



Menstruating women entering Masjids

The first question of Fatwa no. 5167:

Q: Is it permissible for a menstruating woman to enter the Masjid (mosque) to hear the Friday sermon?

A: It is not permissible for a woman in the period of menses or postnatal bleeding to enter the Masjid.

(Part No : 6, Page No: 273)

The evidence in support of this injunction is the Hadith of `Aishah (may Allah be pleased with her) that she said, ﴿ The Messenger of Allah (peace be upon him) came and saw that the doors of his Companions' houses were open facing the Masjid. He said, "Turn the direction of these houses from the Masjid." The Prophet (peace be upon him) then went and they did not take any step in this regard hoping that some concession might be revealed. The Prophet again came and said, "Turn the direction of (the doors of) these houses from the Masjid; I do not make the Masjid lawful for a menstruating woman or a person experiencing major impurity." ﴾Related by Abu Dawud. It is also narrated on the authority of Um Salamah (may Allah be pleased with her) that she said, ﴿ The Prophet (peace be upon him) entered this Masjid and called as loud as he could, "A menstruating woman and Junub (a person in a state of major ritual impurity) person are not permitted entry to the Masjid." ﴾Related by Ibn Majah. These two reports indicate that it is impermissible for a Junub person or menstruating women to stay in the Masjid. However, it is permissible to quickly pass through the Masjid if necessary and no impurity will taint the Masjid. Allah (may He be Exalted) says, ﴿ ...Nor (permitted to enter mosques) while you are in a state of Janâba, (i.e. in a state of sexual impurity and have not yet taken a bath) except while travelling on the way (through a mosque)... ﴾A menstruating woman has the same ruling as a Junub person, because the Prophet (peace be upon him) ordered `Aishah to fetch his prayer rug from the mosque although she was in menses.

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

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