

### Habitually Reciting Surah Faatiha in One Breath during the Fardh Salaah

Q: Salaah-577: I have been serving as an Imaam for a long time and it has become my habit to recite the entire Surah Faatiha in one breath during the Fardh salaah. Some people however take objection. Have they cause for objection and need I forsake the practice?

Answer: There is no virtue or accomplishment in the Imaam reciting the Surah Faatiha in one breath. In fact, making a habit of it is discouraged and Makrooh Tanzeehi. Those who have objected therefore have cause to do so. Reciting slowly, facilitates contemplation and deliberation, which is encouraged in the Ahadeeth.

A Hadith states that when a person recites, "All praise belongs to Allaah, the Rabb of the universe", Allaah replies by saying, "My servant has praised me." Thereafter, when he recites, "Who is the Most Compassionate, the Most Merciful", Allaah replies by saying, "My servant has paid tribute to me." When he then says, "Master of the Day of Recompense". Allaah replies by saying, "My servant has honoured me." The person then recites, "You Alone do we worship, and You Alone do we ask for help". to which Allaah replies, "This is between Me and My servant and My servant shall have what he wants." Finally, when he recites, "Guide us to the straight path", Allaah replies by saying, "This is the special need of My servant and I shall grant him what he desires.

Hakeemul Umrnah Hadhrat Moulana Ashraf Ali Tharrwi rah. writes that someone once asked about an Imaam who did not pause after reciting (IYYA KANS TAEEN) but joined it to the (HA) of (IHDINA) This created such a controversy that people were at logger-heads. I replied by saying that reciting in this manner was permissible when people have some understanding. Otherwise, if the Imaam remains obstinate and perseveres to feed the controversy, he ought to be fired. When a student of Deen once went to an area of blacksmiths and recited (IHDINALLAAHU?SAMAD) they chased him away. The gist of it all is that reciting Surah Faatiha in one breath is a practice that needs to be discarded. And Allaah knows best what is most correct.

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