

Standing while Waiting for the Iqaamah

Q: Salaah-317: Upon entering the Masjid, some Musallis do not sit down but remain standing and even engage in conversations, until the Iqaamah is called out. What is the ruling in this regard?

Answer: The Masjid is the court of Allaah and all the courts of worldly kings have no significance before it. The true servants of Allaah are awestruck when entering the Masjid but it is sad to note that people today rate it no more than a bazaar, By standing and engaging on conversations, people are sinning and earning the curses of the angels rather than earning rewards and their du'aas.

A Hadith states that when people engage in worldly conversations in the Masjid, the angels advise him saying, 'Be silent, O friend of Allaah.' If he does not stop, they address him saying, 'Be silent, O he whom Allaah hates!' If he still does not stop, they say, 'Be silent! May Allaah's curses be on you.'

Fataawaa Aalamgeeri (Vol.1 Pg. 447) states that if a person enters the Masjid at the time of the Iqaamah, it is Makrooh to stand and wait for the Imaam. He should stand up when the Mu'adhin reaches the words "Hayya Alal Falaah" if the Imaam is in the Mihraab. If the Imaam is walking through the rows towards the Mihraab, each row that he passes should stand up as he passes and if he arrives from the front, the rows should stand up as they see him. It is incorrect to stand up when the Imaam is still at the rear.

In short, if one enters when it is not the Makrooh time, one must perform the Tahiyatul Masjid salaah, Tahiyatul wudhu salaah and the Sunnah salaah if time permits. One, must then sit and engage in Dhikr and this will earn one the reward of performing salaah. If one does not do this, one will fall into worldly thoughts. And Allaah knows best what is most correct.

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