

**Question:** Is it permissible to have a spot reserved for the Muazzin behind the Imām?

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

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**Answer:** Great reward is promised for standing in the first line. However, the closer one is to the Imām, the greater the reward he will gain. Knowledgeable and God-fearing people should stand closest to the Imām, as these are the people who will lead the ḥ alāh in case of the Imām's ḥ alāh breaking. Since it is customary for the Muazzin to stand behind the Imām, and he is the one who usually leads the salat in the absence of the Imām, therefore objection should not be made on having a spot reserved for him behind the Imām. Moreover, the majority of the Mu'allies have no objection with him standing behind the Imām. Those who are not happy with this should think of the innumerable virtues that the Muazzin enjoy. Haṭ rat ḥ Umar (RA) once said that if it weren't for the duties of a Caliph, I would have become the Muazzin.

Fatāwā Darul ḥ Uloom Zakariyya, vol.4 pg, 685-686

And Allah knows best

Mufti Ra'ul Aq

Faculty of Ifta

Darul Uloom Zakariyya

Lenasia

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