

ETIQUETTE OF THE MASJID

Rules of Entering and Being Inside the Masjid

1. At the door of the *masjid*, recite this *du'ā* taught by Imām Ḥasan ibne 'Alī al-Mujtabā عليه السلام:

إِلٰهِي ضَيْفُكَ بِبَابِكَ، يَا مُحْسِنُ قَدْ أَتَاكَ الْمُسِيءُ فَتَجَاوَزْ عَنْ قَبِيحِ مَا عِنْدِي بِجَمِيلِ
مَا عِنْدَكَ، يَا كَرِيمَ.

“Ilaahi dhayfuka bibaabik, yaa Muhsinu qad ataakal-musee’, fatajaawaz `an qabihi maa `indee bijameeli maa `indak, yaa kareem.”
“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 Allāh ﷻ frequented by the angels and the believers.

3. It is forbidden (*harām*) to bring anything inherently impure (*najisul ‘ayn*) into a *masjid*. Therefore, clothes containing blood, urine, semen, moisture of a dog or anything made from 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 *ṣalāt*, it is not advisable to greet them.

5. Recite a two *rak‘at* prayer as a gesture of greeting and respect to the *masjid*.

6. It is recommended to say your various prayers at different places or sites within the *masjid*. Therefore, for example, say *maghrib ṣalāt* at one place, *nāfilah* of *maghrib* at another place, and *‘ishā* prayers at yet another place.

7. When bringing young children who cannot discern right from wrong into the *masjid*, ensure that they are under your continuous care - both for the respect of the *masjid* and also for those present in it.

8. When inside the *masjid*, you are a guest of Allāh ﷻ. Additionally, you are in the presence of angels and believers. Beautify the environment with continuous remembrance of Allāh ﷻ and pleading for His forgiveness (*istighfār*).

9. Avoid worldly talk, discussion and recitations (e.g. non-religious poetry) while you are inside the *masjid*.

10. Carrying out business transactions in the *masjid* is abhorrent (*makrūh*).

11. Playing board, computer or cell-phone games, hide and seek, or any sport in the *mosque* is abhorrent (*makrūh*). Please note that cellular phones should be turned off while in the *masjid* to avoid distraction.

12. Raising one’s voice for reciting or talking in the *masjid* is detestable. Of course reciting *adhān*, *du‘ā*, etc. for congregation is exempt from this rule.

13. When you take an item for use, (e.g. *Holy Qur‘ān*, book of *du‘ā*, prostrating tablet (*turbah/mohr*), prayer beads (*tasbeeh*)), take care of it and return it back to its original place (e.g. book case) where you found it.

14. 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 keeper of the center.

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