

5 - Does a woman who miscarries and discharges blood pray

the question

If a woman has a miscarriage and has discharge of blood, does she pray?

Detailed answer

Praise be to Allah.

This case depends on the type of blood. Is the blood what is known as child-birth bleeding nifas or vaginal bleeding istihada (but not part of her regular period)? The scholars have declared the regulation in this matter. They said: "If she sees the blood after the abortion of a formed human being, then it is nifas; if she sees blood after the abortion of a clot, then it is not nifas."¹ In the latter case, she is considered to be mustahada so she performs wudu' for every salaah when the time for it is due and she prays. Whereas if the aborted object is a fetus or has human-formed organs like an arm or a leg or a head, then it is considered nifas. For the case where the aborted object is disposed of in the hospital before the woman saw it, the scholars have mentioned that the least amount of time human form starts to take place is eighty one days after pregnancy.² This is based on what came in Abdullah Bin Masoud's hadith (may Allah be pleased with him), in which he said the Prophet (peace be upon him) spoke to us, and he is the truthful and believed one, and said: "Each one of you, human creation, forms in his mother's womb forty days, then he is a hanging clot for the same amount of time, then he is a mudgha (the size of a morsel) for the same amount of time, then Allah sends an Angel who is commanded with four things: he is told to write his deeds, his livelihood and sustenance, whether he is happy or distressed "³ Ladies in this case should spend the effort to find out from the doctors' estimations until her situation is clear to her.

As for the blood that is discharged just prior to a normal delivery, if it is accompanied with the pains of contraction then it is nifas, and if not, then it is not. Sheikh ul-Islam Ibn Taimiyya, may the

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mercy of Allah be upon him, said: "What she sees when the contractions commence is nifas. What is referred to here is contractions after which follows delivery; otherwise it is not nifas."⁴

From the book What Should You Do in the Following Situations... ?

¹ al-Mughni ma' al-Sharh il-Kabeer 1/361

² Majmooa Fatawi ibn Uthaimen 4/292 Dar al-Qutni printing.

³ Sahih al-Buhari 6/303, Dar al-Fikr printing

⁴ Majmooa Fatawi Ibn Uthaimen 4/327, Dar al-Fikr printing.