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Ruling on performing Salah on a plane

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The First Question of Fatwa no. 145

Q1: Is it permissible to offer Salah (prayer) on a plane at the due time?

A: If the time for Salah is due and the plane is still flying, and a passenger fears that the time for Salah may end before landing at an airport, the scholars unanimously agree that it is obligatory upon a person to perform Salah on the plane completing Ruku` (bowing), Sujud (prostration), and facing the Qiblah according to their ability. Allah (may He be Exalted) says: (So keep your duty to Allāh and fear Him as much as you can) The Prophet (peace be upon him) also said, ("When I tell you to do something, do as much of it as you can.") However, if a passenger knows that the plane will land before the end of the time for a Salah with enough time to perform it, or when it is permissible to combine it with another Salah - such as Zhuhr (Noon) and `Asr (Afternoon) Prayers or Maghrib (Sunset) and `Isha' (Night) Prayers - and they know that the plane will land before the end of the time of the second Salah, the majority of scholars maintain that it is still permissible to offer it on the plane. This is due to the order to perform the Salah when its time becomes due if this is possible, and this is the correct opinion.

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

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