

The Rawdah or the first row; where should I pray?

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بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

In the Name of Allaah the most Kind the most Merciful

Question: The questioner says; may Allaah bless you. I love you for the sake of Allaah. The question: Does prayer in the Rawdah¹ have virtue over other places or does it not possess a virtue?

Shaykh Abdul Muhsin (حفظه الله)²: First, we ask Allaah the Exalted to make us from those who love each other for His sake. The first row takes precedence over the Rawdah for the obligatory prayers. As for the supererogatory prayers, praying the supererogatory prayers in the Rawdah no doubt contains excellence and distinction, as the Rawdah in the Masjid contains a distinction over other areas due to this description. But it is upon the person to not go there, and crowd the area, if he will harm the people in his effort to reach it, or in an effort to pray there. This is because harming the people is Haram, and praying in the Rawdah is recommended. This is similar to kissing the black stone, it is recommended while harming the people to reach it is Haram and not permissible. Therefore do not commit a Haram action in order to do a recommended act.

¹ The heart of the Prophet's (صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ) masjid houses a very special but small area named ar-Rawdah an-Nabawiyah, which extends from Muhammad's (صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ) tomb to his pulpit. Pilgrims attempt to visit and pray in ar-Rawdah, for there is a tradition that supplications and prayers uttered here are never rejected. Entrance into ar-Rawdah is not always possible (especially during the Hajj season), as the tiny area can accommodate only a few hundred people. Ar-Rawdah has two small gateways manned by Saudi police officers. The current marble pulpit was constructed by the Ottomans. The original pulpit was much smaller than the current one, and constructed of palm tree wood, not marble. Ar-Rawdah an-Nabawiyah is considered part of Jannah (Heaven or Paradise). Taken from: abdurrahman.org/umrah/rawdah-madina.html
² (حفظه الله) May Allaah the Most High preserve him