20851 - Can I Pray Tahajjud after Witr?

the question

I am not a regular Tahajjud prayer. Once I pray Witr after `Isha, later I want to pray Nafl. Can I do so?

Summary of answer

There is nothing wrong with the person who prays Witr in the first part of the night or the middle of the night offering any Nafl (supererogatory) prayers he wants after Witr even though it is recommended for the last of his prayer at night to be Witr.

Detailed answer

Praise be to Allah.

There is nothing wrong with the person who prays Witr in the first part of the night or the middle of the night offering any Nafl prayers he wants after Witr, even though it is recommended for the last of his prayer at night to be Witr.

In this case, he should not repeat Witr , rather the Witr that he prayed at the beginning of the night is sufficient.

`Abdullah ibn `Umar (may Allah be pleased with him) said: The Messenger of Allah (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) said: “Make the last of your prayer at night Witr.” (Narrated by Al-Bukhari, 998 and Muslim, 749)

Talq ibn `Ali (may Allah be pleased with him) said: I heard the Messenger of Allah (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) say, “There should not be two Witrs in one night.” (Narrated by At-Tirmidhi, 470; An-Nasa’i, 1679; Abu Dawud, 1439. Classed as authentic by Al-Albani in Sahih Al-Jami`, 7567)

Ibn Hazm (may Allah have mercy on him) said in Al-Muhalla, 2/92, 93:

“Witr at the end of the night is better, but whoever prays Witr at the beginning of the night, that is fine. It is permissible to pray after Witr but one should not repeat Witr.”

An-Nawawi (may Allah have mercy on him) said in Al-Majmu`, 3/512:

“If a person prays Witr then he wants to offer a Nafl prayer etc at night, that is permissible and is not disliked, but he should not repeat Witr. The evidence for that is the hadith of `Aishah (may Allah be pleased with her) who was asked about the Witr of the Messenger of Allah (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him). She said: “We used to prepare his Siwak (tooth stick) and water for Wudu for him, then Allah would cause him to wake up at any time He willed at night. He would use the tooth stick, do wudu’ and pray nine Rak’ahs, in which he would not sit except in the eighth, when he would remember Allah, glorify Him and make Du`a’. Then he would get up without saying Salam, and pray the ninth Rak`ah. Then he would sit down and again remember Allah, glorify Him and make Du`a’. Then he would say a Salam that we could hear, then he would pray two Rak`ahs after that, whilst sitting down.” Narrated by Muslim; this is part of a lengthy Hadith, which is to be understood as meaning that the Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) prayed two Rak`ahs after Witr to show that it is permissible to pray after Witr.”

For more details, please see this category: Night Prayer

And Allah knows best.