

## Part 1

The Prophet ﷺ was the most God-fearing of men. He was the humblest and the most obedient to his Lord and had the purest soul. He was the best person to have ever worshipped, stood, and prayed to his Creator. The highest level of Khushu any human being could possess was attained by Him ﷺ. His lofty Khushu and softness of heart was a manifestation of His deep love, awe and veneration of Allah (‘azza wa jall).

The Salah of the Prophet ﷺ was the perfect embodiment of submission and humility, both internally and externally. Accordingly, it is vital that we educate ourselves about his ṣalāh and then try to emulate him.

When standing up to pray, the Prophet’s head would be lowered. In sajdah, he would separate his arms from his body so widely that the whiteness of his armpits was visible. In the final Tashahhud, his blessed gaze would not go beyond the finger he was pointing with. He would lengthen each pillar, praying with tranquillity and calmness. Sometimes, even in congregational prayer, he would stand for so long after Ruku that His Companions (radiy Allāhu ‘anhum) would think he had forgotten. His private Salah would be even lengthier. He would weep and pray for hours on end in the night.

‘Abdullāh bin al-Shikh-khīr (radiy Allāhu ‘anhu) said, “I came to the Prophet ﷺ whilst he was praying. His inside was making a sound like the sound of the boiling of the cooking-pot [due to crying profusely]” (Nasā’i). In another narration, the sound was likened to the noise of a millstone (Abū Dāwūd).

### The Most Amazing Thing

Ata’ (Rahimahullah) entered with Ubayd bin Umayr (Rahimahullah) upon Aishah (radiy Allāhu ‘anha). When Ibn ‘Umayr asked Aishah (radiy Allāhu ‘anha) to tell them about the most amazing thing which she had witnessed from the Messenger of Allah ﷺ, she cried.

She then said, “He got up one night and said, ‘O Aishah, leave me to worship my Lord.’ I told him, ‘By Allah, indeed I love to be with you, and I love what makes you happy.’ So he stood up, performed Wudu and then stood to pray. He continued to cry until his lap became wet. He then cried and continued to cry until the ground became wet.

When Bilāl (radiy Allāhu ‘anhu) came to give the Azaan and saw him crying, he said, ‘O Messenger of Allah ﷺ, are you crying when Allah has forgiven all your previous and upcoming sins?’ He replied, ‘Should I not be a grateful slave? Certain Ayat were revealed to me last night; woe to the one who recites them and does not ponder over what they contain (the last ten Ayat of Surah Al Imran) 3:190-200 (Ibn Hibbān).

Another moving Hadith relates how he ﷺ cried through the night in the Battle of Badr.

Ali bin. Abī Tālib (radiy Allāhu ‘anhu) said, “There wasn’t a horseman amongst us on the day of Badr except for Miqdād (radiy Allāhu ‘anhu). I observed that all of us were sleeping except the Messenger of Allah ﷺ who was under a tree, praying and crying until the morning” (Aḥmad).

## An Incredible Account

The following Hadith is one of the most amazing accounts of the perfection and quality of the Prophet's ﷺ Salah:

Hudhayfah (radīy Allāhu ‘anhu) said, “I prayed with the Messenger of Allah ﷺ one night and he started reciting Surah al-Baqarah. I said to myself that he will do Ruku at the end of one hundred Ayat, but he carried on reciting. I then said to myself that he will perhaps recite the whole surah in a Rakkah, and he carried on reciting. (At the end of Surah al-Baqarah), I said to myself that he will (now) go into Ruku. However, he then started Surah al-Nisa’, and recited it. He then started Surah Al Imran and recited it slowly.

When he recited the Ayat which entailed the glorification of Allah (tasbih), he glorified Him.

When he recited the Ayat which entailed asking (duaa), he would ask Allah.

And when he recited the Ayat which entailed the protection of Allah, he sought His protection.

He ﷺ then went into Ruku and said, ‘How Perfect is my Lord, the Magnificent.’ His bowing lasted about the same length of time as his standing. He then said, ‘May Allah respond to the one who has praised Him’, and he then stood for a long time, about the same length of time as he had spent in bowing. He then performed sajdah and said, ‘How Perfect is my Lord, the Most Exalted’, and his prostration lasted nearly the same length of time as his standing” (Muslim).

Allahu Akbar! Go back and read this Hadith again to fully appreciate its significance. Can you imagine what the Salah of Rasulullah ﷺ was like?

The above Hadith gives us a glimpse of the noble and pure love He ﷺ had for His Creator and Master (‘azza wa jall). The Prophet ﷺ at the time was over the age of fifty. Despite this, along with the responsibilities he shouldered throughout the day, he still spent hours at night in standing, bowing, and prostrating to his Lord.

Aishah (radīy Allāhu ‘anha) narrated that the Prophet ﷺ used to pray (for so long) during the night that his feet would swell up. She asked him, “Why do you do this O Messenger of Allah when Allah has already forgiven your previous and upcoming sins?” He ﷺ replied, “Should I not be a thankful slave?” (Bukhārī)