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The Qiblah

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Building the Ka`bah

The fourth and fifth questions of Fatwa no. (3056):

Q: What is the status of Ka`bah for Muslims? Why was it built? Who built it? Is it now in its original shape?

A: The honorable Ka`bah is the Qiblah (direction faced for Prayer) of the Muslims; they face it in every Salah (Prayer) in obedience to Allah's order, as He says, *(Verily, We have seen the turning of your (Muhammad's peace be upon him) face towards the heaven. Surely, We shall turn you to a Qiblah (prayer direction) that shall please you, so turn your face in the direction of Al-Masjid-Al-Harâm (the sanctuary at Makkah). And wheresoever you people are, turn your faces (in prayer) in that direction.)* (Surah Al-Baqarah, 2: 144). It is also the place where people perform their rituals in Hajj and `Umrah, as they perform Tawaf (circumambulation) around it in obedience to Allah's saying, *(and circumambulate the Ancient House (the Ka`bah at Makkah))* (Surah Al-Hajj, 22: 29), and following what was legislated by Allah on the tongue of his Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him). It was built by Prophet Ibrahim and his son Isma`il (peace be upon them). Allah mentions this when He says, *(And (remember) when Ibrâhîm (Abraham) and (his son) Ismâ`il (Ishmael) were raising the foundations of the House (the Ka`bah at Makkah), (saying), "Our Lord! Accept (this service) from us. Verily, You are the All-Hearer, the All-Knower.")* (Surah Al-Baqarah, 2: 127). Its building was renovated many times later.

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May Allah grant us success! May peace and blessings be upon our Prophet Muhammad, his family and Companions!

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