



The third question of Fatwa no. 4582

Q 3: Offering Salah in congregation, I try to make rows straight through standing feet to feet. Some elderly brother farmers then tell me not to make a gap between my two feet wider than the passage of a cat. Is this true? Or, is it proper to make rows straight through standing feet to feet? If the latter is the case, what is the Islamic ruling on those who refuse to make rows straight through standing feet to feet insisting on their stubbornness thanks to their rural mentality? How can I advise them and how can I find a way out of such an awkward situation?

A: It is a Sunnah (supererogatory act of worship following the example of the Prophet) that people offering Salah line up in rows through standing shoulder to shoulder and foot to foot. This is supported by many authentic Hadith reported to the same effect. For example, Anas (may Allah be pleased with him) said, "We would stand feet to feet." It means that

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they would close gaps and straighten rows. Accordingly, Muslims should advise each other to do so in such a manner as not to harm each other.

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

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