



## *Ruling on Taraweeh Prayer via Livestream*

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**Q. What is the ruling of Taraweeh prayer, and is it prayed in congregation or individually?**

A. The scholars have agreed that Taraweeh prayer is sunnah and they have differed on whether it is more virtuous to pray it alone or in congregation.


**Q. How should Taraweeh prayer be performed in 2020 while mosques are closed due to the Coronavirus pandemic?**

A. The prophet (ﷺ) prayed Taraweeh in the masjid some nights and also prayed it in his home, so that his ummah knows the rulings of the prayer and its permissibility to be performed in the mosques and in homes.

Aisha (may Allah be pleased with her) narrated that Allah's Messenger (ﷺ) used to pray in his room at night. As the wall of the room was low, the people saw him and some of them stood up to follow him in the prayer. In the morning they spread the news. The following night the Prophet (ﷺ) stood for the prayer and the people followed him. This went on for two or three nights. Thereupon, Allah's Messenger (ﷺ) did not stand for the prayer the following night, and did not come out.

**Q. What is the ruling on praying Taraweeh behind a local imam via livestream utilizing one of the current telecommunication platforms?**

A. The ruling in this matter does not differ from the ruling for Jum'ah prayer, as most Fiqh councils have declared the impermissibility of being led by an Imam via virtual means. This is due to the matter that prayer is a worship ritual, and it is to be performed according to guidelines outlined by the Qur'an and Sunnah without adding anything new without explicit textual evidence. The Fiqh councils have also stated that all evidence led to the permissibility of performing Taraweeh prayers individually in homes for those who are unable to perform them in the masjid. They have mentioned that the prophet (ﷺ) ordered people to pray in their homes whenever an incident occurred that would prevent them from praying in the masjid; he (ﷺ) did not order them to establish Jum'ah in their homes and



did not order those who lived close to the masjid to follow him in prayer while in their homes.

Praying via livestream would involve violating the meaning of congregational prayer as defined by the Shari'a. Congregational prayers involve:

- the Imam and his followers being in the same space physically without a large gap between them,
- the followers also cannot advance in position in relation to the Imam, and
- the Imam and his followers must also be united in direction in terms of facing the Qibla.

Therefore, praying via livestream would violate the abovementioned requirements.

