

ETIQUETTES (ADAAB) OF PRAYER ISTIKHARA

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ABSTRACT

Islam is a religion of nature and its every principal proves advantageous to human beings in this world as well as in the world hereafter. Therefore, it is wise that a man should follow the Sunnah of the prophet (SAW) because Allah likes it. Our Holy Prophet (SAW) has guided his Ummah in all walks of life and in case of any confusion about decision-making he has taught prayer of Istikhara. Istikhara is offering of two Rakah of Salah and then seeking guidance of Allah through Dua'a-e- Istikhara. Istikhara can be performed any time except Mukrooh Aowqat. The Holy prophet (S.A.W) had advised Hazrat Anas (RA) to do Istikhara Seven times. Hazrat Jaber (RA) says that the Holy prophet (SAW) used to advise Istikhara as he used to teach us asurah of Holy Quran. Keeping in view the importance of Istikhara, I have tried my level best to discuss the Aadaab-e-Istikhara in this research paper. I have made research on Istikhara; its literal and figurative definition and lastly I have discussed approximately its eight basic Aadaab: the observance of which makes the Istikhara acceptable to Almighty Allah.

INTRODUCTION

Etiquettes (adaab) of prayer of Istikhara plays very important role to get the Istikhara acceptable. Because, the Holy Prophet (S.A.W) teaches us about Istikhara as if he is teaching about the Surah of Quran. So that his followers may succeed in their affairs and get benefits from blessed act. We can get full benefits from this blessed act when we will perform it according to the instructions of Shariah. Quran says: don't touch this Quran but with ablution. We can say that this is an etiquette/manner. In the same way, when

we will perform Istikhara with external and internal piety and all others due etiquettes then it will be more acceptable in the court of Almighty Allah (S.W.T)

Literal meaning of "Istikhara" Istakhar (Zabar on "TA" (Arabic Alphabet). It signifies past tense and indicates when something is demanded. (Az-Zubaidi, (1392). Thus it means demanding or asking well. Ibne-e-Aseer, M, (1342) says it means when something good is asked from almighty Allah. Ibn-e-Manzoor, M, (1405) says that Almighty Allah always sends

good to human beings when human beings demand it.

Istikhara (Zair on "TA" (Arabic Alphabet). It means, asking for something good in some matter. Bukhari (1994) has cited a "Hadith" from Hazrat Jaber (RTA). He says that The Holy Prophet (SAW) used to advise us Istikhara before commencing anything as he used to teach us a Surah of the Holy Quran.

Figurative meaning of Istikhara:

Religious scholars, while interpreting the meaning of Istikhara, expressed their ideas in the following manner:

Thanvi, A, says about Istikhara, "If something clouds the clarity or otherwise when there exists a suspicion about doing or giving up of a certain act, then Istikhara must be performed. After that whatever conclusion may come up to the mind should be accepted as fair and genuine. It means to suspend suspicion rather than inquiry into some things. If anything goes against the principles or customs of day-to-day life then man is required to pray to Allah for showing him the right path. So that he may decide to act correctly. Manavi, M (1356) says that a man submits himself to the will of Allah, because, Allah knows better what is good for man.

Whatever is good for a man, it is given to him by Allah. If Istikhara is to be defined briefly, then we come to know that Istikhara prayer is a means through which a man asks for things from Allah. Istikhara is not only two Rakats of prayers but it is two rakats accompanied by a specified Dua'a after it. If someone is not in the Position to offer prayer then only Du'a must be taken as sufficient step but full advantage can only be achieved when one acts according to the Hadith as Hazrat Jaber Bin Abdullah (RTA) quotes a "Hadith" from Holy prophet (SAW) and says that in each and every matter Holy prophet used to teach us the Istikhara as a Surah of Quran was taught to us and then Holy prophet used to say that whenever you take any step to do any thing you should offer the two (Rakaat) prayer and then Dua'a should be sought from Allah: O, Allah, without any suspicion, I want good by your knowledge, I want hold by your hold and I request you for your blessings, why because you are all mighty and I am helpless and you know each and every thing while I don't know anything. As far as hidden knowledge is concerned you know the hidden knowledge too. O Allah, if this is favorable for me, give it to me, and make it easy for me with your blessing. If this very work is not in

favour of me then don't give it to me and revert me from it, and if it is good for me, give it (Khair) to me and make me agree with it. Here (Ravi) says that describe your problem. (Bukhari, M(1994)

According to Shariah Istikhara can be observed when you face some problems. In order to seek guidance about a problem then hand it over to Allah and seek guidance regarding that very matter whether is taken in hand or not. So, in this respect whatever response comes through Istikhara must be accepted without any hesitation.

ETIQUETTES (AADAAB) PRAYER OF ISTIKHARA

One must keep some following Aadaab-e-Istikhara in his mind to get required result:

1. EXTERNAL PIETY:

Before going to do prayer of Istikhara, one must keep his dress and body clean. Fresh ablution is to be made with the name of Almighty Allah. To use perfume is better and admirable. Waliullah, A says that cleanliness (body and dress) is closely related to Insherah-e-Sadre. When one follows the above, he feels pleasure and exhilaration and his heart accepts virtues.

2. INTERNAL PIETY:

Internal cleanliness is also necessary for the Istikhara. Manavi, M(1356) says that Istikhara must be preceded by true repentance, vacating the worldly activities and sexual desires from your mind and heart.

3. INTENTION (NIYYAT) OF ISTIKHARA:

First of all, whoever wants to perform Istikhara will make intention. Because intention of worship is worship and without it, it is not accepted, in the court of Allah. As our beloved Prophet Muhammad (SAW) said: Actions depend on intentions. (Bukhari, M(1994)

4. ATTENTION TO ALLAH:

True and pure repentance is one of the basic Adab of Istikhara.

5. TO RECITE PRAISE OF ALLAH AND SALUTATION OF RASOOL (S.A.W):

In the beginning of Dua'a-e-Istikhara and the end of it, Al-Hamd and salutation (Darood) must be recited.

6. TRUE TRUST / BELIEF:

There should be true trust on Istikhara. He should accept whatever Allah likes and that will be better for him.

7. TO SLEEP WITH WOZOO AND FACING THE HOLY KA'ABA:

It is also one of the necessary elements of Istikhara. But Istikhara does not depend on sleeping which is considerable ablution and facing the holy Kabah is necessary.

8. CHOICE OF SUITABLE TIME:

Suitable time for Istikhara must be chosen. Morning time is considered very suitable because at this time, Allah accepts praying. Abu-Hurara (R.A) quoted the words of prophet (SAW) that Our Allah comes down to the worldly sky in every night. In last moments of the night Allah announces His creature to call Him: Is this any one to call me” whenever one who calls Him, He gives him reply fulfils his demand and apologize him. (Bukhari, M(1994)

CONCLUSION

All the etiquettes of prayer of Istikhara are necessary. Keeping in view the Aadaab-e-Islikhara, the act of worship becomes acceptable in the court of Allah. Cleanliness of knowledge washes the

darkness of ignorance. Devotion of worship preserves him from sins. To consider legal and illegal acts will help in the process of Istikhara effectively.

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