

38037 - Can a woman observe i'tikaaf for the full ten days?

the question

I am a new muslim sister and I am quite confused in regards to I'tikaaf where women are concerned. Are women allow to perform I'tikaaf if there are seperate rooms for men and women at the local masjid? If women are allowed this, how many days should be performed (3 days, one week or all 10 days)?

Detailed answer

Praise be to Allaah.

Praise be to Allaah Who has guided you to Islam. We ask Allaah to increase you in faith and guidance.

Yes, it is permissible for a woman to observe i'tikaaf in the mosque, indeed i'tikaaf is Sunnah for both men and women.

See question no. [37698](#)

It is better to oberseve i'tikaaf for the full ten days, because this is what the Prophet (peace and blessings of Allaah be upon him) used to do. Al-Bukhaari (2026) and Muslim (1172) narrated from 'Aa'ishah (may Allaah be pleased with her), the wife of the Prophet (peace and blessings of Allaah be upon him), that the Prophet (peace and blessings of Allaah be upon him) used to observe i'tikaaf for the last ten days of Ramadaan, until he passed away, then his wives observed i'tikaaf after he was gone.

If a Muslim cannot observe i'tikaaf for all of the last ten days, then he may observe i'tikaaf for as long as he can, two or three days or more or less, even if it is only one night.

Islam Question & Answer

General Supervisor:

Shaykh Muhammad Saalih al-Munajjid

Shaykh Ibn Baaz (may Allaah have mercy on him) said:

I'tikaaf means staying in the mosque to worship Allaah, whether that is for a longer or shorter period, because there is no report – as far as I know – to indicate a specific length of time, whether one day, two days or more.

Fataawa al-Shaykh Ibn Baaz, 15/441.