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The Imamate of a boy

The third question of Fatwa no. 4285

Q 3: A man entered the Masjid (mosque) and found a group of youth; the eldest of them was twelve years old. Is the Imamate (leading people in prayer) of this boy valid?

A: The Imamate of a boy who is aware of the acts of Salah is valid because of the saying of the Prophet (peace be upon him), [\(The one who has memorized the most Qur'an should lead the people in Salah... \)](#) It is also authentically reported in Sahih Al-Bukhari on the authority of `Umar ibn Salamah Al-Jarmy that he said: My father returned after meeting the Prophet (peace be upon him) and said that he had heard the Prophet (peace be upon him) say, [\(When the time for the prayer becomes due, let the person amongst you who knows Qur'an most lead the prayer. They looked for such a person and found none who knew more Qur'an than I. They therefore made me their Imam \(to lead the prayer\) and at that time I was a six or seven-year-old boy. \)](#)

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

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