

Praying in chair, is there difference between rukoo and sujood?

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بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

In the name of Allaah, the Most Merciful, the Bestower of Mercy

Question: The person that prays in a chair due to his inability, is it obligatory that there be a difference between his rukoo and his sujood from the standpoint of placement of the hands and bending of the back?

Shaykh bin Baaz (May Allaah the Most High have mercy on him): It is obligatory for the one who prays sitting on the ground or in a chair to make his sujood lower than his rukoo, and it is the Sunnah to place his hands on his knees while in rukoo; as for sujood then it is obligatory to place the hands on the ground if he is able, if he is not able then he places them on his knees. This is based on what has been confirmed from the Prophet (May the peace and blessings of Allaah the Most High be upon him) **'I have been commanded to prostrate upon seven bones, the forehead, and he pointed to his nose, both hands, both knees, and the toes on both feet'**.¹

And whoever is not able to do this and he prays in a chair then there is no harm in this, based on the statement of Allaah, **['And fear Allah as much as you are able']**². Also the statement of the Prophet (May the peace and blessings of Allaah the Most High be upon him), **'If I give you a command then do as much of it as you are able to'**³.

¹ Saheeh al-Bukhaaree 812, Saheeh Muslim 490, Ahmad 2653

² سورة التغابن – Soorah at-Taghaboon [64:16]

³ Saheeh al-Bukhaaree and Saheeh Muslim

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