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Excuse for not performing prostration

Fatwa No. 3956

A: I suffered some problems with my eyes. I underwent an operation one year ago and I am still suffering some problems when I put my forehead on the ground during prostration unless there is a cushion under my forehead. Is it permissible to put a cushion or something like that and put it under my forehead during prostration? Please guide me to the truth. May Allah reward you well!

A: If the reality is as you have mentioned, then you will not be required to perform prostration. Therefore, there is no need to put a cushion or anything like that under your forehead because it is not permissible to do so. Jabir (may Allah be pleased with him) reported that a sick person performed Salah (prayer) on a cushion. The Prophet (peace be upon him) said to him after throwing away the cushion: ("Perform Salah on the ground if you can, and if you cannot then make (Salah by) gestures, and let your prostration be lower than your Ruku` (bowing).") This Hadith was reported by Al-Bayhaqi with a good chain of transmitters. It was also deemed as sound by Abu Hatim.

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

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