



Fatwa no. 16755

Q: How should airplane passengers offer Salah (Prayer) while on board and on landing at an airport when passengers are banned from leaving the plane? Is it permissible to offer Salah while sitting in the chair in such cases and at such times?

A: Anyone who embarks on traveling by air has to offer the due Salah non-shortened before going on board unless the airport is outside the borders of the country, in which case it will be unobjectionable to shorten Salah.

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However, if another Salah is due whose time will not elapse before the flight ends, one should offer it after landing even during the last portion of its prescribed time. If the flight ends after the elapse of the Salah's time, a person should offer it on board according to their ability. To clarify, if the person can stand, bow and prostrate themselves on the airplane's ground, they have to do so. Otherwise, they should offer it while sitting on the chair moving their heads downwards indicating Ruku' (bowing) and Sujud (prostration). In such a case, they have to face the Qiblah (Ka'bah-direction faced for Prayer) whenever possible.

However, if a person is to continue traveling and the first Salah becomes due before going on board, they should combine the two Salahs at the time of the former. Moreover, if the first Salah is due while on board, when the person knows that the airplane will land before the elapse of the second Salah's time, they should delay the first combining it with the second at the time of the latter. If a person knows that the flight will continue until after the elapse of the second Salah's time, they should combine the two Salahs while on board at the time of any of them that is easier while shortening the Salah consisting of four Rak'ahs (units of Prayer) to two Rak'ahs.

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

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Source: Fatwas of the Permanent Committee