

(2) The Method of Salaah in the Light of Authentic Ahadith

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Reciting Bismillah Softly

Hazrat Anas (عنه ا لله ر ضي) states, "I have performed congregational salaah behind Rasulullah (عنه ا لله ر ضي), Abu Bakr (عنه ا لله ر ضي), Umar (عنه ا لله ر ضي) and Uthmaan (عنه ا لله ر ضي) and I did not hear any one of them recite Bismillahir rahmaanir raheem." [Sahih Muslim, Hadith 399]

Imaam Tirmidhi (ا لله ر حمه) states that *the majority of the Sahaba (radiallahu anhum) also used to recite Bismillah softly.*

The Muqtadi (follower) Should Listen and Remain Silent

Allah Ta'aala says: "**When the Qur'an is being recited then listen attentively and remain silent so that mercy will be showered upon you.**" (7:204)

Hazrat Abdullah Ibn Mas'ud, Abu Hurairah, Abdullah Ibn Abbas and Abdullah Ibn Mughaffal (عنه ا لله ر ضي) state that *this verse of the Quran was revealed with regards to the Khutba (of Juma'ah) and with regards to Salaah.* [Tafsir Ibn Kathir, vol. 1 pg. 281]

The dictates of this verse of the Holy Qur'an is that when the Imaam recites the Qur'an aloud, *the followers should listen attentively*, and when he recites softly, *the followers should remain silent.*

Rasulullah (عنه ا لله ر ضي) is reported to have said: "**When you begin your congregational prayers, straighten your rows. Thereafter when the Imaam says the takbeer (i.e. when he says Allahu Akbar aloud) you must also say the takbeer. However, when he begins the recital of the Qur'an, you must remain silent. And when he recites walad daalleen then you should say Aameen.**" By performing your salaah in this manner Allah Ta'ala will love you." [Muslim; ch. on tashahhud]

(A similar Hadith has been narrated by Abu Hurairah (عنه ا لله ر ضي) - Imaam Muslim (ا لله ر حمه) has attested to its authenticity; ibid).

The Muqtadi Must Not Recite Surah Fatiha

It is reported from Hazrat Ataa Ibn Yasaar (عنه ا لله ر ضي) that he questioned Hazrat Zaid Ibn Thaabit (عنه ا لله ر ضي) concerning reciting Qira'at with the Imaam. Hazrat Zaid (عنه ا لله ر ضي) answered: "**There is no recitation of the Glorious Qur'an in any salaah behind the Imaam.**" [Sahih Muslim, chapter on Sujood-ut-Tilaawah, Hadith 577]

The Qiraat of the Imaam SUFFICES for the Muqtadi

Hazrat Abdullah Ibn Umar (عنهما الله رضي) used to repeatedly say: **"Whoever performs salaah behind the Imaam, the Imaam's qiraat suffices for him."** (Sunan Baihaqi; chapter on not reciting qiraat behind the Imaam — Imaam Baihaqi (الله رحمه) has stated that this Hadith is Sahih.)

The Person Performing Salaah Individually Must Recite Surah Fatiha, Not The Muqtadi

Hazrat Abdullah Ibn Umar (عنهما الله رضي) was asked: **"Must the muqtadi recite behind the Imam?"** He replied that *the qiraat of the Imaam is sufficient for the muqtadi. But if he performs salaah individually, then he must recite qiraat.* It was the practice of Hazrat Abdullah Ibn Umar (رضي الله عنه) also that *he would not recite surah fatiha behind the Imam.* (In Aatharus Sunan (Vol. 1 pg.89) this Hadith has been classified as sahih).

Hazrat Jaabir (عنه الله رضي) narrates that the one who does not recite sura fatiha even in one rakaat, his salaah is not valid. However, *if he is behind an Imam he must not recite surah fatiha.* (This Hadith has been classified as hasan — Tirmizi - ch. on not reciting behind the Imaam). It is on the basis of this Hadith that Imaam Tirmidhi (الله رحمه) has narrated from Imam Ahmad bin Hanbal (الله رحمه) [who was the teacher of the ustad of Imaam Bukhari (الله رحمه)] that the narration **"Whoever does not recite surah fatiha his salaah is not complete"** *refers to one who performs his salaah alone. It does not include the muqtadi* (Jami' Tirmidhi, ibid). In the above Hadith it is very clearly mentioned that *the muqtadi must not recite sura fatiha.*

"Aameen" Must be said softly

Rasulullah (وسلم عليه الله صلي) is reported to have said: **"Do not hasten before the Imaam! When he says the takbeer, then you should do the same. When he recites Walad da ul leen, then you should say Aameen. When he makes ruku' then you should make ruku'. And when he says sami'-Allahu liman hamidah then you should say Allahumma Rabbana wa lakal hamd."** [Sahih Muslim, Hadith 415]

With regards to the saying of Aameen this narration is very clear and explicit. Like in the case where the Imaam says Allahu Akbar and sami'-Allahu liman hamidah aloud, but all the followers say "Allahu Akbar" and "Rabbana lakal hamd" softly. In the same manner when the Imaam recites "walad daaleen" aloud, the followers should say Aameen softly. It is also reported from Abu Ma'mar (الله رحمه) that Umar (عنه الله رضي) used to say: **"The Imaam will recite four things softly-Ta'awwuz, Bismillah, Aameen and Rabbana Lakalhamd"** (Aini Vol. 1 pg. 620)

(Sifatus Salaah: The Method of Salaah in the Light of Authentic Ahadith, Shaykh Muhammad Ilyas Faisal)