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A resident leading a traveler in Salah

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Fatwa no. 3498:

Q: I came to Makkah Al-Mukarramah in 7/12/1400 A.H. intending to perform Hajj and `Umrah (lesser pilgrimage). In the time between Zhuhr (Noon) and `Asr (Afternoon) Prayers I entered the Haram (The Sacred Mosque) to perform Tawaf (circumambulation around the Ka`bah) and Sa`y (going between Safa and Marwah during Hajj). During the rounds of Sa`y, the Adhan (Call to Prayer) and Iqamah (call to start the Prayer) of `Asr Prayer were called. Until then, I had not performed Zhuhr Prayer although I had the intention of performing the two prayers shortened and combined. The Muslims, including me, faced the Qiblah (direction faced for Prayer towards the Ka`bah) and started Salah. As the time of the next obligatory Salah was due, I could not perform the prayers in their respective order and I expected not to find a place outside the Haram to offer Zhuhr Prayer. As such, I started the congregational Salah with the intention of performing the first two Rak`ahs for Zhuhr Prayer and the second two Rak`ahs for `Asr Prayer. After I finished the rounds of Sa`y, I went outside the Haram and performed the two prayers on a platform combined and in a shortened form. Kindly, give me your Fatwa concerning the ruling of my Salah in the place of Sa`y, knowing that I did not have sufficient time to leave the place allocated for the rounds of Sa`y to perform prayers according to the respective order.

A: The basic rule is that prayers should be performed in their respective order. It is permissible for a traveler if he performs Salah behind a resident to offer his Salah in full as a four Rak`ah Salah. As for performing the four Rak`ahs with the Imam intending the first two Rak`ahs as Zhuhr Prayer and the second two Rak`ahs as `Asr Prayer, this is not valid. Nothing is wrong with repeating these two prayers in their respective order, for you did the right. However, it was more preferable for you in this situation to perform the four Rak`ahs with the intention of

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Zhuhr Prayer and then to perform `Asr Prayer later.

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

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