

Can an Imaam be Followed if his Recitation is Unclear?

Q: Salaah-69: A person cannot recite the Qur'aan clearly, cannot pronounce the letters properly and makes many errors in his recitation. In fact, the Musallis do not even understand what he recites. Furthermore, he shortens the Isha salaah and lengthens the Asr salaah. Can salaah be performed behind such a person? Will the salaah performed behind him be valid? He also refuses to give up being the Imaam despite being told to do so. What is the ruling?

Answer: In the stated case where the Imaam's recitation is unclear and incorrect and when the Musallis cannot understand him, then it will be improper for him to be their Imaam. They ought to find someone who is capable of reciting clearly and correctly. And Allaah knows best what is most correct.

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