

Rulings on Imaam

And

Ma'moomeen (Followers) In Salaat

Saleh As-Saleh

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

In the Name of Allaah, the Beneficent, the Most Merciful, I begin to write:

Part 1.

Know, may Allaah's Mercy be upon me and you that Imaamah (Leadership) in Islaam falls into four categories:

First: Imaamah of *Wahye* (Revelation), which is Prophethood.

Second: Imaamah by way of *Wiraathah* (Inheritance), which is the *'Ilm* (Knowledge). Allaah, the Most High, says:

﴿وَجَعَلْنَا مِنْهُمْ أُمَّةً يَهْدُونَ بِأَمْرِنَا لَمَّا صَبَرُوا وَكَانُوا بِآيَاتِنَا يُوقِنُونَ﴾ [السجدة، 24].

"And We appointed, from among them, leaders, giving guidance under Our command, so long as they persevered with patience and continued to have faith in Our Signs." (Qur'an 32, 24).

Third: Imaamah in *Tbaadaah* (worship), which is the Imaamah in Salaat (Prayers). The Prophet (ﷺ) said:

"The Imaam is to be followed and if he prays standing then pray standing, and bow when he bows, and raise your heads when he raises his head; prostrate when he prostrates; and if he says "*Sami'a-l-lahu Liman hamida*", you should say, "*Rabbana wa-laka-l hamd*". [Agreed upon hadeeth. See *Saheeh al-Bukhari*, vol. 1, Number 699].

Fourth: Imaamah of *Maslahah* (Running of Affairs), which is the rulership over the subjects. The Prophet (ﷺ) said:

"Surely! Everyone of you is a guardian and is responsible for his charges: The Imaam (ruler) of the people is a guardian and is responsible for his subjects; a man is the guardian of his family (household) and is responsible for his subjects; a woman is the guardian of her husband's home and of his children and is responsible for them; and the slave of a man is a guardian of his master's property and is responsible for it. Surely, everyone of you is a guardian and responsible for his charges." [Agreed upon hadeeth. See *Saheeh al-Bukhari*, vol. 9, Number 252].

Some of the Obligations upon the Imaam of the Masjid.

- 1-Sincerity: pure intention seeking the Face of Allaah, the Most High.
 - 2-Da'wah, admonition and advice to the community of the Masjid.
 - 3-Knowledge in the rulings of Imaamah in Salaat.
 - 4-Adherence to the Sunnah to the best of one's ability.
 - 5-Alignment of the rows in Salaat. He calls to that by sayings and actions. He should not abandon this matter because of the irresponsibility of some who are ignorant of the importance of row alignment in Salaat, or those who are negligent.
 - 6-Checking the Jamaa'ah (congregation), inciting them to the attendance of Salaat.
 - 7-Being a good example for the community in his character, interactions, moves, speech, dress and so forth.
 - 8-Adherence to the specific times for the Iqaamah of Salaat, by reaching to an agreement with the community that would not put hardship on them, and such that they would not miss the Iqaamah.
 - 9-Adherence to attendance on time, avoiding un-excusable delays. When the community sees this in him they will love him, and this will assist in keeping the community together.
 - 10-Establishment of the *duroos* (classes of knowledge) in the Masjid either by him, if capable, or by qualified people whom he may invite. This teaching must be in accordance with the Qur'an, Sunnah and the way of the righteous predecessors. He may read to the community from beneficial books in hadeeth and Tafseer.
 - 11-Taking care of the Masjid affairs, keeping it properly maintained and clean.
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End of Part 1.

Saleh As-Saleh,
9th Jamaadah al-Aakhir, 1427 AH
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