

### Women Performing Salaah in the Masiid

Q: Salaah-40: Trustees of Masjids and Imaams in certain areas arrange for women to perform their Fardh and Taraaweeh salaahs in congregation in the Masjid. Women then come from far off with and without Mahram escorts to perform their salaah in a separate area. They prove their action by pointing out that men and women perform salaah in the Masjidul Haraam in Makkah and that women performed salaah in the Masjid during the time of Rasulullaah SAW. Is this correct or not? Please explain with references.

Answer: It is better for a woman and more rewarding for her to perform her salaah in as secret and private a place as possible. Rasulullaah SAW. said that for a woman to perform her salaah in a room of her house is better than her performing salaah in the courtyard of her house and for her to perform her salaah in an inner room of her house is better than her performing salaah just in any room of her house. Another Hadith states that for a woman to perform her salaah individually is better than her performing salaah in Jamaa'ah.

It is true that women performed salaah in the Masjid during the period of Rasulullaah SAW. because Islaam was still being taught to the people and laws were still being revealed. It was a blessed period of time and the best of all times. It was after this period that many evils started to emerge, because of which Hadhrat Umar RADI. forbade women from going to the Masjid during his period as Khalifah. When the women complained of this to Hadhrat Aa'isha RADI. she remarked , "If Rasulullaah SAW. had to see how women have started to behave, he would have surely forbidden them from going to the Masjid just as the women of the Bani Israa'eel were prevented from doing so.

It is because of this that the Fuqahaa have ruled that it is Makrooh for woman to attend the Masaajid, regardless of whether it is for the five daily salaahs, the Jumu'ah salaah, the Eid salaah or for listening to a lecture.

This ruling is general and applies to the Masjidul Haraam, the Masjidun Nabawi and throughout Arabia, India and everywhere else. And Allaah knows best what is most correct.

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