



## Shortening the Maghrib Prayer

The third question of Fatwa no. (12470):

**Q 3:** I was traveling with my wife, when the time of the Maghrib (Sunset) Prayer arrived. I intended to combine it with the `Isha' (Night) Prayer, and I offered them both at the time of the latter. I performed Tayammum (dry ablution) by striking my hands on the ground, but I did not wipe my face as I was ignorant of this matter. I offered the Maghrib as two Rak`ahs and the `Isha' as two Rak`ahs. I led my wife in those Salahs. I would like to ask some questions. 1. Is my Tayammum valid? 2. Is it permissible to shorten the Maghrib Prayer?

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**3. Which is better: combining Salah or offering each Salah in its due time when a person is traveling? If combining Salah is recommended, which is better: combining them in the time of the former or in the time of the latter? 4. Is my Salah valid or should I repeat it? 5. If I should repeat Salah, when do I have to, when its time is due or when I receive the answer to my question?**

**A:** First, your Tayammum is not valid, as you did not wipe your face with your hands after striking them on the ground.

**Second,** it is impermissible to shorten the Maghrib Prayer, as shortening is a ruling confined to four-Rak`ah Salah (Prayer consisting of four units) such as `Isha'. Third, you and your wife must repeat the Maghrib and `Isha' Prayers because your Tayammum was invalid, and because you left out a Rak`ah of the Maghrib with the intention of shortening Salah, while it cannot be shortened.

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

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