

Etiquettes regarding the Mosque

DISCLAIMER: This reminder was originally delivered in Arabic on Friday, 11 April 2008. Any meanings lost in translation are not to be attributed to the speaker as reminders are translated by volunteers. The mosque has no official translator and volunteers often have no formal qualifications to translate on the day. Please forgive any errors as they are from our human weakness and any right guidance is from God.

"In houses (Mosques) which God has ordered to be raised and in them His name shall be remembered; therein do offer praise to Him in the mornings and evenings, men whom neither trade nor sale diverts from the remembrance of God, or from performing prayers, nor from giving alms. They fear a Day when hearts and eyes will be overturned- that God may reward them with the best of what they did, and increase reward for them out of His bounty. And God provides without measure to whom He wills" [Surah Nur: 36-38]

Mosques are the houses of God on the earth and they are the best places on earth, specifically for the remembrance of God, His praise and glorification.

Part of loving God the Most High is to visit his house. He (Glory be to Him the Most High) says:

"And the places of worship are only for God, so do not pray call onto anyone along with God"
(Surah Jinn 72:18)

When a guest enters a generous home, he is met with their kindness and bounty. He or she is given in great abundance from their wealth and provisions. So just imagine what you can gain by entering the house of the **Most** Generous?

The greatest of these gifts given when visiting the Mosque is to feel closeness to God the sweetness of privately communicating with Him and you are granted the ability to witness faith.

On the authority of Abu Sa'id Al-Khudari, the Prophet peace be upon him (pbuh) said:

"When you see a person coming to the mosque frequently, bear witness to his faith, for God says:
'Only who affirms his faith in God and the Last Day, can maintain the mosques of God.'" (9:18)
[Transmitted by Tirmidhi]

God (glory be to Him the Most High) then links this person directly to paradise as the Prophet pbuh says, on the authority of Abu Huraira:

"Whosoever sets out for the Mosque, by either day or night, God prepares for him a dwelling in Paradise for every journey undertaken" (Narrated by Bukhari and Muslim)

On the day of judgement, the one whose heart is attached to the Mosque and loves the Mosque will be under God's shade, safe and secure as is mentioned in the following hadith:

Seven types of people will be under the shade of God in a day when there will be no shade except His shade, and amongst them is the person whose heart is attached to the Mosques" (Agreed upon Hadith)

O Muslims- there are certain etiquettes regarding the Mosque which every Muslim should try and abide by and try to consistently maintain them. Some of these etiquettes are:

1. **Cleanliness in and of the mosque, perfuming oneself and wearing nice/smart clothes**

God (glory be to Him the Most High) says: "O Children of Adam! Wear your beautiful apparel at every time and place of prayer:" (7:31)

One should avoid eating something which has a strong undesirable smell such as onion, leek or garlic as the Prophet pbuh said: 'He who has eaten onion or garlic or leek should not approach us or 'not approach our mosque'...' (Agreed upon)

One of the most important etiquettes regarding the Mosque is to keep it clean and smelling pleasant. Unfortunately this is becoming a point of neglect by many people, especially after partaking in social

gatherings in the Mosque and maintaining its cleanliness afterwards. Having no concern for this matter and lacking in the cooperation to help with this should not be part of a Muslims' character!

The Prophet pbuh said: "Spitting in the mosque is a sin and its expiation is to bury it (i.e. to remove it from the mosque)" This also includes anything else that would harm or offend Mosque goers if they came across it such as hairs or fingernails.

The Prophet pbuh passed by a grave and asked his companions about it. His companions replied it is the grave of Umm Muhjan, the lady who used to clean the Mosque. The Prophet Pbuh rebuked them because they did not inform him of her death and then prayed the funeral prayer over her. He then said: 'Why did you not inform me?' They replied- you were sleeping and we did not like to wake you'. The Prophet prayed for her and had great respect for her as she used to spend her efforts in cleaning the house of God and the Prophet's Mosque' (Related by Muslim)

2. Making the supplication when setting out towards the Mosque

It is also part of the desired etiquettes to say as the Prophet Pbuh would on his way to the Mosque:

'O God, place within my heart light, and upon my tongue light, and within my ears light, and within my eyes light, and place behind me light and in front of me light and above me light and beneath me light. O God, bestow upon me light.' (Related by Muslim)

3. Maintaining tranquility during your approach to the Mosque.

The Prophet Pbuh said: 'If you hear the Iqamah, (the immediate call to prayer), come to the prayer with calmness and dignity and do not make haste for the prayer, and pray whatever you get (with the people) and complete the rest which you have missed.'" (Agreed upon)

4. Entering the Mosque with your right foot and saying the supplication-

This is to say "In the name of God. O God, bestow Your peace and blessings on Mohammed and his family. O God, pardon my sins and open the gates of Your mercy for me." (Muslim)

Praying two units of prayer (2 raka'h) when entering the Mosque is also mentioned in the say of the Prophet pbuh: "When anyone of you enters the Mosque; before sitting, he or she should pray 2 units of prayer" (Muslim)

5. Not leaving the Mosque once the call for prayer has been made, unless there is a need.

If a Muslim is in the Mosque and the call to prayer is made, he should not leave the Mosque except after completing/praying the prayer. The Prophet pbuh said:

"When you are in the Mosque and the call to prayer is made, one should not leave until he has prayed the prayer" (Ahmad)

6. Remembering God as much as you can when you are in the Mosque.

The Muslim should seek to remember God, recite Quran and leave off worldly matters.

The Prophet Pbuh said: "The Mosque is made for the remembrance of God, for prayer and for recitation of the Qur'an" (Agreed upon)

7. Refraining from raising your voice or causing disruption/noise when in the Mosque.

When a Muslim enters the Mosque, he or she should do so with tranquility and dignity, not causing disruption or excess noise- disturbing others who may be praying or reciting Quran.

O Muslim- These are just a few etiquettes of the Mosque. It is essential for us to know the rights of the mosque and to feel that this is a place of prayer and gathering in God's remembrance. The Mosque is the house of God and we should remember that as guests, we must behave like guests just as the Prophet pbuh has taught us.