

A Woman's Performing Salat



It is written in Ni'mat-i Islam: "When beginning to perform salat, a woman raises both hands up to the level of her shoulders. While standing she puts her right hand on the left hand. But she does not grasp her left wrist with the fingers of her right hand. She puts her hands on her breast. While making ruku [1], her hands are placed on the knees, but she does not grasp them. She keeps her fingers closed together. She does not keep her legs straight, nor her back level. While making sajda [2], she lowers herself, bringing her arms to her sides while she keeps her abdomen placed over her thighs. She sits on the buttocks, her legs inclined towards right.

A woman cannot be an imam [3] for men. It is makruh [4] for a woman to be an imam for other women. If they follow a man as imam, they should be in the last line of the jama'at [5]. If a woman is kissed (while performing salat), her salat will be nullified. While performing salat in jama'at, if a woman stands beside or in front of a man, the man's salat will be fasid (nullified). The man should signal to the woman to move behind. If she does not do as she is beckoned, in that case, only the woman's salat will become fasid. In case of a baby crying or of food boiling over the fire, leaving the namaz is permissible for a woman. A woman does not stretch her hands forward while making dua (pray), but she keeps them inclined towards her face. "

GLOSSARY

[1] ruku: bowing during the prayer of namaz.

[2] sajda Sajda, (plural, sujud), Prostration to Allah u Ta'ala in the direction of the Kaaba at Makkah. A Muslim is to praise Allah u Ta'ala and glorify him. The position involves having the forehead, nose, both hands, knees and all toes touching the ground together

[3] imam: i) profound 'alim; founder of a madhab; ii) leader in congregational salat; iii) caliph.

[4] makruh: (act, thing) improper, disliked and abstained by the Prophet ('alaihi 's-salam); makruh tahrima: prohibited with much stress.

[5] jama'at: a congregation of Muslims. One person performs namaz in the front; the others, behind him, perform it like him by adapting themselves to him. The person who performs it in the front is called the imam. Those who perform it behind him are called the jama'at.