

Question 158) - How is Witr performed? How many Rak'at does it consist of?

A: Witr is three Rak'at prayed after 'Isna. It is not permissible before it. The method is to recite Takbir for beginning then Thana, Ta'awwuz, Bismillaah, al-Fatihah and the Surah thereafter. Then make Ruku' and two Sujud and then stand and pray the second Raka'ah as in any other Salah. At the end of it sit and read Tashshahud. Then stand for the third Rak'ah, read al-Fatihah and then a Surah. Then read Takbeer (Ibn Abi Shaybah narrates from Shu'bah, "I have heard al-Hakam, Hammad and Abu Ishaq saying that after completion Of Qira'ah, read Takbir and then Qunut.")?

?raising the hands to the ears? ('Abdurrahman bin al-Aswad narrated from his father who narrates that 'Abdullaah bin Mas'ud Aims used to raise his hands in Qunut of Witr. [Ibn Abi Shaybah (390/3) Madinah edition; al-Imam al-Bukhari in Juz Raf'il Yadayn. In it he verifies that ~Abdullaah ~ used to read al-Ikhlās in the last Rak'ah of Witr then raise his hands and read Qunut before Ruku']?

?Read the Qunut? (Ibrahim said, "Read in Qunut of Witr: Allaahumma Inna nasta'inuka wa nastaghfiruka. Ibn Abi Shaybah 381/3~Abu 'Abdirrahman said, "Abdullaah bin Mas'ud taught us to read in Witr: Allaahumma Inna nasta'inuka wa nastaghfiruka wa numinu bika wa nuthni 'alaykal khayr." Ibn Abi Shaybah)?

?and upon completion? ('Alqamah narrates that Ibn Mas'ud RA and the Sahabah RA of Rasulullaah SAW used to read Qunut in Witr before Ruku'. Ibn Abi Shaybah ~383/3)1 'Abdurrahman bin al-Aswad narrates from his father that when Ibn Mas'ud RA completed his Qira'ah, he read Takbir and then Qunut. Thereafter he made Takbir and Ruku'. [Ibn Abi Shaybah (383/3)]? read Takbir and make Ruku'. Complete the Rak'ah like any other Salaah.

~ al-Quduri ~