

## The ruling on the one who abandons Prayer 2

source: *silsilat ul-ahaadeeth is-saheeha* – the series of authentic narrations – hadeeth no. 87

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بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

Hudayfah bin al-Yamaan (rad iyallaahu `anhu)<sup>1</sup> said that the Messenger of Allaah (صلى الله عليه وسلم)<sup>2</sup> said: “**Islaam will be erased just as the decoration of a garment is (worn out and) erased, until it will not be known what is fasting, nor prayer, nor the rituals of Hajj, nor charity; and the Book of Allaah, the Mighty and Majestic, (i.e., the Qur’aan) will be taken away (from the *mus\_hafs*<sup>3</sup> and breasts of the people)<sup>4</sup> in one night such that not (even) an aayah from it will remain on earth. And groups of people will remain – the old people – saying: ‘We saw our forefathers upon this statement: ‘*laa ilaaha illallaah* (none has the right to worshiped but Allaah),’ so we also say it.’”**

(Then), Silah bin Zufar said to Hudayfah (rad iyallaahu `anhu): ‘What will ‘*laa ilaaha illallaah*’ benefit them when they don’t know what is prayer, nor fasting, nor the rituals of Hajj, nor charity?’ Hudayfah (rad iyallaahu `anhu) turned away from him. Then (Silah) repeated it to (Hudayfah (rad iyallaahu `anhu)) three times, and every time Hudayfah (rad iyallaahu `anhu) would turn away from him. Then he turned toward him on the third time and said three times: ‘O Silah! It will save them from the Fire.’”<sup>5</sup>

Shaykh al-Albaanee (رَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ)<sup>6</sup> comments:

“There is an important benefit of fiqh in the hadeeth, which is that bearing witness that *laa ilaaha illallaah* (none has the right to be worshiped but Allaah) saves the one who says it (sincerely) from dwelling forever in the Fire on the Day of Resurrection, even if he didn’t use to perform any of the other pillars of Islaam at all, such as prayer and so on. And it is known that the scholars have differed about the ruling on the one who abandons the prayer especially while believing in its legislation. So **the majority was of the opinion that he has not disbelieved** by that, but rather disobeyed Allaah; and Ahmad – in a report – was of the opinion that he has disbelieved, and that he is to be killed due to apostasy, not as a prescribed punishment. And it is has been authentically narrated from the Companions that they did not consider leaving any of the actions to be disbelief except the prayer; at-Tirmidhee and al-Haakim reported it.<sup>7</sup>

And I believe that that which is correct is the view of the majority, and that **what was mentioned from the Companions does not clearly state that they meant by ‘disbelief’ here to be the disbelief which will make its possessor dwell forever in the Fire and for which it is not possible that Allaah will forgive him**. How can that be when this is Hudayfah bin al-Yamaan (rad iyallaahu `anhu) – who is one of the foremost of those Companions – responding to Silah bin Zufar, who was about to understand the affair as Ahmad’s understanding of it. So (Silah) said: ‘What will ‘*laa ilaaha illallaah*’ benefit them when they don’t know what is prayer. . .,’ then Hudayfah (rad iyallaahu `anhu) replied to him after his

<sup>1</sup> (rad iyallaahu `anhu) May Allaah be pleased with him

<sup>2</sup> (صلى الله عليه وسلم) May the peace and blessings of Allaah be upon him

<sup>3</sup> the actually plural word in Arabic for mus-haf is masaahif, i.e., copies of the Qur’aan

<sup>4</sup> this explanation and detail in the parentheses was mentioned by Shaykh ‘Abd ul-Muhsin al-‘Abbaad in Sharh Sunan ibn Maajah, tape no.293

<sup>5</sup> also refer to Saheeh ibn Maajah no.3289

<sup>6</sup> (رَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ) (rahimahullaah) May Allaah have mercy on him

<sup>7</sup> Saheeh at-Tirmidhee no.2622

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turning away from him, saying three times: ‘O Silah! It will save them from the Fire.’ Therefore, this is a clear statement from Hudayfah (rad iyallaahu `anhu) that the one who abandons the prayer is not a disbeliever [if he believes in its legislation], but rather a Muslim who will be saved from dwelling forever in the Fire on the Day of Resurrection. So be mindful of this, for indeed you may not find it in other than this place.”

**asaheeha translations**