

Notes of Lectures on Fiqh

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Lecture #5 (Thursday 18 May 2006)

CONDITIONS FOR IMAM OF SALATUL JAMAAT

☀ The person leading the congregational salat is called Imame Jamaat. There are certain conditions, which must be met by the person if he wants to lead Salatul Jamaat. These conditions are that he must be:

- (1) Adult (Baligh)
- (2) Sane
- (3) Just (Adil): a person who tries his level best to follow all wajib things and to keep away from all haram things
- (4) Shia Ithna Asheri
- (5) Of legitimate birth
- (6) Able to offer the salat correctly
- (7) Male: but female can lead a Salatul Jamaat consisting of females only

☀ It is allowed to offer Salatul Jamaat behind a non-Shia Imam with the condition that you must recite both the Suras in first two rakats of the salat (according to Ayatullah Seestani). But according to Ayatullah Khamenei and Khomeini, reciting Suras in such a case is not necessary. It is also allowed to offer Salatul Jamaat behind a non-Shia Imam in Salatul Jamaat in Mecca and Medina if these conditions are observed.

ARRANGEMENT OF SALATUL JAMAAT

☀ In a normal salatul jamaat with large number of people, the Imam will stand at the front and the followers will stand behind him in parallel rows. The distance between the Imam and the place of sajdah of the first row behind him must be less than one meter. It is mustahab that the distance between parallel rows in the jamaat should be as low as possible so as to allow the followers to perform actions of salat comfortably. The followers should stand shoulder to shoulder in straight rows.

☀ If the number of followers in the jamaat is only one or two, they can stand on the side of the Imam with a few steps back such that, during ruku and sajda positions, the head of the follower always lies behind the head of the Imam.

☀ For Salatul Jamaat to be valid, there should be no obstacle (such as curtain or wall) between the Imam and the follower, nor between one follower and the other follower, who is a link between him and the Imam. But women are exempted from this rule if they are also present in the jamaat.

☀ For the Salatul Jamaat to be valid, it is also necessary that each follower is linked to the Imam through the link established with the follower either on his sides or with the follower to his front. In the first row this link is only through the sides.

✳ If one small child (who can not distinguish between good and bad) is present between two adult followers, the continuity of link and the validity of salatul jamaat is not affected. But if two or more such children are present together between adult followers, then the continuity of link and salatul jamaat will be affected. But if children are of such age that they can distinguish between good and bad, then Salatul Jamaat is not affected.

✳ The place where the Imam is standing must not be higher than one span from the place where the followers are standing.

✳ It is mustahab that the followers in the first row of jamaat should be those who have higher status in taqwa, iman and knowledge, and those who fulfil the conditions for leading the salatul jamaat. It is especially recommended that the person standing just behind the Imam should be of such character.

SALATUL JAMAAT WITH MALES AND FEMALES

✳ If a female Imam is leading Salatul Jamaat of females, she will stand in the middle of the first row but a little distance ahead of the followers in that row.

✳ A male Imam can lead Salatul Jamaat consisting of males only, or consisting of males and females, or consisting of females only.

✳ If Salatul Jamaat consists of males and females, then women should stand behind rows of men, in a separate row, or they can stand in the same row as men on one side but must be separated by a partition (such as curtain or wall).

✳ If a male Imam is leading Salatul Jamaat of female followers only (two or more), they must stand behind the male Imam in rows.

✳ If there is only one female follower, she will stand beside the male Imam but a few steps behind such that, during sajda position, her head will lie near the knee of the male Imam.