

THE MASJID – A SANCTUARY FOR THE WORSHIP OF ALLĀH TA'ĀLĀ

Verily, the Masājid are reserved for the remembrance of Allāh, the performance of Salāh, and the recitation of the Qur'ān Karīm. (Bukhārī, 6823)

In this Hadīth, Nabi ﷺ outlined the purpose of the Masjid. The primary objective of the Masjid is to provide a place exclusive to the worship of Allāh Ta'ālā. Consequently, any activity that creates a disturbance or an impediment to this objective will be regarded as impermissible.

Moulana Ashraf Ali Thanwi رحمه الله wrote that the Masjid is meant for actions that are considered obedience to Allāh, and that any disobedience to Allāh is totally forbidden therein. With regard to those matters that cannot be classified as Ibādah but are also not forbidden per se – in other words, they are merely permissible – the rule is that they cannot be objectively done in the Masjid. If a person is in the Masjid and happens to carry them out, it is permissible. However, it would be impermissible to purposely arrange for these actions to be carried out in the Masjid. (Da'bul Masājid)

Sadly, in recent times, the Masjid has been used for questionable, and sometimes even outright impermissible activities. Meetings to discuss sporting activities, political voter registration, interfaith activities, and inviting non-Muslims to the honourable pulpit of Nabi ﷺ are becoming commonplace. Many of these activities detract from the actual objective of the Masjid, which is the worship of Allāh Ta'ālā. Instead of gaining closeness to Allāh Ta'ālā, they actually distance one from Allāh's Mercy.

Nabi ﷺ described the condition of the Masājid closer to Qiyāmah when he said: "Their Masājid will be populated, but they will be devoid of guidance." (Shu'ābul Imān)

How merciful is Allāh Ta'ālā that to provide an atmosphere conducive to His Ibādah, He has commanded the visitor to the Masjid to observe certain etiquettes.

The famous Tabi'i, Sa'eed ibnul Musayyab رحمه الله, said: "One who is seated in the Masjid is actually seated in the company of Allāh Ta'ālā." (At-Tarikh Al-Kabir, 5/202)

What etiquette should one display in the company of the Rabb of the Worlds, and what humility should one display!

Some etiquettes of the Masājid are:

- Enter the Masjid with the right foot and recite the Du'a:

اللَّهُمَّ افْتَحْ لِي أَبْوَابَ رَحْمَتِكَ

"O Allāh, open for me the doors of Your mercy!"

- Perform two Rakāts Tahiyatul Masjid.
- Ensure that no foul smell is emanating from one's body or clothes. This causes distress to the angels that frequent the Masjid.
- Perfume the Masjid and ensure it has a good fragrance.
- Do not discuss worldly affairs in the Masjid.
- Do not raise your voice in the Masjid.
- Ensure your phone is switched off or at least put on silent mode.
- Do not exchange any money in the Masjid, engage in business transactions, or announce any lost items.
- Do not climb over the shoulders of other Musallis, as this causes disturbance and difficulty to other congregants.
- Do not cross in front of someone who is performing Salāh.
- Avoid using the cellphone while in the Masjid, especially since browsing on the phone often involves many impermissible actions.
- Do not engage in any futile activity.
- Do not bring very small children who are unable to maintain the etiquette of the Masjid.
- Do not engage in any impermissible activity, for example, photography of animate objects, etc.

"He who observes these etiquettes, for him the Masjid will become a sanctuary and a fortress against Shaytān, the accursed." (Allāmah Qurtubi رحمه الله)

"And whoever honours the symbols of Allāh—it will be certainly out of the piety of the heart." (Al-Qur'ān)

May Allāh Ta'ālā grant us the ability to fulfil the rights of the Masjid and to honour the Masjid in the way it ought to be honoured. Āmīn.

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✉ admin@wifaq.org.za 🌐 wifaq.org.za 📞 084 559 4327 📠 011 852 0466