

The Origin of the Chilla (40 days)

Q: Imaan-87 : The people belonging to the Tablighi Jamaa'ah place great importance on the Chilla. Is there any origin in the Shari'ah of the concept of the Chilla?

Answer: There lies great blessing and effect in the Chilla, which entails carrying an act out for 40 days consecutively. It was after Hadhrat Moosa ALY. spent a Chilla in seclusion on Mount Toor that he received the Torah.

In fact, the Soofis also place emphasis on the Chilla and it is certainly not without origin. Rasulullaah SAW. mentioned that the person who performs salaah in Jamaa'ah for 40 consecutive days with the Takbeer Tahreema will be guaranteed safety from Jahannam and safety from hypocrisy. This proves that the period of the Chilla has a profound effect on the soul. Looking at the development of the foetus in the womb, we find that it remains as a clot of blood for 40 days, then as a lump of flesh for the second Chilla and then it is transformed into the skeletal structure and covered in flesh. It is then after these three Chillas (4 months) that the soul is instilled.

During the Khilaafah of Hadhrat Umar RADI. a man was obsessed with his love for a particular woman and he could not help himself. She how ever was a chaste and intelligent woman. She therefore told him to perform salaah in Jamaa'ah behind Hadhrat Umar RADI. for 40 consecutive days with the Takbeer Tahreema. By the time he had completed the term, his love for her had been transformed into the true love for Allaah and he was not the same man. When he heard about the incident, Hadhrat Umar RADI. remarked, "How true are the words of Allaah and His Rasool SAW. when they stated that salaah forbids from immoral behaviour and evil." And Allaah bknows best what is most correct.

Fatawa Rahimiyyah (Vol.1)