



Offering Salah behind an Imam believing in Hulul

Fatwa no. 6825

Q: In our village, there is a simple Masjid (mosque) where around 500 people gather to perform Salah (Prayer). However, sadly, the Imam (leader of congregational Prayer) of this Masjid

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believes a Fasid (corrupt, void) `Aqidah (creed); he believes in Hulul (indwelling) and that that Allah is everywhere. There are many superstitions and Bid`ah (innovations in religion) that are performed in this Masjid. I was so concerned that I discussed this with the Imam, and I showed him evidence and proofs of the fact that Allah is in the heaven, *Istiwa'* (Allah's rising in a manner that befits Him) over His Throne, and that there is no *Takyif* (questioning Allah's Attributes) or *Tamthil* (likening Allah's Attributes to those of His Creation). I used evidence from Qur'anic Ayahs (verses), such as Allah (may He be Exalted) saying: *(The Most Gracious (Allâh) rose over (Istawâ) the (Mighty) Throne (in a manner that suits His Majesty)).* I also mentioned the night of the *Isra'* (Night Journey) and *Mi`raj* (Ascension to Heaven), the Hadith of the slave girl, and also what Allah says in this Ayah: *(To Him ascend (all) the goodly words, and the righteous deeds exalt it (i.e. the goodly words are not accepted by Allâh unless and until they are followed by good deeds)).* However, he was not convinced; in fact he remained strongly on his `Aqidah. There is another Masjid in the village where the same superstitions and Bid`ah are carried out. My question is: Is it permissible for me to perform Salah behind this Imam or not, as I love to offer Salah in congregation?

A: They are Kafirs (disbelievers) and it is not permissible to offer Salah behind them, it would not be correct.

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

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