

What is the Ruling if a Person Goes into Ruku' After Reciting Another Surah Without Reciting Surah al-Fatihah?

Darulifta Ahlesunnat (Dawateislami)

Question

What do the noble scholars and jurists of Islamic law say about the following: If one forgot to recite Surah al-Fatihah in the first rak'ah of salah and he went into ruku' just after reciting another Surah, but then he realized in ruku' that he did not recite Surah al-Fatihah, what is the ruling for them? Should they just perform sajdah sahw at the end, or do they have to return? If they have to return to standing, is it sufficient for them to just recite Surah al-Fatihah or do they have to add another Surah?

Answer

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ
الْجَوَابُ بِعَوْنِ الْمَلِكِ الْوَهَّابِ اللَّهُمَّ هِدَايَةَ الْحَقِّ وَالصَّوَابِ

In the inquired situation, the person must return to qiyam (standing), and after reciting Surah al-Fatihah they must add another Surah. Thereafter, they should repeat the ruku' and perform sajdah sahw at the end. In this manner, the salah will be valid.

It should be remembered that if one forgets to recite Surah al-Fatihah and remembers before going into sajdah, it is wajib upon them to return to qiyam, recite Surah al-Fatihah, and then add another Surah. If, despite remembering before sajdah, they don't return to qiyam, or if they do return to qiyam but don't add another Surah, performing sajdah sahw at the end will not suffice in this case. Instead, the salah will become wajib al-'adah due to intentionally leaving a wajib. In other words, this salah must be repeated, and they must repent due to intentionally leaving a wajib. Moreover, if they do not perform the ruku' again after having recited the Surah, the salah will become invalid.

It is wajib to recite al-Fatihah before adding a Surah. Thus, it is stated in al-Durr al-Mukhtar:

قراءة فاتحة الكتاب --- وتقديم الفاتحة على كل السورة

(Al-Durr al-Mukhtar, Book of Salah, Wajib acts of salah, Vol. 1, p. 240, Publ. Beirut)

It is stated in al-Fatawa al-Hindiyah:

ومن سها عن فاتحة الكتاب في الأولى أو في الثانية وتذكر بعد ما قرأ بعض السورة يعود فيقرأ بالفاتحة، ثم بالسورة قال الفقيه أبو الليث: يلزمه سجود السهو --- وكذلك إذا تذكر بعد الفراغ من السورة أو في الركوع أو بعد ما رفع رأسه من الركوع فإنه يأتي بالفاتحة، ثم يعيد السورة، ثم يسجد للسهو

(Al-Fatawa al-Hindiyah, Book of Salah, Chapter 12 about Sajdah Sahw. Vol. 1, p. 126, Publ. Beirut)

The one who forgot to recite Surah al-Fatihah must return and recite al-Fatihah as well as repeat the recitation of a Surah. Regarding this, it is stated in Fath al-Qadeer:

وإنما يتحقق ترك كل من الفاتحة والسورة بالسجود، فإنه لو تذكر في الركوع أو بعد الرفع منه يعود فيقرأ في ترك الفاتحة الفاتحة، ثم يعيد السورة، ثم الركوع فإنهما يرتفعان بالعود إلى قراءة الفاتحة وفي السورة السورة، ثم يعيد الركوع، لا يرتفاه بالعود إلى ما محله قبله على التعيين شرعاً ويسجد للسهو

(Fath al-Qadeer Sharh al-Hidayah, Book of Salah, Chapter of Sujood Sahw, Vol. 1, p. 503, Publ. Egypt)

Regarding adding another Surah and performing ruku' after reciting Surah al-Fatihah, the Imam of Ahl al-Sunnah, Imam Ahmad Raza Khan رحمة الله تعالى عليه states:

اگر سجدے میں جانے تک فاتحہ و آیات یاد نہ آئیں، تو اب سجدہ سہو کافی ہے اور اگر سجدہ کو جانے سے پہلے رکوع میں خواہ قومہ بعد رکوع میں یاد آجائیں، تو واجب ہے کہ قراءت پوری کرے اور رکوع کا پھر اعادہ کرے اگر قراءت پوری نہ کی تو اب پھر قصد ترک واجب ہوگا اور نماز کا اعادہ کرنا پڑے گا اور اگر قراءت بعد رکوع پوری کر لی اور رکوع دوبارہ نہ کیا، تو نماز ہی جاتی رہی کہ فرض ترک ہوا۔

Translation: If one didn't remember that he missed al-Fatihah and the verses until he went into sajdah, then sajdah sahw is sufficient for them. But if one remembered before going into sajdah, whether in ruku' or in qawmah after ruku', it is wajib upon them to complete the recitation and repeat the ruku'. If they did not complete the recitation, they have now intentionally left a wajib, and they must repeat the salah. Or, if they completed the recitation after ruku' but did not repeat the ruku', the salah will be nullified because the Fard was left. (Fatawa Razawiyah, Vol. 6, p. 330, Publ. Raza Foundation, Lahore)

It is stated in Bahar-e-Shari'at:

فرض کی پہلی رکعتوں میں فاتحہ بھول گیا تو پچھلی رکعتوں میں اس کی قضا نہیں اور رکوع سے پیشتر یاد آیا تو فاتحہ پڑھ کر پھر سورت پڑھے، یوں اگر رکوع میں یاد آیا تو قیام کی طرف عود کرے اور فاتحہ و سورت پڑھے پھر رکوع کرے، اگر دوبارہ رکوع نہ کریگا، نماز نہ ہوگی۔

Translation: If one forgot to recite al-Fatihah in the first rak'at of a Fard salah, they will not be made up in the other rak'at. If one remembered before ruku', they should recite al-Fatihah then the Surah. Similarly, if they remembered in ruku', they must return to qiyam and recite al-Fatihah as well as the Surah and then perform ruku'. If they do not perform ruku' again, the salah will not be valid. (Bahar-e-Shari'at, Vol. 1, p. 545, Publ. Maktaba-Tul-Madinah, Karachi)

وَاللَّهُ أَعْلَمُ عَزَّ وَجَلَّ وَرَسُولُهُ أَعْلَمُ صَلَّى اللَّهُ تَعَالَى عَلَيْهِ وَآلِهِ وَسَلَّمَ

(Allah Almighty knows best and His Messenger صَلَّى اللَّهُ تَعَالَى عَلَيْهِ وَآلِهِ وَسَلَّمَ knows best.)

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