

Rulings of prostrations of forgetfulness

If a person leaves out an essential act of Salah, it will be invalid and it will be compulsory for him to repeat the Salah.

The deficiency in Salah will not be remedied by prostrations of forgetfulness nor by any other thing, no matter whether he left out the essential act intentionally or forgetfully.

If a person leaves out a compulsory act of Salah intentionally, then he is a sinner. His Salah is invalid and it is compulsory for him to repeat the Salah. The deficiency in Salah cannot be remedied by prostrations of forgetfulness.

If a person leaves out a compulsory act of Salah forgetfully, it is compulsory for him to perform prostrations of forgetfulness. The deficiency in his Salah will be remedied by these prostrations.

Thus, prostrations of forgetfulness are compulsory in the following cases:

1. The person leaves out recitation of the Quranic chapter of Fatihah forgetfully in both or either of the first two units of an obligatory Salah. Same will be the ruling if he leaves out recitation of the chapter of Fatihah forgetfully in any of the units of a supererogatory or Witr Salah.

2. The person forgets additional Quranic recitation in the first two units of an obligatory Salah, then does this recitation in the last two units.
3. He forgets throughout the Salah the additional Quranic recitation in both or either of the first two units of an obligatory Salah. Same will be the ruling if he forgets the additional recitation in any unit of a supererogatory or Witr Salah.
4. He recites Fatihah twice. In this case, he has delayed the additional Quranic recitation from its rightful position.
5. He performs only one prostration and stands up for the next unit. Then in that or later unit, he performs the two prostrations of that unit as well as the prostration he missed earlier. In this case, his Salah will be valid and prostrations of forgetfulness will be compulsory for him.
6. He leaves out forgetfully the first At Tahiyat sitting in a three- or four-unit Salah, no matter whether he left it out in an obligatory Salah or a supererogatory Salah. If a person leaves out the first At Tahiyat sitting in an obligatory Salah forgetfully and stands up completely for the third unit, he should continue the third unit instead of returning for the sitting. Later, he should perform the prostrations of forgetfulness as he has left out the compulsory act of the first At Tahiyat sitting.
He leaves out the recitation of At Tahiyat forgetfully.
7. He forgets to say the Qunüt Takbîr in a Witr Salah.
8. He forgets reciting the Qunüt supplication before bowing in a Witr Salah.

9. The Imam recites audibly in a Salah of inaudible recitation.
10. The Imam recites inaudibly in a Salah of audible recitation.
11. He does more than At Tahiyat recitation in the first At Tahiyat sitting, like forgetfully reciting the blessings supplication for the Prophet صلى الله عليه وسلم after completing the At Tahiyat, or staying silent for a period in which one of the smallest essentials of Salah may be performed.

Other rulings related to the prostrations of forgetfulness

- Prostrations of forgetfulness are compulsory for both Imam and Imam-followers due to the Imam's forgetfulness.
- Prostrations of forgetfulness are not compulsory if an Imam-follower forgets something while following the Imam.
- Prostrations of forgetfulness will be compulsory if the Imam-follower forgets while completing his missed units after the Imam has performed the ending Salams.
- If an Imam performs prostrations of forgetfulness after it became compulsory for him, then it will be compulsory for the Imam-followers to follow him in the prostrations of forgetfulness.
- If prostrations of forgetfulness become compulsory for a person, yet he leaves them out intentionally, then he will be a sinner. Repeating the Salah will be compulsory for him.

- If a person leaves out more than one compulsory act forgetfully, then also two prostrations of forgetfulness will be enough for him.
- If a person leaves out the first At Tahiyat sitting in an obligatory Salah forgetfully and begins standing up, then he should return to the sitting provided he has not completely stood up straight. At the time of returning, if he was closer to standing, he should perform the prostrations of forgetfulness and if he was closer to sitting, he should not perform them.
- If a person forgets the first At Tahiyat sitting in a supererogatory Salah, he should return to the sitting as soon as he remembers, even if he has completely stood up straight. Later, he should perform the prostrations of forgetfulness.
- If a person forgets the last At Tahiyat sitting and stands up, he should return to the sitting unless he has performed a prostration of the fifth unit. Later he should perform the prostrations of forgetfulness.
- If a person forgets the last At Tahiyat, stands up and performs a prostration of the next unit, his obligatory Salah will become supererogatory. He should perform the sixth unit in Zuhr, Asr and Isha, and the third unit in Fajr. Afterwards, he should repeat the obligatory Salah.
- If a person sits and recites At Tahiyat in the last At Tahiyat sitting, then stands up thinking that it was the first At Tahiyat sitting, he should return to the sitting and perform the ending Salam without repeating the At Tahiyat.
- If a person performs the ending Salam with the intention of exiting the Salah when prostrations of forgetfulness were

compulsory for him, he should immediately on remembering perform the prostrations of forgetfulness unless he has done an act that is contrary to the state of Salah, like turning away from the Salah direction or talking.

- If a person performing a four-unit Salah mistakenly thinks that he has completed his Salah, so he performs the ending Salam, then he comes to know that he has performed two units only, then should continue with the Salah. He should perform the left out units and prostrate for forgetfulness.

Method of prostrations of forgetfulness

A person for whom prostrations of forgetfulness are compulsory should complete At Tahiyat in the last At Tahiyat sitting and perform one ending Salam to his right. He should then say the Takbir and perform two prostrations like the normal prostrations of Salah. Then he should sit and recite At Tahiyat which is compulsory. After this he should recite the blessings supplication

for the Prophet صلى الله عليه وسلم and the last supplication meant for himself.

Next, he should perform the two ending Salams for exiting the Salah.

If he prostrates for forgetfulness before perform the Salam, his Salah will be valid but this act is undesirable.

When are the prostrations of forgetfulness not required?

1. Prostrations of forgetfulness are not required in Friday Salah if the congregations is very large. This is to avoid confusion for the Imam-followers.
2. Prostrations of forgetfulness are not required in Īd Salahs if the congregation is very large.
3. They are not required in Fajr if after performing the ending Salam, the sun rises.
4. They are not required in Asr if after performing the ending Salam, the sun turns red.
5. They are not required if after the ending Salam, an act contrary to Salah is done forgetfully like talking.

In all the above cases, repeating the Salah is not compulsory.

When does the Salah become invalid due to doubt and When does it not?

- If during a Salah, the person falls in doubt about the number of Salah-units performed and this doubt has occurred to him for the first time, then his Salah becomes invalid. Repeating the Salah will be compulsory for him.
- If a person doubts about the number of Salah-units after the ending Salam, his Salah will not be invalid. If a person after performing the ending Salams feels certain that he has left out one or more Salah-units, he should perform the left out units unless he has done an act contrary to Salah. If he has done an

act contrary to Salah like talking, he should repeat the complete Salah.

- If a person falls in doubt most of the time and the doubt has become a kind of habit for him, he should act upon what appears overwhelmingly probable to him. If neither side of the doubt appears overwhelmingly probable, then he should act according to the lower of the Salah-units regarding which he is in doubt. But he should sit after each Salah-unit considering it to be his last unit. In the end he should perform the prostrations of forgetfulness.

