

Allah's Messenger Sallallahu Alaihi Wassallam has said:
Arrange your rows straight, for the straightening of rows is a
part of the observance of the prayer (in congregation)
(Bukhari)

Congregation Rows for Salaah

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I will request all the readers favoured with the grace and guidance of the lord not to study the Traditions like any other book but with the intention of receiving and giving new strength to their spiritual allegiance to the Holy Prophet and putting them into action. The love and reverence the Prophet ought to be awakened in the heart during the perusal of the Traditions and the reports should be read earnest attention and respectfulness, as if one were in his august presence and listening to those words directly from him. It will then Insha-Allah be possible to take a share in the effulgence and blessing of the traditions.

For the congregation of Salaah the prophet has decreed that the devotees should stand, side by side, in rows. No better and more dignified arrangement could be imagined for collective worship like Salaah. The prophet has urged that the rows must be perfectly straight with no one being further ahead or in the rear by an inch.

The aim of it all is to make the congregation flawless and more beneficial. The prophet gave due attention to these things and also, exhorted the ummah to be particular about them. Occasionally, he would speak of the divine reward that was on observing these directions and warn those who disregarded them of severe chastisement in the life to come.

On the authority of Sayyiduna Anas (R.A), it is stated in Abu Dawud that when the apostle of Allah (S.A.W) stood up to lead the service he would, first turn his face towards the right and tell people: "stand abreast and make the rows straight" and then towards the left and tell the people "stand abreast and make the rows straight". From other reports too, it appears that the prophet used, often to exhort the people to take care of the rows in Salaah, specially at the time he stood up to lead the congregation.

The people of the front row are deserving of the special graces of the lord and invocations of the angels, and though those of the second row too have a share in them, they are far behind or

in other words, although, in our sight the difference between the first and second row is very little, in the judgment of the Lord it is very great! The seeker of divine mercy should, therefore take pains to find a place in the first row, the only way to which is that he reached the mosque easily.

In a saying, quoted in Bukhari and Muslim it is stated: "If people knew what reward there is on standing in the first row and how are they going to be requited tussles among them would erupt that ultimately lots would have to be drawn"

Ibn Umar (R.A.) reported that Allah's Messenger (peace and blessing of Allah be upon him) said: set the rows in order, and stand shoulder to shoulder, and close up the gaps, and be soft against the hands of your brothers, and don't leave a space for the Satan, and he who tries to join up a row, Allah would join him up, and whosoever breaks the row, Allah will sever him. (Abu Dawud and Nasai transmitted from the words: and he who joins up the row to the end.)

Al-Bara' b. 'Azib (R.A.) **reported** that Allah's Messenger (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) used to say: Verily Allah and his angels shower blessings upon those who are near the first row, and no step is more pleasing to Allah than that of a servant which he takes in order to find his place (in the first row) for observing prayer (in congregation) (**Abu Dawud**).

Abu Huraira (R.A.) reported that Allah's Messenger (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him): keep the Imam in the centre and fill in the opening space. (**Bukhari**)

'Aisha (R.A.) (may Allah be pleased with her) said that Allah's Messenger (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) said: the people will not cease to withdraw themselves from the first row till Allah would put them in a back place in hell. (**Abu Dawud**)

Wabisa b. mu'bad (R.A.) reported that Allah's Messenger (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) saw a person observing prayer singly behind a row. He directed him to repeat the prayer. (**Ahmad, Tirmidhi, Abu Dawud** said: this is a hasan hadith)

Abu Umama (R.A.) reported that Allah's Messenger (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) said: verily Allah and his angels shower blessings on the first row. They said: Allah's Messenger, what about the second (row)? He said: Allah and his angels shower blessings on the first row. They said: Allah's Messenger, what about the second one? Thereupon he said: verily Allah and his angels shower blessings on the first row. They said: Allah's Messenger, what about the second one? And Allah's Messenger (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) said: on the second one (also). And Allah's Messenger (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) said: straighten your rows and stand shoulder to

shoulder and stand close to the end of your brothers and close up the intervening spaces for the Satan penetrates what is in between them as a small goat meaning the young one of the goat. **(Ahmad)**

It is reported on the same authority that Allah's Messenger (Peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) said: Arrange **y**our rows straight, for the straightening of rows is a part of the observance of the prayer (in congregation) (Agreed upon). But in Muslim (the words are): (it is a part) of perfection in prayer.

Abu Ma'sud Ansari (R.A.) reported that Allah's Messenger (Peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) touched our shoulders (at the commencement) of prayer and he used to say: straighten the (rows) and do not (stand) at variant (positions) for it would create variance in your hearts. Those amongst you who are mature and prudent should stand near me, then those next to them, then those next to them. Abu Ma'sud said: there are strikingly sharp differences amongst you today. **(Muslim)**

An nu'man b. Bashir (R.A.) reported that Allah's Messenger (Peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) used to straighten our rows (so accurately) as if he (meant) to straighten the rows with (the help of these) arrows till he found that we had learnt (to straighten them). Then one day he came out and he was about

to commence the prayer by saying (Allah-o-Akbar) that he saw a person with his chest protruding from the rows and he said: servants of Allah, straighten your rows or Allah would set your faces opposite to one another. **(Muslim)**

Anas (R.A.) reported that Allah's Messenger (Peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) used to say on his right side: keep yourselves in order and straighten the rows. And he used to say to those on his left: keep yourselves in order and straighten your rows. **(Abu Dawud)**

Anas (R.A.) reported Allah's Messenger (Peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) as saying: stand well-compacted in the rows. Bring them near one another and stand neck to neck. By him in whose hand is my life, I see the Satan entering in the intervening spaces of the rows like a small goat. **(Abu Dawud)**

It is reported in the same authority that Allah's Messenger (Peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) said: complete the first row first, then the next one and whatever incompleteness (is inevitable) let it be on the last row. **(Abu Dawud)**

Anas (R.A.) reported that Allah's Messenger (Peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) used to say: straighten (you rows), straighten (your rows), and straighten (your rows). By him in whose hand is my life I see you from behind me as I see you in front of me. **(Abu Dawud)**

An- Nu'man b. Bashir (R.A.) reported that Allah's Messenger (Peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) used to arrange our rows straight as we got up for prayer and when we had straightened them then he recited takbir to commence the prayer. **(Abu Dawud)**.

Abu Sa'id Khudri (R.A.) reported that Allah's Messenger (Peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) saw a (tendency of some Muslims) to stand behind. He said to them (Muslims): come forward and follow me and those who stand behind you should follow you. Some people would try to lag behind till Allah will put them at the back. **(Muslim)**

Jabir b. Samura (R.A.) reported that Allah's Messenger (Peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) came out (and saw) us divided in different circles. Whereupon he said: what is it that I see you sitting in different (circles)? He came to us (on another occasion) and said: why don't make the rows as the angels do in the presence of their lord? We said O Allah's Messenger (Peace and blessings of Allah be upon him), how do the angels make rows in the presence of their lord? Whereupon he said: they complete the front row (first) and are well-compact in row. **(Muslim)**

Allah's Messenger Sallallahu Alaihi Wassallam has said:

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for the straightening of rows is
a part of the observance of the
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(Bukhari)

Children and Mosque

‘Save your mosques from children, insane trading, loud voice, quarrelling and the drawing of the sword’. **(Ibn maja)**

Children who do not know the mosque etiquette and have no idea of ritual cleanliness and uncleanness should not be allowed to come to the mosque.

The children who know ritual cleanliness and uncleanness and also know the due respect and reverence of the mosque are permitted to come to the mosque,

The holy prophet (P.B.U.H) statement is:-

‘When the child is seven years old, order him to say prayers and when he is ten years old, chastise him for not praying’.

It does not mean that when the child is seven years old, he can pay due respect to the mosque. Even if he cannot do so, he should be brought to the mosque. The instruction and training for the prayer can be given at home also. When he has attained seven years of age and he can now show respect to the mosque and understand ritual cleanliness and uncleanness, he is permitted to come to the mosque; there is no prohibition for such a child.

Friday Prayer

Sayyiduna Abu Huraira (R.A.) quotes the holy prophet (sal'am) to have started, "stop from abandoning the Friday prayers otherwise your hearts will be sealed up and you will be condemned to be among the forgetful persons."- **Muslim**

Sayyiduna Abu Ja'aad (R.A.) quotes the holy prophet (sal'am) to have started that he who abandons three Friday prayers without any reasonable excuse has put Islam back. - **Abu Yala**

Sayyiduna Usama (R.A.) quotes the holy prophet (sal'am) to have said that who has abandoned three Friday prayers is a hypocrite. **Ibn-e-Habbon**

Sayyiduna Jabir (R.A.) quotes the holy prophet (sal'am) to have stated in one of his Friday sermons, "O people, Allah has enjoined the Friday prayer as duty on all of you to perform till the day of judgement. Allah will destroy the peace and rest of the person who abandons it without excuse. He will deprive him of the divine plenty and abundance. Neither his payment of zakat, holy pilgrimage nor fasts will be accepted unless he repents and Allah accepts his repentance. - **Ibn-e-Maja**

Sayyiduna Ma'az bin Anas (R.A.) quotes the holy prophet (sal'am) to have said that he who strides over the heads of the participants of Friday prayer to get ahead in the mosque will be made a bridge on the day of judgement for those who will go to hell. - **Ibn Maja Tirmizi**

Note: some people have developed the habit of becoming late to the mosque and striding over the heads of those persons, who have already come and occupied their places, to reach the front row. This is the warning for them against their bad habit.

Sayyiduna Arqain's (R.A.) words are, "He who commits to stride over the heads of the Muslims in the mosque during the delivery of the Friday sermon will be pulling out his intestines on the day of judgement - **Ahmad Tabrani**

Sayyiduna Ibn-e-Abbas (R.A.) says that the holy prophet (sal'am) has said that he who moves or changes sides needlessly during the Friday sermon commits a mischief and he, who talks after sermon has begun, is an ass.

O Allah! Forgive us all our great sins and free our backs from all heavy loads of sins with your mercy.

O Allah! O Exalted One! Make us righteous and pious, with thy grace.

O Allah! O Gracious One! Hide our sins, grant us comfort and heal our sick and remove from us all sorrows.

O Allah arouse us from the sleep of care-lessness and let the days of our lives be spent in thy worship.

O Allah! Send blessings upon our leader Muhammad such blessings because of which we may be saved from all types of miseries and disasters, and all our needs may be fulfilled, and we may be raised to high grades (of goodness), and we may reach to the extreme of.

MAY ALLAH ACCEPT OUR DUA (AMEEN).

