## Honorific Titles With The Name of Allah tall ālā

Question: When the name of Allāh ta  $\bar{a}l\bar{a}$  is taken, is it essential or desirable to mention His honorific titles such  $tab\bar{a}raka$  wa ta  $\bar{a}l\bar{a}$ , sub- $h\bar{a}nahu$  wa ta  $\bar{a}l\bar{a}$  and so on?

Answer: In the light of the statements of the jurists it is learnt that when the name of Allāh ta la la is taken, it is desirable for the speaker to mention His honorific titles, and obligatory for the one who hears His name taken. The honorific title is not confined to any particular one; any title which demonstrates His greatness can be used. For example, sub-

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ānahu wa ta ālā, tabāraka wa ta ālā, azza wa jalla, jalla jalāluhu, jalla sha'nuhu, jalla jalāluhu wa amma nawāluhu and so on.

The following is stated in *Fatāwā Hindīyyah*:

The following is stated in *al-Muhīt al-Burhānī*:

The following is stated in Naf al-Muftī wa as-Sā'il:

However, the statement of the jurists that it is wājib on the one who hears Allāh's name to say an honorific title needs to be reviewed. Shaykh Abū Sa'īd Muhammad ibn Mustafā al-Muftī al-Khādimī clearly states that the view that it is wājib is objectionable. He says:

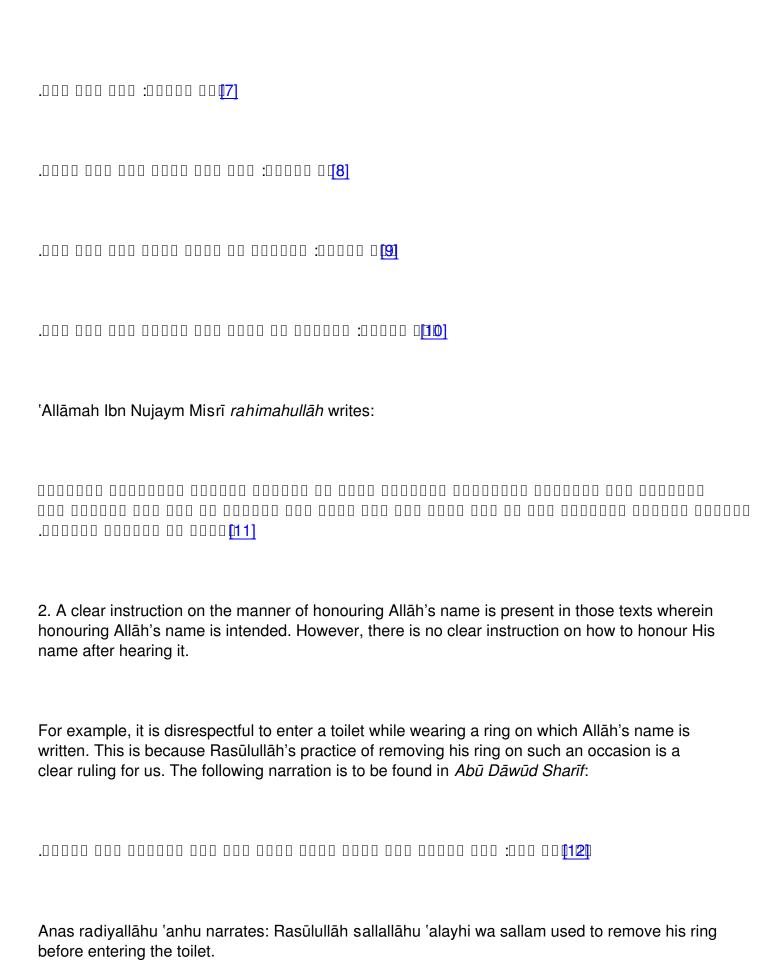
The following could be reasons why the view of obligation is objectionable:

1. None of the texts contain any warnings for leaving out honorific titles especially so when the presence of warnings for such matters are indications of the ruling of obligation. For example, strict warnings have been issued against the one who hears the name of Rasūlullāh *sallallāhu* alayhi wa sallam and does not send salutations to him.

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...Jibra'īl 'alayhis salām said: "May he be deprived of mercy who does not send salutations to you when you are mentioned." I said: "Āmīn."

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The second example is that when taking an oath, a person must bear in mind the sanctity of Allāh's name. Thus, the texts clearly instruct us to fulfil the oath so that disrespect is not shown to Allāh's name. [13]

If honorific titles for Allāh  $ta \bar{a} \bar{a} \bar{a}$  were wājib, a clear and explicit ruling would have been found, but we observe the contrary.

- 3. If the adding and saying of honorific titles were wājib, there would have been a continuous practice of the Muslim ummah in this regard. However, the practice from the first century to the present day is to the contrary. Yes, there is certainly the practice of reading durūd after hearing the name of our beloved Rasūlullāh  $sallallāhu \square alayhi wa sallam$ . On the other hand, most people do not pay attention to honorific titles with the name of Allāh  $ta\square \bar{a}l\bar{a}$
- . This is an indication of it not being wājib, it can be musta h

ab. Since the practice of the Muslim ummah is not against the texts, it is permissible to accept it as a proof. 'Allāmah Shāmī

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says in this regard:

Based on the above three reasons, the addition of honorific titles to Allāh's name ought to be mustahab, and this view is more conducive and easier for the masses.

What is the reason for the jurists differentiating between the one who utters Allāh's name and the one who hears it? Why did they say that it is mustahab for the one who utters His name and wājib for the one who hears it? It seems that the reason for this differentiation is that when a speaker mentions an order or injunction of Allāh  $ta \ \bar{a} \ \bar{a} \ \bar{a} \ \bar{a} \ \bar{a} \ \bar{a}$ 

, His respect is automatically included. For example, Allāh

tal ālā ordered us to perform s alāh and prohibited us from alcohol. So this point is included automatically in it, viz. Allāh, the enjoiner of good and forbidder of evil. These are honorific qualities. The hearer only heard Allāh's name, this is why it is more emphasized on him to add an honorific title to it. Allāh tal ālā knows best.
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[13] Refer to <i>Ma</i> ārif al-Qur'ān, vol. 3, p. 10 and vol. 1, p. 544.