

Waiting for the Imaam to depart before moving

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بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

In the name of Allaah, the Most Merciful, the Bestower of Mercy

Question: Some of the people, as it relates to the departure of the Imaam or the Imaam turning around to those following him say: It is not permissible for those following the Imaam to leave the Masjid until the Imaams leaves it, is this correct?

Shaykh ibn Baaz (May Allaah the Most High have mercy on him): That which is most likely and closer to the truth is that this view is not correct, rather this is recommended and more befitting that he does not depart. This is due to the statement of the Prophet, (May the peace and blessings of Allaah the Most High be upon him): **“Verily I am your Imaam thus do not proceed me in bowing, prostrating, standing, or departing.”**

And it is well-known that “departing” here means the Salaam. It is not his turning towards them. It is well know that in the prayer this is the Salaam. Such as the statement of Thawbaan (May Allaah the Most High be pleased with him): “When the Prophet, (May the peace and blessings of Allaah the Most High be upon him), departed from his prayer he would seek Allaah’s forgiveness three times.” Depart meaning making the tasleem.

As for his turning towards them, then it is preferred for them to be patient until he turns towards them, this is more befitting. But if they stand before that, then what is apparent is there is no harm in this. This is because the term departing in the hadeeth means giving the Salaam. This is what is apparent from the hadeeth.