sunan ibn Maja vol. 1 p.88. Those, who declared like what ar-Razi, al-Halabi and as-Sindi had declared, were many that we couldn't quote all the sayings about the subject. The sayings of these three imams (may Allah have

mercy upon them) were enough for us.

[10.](#) This phrase (woe be to the heels from Hell) was mentioned in the traditions narrated by Amr, Aa'isha and Abu Hurayra according to al-Bukhari and Muslim's Sahihs.

[11.](#) It was mentioned by al-Bukhari in his Sahih.

[12.](#) Mentioned by Muslim in his Sahih.

[13.](#) Kanzul Ommal vol.5 p. 103.

[14.](#) Ibid.

[15.](#) Mentioned by ibn Maja in his Sunan when talking about washing the feet and mentioned by others.

[16.](#) Ibn Hajar al-Asqalani said in his book al-Issaba, vol. 1 when mentioning the biography of Tameem bin Zayd that all of them were trusted and reliable. So was said by the authors of the books of Hadith when mentioning them.

[17.](#) Therefore you see the barefooted ones, the farmers and those, who don't care much for the purity of their feet during working, wash their feet when the time of prayer comes and wipe them, in wudu', after being dried.

[18.](#) He wanted to submit the holy Quran to his doctrine and not vice versa!

[19.](#) Abu Hayya was just a surname.

[20.](#) Mentioned by ath-Thahabi in his Mizan.

[21.](#) Refer to Mizanul I'tidal and other books of biographies when talking about Omar bin Abdullah as-Subay'iy, Abu Iss-haq's full name.

[22.](#) Mizanul I'tidal by ath-Thahabi when talking about Abu Hayya.

[23.](#) Imam Ahmad said: "Zuhayr bin Mo'awiya was reliable but there was weakness in what he narrated from Abu Iss-haq. Abu Zar'a said: "Zuhayr bin Mo'awiya was reliable but he narrated from Abu Iss-haq after he had become dotard. Ath-Thahabi said: "The weakness in Zuhayr's traditions was because of Abu Iss-haq and not of Zuhayr."

[24.](#) In a tradition mentioned by Sheikh at-Toosi that they asked Imam Baqir (s): "Where are the ankles?" He said : "Here are they." He meant the joints beneath the legs.

[25.](#) He said that Imam Baqir had imitated the wudu' of the Prophet (s) and then he wiped his head and the back of his feet to the joints of his legs.

[26.](#) It was mentioned in the verse "ka'bayn" that meant two "ka'bs" (two ankles) whereas with the hands it was said "marafiq" (more than two marfaqs-two elbows).

[27.](#) Muhammad bin al-Hasan ash-Shaybani and al-Asma'iy said that the "ka'b" mentioned in the verse was this bone, which was beneath the bone of the leg. Al-Asma'iy said: "The two protruding bones on both sides of the leg are called (manjamayn)." Ar-Razi thought that this was the belief of the Shia so he confuted them by saying that the round bone beneath the bone of the leg was hidden and not known except by the anatomists unlike the two protruding bones on both sides of the leg that they were apparent and the evidences of the general (religious) obligations must be apparent and not hidden. When ar-Razi saw the Shia wipe their feet to the ankles, he thought that they believe in what ash-Shaybani and al-Asma'iy had said and he didn't know that the "ka'b" according to the Shia was the very joint, which was known and perceptible by every one.

Wiping Over Slippers And Socks

The Muslim jurisprudents disagreed upon wiping over slippers and socks so widely that we couldn't discuss all the details in this short chapter. Generally the research concerned its permissibility or impermissibility, specifying its position, time, conditions and contradictions.

As for its permissibility, there were three sayings:

First: it was permissible at all whether in travel or residence.

Second: it was permissible only in travel and not in residence.

Third: it was impermissible at all because it had not been confirmed by the laws of the religion.

These three sayings were narrated from the first age (of Islam) and from Malik.[1](#)

As for specifying its position (on the feet), it was disagreed upon it. Some said that what was obligatory was wiping the upper side of the slipper and that wiping its lower side was mustahab.[2](#) Some said it was obligatory to wipe the upper side and the lower side of the slipper.[3](#) Some said it was obligatory to wipe the upper side only and wiping the lower side was neither obligatory nor mustahab.[4](#) Some might say that it was optional to choose between wiping the upper side and the lower side. Which of them was wiped would be obligatory.[5](#)

As for the position of wiping, those who believed in wiping over the slippers disagreed upon wiping over the socks; some permitted it and others prohibited it.[6](#)

As for the kind of the slipper, they disagreed upon wiping over the torn slipper; some said it was permissible as long as it was called a slipper even if it was so badly torn;[7](#) some prohibited it if there was a tear in the front of the slipper that something of the foot might appear even if it was so little[8](#) and some permitted it if the tear was small.[9](#)

As for the time of wiping, they disagreed upon it too. Some said it was not timed and that the wearer of the slippers could wipe over them as long as he didn't take them off or he didn't become impure.[10](#) Some said it was timed with a certain time for the resident and another time for the traveler.[11](#) They disagreed upon the kind of travel and its distance.

As for the conditions of wiping over the slippers; the feet must be pure (by wudu') when wearing the slippers. Most of them decided this condition but it was mentioned that Malik had considered it as not necessary.[12](#) They disagreed in this concern about one, who washed his feet and put on his slippers and then completed his wudu' that if he would be satisfied with washing his feet or he had to wipe over the slippers. There were two different sayings.[13](#)

Among the contradictions of wiping over the slippers was taking off the slippers. Some said that one would remain pure if he took his slippers off until he committed something invalidating his wudu' and he didn't have to wash his feet.[14](#) Some said that one's purity would be invalidated as soon as he took his slippers off.[15](#) Others said that one would remain pure if he washed his feet after taking off the slippers but if he offered the prayer without washing his feet he would have to offer the prayer again after washing his feet[16](#) besides other different sayings and beliefs concerning wiping over the slipper, which we didn't want to detail them in this chapter.

The Shia believed, according to their infallible imams (s), that wiping over the slippers was impermissible

whether in travel or in residence. Our evidence for that was the saying of Allah the Almighty: (...**and wipe your heads and your feet to the (two) ankles**). Allah had ordered to wipe the feet themselves so who had decided to wipe over the slippers? Was this Quranic verse annulled? Was it allegorical? Certainly not! It was one of the decisive verses of the Quran according to the consensus of the umma. The interpreters agreed upon that no verse of sura of al-Ma'ida, which included this verse of wudu', was annulled except one verse (**O you who believe! do not violate the signs appointed by Allah...**)[17](#) 5:2.

The traditions talking about wiping over the slippers were not evidenced by the Shia according to the conditions determining the rightfulness of traditions besides other things that showed the weakness of those traditions:

First: those traditions contradicted the Quran and the true traditions of the Prophet (s). The Prophet (s) said: "If someone narrates a tradition to you pretending that I have said it, you are to compare it to the Quran. If it complies with the Quran, then you are to accept it but if not then you are to deny it."[18](#)

Second: those traditions contradicted themselves and contradicted each other; therefore much disagreement happened between those, who acted according to them and tried to justify them in a way or another. Their sayings were contradictory because the traditions themselves were contradictory.[19](#)

Third: the infallible imams (Ali and his progeny) agreed upon the impermissibility of wiping over any obstacle (other than the bare foot) whether it was slippers, socks, shoes or anything else.[20](#) The traditions narrated by them contradicted clearly that ones narrated by the Sunni that permitted wiping over slippers.

The basic rule in dealing with the contradictory traditions was to depend upon what complied with the holy Quran. This would be if the traditions were equal in the reliability of the series of the narrators and the subject of the traditions. But would anyone be equal to the Prophet's progeny; the infallible imams, who were as equal as the Quran?

Fourth: if those traditions were true, they were recurrent in every age and in every country because knowing the purity of the feet in wudu'—as we said before—was necessary for all the men and the women of the umma. It was necessary in every day and every night whether in residence or travel. If it was other than the wiping mentioned in the Quranic verse, it would be known by the Muslims at the age of the Prophet (s) and after that and it would be famous among all the Muslims throughout the ages especially when it was abnormal and odd! But as it was not so, the weakness of those traditions appeared clearly and made them be brushed aside.

Fifth: if it was supposed that those traditions were true, then they would be annulled by the sura of al-Ma'ida because it was the last sura of the Quran that nothing was revealed after it, with which Allah (had perfected the religion, completed the favor and chosen Islam as a religion) so its obligations were obligatory until the Day of Resurrection and its haram was haram until the Day of Resurrection as Aa'isha had said to Jubayr bin Nufayr, who had visited her after performing hajj: "O Jubayr, did you

recite al-Ma'ida?" He said: "Yes, I did." She said: "It was the last sura of the Quran that was revealed. Whatever permissible thing it has (it orders to be followed), you are to do it and whatever impermissible thing it has (it forbids from) you are to avoid it."[21](#)

In spite of that the Sunni clung to the act of wiping over the slippers even after the revelation of al-Ma'ida. They depended upon a tradition narrated by Jareer. Once he made water and then he performed wudu' and wiped over his slippers. He was asked: "Why did you do so?" he said: "I saw the Prophet (s) do so. He made water and then he performed wudu' and wiped over his slippers."

Muslim mentioned this tradition and said that it was admired by them and he justified that by saying that Jareer became a Muslim after the revelation of al-Ma'ida.[22](#)

Jareer became a Muslim before the revelation of al-Ma'ida because he was present with the Prophet (s) during the last (farewell) hajj of the Prophet (s). He was ordered, at that day, to ask the people to be silent—as it was mentioned in *al-Issaba*.

So definitely he became a Muslim before that hajj and definitely al-Ma'ida was not revealed before that hajj.[23](#)

At-Tabarani mentioned a tradition that Jareer had said: "The Prophet (s) said: Your brother an-Najashi died..." The death of an-Najashi was before the revelation of al-Ma'ida. There was no doubt that he had died before the tenth year of hijra.

Al-Qastalani had another odd saying about wiping over the slippers. He said: "Wiping was not annulled because the tradition narrated by al-Mugheera showed clearly that the Prophet (s) had wiped over his slippers during the battle of Tabook, which was the last battle of the Prophet (s), and al-Ma'ida was revealed during the battle of al-Muraysee'..."

The battle of al-Muraysee' was the battle of bani al-Mustalaq itself. It was in the fifth—and it was said in the fourth or in the sixth—[24](#) year of hijra. After this battle many suras were revealed besides al-Ma'ida. What was revealed during this battle was the verse of tayammum, which was a part of sura of an-Nisa':

(...and if you are sick, or on a journey, or one of you come from the privy or you have touched the women, and you cannot find water, betake yourselves to pure earth, then wipe your faces and your hands; surely Allah is Pardoning, Forgiving) 4:43.

The true saying about that was narrated by Aa'isha and mentioned by al-Wahidy in his book *Asbab an-Nuzool*. Refer to it to be sure that al-Qastalani was confused between the verse of wudu' and the verse of tayammum.

In fact al-Mugheera and Jareer were among those, whom we couldn't trust or rely upon. Soon you shall see the history of al-Mugheera that makes us not trust in him.

Jareer had a situation towards Imam Ali that made us not trust in him too.

Sixth: Aa'isha, the Prophet's wife, who was so clever and aware of the Sunna and who lived in the house, where the Quran was revealed, denied wiping over the slippers very strongly. Ibn Abbas, who was the scholar of the umma and the vessel of the Book and the Sunna, also denied wiping over the slippers so insistingly. They both denied this matter to a degree that Aa'isha said: "To cut my feet is much more desirable to me than to wipe over the slippers" and ibn Abbas said: "To wipe over a donkey's skin is much more desirable to me than to wipe over the slippers."[25](#)

Would this kind of denying comply with those traditions?

Certainly not! If these sayings were said by these persons, who lived with the revelation of the Quran and knew every corner of it, then would we brush them aside to rely upon sayings said by persons coming centuries after the revelation of the Quran?

Whoever pondered impartially on the denying of the Prophet's wife, the Prophet's cousin and the Prophet's pure progeny, definitely would suspect those false traditions.

Then you would know well that saying that those traditions were recurrent was just a lie. Were they so recurrent whereas those close persons to the Prophet (s) ignored them or pretended to ignore them? Glory be to Allah! This was but a great fabrication!

In fact if those traditions were recurrent, they wouldn't be denied by Abdullah bin Omar,[26](#) Imam Malik[27](#) and many other Muslims.

He, who said: "I am afraid that whoever doesn't believe in wiping over the slippers will be unbeliever"[28](#) had done wrong so badly.

It was mentioned that wiping over the slipper was neither of the bases of the religion nor of the necessities of its branches nor was determined by the Quran or the Sunna nor was agreed upon by the consensus of the umma. It was just a concession among a group of the Muslims away from the others. Would it be a sin if a Muslim gave it up in order to be according to the clear Quranic verse of wudu', which all the Muslims agreed unanimously upon the validity of acting according to the verdicts mentioned in? They agreed upon that unanimously unlike wiping over the slipper, which was a point of dispute and disagreement among the Muslims and which would never lead to remove any impurity from the feet and so the validity of the prayer would be uncertain.

Then would he, who followed the orders of the Quran and performed his obligations with precaution, be considered as unbeliever? O you Muslims! What would you say about Aa'isha, Ali, ibn Abbas and the rest of the Prophet's progeny, who denied wiping over the slippers?

Wiping over the turban

The Shia ulema thought that wiping over the turban was impermissible. This was the belief of ash-Shafi'iy, Abu Haneefa and Malik.

Imam Ahmad bin Hanbal, Abu Thour, al-Qassim bin Salam, al-Awza'iy and ath-Thawri²⁹ contradicted that and said that it was permissible according to their analogy in applying wiping over the slippers to the turban and depending upon a tradition narrated by al-Mugheera bin Shu'ba that the Prophet (s) had wiped over his forelock and over his turban. In some ways of his tradition he said that the Prophet (s) had wiped over the turban and he didn't mention the forelock.

The Quran sufficed us when saying: (... **and wipe your heads...**) and the Sunna proved that the Prophet (s) used to wipe his forelock and this was confirmed unanimously and didn't need any explanation.

Their excuse by applying analogy to the divine verdicts was not acceptable because the religion of Allah was not to be taken by analogy.

Wiping over the slippers was denied as you already knew. The tradition of al-Mugheera was null even if it was mentioned by Muslim in his *Sahih*. Abu Omar bin Abdul Birr said about this tradition: "It is a suspicious tradition."³⁰ Perhaps Abu Haneefa, ash-Shafi'iy and Malik didn't care for this tradition because it was suspicious for them too.

Al-Mugheera had a biography full of cunning, deception, changeableness, trickery, immersing in sins, plunging into lusts and exceeding in perfidy. He exceeded all the limits in supporting the enemies of the Prophet's progeny and in opposing the loyal believers.

He became a Muslim in order to spare his blood from bani³¹ Malik. Once he went with some notable men of bani Malik to visit al-Muqawqas in Alexandria. The people of bani Malik won the prize of the king but al-Mugheera didn't. Greediness led him to betray them. He invited them to drink while they entrusted in his companionship. He made them drink until they became drunken. Then he killed them one after the other and seized their monies.

Since he couldn't find any shelter to resort to in order to be safe from being revenged on except to join Islam, he went to the Prophet (s) in Medina and said the shahada. The Prophet (s) accepted his shahada as he used to do with everyone saying the shahada. When al-Mugheera offered to give the monies to the Prophet (s), the Prophet (s) with his holy soul disdained to accept them because they were seized by betraying.³² In this way al-Mugheera became a Muslim.

Abu Bakra, who was one of the great prophet's companions, and his companions witnessed that al-Mugheera had committed adultery, which would have led him to be punished by being stoned until death according to the Islamic laws. This was very famous case among the events of the year seventeen

A.H.³³ O you people! How could we then deny the holy Quran and depend upon a tradition narrated by such a man?!!

Does wiping the head have a limit?

The Shia ulema thought that there was no limit in wiping the head whether for the wiping organ (the hand) or for the wiped organ (the head). It was enough for the Shia to wipe the least part of the head as possible.³⁴ This was the belief of ash-Shafi'iy too. Imam Malik, Imam Ahmad and others thought that it was obligatory to wipe all the head. Abu Haneefa thought that it was obligatory to wipe a quarter of the head with three fingers and less than that would not suffice.

Our evidence (the Shia's evidence) was the Quranic verse (... **and wipe your heads...**).³⁵ The real meaning of the verse referred to the general wiping of the head. Since wiping the head was achieved by wiping all the head or a quarter of it, also it would be achieved by wiping less than that even by passing one finger or a part of a finger over a part of the head. There was no any evidence confirming what they said in this concern. If Allah wanted all the head to be wiped, he would say: (wipe your heads—without using the preposition) as He had said: (wash your faces) and if the required thing to be wiped was certain, Allah would specify it with some kind of definition as He had said when talking about washing the hands (... *and wash... your hands to the elbows*) and when talking about the feet He said: (... *to the ankles*).

- ¹. Refer to Bidayatul Mujtahid and Nihayatul Muqtasid by ibn Rushd, vol.1 p.14.
- ². This was the belief of ash-Shafi'iy.
- ³. This was the belief of ibn Nafi'.
- ⁴. This was the belief of Abu Haneefa, Dawood, Sufyan and many others.
- ⁵. This was the belief of Ashhab.
- ⁶. Sufyan ath-Thawri, Abu Yousuf and Muhammad bin al-Hasan ash-Shaybani permitted it whereas Abu Haneefa, ash-Shafi'iy and others prohibited it.
- ⁷. It was mentioned that Sufyan had said so.
- ⁸. This was one of two sayings of ash-Shafi'iy about the subject.
- ⁹. It was mentioned that this was the belief of Malik and his companions. Abu Haneefa specified the tear by being less than an area of three fingers gathered together.
- ¹⁰. This was said by Malik.
- ¹¹. This was the belief of Abu Haneefa and ash-Shafi'iy.
- ¹². Mentioned by ibn Lubana in his Muntakhab.
- ¹³. Abu Haneefa said it was sufficient but ash-Shafi'iy said it was not.
- ¹⁴. Dawood and ibn Layla thought so.
- ¹⁵. This was the belief of al-Hasan bin Hay.
- ¹⁶. Ash-Shafi'iy said so. Each one of these three sayings was adopted by a group of the successors.
- ¹⁷. Refer to at-Tafseer al-Kabeer by al-Fakhr ar-Razi, vol.3 p.371.
- ¹⁸. Ar-Razi's Tafseer vol.3 p.371.
- ¹⁹. Ibn Rushd in his book al-Bidayah wen-Nihaya, vol.1 p.15 acknowledged this contradiction concerning the position of wiping over the slippers. In p.16 he mentioned their disagreement about the time of wiping. He said: "The reason behind their disagreement was because the traditions were different in talking about the subject. Three different traditions were narrated in this concern." He mentioned the three traditions; one of them showed that the time was three days and three

nights for the traveler and one day and one night for the resident. The second showed that it was permissible to wipe over the slipper according to one's option without timing whether in residence or in travel whereas the third one contradicted the two previous sayings. Refer to (Jurisprudence according to the four sects) established by the ministry of religious affairs in Egypt by the order of King Fu'ad the first to see full details about the subject.

[20.](#) Many scholars mentioned the identical belief of all of the infallible imams (s). Refer to al-Burhan al-Qati' by Sayyid Ali at-Tabataba'iy. All the Shia looked forward to be near to Allah by worshipping Him according to the doctrine of the pure imams of the Prophet's progeny since their days until now because they were the best ones, who knew well the real religious verdicts and the true Islamic jurisprudence.

[21.](#) Al-Hakim's Mustadrak, vol.2 p.314.

[22.](#) An-Nawawi said when commenting on this saying: "Allah said in al-Ma'ida: (wash your faces and your hands as far as the elbows and wipe your heads and your feet to the (two) ankles). If Jareer became a Muslim before the revelation of al-Ma'ida, it would be possible that his tradition was annulled by the verse mentioned in al-Ma'ida but since he became a Muslim after the revelation of the sura, then his tradition would be valid..." How could we decide that he became a Muslim after the revelation of al-Ma'ida whereas we showed that al-Ma'ida was revealed lastly?

[23.](#) Al-Bukhari mentioned that some of the verses of al-Ma'ida were revealed to the Prophet (s) while he was on his sumpter during the farewell hajj.

[24.](#) As it was mentioned by al-Bukhari in his Sahih. So was said by an-Nawawi in his ar-Rawdha.

[25.](#) Refer to Ar-Razi's Tafseer vol. 3 p.371 to see the sayings of Aa'isha and ibn Abbas.

[26.](#) Atta' said, as it was mentioned by ar-Razi in his Tafseer vol.3 p.372: "Ibn Omar objected to the people about wiping over the slippers but he didn't die until he agreed with them." But his objection to Sa'd when he saw him wipe over the slippers was fixed in al-Bukhari's Sahih.

[27.](#) Refer to ar-Razi's Tafseer vol.3 p.372 and the other books of jurisprudence.

[28.](#) Al-Karkhi had said that as it was mentioned by al-Qastalani in his Irshad as-Sari vol.2 p.4.

[29.](#) Mentioned in al-Bidaya wen Nihaya by ibn Rushd and at-Tafseer al-Kabeer by ar-Razi.

[30.](#) Al-Bidaya wen Nihaya by ibn Rushd vol. 1 p. 10.

[31.](#) Bani means "the tribe of" or "the family of".

[32.](#) Refer to ibn Sa'd's Tabaqat vol.4 p.25.

[33.](#) To see the details, refer to Wafiyyat al-A'yan by ibn Khillikan and all the books of the historians, who wrote about the events of the year seventeen A.H.

[34.](#) Since the Prophet (s) used to wipe his forelock so the Shia were satisfied with wiping this part of the head as possible but one could wipe more area of the head as he liked.

[35.](#) In the Arabic text of the verse there is a preposition before the phrase (your heads). It has a sense of partialness.

Six Disputable Questions

1. Wiping the ears

The Shia agreed, according to their infallible imams, upon that wiping the ears was not a part of wudu' at all because neither the Quran nor the Sunna or the consensus of the umma had evidenced it. In fact the clear Quranic verse of wudu' determined that wudu' was to be performed with two washings and two wipings; washing the face and the two hands and wiping the head and the two feet.

The Hanbalites said that it was obligatory to wipe the two ears with their meatuses. Ibn Rushd said in his

book¹ that this was the belief of Abu Haneefa and his companions.

Ash-Shafi'iy and Malik said that wiping the ears was mustahab and not obligatory but they disagreed upon wiping them with new water or with the same water of wudu' remained on the hands. Some of their companions said that the ears were to be washed with the face. Others said that the interior parts of the ears were to be wiped with the head and the external parts of them were to be washed with the face.

Ash-Shafi'iy said that it was mustahab to repeat wiping the ears as he said that it was mustahab too to repeat wiping the head.

They depended upon weak traditions that were not proved to be true by the Shia. Also al-Bukhari and Muslim didn't pay any attention to them. Those, who acted according to these traditions although they were so weak, justified that by saying that acting according to these traditions was famous among them.

The infallible imams of the Prophet's progeny didn't pay a bit of attention to these traditions. They were the people of the Prophet's house and definitely the people of a house would be more aware of what there was in the house than anyone else.

2. Does washing the head instead of wiping it suffice for wudu'

The people of the four Sunni sects agreed upon that washing the head instead of wiping it would suffice for wudu' but they disagreed upon that if it was makrooh² or not. The Hanafites and the Malikites said that it was makrooh justifying their belief by saying that washing the head was opposite to what Allah had ordered. The Shafi'ites said that it was not makrooh but it would be against the worthier act. The Hanbalites said that washing the head instead of wiping it would suffice for wudu' on condition that the hand must be passed over the head.

As for the Shia, they agreed unanimously upon that washing the head would never suffice for wudu' because it was opposite to what Allah had ordered and opposite to the Prophet's Sunna. The Prophet (s) used to wipe his forelock in wudu' and he didn't wash his head. Hence washing the head in wudu' was null and it would invalidate wudu' too. You already knew that we said previously that washing and wiping were two different facts.

3. Order in performing wudu'

The Shia agreed unanimously, according to their pure imams, upon the obligation of the order of the acts of wudu' as they were arranged by the Quranic verse of wudu'.³

The Malikites, the Hanafites, Sufyan ath-Thawri and Dawood thought that the order of the acts of wudu' was not necessary. They considered it as mustahab and said that wudu' wouldn't be invalidated if the order of its acts was violated. They said that wudu' would be valid if one began his wudu' by washing his left foot and ended his wudu' by washing his face although his acts were opposite to the order of wudu'

mentioned in the Quranic verse.

The Shia's evidence was the Quran and the Sunna. The Quranic verse showed the order of the acts of wudu' clearly. The Sunna confirmed that the Prophet (s) kept to the order of the acts of wudu' whether his wudu' was for a wajib prayer or a mustahab prayer. He was pure along his life. Whenever his wudu' was invalidated, he performed it. He often perform wudu' although he was pure by the previous wudu'.

He often said: "It is a light on alight." The umma agreed upon that the Prophet (s) had never performed wudu' unless he followed the order of its acts. If the order of wudu' was not a condition for wudu' to be valid, the Prophet (s) would break it even one time or he would declare that it was permissible to break the order of the acts of wudu' to show the right verdict as he used to do whenever there was a religious verdict.

Since the Prophet (s) didn't break the order of wudu' and didn't declare that it was permissible to break it, so we knew definitely that the base was to follow the order of wudu' as a condition for wudu' to be valid.

4. Succession of acts of wudu'

The Shia ulema, according to their imams, thought that the succession⁴ of the acts of wudu' was a necessary condition for the validity of wudu'. The previous organ, which was to be washed, must not dry before finishing washing the following organ when the environments were normal.

The Shafi'ites and the Hanafites said that the succession of the acts of wudu' was neither a condition nor wajib but it was mustahab. It was makrooh for them to separate between the organs of wudu' if there was no excuse but if there was an excuse, it would be not makrooh. For example if one forgot to wash one of his organs and after a period of time he remembered or the water he had ran out and he went to bring some water to complete his wudu'.

The Malikites said that succession would be wajib if one remembered and was able to do that and it would be not wajib if one forgot or there was another excuse.

Our evidence was the doing of the Prophet (s). He kept to succession in performing the acts of wudu' as he kept to the order of the acts of it. It was not mentioned at all that he had slacked in performing the acts of wudu'. If that was not a condition for wudu' to be valid, he would break it even for one time or he would declare that it was permissible to break it in order to show the Muslims the real legal verdict but since he hadn't done that, we knew that succession was obligatory in performing wudu'.

Wudu' would be valid if it had all the conditions determined by the Quran and the Sunna but if it didn't have all its conditions then its validity would be disputable by the different sects of the Muslims. The infallible imams of the Prophet's progeny (s) thought that if wudu' didn't have all of its conditions, it wouldn't be valid and it wouldn't make the prayer valid.

5. The intention

The Shia agreed unanimously, according to their imams, upon the conditionality of the intention in the validity of wudu' and ghussl⁵ because they were among the acts of worship that Allah had ordered his people to do. (***And they were not enjoined anything except that they should serve Allah, being sincere to Him in obedience.*** 98:5) This was the belief of ash-Shafi'iy, Malik, Ahmad, Dawood, Abu Thour and many of the Sunni imams.

The Hanafites said that the obligation of wudu' and ghussl with pure water⁶ was but to lead to the purity that would be achieved only by flowing the water over the organs whether it was done with an intention or not or even if it was done without one's option. They said if someone fell into water without his option or he entered into water just to enjoy himself, to cool himself or to clean himself or just to join the others and then water covered all his organs of wudu', he could offer the prayer with this wudu' even if he was unbeliever when he entered into water and then he became a Muslim when he left the water. They didn't consider believing in Islam as a condition for the validity of wudu'.

They stipulated the intention for the validity of tayammum because soil didn't purify in its nature but its purification was a devotional act so the validity of tayammum required an intention. So was about performing wudu' and ghussl with date-juice or the leftover water, from which a donkey or a mule drank, because the purity of this date-juice and such leftover water was devotional like the soil in tayammum.

They went too far in detailing wudu' and ghussl. They permitted performing wudu' with date-juice or the leftover water of the donkey or the mule and they considered this as an (unreasonable kind of worship) and they said that intention was obligatory for such act. On the other hand they considered performing wudu' with pure water as one of the obligations that led to the perceptible cleanness like getting rid of any impurity.

I didn't know how they became so certain that the aim of Allah, when He had legislated wudu', was but perceptible cleanness, which would be gained by the flowing of water over the organs! Every Muslim, man or woman, knew that wudu' and ghussl were performed to remove the effect of any (hadath)⁷ in order to make the prayer (after wudu' or ghussl) valid and this thing was not perceptible or understood by people. It was just a devotional act determined by the Most Aware of every fact that was unknown by the people, the jinn, the angels and all the creatures. Yes, we believed that wudu' was legislated to remove the minor hadath and ghussl to remove the major hadath exactly as we believed in the other obligations like prayer, fasting, zakat and hajj.

Mere happening of the perceptible cleanness by wudu' or ghussl in many times didn't make them (wudu' and ghussl) as the attainment of the very cleanness. If the purpose of wudu' and ghussl was just to gain the perceptible cleanness, then they wouldn't be obligatory for one, who committed a hadath, if he was so clean and tidy. This was against the consensus of the umma and against the true Sunna of the Prophet (s), who had said: "Allah doesn't accept a prayer of anyone, who commits a hadath until he

performs wudu’.” He also said: “Allah doesn’t accept any prayer without wudu’ and doesn’t accept any charity gained out of injustice.”

The Quran and the Sunna might be depended upon as evidences confirming the necessity of the intention in performing wudu’.

As for the Quran, the verse mentioned in sura of al-Ma’ida (*O you who believe! when you rise up to prayer, wash **your** faces and your hands as far as the elbows, and wipe your heads and your feet to the ankles; and if you are under an obligation to perform a total ablution, then wash (yourselves)...* 5:6) confirmed that wudu’ and ghussl were among the obligations that the Muslims had been ordered to do and the verse mentioned in the sura of al-Bayyina (***And they were not enjoined anything except that they should serve Allah, being sincere to Him in obedience.*** 98:5) confirmed that all what the Muslims had been ordered to do must be done with loyalty to Allah. But in this conclusion there was a kind of consideration or in fact a kind of paradox.

As for the Sunna, the way of the Prophet’s wudu’ confirmed that he had kept to the order of the acts of wudu’ besides the intentions according to the account that (the validity of the deeds depended upon the intentions (to do them)). The Hanafites said: “The perfection of the deeds depends upon the intentions” and so this would not be as evidence for what we said. It might be said when answering them that the first saying would be better because the validity of the deeds was more required for the truth than the perfection of the deeds for what was more required would be more possible to occur to the mind.

The Shia followed their imams in all what they believed in. The beliefs of their imams were considered as fixed evidences because the infallible imams of the Prophet’s progeny were equal to the Quran as the Prophet (s) had said in one of his traditions. They were the vessel of the Prophet’s Sunna, the ships of rescue for the umma; whoever rode in them would be safe and whoever lagged behind them would drown. They were the gate of forgiveness. They were the firmest handle, which would not break off. They were the safety of the umma, which would keep them away from separation. They were the secure shelter, which would protect the umma against torment. They were the guardians of the Prophet (s) and the heirs of his knowledge and wisdom. They were the worthiest in following the Prophet’s Sharia.

6. Performing wudu’ with juice

Performing wudu’ with juice⁸

The Shia agreed unanimously, according to the pure imams of Muhammad’s progeny (s), upon the conditionality of the purity⁹ of the water used in performing wudu’ and ghussl whether in residence or travel. They also agreed upon that if there was no water, one had to perform tayammum with clean soil. This was the belief of ash-Shafi’iy, Malik, Ahmad and others.

Abu Haneefa and Sufyan ath-Thawri said that it was permissible to perform wudu’ and ghussl with date–

juice in travel when there was no water. [10](#) Al-Hasan al-Basri and Abul Aaliya Rafee' bin Mihran said that it was makrooh. Atta' bin Abu Rabah said: "Performing tayammum is more desirable to me than to perform wudu' with milk or yogurt." [11](#) Al-Awza'iy said that it was permissible to perform wudu' and ghussl with all kinds of juices [12](#) and all kinds of pure (permissible) liquids. [13](#)

The evidences of the Shia for this matter were the Quran, the Prophet's Sunna and the consensus of the umma.

The Quran said: (... **and you cannot find water, betake yourselves to pure earth, then wipe your faces and your hands.** 4:43) Allah ordered to perform tayammum instead of wudu' when there was no water and He didn't give any other choice.

As for the Sunna, it was enough for us that the Prophet (s) had said: "The pure earth is the Muslim's wudu' if he doesn't find water." This Prophet's saying was like the previous verse. It didn't suggest any option other than wudu' and tayammum.

But as for the consensus, all the Muslims agreed unanimously upon one thought. Whoever contradicted this thought was abnormal and violating the consensus of the Muslims and then no one would care for his abnormality. Among the abnormal sayings was this one: "It was not permissible to perform wudu' with seawater." [14](#)

Abu Haneefa, Sufyan ath-Thawri and others depended in their thought upon a tradition narrated by ibn Mass'ood in two ways:

First: al-Abbas bin al-Waleed bin Sabeeh al-Khallal ad-Damashqi from Marwan bin Muhammad at-Tatiri ad-Damashqi from Abdullah bin Luhay'a from Qayss bin al-Hajjaj from Hanash as-Sina'iy from Abdullah bin Abbas that ibn Mass'ood had said: "The Prophet (s) asked me in the night (of the jinn): "Do you have some water." I said: "No, I don't. But I have some juice in (sutayha) a vessel." The Prophet (s) said: "A good date and pure water! Pour over my hands!" I poured (of the juice) over his hands and he performed wudu' with that juice."

No one mentioned this tradition, in this way, except Muhammad bin Yazeed bin Maja al-Qazweeni in his *Sunan*—as I knew—because of the many defects it had. Al-Abbas bin al-Waleed was neither trusted nor reliable. The scholars of jarh and ta'deel left him aside. Abu Dawood was asked about him as it was mentioned in *Mizanul I'tidal* and he said: "He knew much about the narrators and traditions but I don't narrate from him." The scholars didn't depend upon his traditions because he was weak.

As for his sheikh Marwan bin Muhammad at-Tatiri, he was one of the deviate Murjites. [15](#) Al-Aqeeli mentioned him in his book of the weak narrators. Ibn Hazm declared that he was weak. All that was mentioned in *Mizanul I'tidal*. His sheikh Abdullah bin Luhay'a was considered by the scholars of jarh and ta'deel as a weak narrator. Refer to *Mizanul I'tidal* to find that ibn Mu'een and ibn Sa'eed had confirmed that he was weak. Some of the other narrators of this tradition had defects too but we didn't need to

show other details.

Second: the series of the narrators of the two ways of the tradition reached Abu Zayd the freed slave of Amr bin Hurayth that ibn Mass'ood had said: "The Prophet (s) asked me in the night of the jinn: "Do you have tahoor¹⁶ (some water)?" I said: "No, just some juice in (adawa) a vessel." He said: "A good date and pure water." Then he performed wudu'."

It was mentioned by ibn Maja, at-Tarmithi and Abu Dawood. This tradition was null in this way as it was null in the first way. It was enough for this tradition to be null that its main narrator was Abu Zayd the freed slave of Amr bin Hurayth. He was unknown by the scholars of Hadith as it was said by at-Tarmithi and others. Ath-Thahabi mentioned him in his *Mizanul I'tidal* and said that no one knew him and that he narrated from ibn Mass'ood but his traditions were not true. Al-Bukhari mentioned him among the weak narrators and said that the text of his tradition was: "The Prophet of Allah performed wudu' with juice." Al-Hakim said about him that he was unknown and that he had narrated nothing save his (null) tradition.

After all, the earlier ulema agreed upon the weakness of this tradition in both of its ways.¹⁷ It was contradicted by another tradition mentioned by at-Tarmithi in his *Sahih* and Abu Dawood in his *Sunan*. All the scholars considered this tradition as true. The tradition said that Alqama had asked ibn Mass'ood: "Which of you was with the Prophet (s) in the night of the jinn?" Ibn Mass'ood said: "No one of us was with him."

Even if it was supposed that the tradition was true, then it would be annulled by the Quranic verse of tayammum because the night of the jinn was in Mecca before the hijra whereas the verse of tayammum was revealed in Medina after the hijra.¹⁸

The tradition—if it was supposed that it was true—could be interpreted in a way that there might be some dried dates in the water that wouldn't change its purity and aspects.

Al-Awza'iy, al-Assamm and others, who thought that it was permissible to perform wudu' and ghussl with all the pure liquids, justified their thought by saying that when Allah had ordered of washing and wiping and as they were achieved with water, they could be achieved with any other pure liquid as well.

The answer: Allah made tayammum obligatory when there was no water and hence permitting performing wudu' with other than that would annul the verdict of Allah. The Quranic verse limited washing to water only and this was showed very clearly.

When the Hanafites permitted performing wudu' with milk mixed with water,¹⁹ they might depend upon the same justification, upon which al-Awza'iy and al-Assamm Hatim bin Onwan al-Balkhi had depended.

This what Allah had helped his slave and the son of his slave, Abdul Husayn bin sharif Yousuf bin al-Jawad bin Isma'eel bin Muhammad bin Muhammad bin Sharafuddeen Ibraheem bin Zaynul Aabideen

bin Ali Nooruddeen bin Nooruddeen Ali bin al-Husayn Aal Abul Hasan al-Musawi al-Aamily to do for the sake of Him. Praise be to Allah, the Lord of the worlds.

- [1.](#) Bidayatul Mujtahid vol.1 p.11.
- [2.](#) Undesirable act.
- [3.](#) The Shia stipulated order in the very organs of wudu' themselves. They said it was obligatory to wash the upper parts before the lower parts imitating their infallible imams and acting according to their traditions.
- [4.](#) It means to perform the acts of wudu' one after the other immediately without a long period of time between them in order to show that wudu' is one unit.
- [5.](#) Obligatory bathing that is required after certain acts or occurrences.
- [6.](#) Pure water means the water that is not mixed with any other liquid or matter that may change its original aspects.
- [7.](#) Hadath is any condition requiring wudu' or ghussl such as excretion, making water, wet dreaming or making love. Minor hadath means excretion, making water or farting. Major hadath refers to wet dreaming or making love.
- [8.](#) It is meant by juice here the mixture of water and dates or water and raisin to make the water taste sweet. There are two kinds of such juice; intoxicating and non-intoxicating. Definitely the intoxicating kind is haram. What is meant here is the non-intoxicating kind.
- [9.](#) Not to be mixed with any other liquid or matter that may change its original aspects.
- [10.](#) This saying of Abu Haneefa was so famous. It was mentioned by ibn Rushd in his Bidayatul Mujtahid, by ar-Razi in his Tafseer vol.3 p.375 and by as-Sindi in his comments on ibn Maja's Sunan.
- [11.](#) Refer to al-Bukhari's Sahih.
- [12.](#) Ibn Rushd's Bidayatul Mujtahid and ar-Razi's Tafseer vol.3 p.375.
- [13.](#) Al-Bukhari's Sahih.
- [14.](#) Abdullah bin Amr bin al-Aass said that performing wudu' with seawater was not permissible. It was mentioned by ar-Razi in his Tafseer when interpreting sura of al-Ma'ida.
- [15.](#) one of the earliest Islamic sects to believe in the postponement of judgment on committers of serious sins, recognizing God alone as being able to decide whether or not a Muslim had lost his faith.
- [16.](#) The literary meaning of tahoor is purifier.
- [17.](#) Refer to Sharh Sahih al-Bukhari by al-Qastalani and Sharh Sahih al-Bukhari by Zakariyya al-Ansari vol.2 p.43. (Two books printed together).
- [18.](#) Wudu' was mustahab before the revelation of this verse and tayammum was not legislated until this verse was revealed after the hijra.
- [19.](#) Al-Qastalani mentioned in his Irshad as-Sari vol.2 p.44: "For the Hanafites it was not permissible to perform wudu' with pure milk but if it was mixed with some water then it would be permissible."

Source URL:

<https://www.al-islam.org/sw/juristic-questions-sayyid-abd-al-husayn-sharaf-al-din-al-musawi#comment-0>

Links

- [1] <https://www.al-islam.org/sw/person/sayyid-abd-al-husayn-sharaf-al-din-al-musawi>
- [2] <https://www.al-islam.org/sw/taxonomy/term/2034>
- [3] <https://www.al-islam.org/printpdf/book/export/html/34904>
- [4] <https://www.al-islam.org/printepub/book/export/html/34904>
- [5] <https://www.al-islam.org/printmobi/book/export/html/34904>

[6] <https://www.al-islam.org/sw/person/abdullah-al-shahin>

[7] <https://www.al-islam.org/sw/tags/islamic-law>