

**Is It *Sunnah* To Divide The Night Prayer (Salaatul-Qiyaam) During Ramadan Into Two Parts, One Part Performed In the Beginning of the Night & the Second Part In the End of the Night?
Imaam Muhammad Naasirud-Deen al-Albaanee (Rahimahullaah)**

The questioner said:

O Shaykh, [what is your view about] that which is happening now (i.e. these days) in **Ramadaan**, in the **Last Ten** (nights of Ramadaan), where they are dividing up the *Salaah* – i.e. *Salaatul-Qiyaam* (the Prayer of Long Standing in the Night) – [performing part of it] in the beginning of the night (after Ishaah) and part of it in the end of the night (at some agreed upon hour later on in the night), such that this has become ***Nidhaam Daa'im*** (an ongoing regular practice)?

Imaam al-Albaanee (Rahimahullaah, may Allaah have mercy on him) said:
[It is] a **Bid'ah** (innovation)!

The questioner:

O.K., so how will it be if we wanted to **establish the Sunnah** and make it **easy** for the people, then how shall we do it?

Imaam al-Albaanee (Rahimahullaah, may Allaah have mercy on him):

You are thinking just like Umar (RadiyahAllaahu 'an-hu, may Allaah be pleased with him) when he said: 'that (prayer) which they *delay* (i.e. if they pray later in the night, instead of earlier in the night) is better', meaning: he (Umar) had ordered Ubayy ibn Ka'b (RadiyahAllaahu an-hu, may Allaah be pleased with him) to establish the *Salaatul-Qiyaam* (Night Prayer of Long Standing) with the people after the Ishaah' Prayer [in the *earlier* part of the night to make it *easy* on the people], so he (Ubayy ibn Ka'b, RadiyahAllaahu an-hu, may Allaah be pleased with him) did it (as he was commanded).

So, when he (Umar, RadiyahAllaahu an-hu, may Allaah be pleased with him) went out (during the night) to see how things were going, he said [concerning Ubayy ibn Ka'b leading the people **in one congregation** in *Qiyaam* during the *early* part of the night] **what an excellent new thing this is!** [since the Prophet (SallAllaahu Alaihi wa Sallam) had established the performance of the *night prayer in congregation* for two or three nights during his lifetime, but stopped performing it so that it would not be an obligation on the people]. *But, the one which you are sleeping past is better* [i.e. to perform the night prayer in the *latter* part of the night is *better* than performing it in the *earlier* part of the night].'

The questioner:

This means that **we should leave it** (the performance of *Salaatul-Qiyaam*) **just as it was before the Last Ten (nights)** [i.e. making it *easy* for the people by performing it in the *earlier* part of the night]?

Imaam al-Albaanee (Rahimahullaah):
Yes (exactly)!

The questioner:

JazaakAllaahu Khairan! (May Allaah Reward you with good)!