



Merits of Building Masjids

The first question of Fatwa No. 1127

Q: I live in a Yemenite village where there is still a lot of ignorance. The village community consists of about fifty men and there is no Masjid (mosque) or school. The ever-increasing birthrate encouraged me to build a Masjid for the sake of Allah (may He be Exalted).

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Would you please guide me to the proper occasional sermons for Fridays, feasts, and lunar and solar eclipses which are in conformity with the Qur'an and Sunnah? Similarly, could you please list the books of the Sunnah and similar useful books.

A: Building Masjids is an act of charity, and whoever builds a masjid, Allah (may He be Exalted) will build him a house in Paradise. Therefore, fulfill your determination to build a Masjid as long as you are able to do so. Have a sincere intention, choose the best location in the village for the Masjid, and consult experienced people to define the Qiblah (direction faced for Prayer towards the Ka`bah). You may hire a qualified Imam in Qur'an and Fiqh to lead the Salah. He may also help children and men memorize the Qur'an and learn the religious teachings.

Concerning the books that suit you, I recommend "Riyad Al-Salihin" by Al-Nawawwy, and Al-Tawhid, Kashaf Al-Shubuhah, and Thalathat Al-Ausul by Shaykh Muhammad ibn `Abdul-Wahhab. You may also make use of "Tat-hir Al-I`tiqad" by his authority Muhammad ibn Isma`il Al-San`ani, Al-Jawab Al-Kafi li man Sa'ala `an Al-Dawa' Al-Shafy by Ibn Al-Qayem, Tafsir by ibn Kathir, Bulugh Al-Maram by Ibn Hajr, and its commentary: "Subul Al-Salamm" by Al-San`ani.

May Allah grant us success! May peace and blessings be upon our Prophet Muhammad, his family, and his Companions!

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