



# Common Errors in Regard to Salaah, Azaan and the Musjid

After imaan, salaah is the most important pillar of deen. Rasulullah مَا mentioned in the Hadith that the first thing regarding which a person will be questioned on the Day of Qiyaamah will be salaah. If his salaah is in order, then the rest of his deeds will be in order, and if his salaah is deficient, then the rest of his deeds will also be deficient. (Al-Ahaadeethul Mukhtaarah #2579)

Allah بَالِكَوَتَعَالَ commands the believers in the Quraan Majeed to establish salaah. Establishing salaah refers to performing the salaah in accordance to the sunnah.

When one establishes salaah and performs it in the proper manner (by adhering to the sunnats and aadaab (etiquettes) pertaining to the salaah, from one's dressing, to the wudhu, the musjid and performing the salaah according to the prescribed manner established in the Hadith) then one receives the many benefits promised in the Quraan and Hadith for performing salaah. On the contrary, if one performs salaah against the sunnah, then instead of the salaah becoming a means of reward and upliftment, the salaah curses him.

Below are some of the important aspects that are often neglected due to which the salaah is not performed according to the sunnah.

### When Coming to the Musjid:

- 1. When coming to the musjid, one should dress appropriately, according to the sunnah, and remove any foul odour from his body, clothing or mouth.
- 2. One's clothing should not have logos and writing on it, and the clothing should not be tight-fitting where the contours of the body are exposed.
- 3. One should uphold the sanctity of the musjid by not raising his voice when speaking in the musjid or the vicinity of the musjid.
- 4. One should ensure that he switches off his cell phone before coming to the musjid so that it does not cause a disturbance to those engaged in performing salaah and other ibaadaat. If the phone has a musical tone and it begins to ring, then apart from causing a disturbance, one will become sinful as one is playing music in the musjid.
- 5. One should not take photos or make videos while in the musjid. Taking photos or making videos of animate objects is haraam in Islam, and doing so in the musjid is an even greater sin.

#### The Imaam and the Muazzin:

- 1. The imaam leading the salaah should be clad in sunnah clothing (wearing the kurtah and topi), and he should ensure that his pants and kurta are above the ankles.
- 2. The imaam who leads the salaah should have a full fist beard. If he shaves or trims his beard less than a full fist, then such a person should not be appointed as the imaam.
- 3. The muazzin should be a pious, upright Muslim who is knowledgeable in regard to the times of salaah. The muazzin should not be a person who shaves his beard or whose conduct and dressing is against the sunnah.

4. The muazzin should be able to call out the words of the azaan with the correct pronunciation.

#### When Performing Salaah:

- 1. At the time of qiyaam (standing posture), one should ensure that his feet are not spread wide apart. One should keep the feet close together, with a gap in between, with the toes facing the qiblah.
- 2. When reciting qiraat in an individual salaah, then one should ensure that his lips move and that he can hear his recitation. When performing salaah behind the imaam, then one should ensure that he remains silent.
- 3. When making rukoo, one should ensure that the back and the head is kept in a straight line and the elbows are kept straight while the fingers are firmly grasping the knees.
- 4. When going down from qawmah, one should keep the back straight.
- 5. In sajdah, one should ensure that the elbows are lifted above the ground and are kept away from the sides. However, when performing salaah with jamaat, one should not stretch his elbows out wide, as he will cause inconvenience to the people on either side.
- 6. In sajdah, one should ensure that the stomach is kept away from the thighs, and there is a moderate gap between one's stomach and the ground.
- 7. In sajdah, one should ensure that both his feet remain on the ground. If both feet are raised for the duration of three subhaanallah, the salaah will break.
- 8. One should ensure that he performs salaah with Ta'deel-e-Arkaan. Performing salaah with Ta'deel-e-Arkaan is compulsory. Ta'deel-e-Arkaan refers to performing each posture slowly, and remaining in the posture for a little while before moving to the next posture. Hence, in rukoo and sajdah, one should remain for a little while, reciting the tasbeehaat, until the entire body is at ease, before waking up. Similarly, in qawmah (standing posture after rukoo), and in jalsah (sitting posture between the two sajdahs), one should wait for a little while, until the body is at ease, before going down.
- 9. One should ensure that one does not precede the imaam in any posture, whether going down for rukoo or sajdah or coming up from rukoo or sajdah. Preceding the imaam in salaah is a major sin.

### When Making the Saffs:

- 1. When forming the saffs, the saffs of the baaligh males should be first, followed by the saffs of the children. It is not correct, and against the sunnah, for fathers to keep their children with them in the saff of the baaligh males.
- 2. When forming the saffs, the saff should commence from the middle, directly behind the imaam, moving to the right and the left, with an equal amount of musallis on either side. Some people commence forming the saffs from the sides. This is incorrect and against the sunnah.

## Bringing Children to the Musjid:

- 1. Children who are underage and do not know the etiquettes of the musjid should not be brought to the musjid.
- 2. Children who are of the age of understanding should be taught the etiquettes of the musjid before being brought to the musjid. When children are brought to the musjid, the fathers should monitor their behaviour and ensure that they do not become a nuisance and disturbance to the musallis, nor do they disrespect the sanctity of the musjid.