36628 - Du’aa’ in unison during tawaaf

the question

We noticed that some people who do tawaaf walk behind a man called a mutawwif (Hajj guide), who makes du’aa’ and they rest say “Ameen” to his du’aa’. What is your opinion on that?.

Detailed answer

Praise be to Allah.

Shaykh Muhammad ibn ‘Uthaymeen (may Allaah have mercy on him) said:

One of the mistakes made by some people when doing tawaaf is that a group will gather around a leader who leads them in tawaaf and who recites du’aa’ in a loud voice, and they repeat what he says, loudly and in unison. This causes confusion and disturbs others who are doing tawaaf, and makes them not know what they are saying. This causes them to have no proper focus (khushoo’) and it disturbs the slaves of Allaah in that peaceful place.

I wonder why this leader does not, when he brings them to the Ka’bah, turn to face them and tell them, “Do this, and say this, and make du’aa’ as you wish,” then start walking with them in tawaaf, so that no one will make any mistakes; then that they could do tawaaf in a focused and dignified manner, calling upon their Lord with fear and longing, calling upon Him and beseeching Him as they like, with words that they understand and really mean, and sparing other people from their disturbance.

The same applies to raising the voice in du’aa’. Some people raise their voices in du’aa’ whilst doing tawaaf, in a manner that annoys others and causes them to lose the proper focus (khushoo’), and in a manner that is unbefitting in this sacred place and that disturbs others who are doing tawaaf. Disturbing people when they are worshipping is a reprehensible action. It was narrated that Abu Sa’eed said: The Messenger of Allaah was in i’tikaaf (retreat for the purpose of devoting oneself to worship) in the mosque, and he heard them reading Qur’aan out loud. He drew

back the curtain and said, “Each one of you is conversing with his Lord, so do not disturb one another or raise your voices over one another when reading” – or he said, “when praying.” Narrated by Abu Dawood, 1332; classed as saheeh by al-Albaani in Saheeh Abi Dawood, 1183.

But some people – we ask Allah to guide them – raise their voices when making du’aa’ in the Mutaaf (area for tawaaf). As well as the haraam things that we have mentioned, it also involves causing people to lose their proper focus in worship, implies disrespect for the place, and annoys people who are doing tawaaf. So it goes against the apparent meaning of the verse:

“Invoke your Lord with humility and in secret. He likes not the aggressors”

[al-A’raaf 7:55 – interpretation of the meaning].