

### ***What are the times for Sala al-Duha and Ishraq to be prayed?***

To begin with, the majority of the classical scholars are of the opinion that the post-sunrise prayer (Ishrāq) is the same as the mid-morning prayer (Ḍuḥā). This is the very reason why the major classical books of Ḥanafī Fiqh do not mention the two prayers separately.

However, the common perception is that Ṣalā al-Ishrāq and Ṣalā al-Ḍuḥā are two separate prayers. The recommended time for offering Ishrāq prayer is immediately after sunrise, whilst the Ḍuḥā prayer (which is also referred to as Chāsht prayer) is offered later on.

Therefore, it can be said that the Ishrāq prayer and the Ḍuḥā prayer are both one; by performing this prayer early on when the sun has risen to a spear's length, one will gain extra rewards, and by offering it later on, one will still be considered to have offered the Duḥa prayer. For this very reason, we see many saintly people making an effort to offer the Ḍuḥā (or Ishrāq) prayer immediately after the sun has risen to a spear's length.

We see the various classical Hanafi books discussing the Ḍuḥā prayer without stipulating two separate prayers. For example, it is stated in *al-Fatāwā al-Hindiyya*:

“And from the recommended prayers is the Ḍuḥā prayer. Its minimum is two rakās, and its maximum is twelve rakās. Its time is from after sunrise to when the sun has just passed its zenith (*zawāl*).” (*al-Fatāwā al-Hindiyya*, 1/112)

There are many *Ahādīth* which encourage us to offer the Ḍuḥā prayer:

Sayyiduna Abū Hurayra narrates that my beloved companion (the Messenger of Allāh, Allāh bless him & give him peace) advised me three things: To fast three days of every month, to perform the two rakās of Ḍuḥā, and that I perform my Witr before retiring to bed.” (*Ṣaḥīḥ al-Bukhārī*)

Ummuna Ā'isha narrates that the Messenger of Allāh (Allah bless him & give him peace) would offer four rakās at the time of Ḍuḥā, and increase on it whatever Allāh wished.” (*Ṣaḥīḥ al-Muslim*)

As for your specific question Ishrāq would be approximately fifteen to twenty minutes after sunrise and Ḍuḥā would be approximately half way between sunrise and *zawāl*.

(Shaykh) Amjad Mohammed

© Amjad M. Mohammed and Scholastic Solutions 2006.