

MASJID AL HUSAYN

Rules and Etiquette

For those who are frequent and maintain the masjids of Allah (SWT), Almighty Allah (SWT) says in the Holy Qur'an:

إِنَّمَا يَعْمُرُ مَسَاجِدَ اللَّهِ مَنْ آمَنَ بِاللَّهِ وَالْيَوْمِ الْآخِرِ وَأَقَامَ الصَّلَاةَ وَآتَى الزَّكَاةَ وَلَمْ يَحْشَ إِلَّا اللَّهَ طَفَعَسَىٰ أَوْلِيكَ أَنْ يَكُونُوا مِنَ الْمُهْتَدِينَ

“Only those shall maintain Allah's masjids, who believe in Allah and Last Day, and establish prayer and give zakat, and fear no one except Allah. They, hopefully, will be among the guided.” (9:18)

Who can enter the Masjid?

Only Muslims can enter the masjid. Mu'mineen are requested to ensure that all cleaning, repairs and maintenance inside the masjid be done by Muslims only. When inviting non-Muslims to the Centre for marriage and funeral ceremonies or during any other occasion, care should be taken to accommodate them outside the Masjid such as in the Imambargha, adjacent rooms and foyers.

Why should we visit the Masjid often?

Imam Ja'far as-Sadiq (AS) has advised:

عَلَيْكُمْ بِإِيَّانِ الْمَسَاجِدِ فَإِنَّهَا بُيُوتَ اللَّهِ فِي الْأَرْضِ

“You are advised to visit masjids (often) for these are God's houses on the earth.”

Benefits of saying congregation prayers in the Masjid:

Imam Ja'far as-Sadiq (AS) said that the Noble Prophet (SAW) has said:

وَمَنْ مَشَىٰ إِلَىٰ مَسْجِدٍ يَطْلُبُ فِيهِ الْجَمَاعَةَ كَانَ لَهُ بِكُلِّ خُطْوَةٍ سَبْعُونَ أَلْفَ حَسَنَةٍ، وَيَرْفَعُ لَهُ مِنَ الدَّرَجَاتِ مِثْلُ ذَلِكَ، فَإِنْ مَاتَ وَهُوَ عَلَىٰ ذَلِكَ وَكَلَّ اللَّهُ بِهِ سَبْعِينَ أَلْفَ مَلَكٍ يَعُودُونَ فِي قَبْرِهِ، وَيُبَشِّرُونَهُ وَيُؤْنَسُونَهُ، فِي وَحْدَتِهِ، وَيَسْتَعْفِرُونَ لَهُ حَتَّىٰ يُبْعَثَ

“He who walks to the masjid seeking the congregational (prayers), for every step he takes he receives seventy thousand good deeds, and his rank is raised accordingly. This status continues even after his death, for Allah appoints seventy thousand angels who would pray for him in his grave, give him good tidings, accompany him in his loneliness and plead for forgiveness for him till he is raised (from the grave).”

Preparing to leave for the Masjid (Mosque):

1. When leaving your home, work or business, go toward the masjid with eagerness and enthusiasm for you would be meeting fellow believers who have come to worship Allah.
2. Demonstrate your eagerness by wearing perfumed, good and neat clothes.
3. Ensure that your body and clothes are all pure and clean (tahir/pak). Imam Ja'far as-Sadiq (AS) says:
“One who goes to the masjid with (physical & spiritual) purity, Allah purifies this person from sins and includes him/her from the pilgrims of the masjid.”
4. Do not carry any unclean & impure items (najasat) in your pockets to the masjid.
5. If you have eaten garlic, onions, etc... do not go to the masjid, until the odour from your mouth has vanished.
6. It is forbidden for the one who is in the state of janabat and haydh to enter the masjid. Only after having performed the required ghusl (major ablution) can such a person enter the masjid. Sisters who are in the state istihadha can enter the masjid for prayers or otherwise.

Entering and being inside the Masjid:

1. At the door of the masjid, recite this Du'a taught by Imam Hasan al-Mujtaba (AS):

أَلْهُي ضَيْفُكَ بِبَابِكَ، يَا مُحْسِنُ قَدْ أَتَاكَ الْمُسِيئُ فَتَجَاوَزْ عَن قَبِيحٍ مَا عِنْدِي بِجَمِيلٍ مَا عِنْدَكَ، يَا كَرِيمَ

- “My God, Your guest is at Your door. O the All-Beneficent, the sinner has come to You; so overlook what is ugly with me with that which is beautiful with You. O the All-Generous.”
2. Enter the masjid with humility and submissiveness for it is the house of Allah (SWT) frequented by angels and believers.
 3. It is forbidden to bring any inherently impure (najisul-`ayn) things into a masjid. Therefore, clothes containing blood, urine, semen, flesh of a dog or swine, etc. cannot be worn or carried when entering a masjid.
 4. Greet the believers and angels with the best of greetings and a smiling face. Please note that if the believers are engaged in the Salaat, it is not advisable to greet them.
 5. Recite two rak'at prayer as a gesture of greeting and respect to the masjid.
 6. While in the masjid keep your focus on none other than Allah (SWT), as He says in the Qur'an:

وَأَنَّ الْمَسَاجِدَ لِلَّهِ فَلَا تَدْعُوا مَعَ اللَّهِ أَحَدًا

“Surely the masjids are for Allah (alone); so do not pray to anyone with Allah.” (72:18)

7. Keep the masjid clean, tidy and fragranced.

8. Imam Ja'far as-Sadiq (AS) has recommended that we say many prayers and recite many supplications in masjids:

فَاكْتَبُوا فِيهَا مِنَ الصَّلَاةِ وَالذُّعَاءِ

9. Sending Salawat on Prophet Muhammad (SAW) and his family (AS) is the most effective supplication that the Muslims are blessed with.
10. Spend as much time in the masjid as possible as the Noble Prophet (SAW) said to Abu Dharr:

“As long as you are seated in the masjid, for every breath you take Allah will give you a rank in the paradise and the angels are praying for you.”

11. It is recommended to say various prayers at different places or sites within the masjid. Therefore, for e.g., say Maghrib Salah at one place, nafilah of Maghrib at another place, and 'Isha prayers at yet another place. Imam Ja'far as-Sadiq (AS) has stated:

“Say your prayers in the masjids at different sites, for every site would witness for the person saying prayers on the Day of Resurrection.”

12. Ensure not to contaminate any part of the masjid, for it is forbidden (haram) to do so and goes against the sanctity of the masjid.
13. If any part of the masjid is contaminated it is obligatory for all those present and those who have the knowledge of it to immediately purify it (make it tahir/pak).
14. When bringing young children who cannot discern right from the wrong, into the masjid, ensure that they are under your continuous care - both for the respect of the masjid and for those present in it.
15. When inside the masjid, you are a guest of Allah (SWT). Additionally, you are in the presence of angels and believers. Beautify the environment with continuous remembrance of Allah (SWT) and pleading for His forgiveness (Istighfar).
16. Avoid worldly talks, discussion and recitations (e.g. non-religious poetry) while you are inside the masjid.
17. Carrying out business transactions in the masjid is abhorrent (makrooh).
18. Playing games on electronic devices such as your phone or tablet, or playing physical games such as hide and seek, or any sport in the masjid is abhorrent (makrooh).
19. Raising one's voice for reciting or talking in the masjid is detestable. Of course reciting adhan, du'a, etc. for congregation is exempt from this rule.
20. When you take an item for use, (e.g. Holy Qur'an, book of Du'a, prostrating tablet (turbah/mohr) take care of it and return it to its original place (e.g. book case).
21. Do not remove or take away anything belonging to the masjid. If you need to borrow an item temporarily then ensure that you have sought permission from the trustee or a keeper of the Centre.

When exiting the masjid, step out with the left foot and recite the following supplication:

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ. اللَّهُمَّ صَلِّ عَلَى مُحَمَّدٍ وَآلِ مُحَمَّدٍ فَاعْفِرْ ذُنُوبِي وَافْتَحْ أَبْوَابَ فَضْلِكَ

“(I exit) In the Name of Allah. O' Allah! Send Your blessings upon Muhammad and the progeny of Muhammad and forgive my sins and open the doors of Your grace (to me).”

The following are Masaael of Agha Sistani from his Islamic Laws:

923. It is Makrooh to sleep in a masjid, except when helpless, and to talk about worldly affairs, to engage oneself in some craft, and to recite poetry, which is not religiously instructive. It is also Makrooh to spit or throw phlegm or mucus from the nose, in a masjid, or to shout or raise one's voice, except for Adhan.

924. It is Makrooh to allow an insane person to enter a masjid, and also a child if it causes inconvenience to the people praying, or if it is feared that it might make the masjid najis. In absence of these two reasons, there is no harm in allowing the children. Similarly, for people who have eaten onions, garlic etc. and their bad breath may upset others, it is Makrooh to go to the masjid.

PLEASE RECITE SURAH FATEHA FOR THE MARHUMEEN OF ALL THOSE WHO HAVE DONATED TOWARDS THIS MASJID