

فتاوى المرأة

SELECTED
FATÂWA
FOR
WOMEN

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Contents

| | |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----|
| Publishers Note----- | 6 |
| Acquiring Knowledge: | |
| Women and the Seeking of Knowledge ----- | 7 |
| Question Related to Aqidah (Faith) | |
| The Ruling Concerning Visiting Graves and Using Them as a Means of Approach to Allâh ----- | 8 |
| The Ruling Concerning Posing Questions to the Fortunetellers and Soothsayers----- | 11 |
| The Ruling Concerning Celebration Birthdays ----- | 13 |
| Ruling About Hiring a Non-Muslim Maid (or Servant)----- | 14 |
| The Reward for Women in Paradise ----- | 15 |
| Purification: | |
| Washing Babies ----- | 17 |
| Kissing ----- | 17 |
| Vaginal Secretion ----- | 18 |
| Wet Dreams ----- | 19 |
| Use of the Henna ----- | 19 |
| Wiping over the Headcover----- | 19 |
| Flow of semen after Intercourse ----- | 19 |
| When <i>Ghusl</i> is Necessary ----- | 20 |
| How to Perform the <i>Ghusl</i> ----- | 20 |
| Menstruation and Postnatal Flow: | |
| Spotting After Menstruation ----- | 21 |
| When Menstruation Ends Before Sunset ----- | 21 |
| When Menstruation Begins While in the Mosque----- | 22 |
| Reciting the Qur'ân During Menstruation----- | 22 |
| Miscarriage and Prayer----- | 23 |
| Salât | |
| Women in Mosques----- | 25 |
| Which Row in Prayer is Best for Women ----- | 25 |
| Women Praying in the Marketplace----- | 26 |

Publishers Note

It is with great pleasure that Darussalam presents this booklet 'Selected *Fatâwa* For Women.' The increasing importance that woman are playing in today's world highlights the importance of having correct and reliable information available for them. It is with this intention of supplying our Muslim ladies with the most accurate and practical information that Darussalam makes this humble presentation. We are honored to be based in the land of the Two Holy Mosques and as such are so fortunate as to have an unbroken chain of scholars of the highest integrity to rely upon. The *Fatâwa* that appear in this booklet are from the highest scholarly sources of our Holy Land. Besides Qur'ân and authentic *Ahâdith*, this booklet relies on the *Fatâwa* of the Permanent Committee of Religious Research and three of its most eminent members, Shaikh bin Baz, Shaikh bin Uthaimin, and Shaikh bin Jibreen. Shaikh bin Baz is the Grand Mufti of Saudi Arabia and the most distinguished scholar of religion from the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. Shaikh bin Uthaimin is the ranking professor of Religious Fundamentals at the *Shariah* Faculty of Imam Muhammad bin Sa'ud Islamic University and a member of the Senior Scholars Committee of Saudi Arabia. Shaikh bin Jibreen, who received his education from the great scholars of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, including the eminent Shaikh bin Baz, is a member of the General Presidency of Islamic Research, Ifta, Call and Propagation and the author of many books and publications on Islamic topics.

Abdul Malik Mujahid

General Manager
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Acquiring Knowledge

Women and the Seeking of Knowledge

Q. The Messenger of Allâh ﷺ used to set a special day for teaching the matters of the religion to the women. He also used to permit them to be behind the men in the mosque in order to seek knowledge. Why do the scholars not follow the example of the Messenger of Allâh ﷺ? Although they do fulfill some of those needs, it is not sufficient and we need more. May Allâh reward you.

A. There is no doubt that such was the practice of the Messenger of Allâh ﷺ, as well as the scholars. Indeed, I myself have done that here on a number of occasions as well as in Makkah, Tâ'if and Jeddah.

I have no problem with setting apart a specific time for women in any locale if they want that from me. That is also the position of my scholar colleagues.

Furthermore, by the radio program *Noor ala Ad-Darb*,¹ Allâh has opened the way to much good. A woman can send her question to the program and during the program it will be answered. This program is aired two nights a week on the stations *Nida-ul-Islam* and *Al-Qur'ân al-Kareem*.

Similarly, women may write to *Dar-ul-Ifta*. In this case, a committee of scholars may respond to their questions. It has been designed for that purpose. In any case, knowledge is equally obligatory for both men and women. There is nothing to prevent a woman from attending lectures, with the condition that she is properly dressed and is not exposing any of her beauty.

Shaikh bin Baz

¹ This is a radio program in Saudi Arabia that the scholars participate in. It is basically a forum for questions to be put and answered.— JZ

Questions Related to 'Aqidah (Faith)

The Ruling Concerning Visiting Graves and Using Them as a Means of Approach to Allâh

Q. What is the ruling concerning visiting graves and seeking to get closer to Allâh by means of mausoleums, and using sheep and wealth to get closer by them, such as visiting the mausoleum of Al-Sayid Al-Badawi, Al-Husain and Al-Sayidah Zainab.² Benefit us [by responding to our question], may Allâh benefit you.

A. The visiting of graves is of two types. The first type is legally sanctioned and desired. This is to visit the graves in order to supplicate for the deceased and to ask for mercy for them, and also to remember death and prepare for the Hereafter. This is based on the *Hadith* of the Prophet ﷺ:

«زُورُوا الْقُبُورَ فَإِنَّهَا تُذَكِّرُكُمْ الْآخِرَةَ»

“Visit the graves as they remind you of the Hereafter.”³

The Prophet ﷺ and his Companions used to visit the graves. However, this practice is for men only and not for women. As for women, it is not sanctioned for them to visit the graves. In fact, they must be prevented from doing so as it is confirmed from the Prophet ﷺ that he cursed those women who visited graves.⁴ This is because their visiting the graves is a great

² The question is referring to a common practice in many parts of the Muslim world. The three mausoleums mentioned in this question are located in Egypt. People visit them and offer wealth or animal sacrifices thinking that doing so in the honor of those deceased people will bring them closer to Allâh and make Allâh pleased with them.—JZ

³ Part of a *Hadith* recorded by Muslim, Ahmad, An-Nasa'i, Abu Dâwud and Ibn Mâjah with the last word being “death” instead of “the Hereafter.” Ibn Mâjah also records something similar with the last word being “the Hereafter.”—JZ

⁴ This is in a *Hadith* recorded by At-Tirmidhi, An-Nasa'i, Abu Dâwud, Ibn

trial for them. It is also because [by their behavior] they become a trial for others due to their little patience and great grieving that overcomes them. Therefore, it is not legally sanctioned for them to visit the graves. It is also confirmed in the *Sahih* that Umm Atiyyah رضي الله عنها said, “We were prohibited from following the funeral procession but this was not strictly enforced upon us.” This shows that they were prevented from following the funeral procession to the grave site out of fear that it would be a trial for them or because of them and because of their little patience. The basic ruling when something is ordered against is that of prohibition. This is because Allâh has stated:

﴿وَمَا آتَاكُمْ الرَّسُولُ فَخُذُوهُ وَمَا نَهَاكُمْ عَنْهُ فَانْتَهُوا وَاتَّقُوا اللَّهَ إِنَّ اللَّهَ

شَدِيدُ الْعِقَابِ﴾ [الحشر: 7]

“Whatsoever the Messenger gives you, take it; and whatsoever he forbids you, abstain from it.” (V. 59:7)

As for saying prayers over the dead (as in the funeral prayer), this is sanctioned for both men and women. This

Mâjah and Ahmad. However, all of them narrated this through Abu Saleh, who is a weak narrator. Hence, many scholars of *Hadith* (such as Ibn Hajar, Al-Albani and others) consider that narration weak. The correct (*Hasan*) narration of this *Hadith* states that the Prophet (peace be upon him) cursed those women who frequently visited the graves. [Recorded by At-Tirmidhi, Ibn Mâjah and Ahmad. According to Al-Albani, this narration is *Hasan*. See Muhammad Nasir Al-Din Al-Albani, *Sahih Sunan Al-Tirmidhi* (Riyadh: Maktab al-Tarbiyah al-Arabi li-Daul al-Khaleej, 1988), vol. 1, p. 308.] This can give a very different interpretation of the *Hadith*, as is given by Abdul Rahman Al-Mubarakpuri, *Tuhfat-ul-Ahwadhi bi-Sharh Jami' At-Tirmidhi* (Beirut: Dar al-Fikr, n.d.), vol. 4, p. 160. Bakr Abu Zaid, however, interprets this *Hadith* to mean the same as the previous *Hadith*. [See Bakr Abu Zaid, *Juz` fi Ziyarat-un-Nisa li-l-Qubur* (Riyadh: Dar al-Aasima, 1994), pp. 24-27.] If a woman is known not to behave herself within the limits of the *Shari'ah* at a gravesite, then she should be prevented from visiting the graves according to the agreement of the scholars. Allâh knows best.—JZ