

Q: Salaah-88: In a lecture, a certain Molvi Sahib stated a ruling that if a woman is giving birth and the head of the baby has already emerged when she hears the Adhaan, she should perform her salaah. Is salaah permissible in this condition? Is the Molvi Sahib right?

Answer: The Molvi Sahib was merely highlighting the importance of salaah. Salaah is extremely important in Islaam and a child should be instructed to perform salaah from the age of seven even though it is not yet Fardh (obligatory) for him/her. No mature person is excused from salaah unless he is unconscious, insane or a woman in the state of menses or Nifaas. A person is not even allowed to delay the salaah so as to perform Qadhaa. Even if a person cannot make wudhu, he should make Tayammum. if he cannot stand, he should sit and if he cannot even sit, he should lie down and perform salaah with indications of the head. Salaah can however not be forfeited. In fact, even if a person is shipwrecked and dinging on to a plank in the sea, he should place the limbs to be washed in wudhu into the water and then perform salaah by indication. Similarly, a paralysed person who has no help should somehow rub his hands and face on a wall to make Tayammum, but cannot miss his salaah.

It is with the intent to emphasise the importance of salaah that the Molvi Sahib has stated the ruling that when the child's head has emerged and the time for salaah is on the verge of expiring, it will be binding on the mother to perform her salaah. If she is unable to perform wudhu, she should perform Tayammum and if she is unable to make Ruku, she should perform salaah with indications, taking care not to harm the child in any way. She can, however, not afford to miss her salaah. And will be sinful if she does. The mother must however ensure that the child comes to no harm as she performs her salaah. And Allaah knows best what is most correct.

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