

The Legal Ruling Concerning Greeting Someone Who Is Reciting Qur'aan

On the authority of Uqbah ibn Aamir al-Juhanee, (Radiyahallahu an-hu), who said: We were sitting in the masjid reading the Qur'an; then the Messenger of Allah (Sallallahu Alaihi wa Sallam) entered upon us and greeted us (saying: *As-Salaamu Alaikum*); so, we returned the greetings to him.

Then he (Sallallahu Alaihi wa Sallam) said: "Learn the Qur'an and recite it beautifully." Qubaath – one of the narrators – said: and I think he (Sallallahu Alaihi wa Sallam) said: "Recite the Qur'an with a beautiful voice. By the One in Whose Hand is the life of Muhammad, it (i.e. the Qur'an) is more likely to escape from you [even when you review it] than the camel which is tied."

Al-Haithamee said [in *Majma az-Zawaa'id*, 7/83]: 'Reported by Ahmad and at-Tabaraanee, and the narrators of Ahmad are the narrators accepted by al-Bukhaaree. Al-Albaanee declared it to be *Saheeh* (authentic) in *as-Saheehah*, no. 3285. Shu'aib al-Arnaa'oot said: 'It is a *Saheeh* (authentic) Hadeeth, and this chain of narrators is *Jayyid* (good, acceptable) (i.e. a grade just below the grade of *Saheeh*), due to one of the narrators, i.e. Qubaath ibn Razeen; and the rest of the narrators of this chain are reliable, the narrators accepted by al-Bukhaaree.'

Al-Albaanee said: 'From the *fiqh* (understanding) contained in this Hadeeth is that it is legislated in the *Sharee'ah* (Islamic Law) to greet (with '*Salaams*') a person sitting reciting the Qur'an. It contains a refutation of whoever holds the view that it is *Mak-rooh* (disliked or detestable) to do this (i.e. to greet the one who is sitting reciting the Qur'an).'

'This view – in addition to the fact that this is merely an '*opinion*' – is in contradiction to this Hadeeth, as well as in contradiction to the general meaning of the Prophet's (Sallallahu Alaihi wa Sallam) saying: "Spread the greetings of *Salaam* among yourselves."

If it is confirmed that the Prophet (Sallallahu Alaihi wa Sallam) agreed to what the *Sahaabah* (Companions) did when they greeted him with *Salaam* while he was performing *Salaah* (Prayer) in Masjid Qubaa'; and that he would respond to their greetings by signaling with his noble hand - *then it is more fitting* that it be legislated to offer greetings of *Salaam* to someone reciting Qur'an – outside of the *Salaah* (Prayer). And the response, in this case, should be expressed *orally*, not by pointing, as is not hidden from those who have understanding. And this is the view of Imaam an-Nawawee (May Allah have mercy upon him)!

[*Silsilah al-Ahaadeeth as-Saheehah*, no. 3285]

**Fatwa of the Permanent Committee
(Major Scholars of Saudi Arabia), 4/120**

“It is permissible to initiate the greetings of *Salaam* to someone who is reciting the Qur’an; and it is obligatory (for him/her) to return the greetings of *Salaam*, since there is no confirmed *Sharee’ah* (legal) evidence for the prohibition of doing so.

“The *Asl* (original ruling, in this matter) is based upon the general evidences proving that it is legislated in the *Sharee’ah* that one should initiate greetings of *Salaam*, and that one must return the greetings to the one who initiates it – unless and until there is a confirmed (legal proof) which excludes this case (i.e. of greeting one who is reciting the Qur’an) from the evidences (which permit the exchange of greetings in this situation).”

In another question about greeting someone who is reciting the Qur’an – the Permanent Committee (of Major Scholars) also said:

“The *Sunnah* (of the Prophet, *Sallallahu Alaihi wa Sallam*) is to greet such a person with *Salaams*, due to what is found in the authentic Hadeeths showing that it is legislated in the *Sharee’ah* (Islamic Law) to offer *Salaams* and to shake hands at the time of meeting (other Muslims).”

Shaykh Abdul-Azeez Ibn Baaz (Rahima-hu-Ilah)

Question:

If a person enters the masjid and says to another person who is reciting the Qur’an: ‘*As-Salaamu Alaikum!*’ – Should the person who is reciting the Qur’an respond to the greetings of *Salaam* or not?

Answer:

Al-Waajib, that which is obligatory upon him is to respond, stop the recitation and return the greetings of *Salaam*. In the situation of one who is performing the *Salaah* (Prayer), then he responds by signaling, i.e. pointing with his hand. As for the situation of one who is only reciting (the Qur’an), not in *Salaah* (Prayer), then he should stop the recitation and return the greetings, saying: ‘*Wa Alaikumus-Salaam*’.

[Translation: Abu Muhammad, 29th Ramadan 1433AH - August 17, 2012CE]