

Reviving the Role of the Masjid	
Author	Hatem al-Haj - Master's in Islamic law (American Open University), PhD in Comparative Fiqh (al-Jinan University), M.B., CH.B. Equivalent to MD (Alexandria University Medical School)
Virtue	<p>"The best patches of earth are the masājīd and the worst are the markets"</p> <p>حديث: خَيْرُ البقاع المساجدُ وشرُّ البقاع الأسواقُ  حديث: أَحَبُّ البلادِ إلى الله مَساجِدُها، وَأَبْغَضُ البلادِ إلى الله أسواقُها  وفي الحديث الحثُّ على كَثْرَةِ التَّردُّدِ إلى المساجدِ وتَقْلِيلِ التَّردُّدِ إلى الأسواقِ</p>
Prophets	<p>Allah chose His Prophets to establish masājīd</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The Messenger of Allah ﷺ started his mission in Madinah by building the masjid</li> </ul> <p>سيرة: كان بناء المسجد أول عمل قام به رسول الله ﷺ بعد نزوله في دار أبي أيوب رضي الله عنه، وكان رسول الله ﷺ يساهم في البناء بنفسه جنباً إلى جنب مع أصحابه</p>
Masjid activities during the Prophet's time	Learning, reciting Qur'an, dhikr, du'a', socializing, receiving delegations, raising funds, tending to the sick, shelter for the homeless
Muslim minorities	Weeks or months may pass by without getting a chance to see another Muslim except in the masjid
Islamic symbol	The masjid is the most evident symbol of Islam in the tangible world
Primary masjid activities	<p>The primary actions in the masjid are salāt, dhikr, du'a', tilāwah, and ta'līm</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- These should be given priority such that those doing other things should not cause disruption</li> </ul> <p>إنَّ هذه المساجدَ لا تَصْلُحُ لشيءٍ من هذا البولِ ولا القَدْرِ إنما هي لذكرِ الله عزَّ وجلَّ والصلاةِ وقراءة القرآن</p>
Not bothering worshippers	<p>If it is prohibited for someone who is praying or reciting the Qur'an to bother other worshipers, then it is more prohibited for someone doing something inferior to that to bother them</p> <p>حديث: ألا إنَّ كلِّكم مُناجٍ ربِّه فلا يُؤذِينُ بعضُكم بعضاً ، ولا يرفعَنَّ بعضُكم على بعضٍ بالقراءة أو قال: في الصلاة</p>
Prohibited activities	Conducting business, advertising, announcing lost items
Permitted activities Hadīth	<p>Socializing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- "They used to chat with one another, even about matters that happened to them in jāhiliyyah, and they would laugh and he would smile"</li> </ul> <p>كان رسول الله ﷺ إذا صَلَّى الفجرَ جلس في مُصَلَّاه حتَّى تَطْلُعَ الشمسُ وكانوا يجلسون فيتحدَّثون ويأخذون في أمر الجاهليَّة فيضحكون ويتبسَّم عليه ﷺ</p> <p>Eating</p>

Hadīth	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- “We used to eat bread and meat in the masjid during the time of the Messenger of Allah ﷺ” كنا نأكل على عهد رسول الله ﷺ في المسجد الخبز واللحم</li> </ul>
Hadīth	<p>Playing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- “The Abyssinians were playing in the masjid, and the Messenger of Allah was covering me with his garment to watch their play” والحبشة يلعبون في المسجد، ورسول الله ﷺ يسترني بردائه أنظر إلى لعبهم</li> </ul> <p>Sleeping</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Imam Bukhāri has a chapter in his <i>Sahīh</i> titled: Men sleeping in the masjid, and a chapter titled: Women sleeping in the masjid باب نوم الرجال في المسجد باب نوم المرأة في المسجد</li> </ul>
Hadīth	<p>Women attending</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- “Do not prevent Allah’s slave-women from going to Allah’s masājid” لا تمنعوا إماء الله مساجد الله</li> </ul>
Hadīth	<p>Children attending</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- “The Messenger of Allah used to lead the people in prayer, and al-Hasan would jump on his back when he prostrated, and he did that more than once” وكان الحسن بن علي يثب على ظهره إذا سجد، ففعل ذلك غير مرة</li> </ul> <p>Non-Muslims</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- A delegation of the Christians of Najrān stayed over at the Prophet’s masjid سيرة: لما قدم وفد نجران على رسول الله ﷺ دخلوا عليه مسجده بعد صلاة العصر، فحانت صلاتهم فقاموا يصلون في مسجده، فأراد الناس منعهم، فقال رسول الله ﷺ: دعوهم</li> <li>- Muslims should invite others to the masjid to remove the fear generated by anti-Muslims</li> </ul>
Extravagant buildings	<p>“I have not been commanded to build lofty mosques” حديث: ما أمرت بتشيد المساجد، قال ابن عباس: لتزخرفنّها كما زخرفت اليهود والنصارى</p>
Attached rooms to the masjid	<p>Some viewed that they take the same rulings of the masjid</p> <p>Most Islamic centers have restrooms inside the building of the masjid</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Use of the lavatory is not permitted inside the masjid <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- We have essentially agreed that the rulings of the masjid are not extended to the entire physical facility that contains it</li> <li>- Thus, women during their period can come to the Islamic Center as long as they don’t stay in the prayer hall (masjid proper)</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

<p>Supporting Islamic workers</p> <p>Hadīth</p>	<p>The Prophet instructed that those who do service jobs for the benefit of the ummah be sufficed</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The Prophet also reminded the actual workers of the importance of ‘afāf (self-restraint)</li> <li>- “He who will do work for us and has no house, let him have a house... and if he has no riding animal, let him have one. Whoever takes more than that, he is an embezzler”</li> </ul> <p>مَنْ وَلِيَ لَنَا عَمَلًا وَلَيْسَ لَهُ مَنْزِلٌ فَلْيَتَّخِذْ مَنْزِلًا، أُولَيْسَتْ لَهُ زَوْجَةٌ فَلْيَتَزَوَّجْ، أُولَيْسَ لَهُ خَادِمٌ فَلْيَتَّخِذْ خَادِمًا، أُولَيْسَ لَهُ دَابَّةٌ فَلْيَتَّخِذْ دَابَّةً، وَمَنْ أَصَابَ شَيْئًا سِوَى ذَلِكَ فَهُوَ غَالٌ</p>
<p>Masjid management</p>	<p>Muslims who live in the West have the opportunity to learn from experts in management and administration</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- There are free classes offered on how to run non-for-profit organizations</li> </ul>

*AR*