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The Due time

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The Five Daily Prayer times

Fatwa no.(1668)

Praise be to Allah, Alone, and peace and blessings be upon Prophet Muhammad, his family and his Companions.

I read the request for Fatwa that was submitted to his Honor the General Chairman from the Islamic Education Manager in the Ministry of Education which was passed by the Secretariat General of the Council of Senior Scholars, number 623/2 on 29/4/1397 A.H. It states: " The ministry received the attached letter from a group of young Muslims in Tunisia inquiring about the the manner of determining the times of prayer. The request must be answered."

The committee replied as follows:

The times of the five daily prayers are imperatively known in Islam. They were transmitted to us from the Salaf (Predecessors) who received it from the leader of the great mission (peace be upon him) to the Khalaf (Successors) of this Ummah (the Islamic community). All Muslims have agreed that the times of the five prayers are performed according to established and set times. There are many authentic Hadiths reported in this regard, stating that the time of Zhuhr (noontime) begins when the sun is on the local meridian in its path and continues till the time shadows of objects are equal in length to the object itself.

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Also the time of `Asr (Afternoon), begins when the length of an object's shadow becomes twice the length of the object itself. This is the preferable time to pray 'Asr; however, the time of necessity starts when the sun turns yellow till the time of offering one Rak`ah before sunset, for the Prophet (peace be upon him) stated: [\(Whoever catches up to perform one rak'ah of the 'Asr prayer before sunset is considered to have performed the regular 'Asr prayer. \)](#) Maghrib time starts from sunset until the red afterglow disappears, and the time of `Isha' prayer starts from after the red afterglow has

disappeared until midnight. This is the preferable time to perform the prayer, whereas the time of necessity begins from midnight till dawn. The time of Fajr prayer begins from the time of true dawn till sunrise. Amongst the Hadiths mentioned in this regard: 1- What was narrated in the Two Sahihs (authentic books of Hadith) that `Umar Ibn `Abdul-`Aziz briefly delayed `Asr prayer, so `Urwah Ibn Al-Zubayr told him that: "Jibril (Gabriel) descended and led the Messenger of Allah (peace be upon him) in prayer", `Umar told said: "Be sure of what you say `Urwah", then he said: I heard Bashir ibn Abi Mas'ud saying: I heard Ibn Mas'ud saying: I heard the Messenger of Allah (peace be upon him) stating:﴿ "Jibril (Gabriel) descended and led me in prayer, then I prayed with him, then I prayed with him, then I prayed with him, then I prayed with him, - counting on his fingers five prayers. ﴾The words are from Muslim.

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2- The Hadith regarding the details of Jibril (peace be upon him) leading the Prophet (peace be upon him) in Salah. It was narrated by Abu Dawud, Al-Tirmidhi, Al-Nasa'i and others. The wording of Al-Nasa'i : On the authority of Jabir Ibn `Abdullah ﴿ That Jibril (Gabriel) came to the Prophet (peace be upon him) to teach him the times of prayers, so Jibril preceded, the Messenger of Allah was behind him and people were behind the Messenger of Allah (peace be upon him), then Jibril performed Zhuhr prayer when the sun is on the local meridian, then he came to him (the Prophet peace be upon him) when the shadow of the object was equal in length to it, and did what he has done before, Jibril preceded, the Messenger of Allah (peace be upon him) was behind him and people were behind the Messenger (peace be upon him). Then Jibril performed `Asr prayer, again he came to him (peace be upon him) when the sun was about to set, and preceded him and people were behind the Messenger of Allah (peace be upon him) and Jibril performed Maghrib prayer. When the red twilight disappeared, (Jibril) came, and preceded the Messenger of Allah (peace be upon him) and people were behind him (peace be upon him) then he (Jibril) performed `Isha' prayer. When the dawn broke, (Jibril) preceded the Messenger (peace be upon him) and people were behind him then he (Jibril) prayed Fajr. The next day (Jibril) came to the Prophet (peace be upon him) when the shadow of a person was equal in length to it, and made the same as he did the day before, and performed Zhuhr prayer. Then he came to the Messenger (peace be upon him) when the shadow equaled twice the length of a person. Again he came to him (peace be upon him) when the sun was about to set and made like the day before and performed Maghrib prayer. Then we slept then woke up, then slept again then woke up, then he (Jibril) came and did like the day before then he performed `Isha' prayer. When Fajr broke and stars were clear and knitted, he came and did like the

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previous day and performed Fajr prayer, then he said: there is time between these two prayers (Fajr and `Isha'). ﴾3-It was related by Muslim (may Allah have mercy on him) on the authority of `Abdullah ibn `Amru (may Allah be pleased with them) that the Messenger of Allah (peace be upon him) stated:﴿ The time of the noon prayer is when the sun is on the local meridian in its path and when the shadow of everything is equal in length to the object itself passes (and it lasts) as long as the time for the afternoon prayer has not come; the time for the afternoon prayer is as long as the sun has not become yellow; the time of the evening prayer is as long as the twilight has not disappeared; the time of the night prayer is up to the middle of the second third of the night; and the time of the morning prayer is from the break of dawn, as long as the sun has not risen. ﴾4-It was narrated by Al-Bukhari and Muslim (May Allah be merciful with them) on the authority of Abu Hurayrah (may Allah be pleased with him) that the Messenger of Allah (peace be upon him) stated:﴿ Whoever performs one rak'ah of the Fajr prayer before sunrise, will have performed the Fajr prayer and whoever performs one Rak'ah of `Asr prayer before sunset, will have performed `Asr prayer. ﴾These detailed timings are

general to all zones of the earth. Every country has its own ruling according to the times of Meridien, sunrise and sunset as well as the rise of dawn, whether these times are always or sometimes close or at wide intervals.

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May Allah grant us success! May peace and blessings be upon our Prophet Muhammad, his family and companions!

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