

Chapter – 85

Specified Direction for Prayers

(قبلہ)

❖ مَا وَلَاهُمْ عَن قِبَلَتِهِمُ الَّتِي كَانُوا عَلَيْهَا قُلْ لِلَّهِ الْمَشْرِقُ وَالْمَغْرِبُ -

(Fools will now say) “What has turned the Muslims away from the (first) Qiblah (Baitul Maqdis) which they formerly observed”, (O Noble Prophet!) Tell them, “the East and the West all belong to Allah”. (02:142)

All worships and all the works of Muslim have discipline. Their basic aim is to remain united. That is why the combined offering of prayer is 27 times preferred than the lonely prayer. Look! If many people have their concentration on one point, it gives extraordinary affects. Many lamps at one place will obviously give more light than one single lamp.

Since all people have one type of thought wave at the time combined prayers, therefore the thought wave of one person will be diminished within the combined powerful waves.

Similarly, **Qiblah** is a well-defined direction which collects all people at one point. This specification aims at to accumulate people from all directions whether it may be from east, west, north or south. Kaabah, the house of God, is a building in which no idols exist. So it can never be called as idol-worship. This is a place of worship, built many times, broken and rebuilt. There is a hadith that says:

دل مومن کی وقعت، کعبہ سے زیادہ ہے

(The heart of a believer has higher status than Kaabah)

And one Hadith Qudsy says;

نہ مجھے زمین سمائے نہ آسمان سمائے مگر دل مومن مجھے سماتا ہے

(To Me, neither earth can keep nor sky, but the heart of a believer may bear to retain me)

Muslim can never bow down except Allah سبحانه و تعالیٰ. This must be remembered that there is a big difference between **إِلَى الْكَعْبَةِ** and **لِلْكَعْبَةِ**. It means bowing down ‘towards Kaabah’ and ‘for Kaabah’ are two different things.

Kaabah was first built by Prophet Adam عليه السلام. In one of the hurricanes it was fallen down. Second time Prophet Ibrahim عليه السلام and Ismail عليه السلام have built it. After some time, when Bani Israel got the opportunity of guidance from Allah, Bait-al-Maqdis was fixed as Qiblah. When Bani Israel lost this opportunity then Prophet Muhammad صلى الله عليه وسلم got this status and since then Makkah became the prime city and Kaabah was made as Muslim’s Qiblah. Now it is no more Ibrahim’s Qiblah but became Muhammad’s Qiblah.

The basic aim of changing the place of Qiblah is to test the obedience. God is neither fixed in a castle of Kaabah nor closed in the house of Bait-al-Maqdis. Rather He is:

فَأَيْنَمَا تُوَلُّوا فَثَمَّ وَجْهُ اللَّهِ

{So whichever direction you face, there is Allah’s Entity. (02:115)}

It was His order and we obeyed it. It is for the submission of God and not our personal desire. When it is said that we are the servant of God means we have to show our obedience and submission. Islam itself is the meaning of submissiveness. There is no any evasion for Muslim except to follow.

Kaabah is specifying that now I am the new centre of Islam and not Bait-al-Maqdis. The flag of guidance is now flying on my head and not on some others. Now everybody should note down that their attention should be in my direction. --- Our hearts have love with magnetic attraction. We are bound to turn our face towards Kaabah. We and our Noble Prophet are the exhibitors of Qiblah. Facing towards Kaabah has now become our nature. We keep giving our attentions towards this centre.
