

FATWA

Umm Waraqah leading salaah.

Q. Did Umm Waraqah Lead Salaah?

A. Nabi [sallallaahu alayhi wasallam] did not allow Umm Waraqah [radhiallaahu anhum] to perform Imaamat for men. At the time of the battle of Badr, Umm Waraqah [radhiallaahu anhum] sought permission from Rasulallah [sallallaahu alayhi wasallam] saying, 'O Rasulallah [sallallaahu alayhi wasallam], give me permission to come out with you. I will nurse your wounded. Perhaps Allah may bless me with martyrdom.' Rasulallah [sallallaahu alayhi wasallam] replied, 'Stay fixed in your home, for indeed Allah Ta'ala will give you martyrdom.' Then she asked Rasulallah [sallallaahu alayhi wasallam] permission to take a Muazzin at her house and Rasulallah [sallallaahu alayhi wasallam] permitted it.' (Abu Dawud)

In another narration, it is stated that Rasulallah [sallallaahu alayhi wasallam] would visit her at home, and he appointed a Muazzin for her and instructed her to lead her household in Salaat. (Ibid)

From the aforementioned Ahaadith, the following is clear. Firstly, Umm Warqah [radhiallaahu anhum] sought permission to join Rasulallah [sallallaahu alayhi wasallam] in Jihaad, which Rasulallah [sallallaahu alayhi wasallam] refused and instead ordered her to remain fixed in her home. This shows clearly the position which Rasulallah [sallallaahu alayhi wasallam] chose for the women of his Ummah – to remain in the confines of her house. Secondly, upon her request, Rasulallah [sallallaahu alayhi wasallam] allowed to make Imaamat, not in the Musjid or at any public venue, but in the confines of her home. Thirdly, the Hadith mentioned that she would lead 'Ahl daarihaa' (her household) in Salaat. There is no explicit mention that there were men included. On the contrary, Aaisha [radhiallaahu anha] states, She (Umm Waraqah) would lead women in Fardh Salaat and stand in the middle of the Saff. **(Sunan as-Sughraa Hadith590)**

Umm Salmah [radhiallaahu anhum] also reports that she (Umm Waraqah) would lead women in Salaat and stand in the middle of the Saff. (Ibid Hadith591)

Further clarification is given in the narration of Dar-e-Qutni wherein Umm Waraqah [radhiallaahu anhum] herself states that Rasulallah [sallallaahu alayhi wasallam] gave her permission for Adhaan and Iqaamat to be given for her and she perform Imaamat for her womenfolk. (Dar-e-Qutni vol.1 pg.279)

Thus, to deduce that women can make Imaamat for a mixed gathering from this Hadith is erroneous.

The Ahaadith mentioning Talbeenah are mentioned in Bukhari (Hadith5689, 5690). The notion that milk and honey should not be consumed together is false.

And Allah Ta'ala knows best

Mufti Ebrahim Desai