

## Entry of a non-Muslim to the Masjid or Musallaa

**Question:** (1) What is the ruling concerning a non-Muslim entering the *Masjid* or *Musallaa* of the Muslims, whether it is for attending the *Salat* or for listening to a lecture?

Praise be to Allah Alone and may *Salat* and *Salaam* be upon His Messenger, his family and his companions...To Proceed:

**Answer:** An answer has been issued from us previously, Fatwaa no. 2922, with the following text: "It is prohibited for Muslims to facilitate the admittance of any disbeliever into the Sacred Masjid (*al-Masjid al-Haraam*, in Makkah), as well as any part of the sacred precincts (*al-Haram*). This is due to the saying of Allah, the Most High:

'O you who believe! Verily, the pagan disbelievers are *Na-jas* (impure). So let them not come near *al-Masjid al-Haraam* (at Makkah) after this year...' Soorah at-Tawbah, 9:28

As far as any masjid other than *al-Masjid al-Haraam* (the Sacred Masjid in Makkah) - some of the scholars of *Fiqh* (Jurisprudence) said: It is permissible (*Ya-jooz*) due to the lack of any proof indicating its prohibition. Other scholars said: It is not permissible (*Laa Ya-jooz*) based upon analogy (*Qi-yaas*) with the Sacred Masjid [i.e. that the other masjids are similar to the Sacred Masjid, and therefore also forbidden for entry by the non-Muslims].

The correct opinion (*as-Sa-waab*) is its permissibility (*Ja-waa-zu-hu*) for a legal benefit (*Mas-la-hah Shar-'ee-yah*) and for a need (*Haa-jah*) which calls for that (i.e. allowing them to enter), such as listening to that which might invite him to embrace Islam, or for his need (such as needing) to drink some water in the Masjid.

## Entering a Church (Kaneesah)

**Question** (2) What is the ruling concerning a Muslim entering a Church, whether it is to attend their prayer service or for listening to a lecture?

**Answer:** It is not permissible (*Laa Ya-jooz*) for a Muslim to join the disbelievers (*al-Kuffaar*) in their places of worship. This is because it increases their numbers [i.e. strengthens them]. It is also not allowed due to what has been narrated by al-Bayhaqee with an authentic chain of narrators, from Umar - *radiyallahu anhu* - that he said: 'Do not join the pagan disbelievers in their churches (*Kanaa'isi-him*) and places of worship (*Ma'aabidi-him*). Indeed, the anger/wrath [of Allah] descends upon them'. However, if it (i.e. a Muslim's entering their place of worship) was for a legal benefit (*Mas-la-hah Shar-'ee-yah*) or for the purpose of inviting them to Islam and such similar purposes - there is no harm (*Laa Ba's*) [in doing so]. And the Success is from Allah, and may the *Salat* of Allah and *Tasleem* be upon our Prophet Muhammad, his family and companions.

'Legal Rulings of the Permanent Committee, Saudi Arabia [Fataawaa al-Lajnah ad-Daa'imah] 2/76, 77; Al-Fataawaa al-Shar'eeyah fi-l-Masaa'il al-'Asriyyah min Fataawaa 'Ulamaa' al-Balad al-Haraam, Pg. 121, 122 [Translation: Abu Muhammad Abdur-Rauf Shakir, 3/16/05]