

THE FOUR PILLARS OF ARSH

In the Hadith of the Aimmah (a.s.) there is a great deal of emphasis on reciting this effective tasbih of Fatima Zahra (a.s.).

Perhaps one of the secrets behind the merits of reciting this tasbih is as he has been mentioned in a hadith in which we are told that a man came to Imam Ja'far ibne Muhammad as-Sadiq (a.s.) and asked him: *“What is the secret behind the Ka’bah having four rukn (corners) and it being cubic square (in shape)?”*

The Imam (a.s.) replied, *“It is because the baitul Ma’mur has four rukn.”*

The person then asked, *“Why does the Baitul Ma’mur has four rukn?”*

The Imam (a.s.) said, *“Because the ‘Arsh has four rukn.”*

The man further asked: *“Why the ‘Arsh has four rukn?”*

The Imam (a.s.) replied:

Due to the fact that every Arsh is dependent upon (or made firm by) the rukn (as its supports). The first of these is Allahu Akbar; the second is Subhanallah; the third is Alhamdulillah and the fourth is La Ilaha Illallah.

This hadith also means that whatever is in this material world has a secret which is linked to the spiritual realms.

With this hadith in mind, if the Prophet (s) taught this tasbih to Fatima Zahra (a.s.) and attributed her name to it, and if Imam Ja'far ibne Muhammad as-Sadiq (a.s.) said that:

For us, to recite this tasbih is better than 1,000 Rak'at of Salat

then it means that this tasbih has the ability to take a person up to the Arsh of Allah (s.w.t.)! Perhaps it is for this reason that some of the conditions for the tasbih are that: *one should face the Qiblah, and be in a state of Wudu while engaged in its recitation.*

The tasbih, just like the Salat, also has the power to spiritually uplift a person. If one makes a sincere intention to recite these three important dhikr, and ends it off with the recitation of ‘La Ilaha Illallah’, then could he see other than Allah (s.w.t.) as Great and Powerful, or would he even think of praising anyone other than Him?

Therefore with the passing of time and continuous recitation of this tasbih, such a person will have very few chances of going astray because he has taken hold of something which has nothing stronger to it, and he has grasped onto the Arsh of Allah (s.w.t.).

We ask Allah (s.w.t.) that He gives us – His sinful servants – the ability to reach His Arsh and hold onto the firmest of all handles!