



EID SALAH/KHUTBAH DURING LOCKDOWN

With the present state of 'lockdown' in our country, Muslims are concerned about the upcoming Eid-ul-Fitr Salah and celebration, and how the Eid Salah can be performed without attending the masjid.

At the onset, we must say that while we are presently in this state, we do hope and pray earnestly to Allah to bring ease for us so that we can fulfill our Eid obligations in the Sunnah manner. If however, the situation of 'lockdown' remains at the time of Eid-Ul-Fitr, and we are not able to visit the masjid or parks/savannahs to perform the Eid Salah, then it will be allowed to perform Eid Salah in other places besides the masjid.

A minimum of four Muslim male adults can gather and perform the Eid Salah and Khutbah. One among them will be fixed as the Imam, and the other three will be followers. Other people can also join the Jamaat for Eid Salah like other males, women and children. However, Muslims must take note of the law regarding social distancing and not having more than five people in a specific area.

With the minimum of four Muslim male adults, Eid Salah and Khutbah can be held at the house of a person or in an open area on his compound, like the front yard or the backyard. An open area is more preferable than having it inside a house since an open area resembles an 'Eidgah' or 'Open Air Eid' which was the Sunnah of the Prophet (S.A.W). If this is not possible, then it can be performed in a house.

In fulfilling the Eid ul Fitr Salah and Khutbah, one will wait until the time has entered (which is about 20 mins after sunrise, but it is better to wait a little longer than this to begin the Salah), and when all have gathered, the Imam will lead everyone in two rakaats of the Eid Salah (while saying the extra takbeers). Upon the completion of the two rakaats, the Imam will stand in front of the followers and deliver the first Arabic Khutbah. If one does not know/ have an Arabic Eid ul Fitr Khutbah, then any other Arabic Khutbah will be acceptable. After the 1st Arabic Khutbah, the Imam will sit on a chair for a pause, and then stand again on the ground (while facing the followers), to deliver the second Arabic Khutbah. After the second Khutbah, the Imam should make collective dua with the congregation since it is a day when duas are accepted by Allah. In this way, the Eid Salah and Khutbah will be complete and accepted.

If it is not possible for four adult males to gather for the performance of the Eid Salah, it would not be performed. This means that Eid Salah cannot be performed with less than four male adults.

It should be understood that the above ruling is given only for the restricted state of 'lockdown' which Muslims presently find themselves in. This is not a general law and practice which can be adopted in normal circumstances. Insha Allah, if the state of 'lockdown' is lifted before Eid-Ul-Fitr, then all Muslims will be required to celebrate Eid by going to the 'Open Air' areas or their respective masjids for the Eid Salah and Khutbah. At that time, no one will be allowed to have the Eid Salah and Khutbah at their homes or on their private compounds.

And Allah Knows best
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