



Greeting people in the Masjid

The third question of Fatwa no. 2691

Q: Some people greet us with the Islamic formula of greeting "As-salamu `alaykum wa rahmatullah wa barakatuh (May Allah's Peace, Mercy, and Blessings be upon you!)" in the Masjid, a matter deemed impermissible by some Muslim brothers. Is regular talk permitted in the Masjid such as 'I went to the so called country, bought such-and-such, and sold such-and-such,

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or when did you go to the countryside and when did you come back?' Kindly give us the legal decision.

A: Generally speaking, bidding the Islamic formula of greeting is an act of Sunnah except for certain situations excluded by means of legal evidence. There are no religious texts that forbid a person entering the Masjid to say the Islamic greeting. Besides, it has been authentically established in the Hadith of the man who fell short in performing his Salah (Prayer) that he, after offering two Rak`ahs, reciprocated salutation with the Prophet (peace be upon him). As for worldly conversations such as the examples mentioned in the question, if they are short and necessary and do not distract people from performing Dhikr (Remembrance of Allah), reciting the Qur'an, or disturb those performing Salah, then there is nothing wrong with them. Otherwise, Masjids are only meant for performing `Ibadah (worship); Salah, Dhikr, recitation, religious lessons, and reconciling between people and other religious matters.

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

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