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Leading in prayer

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The most worthy to lead the prayer

The fourth question of Fatwa no. 3161

Q 4: Sometimes, I lead people in Salah. One day after finishing Salah, one of the attendants, a negligent of Salah, told me that I should not lead the congregational prayer, as I do not memorize the Qur'an, despite I have actually memorized ten Surahs. Some followers may have high educational degrees but they are smokers and some of them are negligent of Salah. Some may even fail to recite Al-Fatihah properly. Is it permissible to lead them in Salah?

A: It is permissible for you to lead congregational Salah, if you are good at reciting what you memorize of the Qur'an, even if they are a few Surahs including Al-Fatihah. However, if there is, among the congregation, a bearded person who memorizes more Qur'an and is not notorious for wrongdoing, he will be worthier of leading the prayer.

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

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