

Kaaba: The Qibla of Our Bodies and Our Hearts

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ
 ﴿قَدْ نَرَى تَقَلُّبَ وَجْهِكَ فِي السَّمَاءِ فَلَنُوَلِّيَنَّكَ قِبْلَتَهُ تَرْضَاهَا
 فَوَلِّ وَجْهَكَ شَطْرَ الْمَسْجِدِ الْحَرَامِ﴾ ١٤٤
 سورة البقرة، ١٤٤:٢

عَنْ عَبْدِ اللَّهِ بْنِ عُمَرَ رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهُ أَنَّ رَسُولَ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ قَالَ
 "إِنْ أَحَدَكُمْ إِذَا اسْتَقْبَلَ الْقِبْلَةَ فَإِنَّمَا يَسْتَقْبِلُ رَبَّهُ عَزَّ
 وَجَلَّ"

المسند، ٣: ٢٤؛ أبو داود، الصلاة، ٢٢

Dear Brothers and Sisters!

Imagine millions of people across the world turning toward the same direction every single day. Their languages differ, their skin colours differ and their countries differ, yet when it is time to worship, they all face the same place and the same direction. This is one of the great blessings given to the Muslim Ummah. The Kaaba is not only a structure built of stone. It is the Qibla. The Qibla is the divine focal point that gives believers a sense of direction, unites their hearts and keeps alive the consciousness of belonging to one Ummah. Allah (swt) says: **"We have certainly seen you turning your face toward the sky. So We will surely turn you to a Qibla that will please you. Therefore, turn your face toward Al-Masjid Al-Haram."**¹ With the revelation of this verse, the Kaaba was established as the Qibla for all Muslims until the Day of Judgment. In doing so, believers affirm, day after day, that they worship the same Lord, believe in the same Prophet and belong to the same Ummah.

Dear Brothers and Sisters!

The change of the Qibla was one of the great tests in Islamic history. For many years, the Messenger of Allah (saw) and his Companions performed their prayers facing Bayt al-Maqdis (Jerusalem). However, when the command of Allah (swt) was revealed, they turned towards the new Qibla without the slightest hesitation. While the Prophet (saw) was leading the Dhuhr or Asr prayer at the Mosque of Banu Salamah (Masjid al-Qiblatain), the verse commanding the change of the Qibla was revealed. The Prophet and the congregation behind him turned towards the Kaaba while still in prayer and continued their salah without interruption. This remarkable event teaches us an enduring lesson: for a believer, what matters most is not personal preference, but complete submission to the command of Allah.

Dear Jama'ah!

The Messenger of Allah (saw) said: *"When one of you faces the Qibla, he is facing Allah."*² This teaches us that the Qibla is not only the direction in which our bodies turn, it is also the direction of our hearts. If our faces are turned towards the Kaaba in prayer while our hearts remain occupied with worldly concerns, we have not truly grasped the essence of the Qibla. True devotion is achieved when both the body and the heart are directed towards Allah. In another hadith, the Prophet (saw) said: *"Whoever performs our prayer, faces our Qibla, and eats from what we have slaughtered is a Muslim under the protection of Allah and His Messenger."*³ This hadith highlights that the Qibla is a powerful symbol of the unity of the Muslim Ummah. Though we may live in different lands and belong to different cultures, our turning towards the same Qibla reminds us that we are all members of one Ummah.

Dear Brothers and Sisters!

Today, there are many things that seek to divide us, nationalities, geographical borders, political differences, social distinctions and worldly interests, to name just a few. Yet the Qibla teaches us the same lesson every day: no matter how many differences exist between us, our direction is one. Hearts that turn towards the same Kaaba cannot truly be enemies of one another. May Allah (swt) make us among those whose direction is true, not only in where they face, but also in how they live. May He turn our hearts towards Himself just as He has turned our faces towards the Kaaba. May He make us among those who preserve the consciousness of the Ummah and strive for unity, brotherhood and harmony. O Allah! Keep our hearts firm upon Your guidance. Make us among those who never lose their Qibla nor stray from the straight path. Grant the Ummah of Muhammad unity, strength and brotherhood. Ameen.



¹ Surah Al-Baqarah, 2:144

² Mūsne'd, III, 24; Ebû Dâvûd, Salât, 22

³ Buhârî, Salât, 28