

The prostrations of forgetfulness

*source: silsilat ul-hudā wa nnūr ~ the series of guidance and light ~
tape no. 183 (a), 133 (b), 259 (c), 406 (d), 81 (e)*

*Question #6: (a) “What is the general rule of the *sujūd us-sahū* (prostrations of forgetfulness)?”

Shaykh al-Albānī answers: “(It is due upon a person) under any circumstances if (something was done or not done in prayer) out of forgetfulness, even if it is a *sunnah*.”

*Question #12: (b) “Is the *sujūd us-sahū* before the *salām* or after the *salām*?”

Shaykh al-Albānī answers: “Regarding every *sujūd us-sahū*, its doer has the choice between prostrating before the *salām* or after the *salām*. And the detailed explanation that is mentioned in some books, especially the Hanbali ones, that (the *sujūd us-sahū*) is before the *salām* for making additions (in the prayer), and after the *salām* for omissions, this is baseless. Those who say it, they saw some occurrences to which the likes of this detail applied, but there are (also) occurrences that nullify this detail. Therefore, a person has the choice between 1-making the *taslīm* then prostrating, and 2-not making the *taslīm* and prostrating then making the *taslīm* of exiting the prayer.”

*Question #7: (c) “When is the *sujūd us-sahū*, before the *salām* or after it?”

Shaykh al-Albānī answers: “The one who forgets in prayer has a choice: if he wants, he makes the *taslīm* (first) and that is absolutely better; and if he wants, he does not make the *taslīm* except after completing the two prostrations of forgetfulness.”

*Question #10: (d) “What does the one who forgets (in prayer) say during the *sujūd us-sahū*?”

Shaykh al-Albānī answers: “The same as the usual (*dhikr*¹ said during prostrating and sitting in-between the prostrations); i.e., there isn’t anything special.”

*Question #3: (e) “Does the prayer become invalid if the *sujūd us-sahū* is left out on purpose?”

Shaykh al-Albānī answers: “If he intentionally leaves out the *sujūd us-sahū*, the prayer does not become invalid. But, he will be a sinner because of his leaving out the two prostrations of forgetfulness that the Messenger (of Allaah) ﷺ has ordered.”

~ *asaheeha translations* ~

¹ words of remembrance of Allāh