

## “Role of a Masjid”

The Masjid symbolizes Islamic monotheism and the unity of the Muslim Community (ummah). Masjid is where the call to prayer is made five times a day, the community comes together in the congregational prayer and all Muslims regardless of their race, color, social, and economic status stand shoulder to shoulder before their Lord in response to His call.

The Masjid word is derived from the root word s-j-d (س . ج . د)(sujud).- meaning to kneel or prostrate oneself. With prefix “ma”, it means place of s-j-d (س . ج . د)(sujud) takes place. Literally it means “Place of prostration (sujud)”. This is the position in Islamic ritual prayers (Salaat), in which the forehead of the worshipper touches the ground in the supreme act of submission and surrender before Allah(swt)

The first act of Prophet Muhammed (saw) was to build the Masjid. The first two Masjid built by him were “Quba Masjid” and “Majid-e-Nabawi”.

The Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) said: “The most beloved places on Earth to Allah(swt) are its mosques, and the most despised places on Earth to Allah(swt) are its markets.” [Sahîh Muslim]

This proves that the masjid plays a vital part in the life of the muslim ummah. It is the most important institution in Islam after the home and work place. There, a Muslim renews his spirituality, strengthens his relationship with his Creator, meets his fellow Muslim brothers/sisters and renews his sense of belonging. The Mosque provides relief and respite to the needy and the distressed. The role of the Masjid is not to gather people and make it crowded. It is meant to encourage people to interact with each other on a basis of love and cooperation and seeking Allah’s pleasure. It is the first school from which the Muslim graduates.

The role of the masjid in traditional Muslim society is three-fold.

1. The first and primary one relates to worship.
2. Second is a social activity and
3. The Third is political role, but not the sort of role that is controlled by the governments or kings.

The masjid should be an independent, democratic, religious and social institution and not a center for increasing religious intolerance and sectarianism. The biggest responsibilities of the administrators of Masjid today are to eradicate the misconceptions about Islam and to lead communities out of the depths of Islam phobia and ignorance.

Alhamdulillah! in Canada with time number of mosques has rapidly increased but it is sad and shame to see today’s Masjid does not reflect the Islam. Except for Friday, most of the time the Mosques are empty. People do not go for congregation payer. Despite the fact they know the reward of congregation prayer is 27 times more than reading it alone. It is sin for healthy men to read payers alone.

Mosque is a vital cornerstone in the building of any Muslim community and it is the responsibility of the mosque committees, the Imams and the local Muslim community to ensure that the mosques are always a reflection of Islam.

May Allah(swt) give us all the ability to reunite and perform our prayers with the congregation in the mosque. Ameen!!