

Issues Related to the Legislative Rulings of al-I'tikaaf

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All praise is due to **Allah** alone, and praise and salutations be upon him whom there is no Prophet after, his family and his Companions.

These are some issues related to the legislative rulings of al-I'tikaaf which I have selected from a compilation of my questions to our Shaykh Saalih Ibn Muhammad al-Luhaydaan (الله), and I asked his permission to distribute them, which he granted me to do so on the 15th of Ramadhaan.

I ask **Allah** the Most High to benefit through it and reward our *Shaykh* the best of rewards.

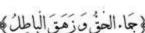
1. When does the time for al-l'tikaaf start?

The *Shaykh* responded: The time for *al-I'tikaaf* begins the morning of the 21st of *Ramadhaan*.

2. What is the shortest time (duration) of al-l'tikaaf?

There is no proof for (specifying) the shortest duration of *al-l'tikaaf*; however it is better for the *Muslim* if he wants to make *l'tikaaf*, he can make the shortest duration for his *l'tikaaf* a total of one day and one night.









The *Shaykh* also mentioned to me once: My opinion is that the shortest duration of *al-I'tikaaf* is one day and night as *al-I'tikaaf* is secluding oneself in the *masjid* for obedience to **Allah**, so if the individual wants such, then he is to increase this seclusion in the *masjid*. (As there are some scholars who say it can be as short as an hour.)

3. What is the ruling of travelling for al-l'tikaaf in a masjid other than the three masaajid?

Our *Shaykh* replied: It is not permissible to travel for *al-I'tikaaf* except to the *Masjid al-Haraam* or the Prophet's *Masjid* or *Masjid al-Aqsaa*. And it is not permissible to travel to any *masjid* aside from these three.

4. What is the ruling of making *al-I'tikaaf* in a *masjid* where the *Jumu'ah* prayer is not established?

Our *Shaykh* responded: It is better for the *Muslim* to make *al-I'tikaaf* in a *masjid* where the *Jumu'ah* prayer is established and to not make *al-I'tikaaf* in a *masjid* where the *Jumu'ah* prayer does not take place.

5. What is the validity of al-l'tikaaf in a room inside the masjid?

The *Shaykh* answered: If this room is in the *masjid* such that if the door of this room is opened, he would be inside the *masjid*, then this is considered as part of the *masjid*. Thus, it is permissible to make *al-l'tikaaf* in it.

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"Truth has Come and Falsehood has Vanished" ﴿ الْحَقُ قَ زَهَقَ الْبَاطِلُ ﴾





However, if the room is outside of the *masjid* and not inside of it, then this is not part of the *masjid* and as such, making *al-l'tikaaf* in it is not permissible.

6. Does *al-I'tikaaf* become nullified by mere intention?

The *Shaykh* replied: Whoever intends to stop *al-I'tikaaf*, then he has nullified his *I'tikaaf* just as the one who intends to cease the prayer, his prayer becomes invalid.

7. Is it permissible to leave from the place where one is making *al-l'tikaaf* for something that <u>is necessary/inevitable?</u>

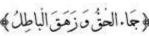
The *Shaykh* answered: It is permissible for the one making *al-l'tikaaf* to leave the place of his *l'tikaaf* and go to his home for something necessary/inevitable like food or drink or that which is similar to them.

8. Is it permissible to make al-I'tikaaf conditional (upon something else)?

The *Shaykh* replied: It is obligatory upon the individual to follow the Prophet (صلى الله عليه و) whilst in *al-I'tikaaf* and in other affairs as well. Thus, he is to make *al-I'tikaaf* just as the Prophet (صلى الله عليه و سلم) made it.

9. Is it permissible to talk to friends while in the place of al-I'tikaaf?









The *Shaykh* responded: The individual will be taken to account for all speech and the best of speech is that which contains the remembrance of **Allah** the Most High. It is upon the one making *al-l'tikaaf* to become busy in the remembrance of **Allah** and there is nothing prohibiting permissible speech if he needs to do such. However, minimizing one's speech is better.

10. Is fasting a condition for al-l'tikaaf?

The Shaykh answered: Fasting is not a condition for al-I'tikaaf if it is outside of Ramadhaan.

11. What is the authenticity of the *hadeeth*: "There is no *l'tikaaf* except in the three <u>masaajid."?</u>

The *Shaykh* answered: The *hadeeth*, "There is no *I'tikaaf* except in the three *masaajid*" is not authentic.

I said to him: "If it is assumed to be authentic, how is its meaning understood?"

He replied: If it was authentic, we would look at its meaning.

12. When does the time for al-I'tikaaf end?







Our *Shaykh* replied: *Al-I'tikaaf* ends at sunset (*maghrib* time) on the last day of *Ramadhaan*. If the sun has set on the last day of *Ramadhaan*, it is permissible for the one making *al-I'tikaaf* to leave the place of his *I'tikaaf*.

13. Is it permissible to make up *al-l'tikaaf* for the one who didn't make it?

The *Shaykh* answered: *Al-I'tikaaf* is not made up except for the person who made a vow.

14. Can the person making al-I'tikaaf go to the courtyard of the masjid?

The *Shaykh* answered: If the courtyard is part of the *masjid* and not separate from it, then this is okay for the one making *al-I'tikaaf* to go to it.





