

# PEGS OF THE MASĀJID

Alhamdulillah, amidst present circumstances, the broader Ummah of South Africa have displayed an admirable connection with the Masjid. As far as possible, we have continued to attend the Masjid for the Fard (obligatory) Salāh. We should understand that it is OUR need to attend the Masjid. Just as we used every avenue possible to earn our livelihood during the restrictions, we must endeavour to continue upholding that which the collective Ummah, from the time of Nabī sallallāhu alayhi wa sallam never abandoned.

Even during huge plagues, the Masjid were never closed. Hāfiz Ibn Hajar rahimahullāh gives the following account of the plague of 449 AH in Samarqand: "Every day, 6000 or more people died. The people were engrossed in washing, shrouding, and burying... people would literally fall dead. There were two thousand homes, in which no one remained. The people repented, gave Sadaqah, and remained connected to the Masjid. They disposed of alcohol and destroyed musical instruments." [Badhl al-Ma'ūn fī Fadl At-Tā'ūn p.366]

Our beloved Nabī sallallāhu alayhi wa sallam said: "Indeed, the Masjid have pegs (those who spend considerable time therein); the Angels are their companions, if they are absent, the angels search for them; if they are sick, the angels visit them, and if they are in need, the angels assist them." [Ahmad, Hākim] We want to be among those who the Angels will seek out and render assistance to, in our time of need.

We should resolve to hold firmly onto the Sunnah of our beloved Master sallallāhu alayhi wa sallam and never modify, or allow our Deen to be modified. There is no "new normal" in Deen. The Mubarak (blessed) Sunnah determines what is normal and any alteration to the Sunnah is considered abnormal and worthy of rejection. We should acknowledge that performing Salāh in the Masjid is not a right conferred to us by any worldly authority. It is a privilege given to us by Allāh Ta'ālā and He can snatch it away at any time. We have to beg Allāh Ta'ālā to keep our Masjid open and allow us to benefit fully from all the Masjid activities.

We must not introduce unnecessary restrictions. We urge those who are responsible, not to errantly close the Masjid on their own accord, or become the means of

closing the House of Allāh Ta'ālā. This is because the Masjid is where our beloved Nabī sallallāhu alayhi wa sallam and the honourable Sahābah radhiyallāhu anhum would hasten to when faced with any difficulty.

We must resolve that no second wave, or the predicted third or fourth wave or any other wave will constrain us to abandon our sanctuaries of safety again; certainly not by our own doing. Instead, we should resolve to abandon our sinful ways and return to the obedience of Allāh Ta'ālā. Allāh Ta'ālā sends down conditions according to our actions. May Allāh Ta'ālā never let us see a day when the Masjid are closed again. Āmīn

The Masjid should be kept alive with various individual actions, such as Salāh, Tilāwah, Zikr, Durūd Sharīf, Istighfār and Du'ā. Our mothers and sisters are encouraged to keep our homes alive with the same a'māl, with ta'līm of the Kitābs of Fadhā'il, Desire for the Ākhirat, Al-Itidāl & Sīrat-ul-Mustafā sallallāhu alayhi wa sallam. We should give Sadaqah daily, even if it be a few coins, for verily Sadaqah cools the anger of Allāh Ta'ālā, protects from calamities and an evil death.

All conditions, including the virus, are only through the will of Allāh Ta'ālā and only He can remove difficulties. Adopting precautions within the confines of the sharī'ah is allowed, but our dependence and trust is only and solely in Allāh Ta'ālā and not the means. We should beg Allāh Ta'ālā for 'āfiyah.

For a believer, illness and other afflictions are a cleansing from sin and an elevation of status. If one passes away due to a plague or pandemic, it is a means of shahādah. Most importantly, these circumstances should remind us of our death, Qabr and Ākhirat.

May Allāh Ta'ālā grant complete shifā' to those who are ill, solace to the bereaved and forgive all our marhūmīn. Āmīn

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WIFĀQUL 'ULAMA (SA)  
ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH AFRICAN 'ULAMA

ASPIRING TO PRESERVE THE ESSENCE OF SUNNAH