21963 - Telling the imaam to wait

the question

I hear some people, when they enter the mosque and the imaam is bowing in rukoo', telling him that Allaah is with those who are patient, so that the imaam will make the rukoo' longer and they will be able to join in the rukoo'. Is this permissible?

Detailed answer

Praise be to Allah.

There is no basis for this; it was not done at the time of the Sahaabah (may Allaah be pleased with them) and it is not something that they taught. It also disturbs the others who are praying with the imaam, and disturbing other worshippers is something that is not allowed, because it distracts them.

The Prophet (peace and blessings of Allaah be upon him) went out one night to his companions when they were praying and raising their voices in recitation. He told them not to do that and said: "Do not raise your voices above one another when reciting Qur'aan." (Maalik in al-Muwatta', al-Salaah, 29). According to another hadeeth: "Do not disturb one another and do not raise your voices above one another when reciting Qur'aan." (Abu Dawood, al-Salaah, 1332). This indicates that everything that disturbs the people who are praying behind the imaam is forbidden, because it disturbs the worshippers and interferes with their prayer.

With regard to the imaam, the fuqaha' (may Allaah have mercy on them) said: if the imaam senses that someone has come in to join the prayer, then he should wait for him, especially in the last rak'ah in which the latecomer may catch up with the jamaa'ah, because the Prophet (peace and blessings of Allaah be upon him) said: "Whoever catches up with a rak'ah of the prayer has caught up with the prayer." (al-Bukhaari, al-Mawaaqeet, 580; Muslim, al-Masaajid, 607). But if it will cause any hardship for the members of the congregation then he should not wait, because

they are more deserving of consideration than the one who has just come in, because they were there before him.