154587 - What to Do If You Break Wudu in Sujud As-Sahw

the question

What should one do if one makes a mistake (such as forgetting to recite Rabbigfirli between the two sajdahs) in Sajdah Sahw? Also what should one do if one's wudu gets lost during the Sajdah Sahw (such as when sitting between the two sajdahs)?

Summary of answer

If you have to offer Sujud As-Sahw before the salam and you break wudu, then your prayer is rendered invalid. If you have to offer Sujud As-Sahw after the salam and you broke your wudu, then your prayer is valid and you do not have to do anything else.

Detailed answer

Praise be to Allah.

What to do if you miss the dhikr in Sujud As-Sahw

What is prescribed in Sujud As-Sahw (the prostration of forgetfulness) is to say in it and between the two prostrations what one says in prostration during prayer, so you should say tasbih whilst prostrating and say Rabb ighfir li (Lord forgive me) between the two prostrations. But if you forget any of that, you do not have to do another prostration for forgetfulness, so that it does not become an endless cycle.

It says in al-Sharh al-Kabir (1/700) about matters for which no prostration is required:

"It is not prescribed to do the prostration of forgetfulness in the funeral prayer, because there is no prostration in this prayer, so how could you do a prostration to make up for a mistake in this case; or in the prostration of recitation, or in the prostration of forgetfulness. This was stated by Ahmad.

And because there is consensus narrated by Ishaq, because it would become an endless cycle. So if he forgets something after doing the prostration of forgetfulness , he should not prostrate again for that reason. And Allah knows best."

It says something similar in Matalib Uli al-Nuha (1/507).

To sum up, if a person forgets something during the prostration of forgetfulness, he does not have to do anything else, and his prayer is valid.

What to do if you break wudu in Sujud As-Sahw

If a person loses his wudu during the prostration of forgetfulness , the matter is subject to further discussion:

1. If he prostrated before the salam, his prayer is rendered invalid, because saying the taslim at the end of the prayer is a pillar or essential part of prayer, and he broke his wudu before doing this essential part.
2. If he had said the salam at the end of his prayer, and he only had the prostration of forgetfulness to do, then he lost his wudu during it or before he did it, then his prayer is valid and he does not have to do anything else, because the prostration is making up for a mistake in the prayer, and it is not rendered invalid by missing it.

It says in Kashshaf al-Qina' (1/409):

"If a person forgets the prostration of forgetfulness until he starts another prayer, then he remembers it, he should make it up when he says the salam, if a long time has not passed. But if a long time has passed, he should not do this prostration, because it is done to complete a prayer, so it should not be done after a long time has passed. Or if he has left the mosque he does not have to do this prostration; and the same applies if he loses his wudu -- and his prayer is valid."

And Allah knows best.