



The second question of Fatwa no. 1375

Q2: Is it permissible for travelers to perform the obligatory Salah (Prayers) in cars, trains, planes, or when riding, if they fear for their lives or wealth? Should they perform the Salah in whatever direction they are traveling or is it obligatory to face the Qiblah (direction faced for Prayer towards the Ka`bah) always and continually, or just at the beginning of the Salah? If the answer to the previous questions is "Yes," and the travelers feel safe, when their means of transport stops for a very short while in some places, the passengers may go to perform the obligatory Salah and their transport may leave without them, leaving them exposed to dangers without any money and suchlike.

A: When people are traveling in a car, train, plane, or riding and fear for their lives if they leave their means of transport to perform the obligatory Salah and know that if they delay Salah until they reach where they can perform it that the time will have ended, they should perform it as far as possible, according to the general meaning of what Allah (may He be Exalted) says: (Allâh burdens not a person beyond his scope.)

(Part No : 8, Page No: 124)

And what He (may He be Exalted) also says: (So keep your duty to Allâh and fear Him as much as you can,) and: (And has not laid upon you in religion any hardship.) As to whether Salah can be performed in the abovementioned means of transport regardless of the direction of Qiblah or facing the Qiblah is continually a must, or just at the beginning, it depends on the possibility of doing so. If it is possible to face the Qiblah throughout the Salah, it is obligatory to do so, as it is a condition for the validity of the obligatory Salah, both during travel and residence. However, if it is not possible to do so, those performing the Salah should fear Allah as much as they can due to the previously mentioned evidences. This applies to all the obligatory Salah.

As to the Naflah (supererogatory) Salah, the matter is flexible as it is permissible for a Muslim to perform it in the previously mentioned means of transport regardless of the direction, even it is possible to leave them in some places, as the Prophet (peace be upon him) used to offer the Naflah Salah while riding his camel, wherever it was facing. However, it is preferable to face the Qiblah when offering Naflah, as much as possible when saying the Takbirat-ul-Ihram (saying: "Allahu Akbar [Allah is the Greatest]" upon starting Prayer) when traveling.

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

Permanent Committee for Scholarly Research and Ifta'

Member	Committee Deputy Chairman	The Chairman
‘Abdullah ibn Mani`	‘Abdul-Razzaq ‘Afify	‘Abdul-‘Aziz ibn ‘Abdullah ibn Baz

