

What a menstruating woman should do on the night of Qadr

Compiled by: Iqbal Lambat

Dr. Muhammad Abu Laylah, professor of the Islamic Studies & Comparative Religions at Al-Azhar Univ. states:

“A menstruating woman should not perform *Salah* (prayer) nor touch the Qur'an, but she can make *du`a'* (supplication) and share with other Muslims their prayer by watching and listening to TV channels or radio stations that broadcast *Tarawih* prayer live.

“She can ask someone to put the *Mushaf* (Quran) on a table or a stand and read from it without touching it. She can take a cassette and listen to Qur'anic recitation.”

The Saudi House of Fatwa headed by the late **Sheikh `Abdul-`Aziz Ibn Baz** (may Allah bless his soul) states with regards to a menstruating woman reading the Quran:

“There is nothing wrong with a menstruating woman or a woman in post-natal bleeding to recite the Qur'an, because there is no clear-cut authentic Hadith that forbids them from doing so. However, it is reported in an authentic Hadith that one who is *Junub* (one in a state of impurity following sexual intercourse or wet dream), must not read the Qur'an while he or she is impure, according to the Hadith reported by `Ali (may Allah be pleased with him).

“The Hadith reported as regards the menstruating woman and the one experiencing post-natal bleeding reads: “**The menstruating woman and the one who is *Junub* are not to read Qur'an**”. This Hadith is reported by Ibn `Umar, but it is *Da`if* (weak), because the Hadith was reported by Isma`eel Ibn `Ayyaash from the Hijaziyeen, and he is famous for narrating *Da`if* Hadiths from them.

“However, such woman (in menstruation or post-natal bleeding) should not touch the *Mushaf*; she can recite from her own memory [or from a copy of the Qur'an without touching it, as per the above opinion]. As for the *Junub*, he or she is not to recite the Qur'an, whether from memory or from the *Mushaf*, until he or she has performed *Ghusl* (purificatory bath). The difference between them is that the time span for the one who is *Junub* to have himself or herself purified is very short; he or she can do *Ghusl* right away after lovemaking or wet dream. The *Junub* does not stay in this condition for long, and it is up to him/her when he/she wants to make *Ghusl*; if he/she does not find water, he/she can do *Tayammum* (dry ablution) and then he or she can pray and read the Qur'an. But the woman in menses or in post-natal bleeding has no control over her situation – the matter is up to Allah the Almighty.

“Therefore, it is permissible for them to recite the Qur'an so that they do not forget it and they do not miss learning the teachings of Shari`ah from the Book of Allah. If that is the case, then it should certainly be permissible for them to read books containing

du`a' that are mixed with verses and Hadiths, etc. This is the view believed to be the most correct.”

Sheikh Muhammad Iqbal Nadvi, Imam of Calgary Mosque, Alberta, Canada, and Former Professor at King Saud University, Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, concludes:

“A menstruating woman is not supposed to pray. She can do the following:

1. Read as much as she can to increase her knowledge about Islam.
2. Make *du`a'* and spend time making *dhikr* to Allah Almighty.
3. Listen to the Qur'an or read from her memory.
4. Watch Islamic programs or shows on TV or video to educate herself about Islam.
5. Attend religious classes to be always around the committed sisters.”