

In Islam, if we claim that there is a special day or time, this claim must be proven with an authentic hadith. For example, we know Laylatul Qadr/the night of decree is special because we have authentic texts explaining the virtues of Laylatul Qadr.

In many cultures, it is well known that the last Jum'ah of Ramadan is a special Jum'ah. It is known as Jum'atul Wada'h or Al Jum'ah Al-Yateemah الجمعة اليتيمة. Millions of Muslims rush to perform this Jum'ah thinking this Jum'ah is more rewarding and more blessed than any other Jum'ah. People also claim that if someone prays a certain number of prayers on the last Jum'ah, it will make up for their missed prayers.

However, there is no authentic hadith to prove that this Jum'ah is more virtuous than any other Jum'ah of Ramadan. Rather all Jum'ah of Ramadan and other than Ramadan are of equal virtue except of course the Jum'ah that falls in the first ten days of Dhul Hijjah for which we have clear text.

Imam Ash-Shawkaani (may Allah have mercy on him) said:

The hadeeth "*Whoever prays the five obligatory prayers of the night and day on the last Friday of Ramadan, that will make up for what he missed of prayers during that year*" is undoubtedly *mawdoo'* (fabricated). I could not find it in any of the books in which the authors compiled fabricated hadeeths, but it is well-known among a group of people who claim to have knowledge in the city of San'aa' nowadays, and many of them do that! I do not know who fabricated it and told it to them; may Allah curse the liars. End quote from *al-Ahaadeeth al-Mawdoo'ah* (p. 54)

Shaykh Muhammad ibn Saalih al-'Uthaymeen (may Allah have mercy on him) was asked:

There is a group of people who have a custom in Ramadan, which is to offer the five obligatory prayers after a prayer on the last Friday (of Ramadan), and they say that this is to make up for any obligatory prayers that a person did not offer or that he forgot in Ramadan. What is the ruling on this prayer?

He replied: The ruling concerning this prayer is that it is an innovation (*bid'ah*) and it has no basis in Islamic teachings; it will only take a person further away from his Lord, because the Messenger of Allah (blessings and peace of Allah be upon him) said: "Every innovation is misguidance, and every misguidance will be in the Fire." No matter how much the followers of an innovation like it and regard it as good in their own minds, it is something bad before Allah, may He be glorified and exalted, because His Prophet (blessings and peace of Allah be upon him) said: "Every innovation is misguidance, and every misguidance will be in the Fire." These five daily prayers that a person makes up on the last Friday of Ramadan have no basis in Islamic teaching. Moreover, we say: has this person missed only five prayers? Perhaps he missed a number of days, not a number of prayers? End quote from *Majmoo' Fataawa ash-Shaykh al-'Uthaymeen* (12/227, 228)

The narrations regarding special virtues and special prayers during the last Friday of Ramadan are all graded as false/fabricated by the scholars of sunnah like Imam Mohammad Nasiruddin Al-Albani, Imam Mulla 'Alee Qari, Imam Ibn Baaz, Sheikh Saleh Al-Fawzan and other great scholars. No scholars of Ahl-as-sunnah support such special virtues being ascribed to this last

Jum'ah and neither do they support any special actions/prayers to be done on this day of Jum'ah that will act as an atonement for missed prayers.

Verification of information is essential so that we can protect ourselves from following false and fabricated reports. In conclusion, to claim the last Jum'ah of Ramadaan is special and to specially prepare for the Jum'ah prayer thinking it has special virtue is for sure a very reprehensible innovation that must be shunned.

Let's treat the last Jum'ah of Ramadaan like any other Jum'ah of Ramadaan - this is the sunnah of the Prophet (Sallallaahu 'alayhi wa sallam)

May Allaah guide all of us to the truth and only to the truth.

Your brother in Islam  
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