

# THE



# DISSECTION

## Of the Arguments for the Northeast Prayer Direction

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Clarification that one must face the DIRECTION in prayer, and not a travel route, that the shape of the earth does not influence the prayer direction, that their line drawn over the globe is a RIGHT TURN, not an unchanging direction, and that the method that leads to praying northeast is altogether invalid, like every other rejection of the Sunnah.

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## INTRODUCTION

**In the Name of Allāh** this debate is produced, as a service to the poor Muslims who need reinforcement, and to activate and reactivate the zealous truth defenders, and for anyone grateful that this northeast qiblah mistake has been brought to their attention.

Here are answers from basic fiqh, geography, and simple reasoning. Hopefully, this has the answer for most or every fallacy they produce.

**NOTE:** Any general mentioning of North America in this book refers specifically to USA and Canada, where the controversy is, not Mexico.

This book is not necessarily to convince those who pray northeast. They are generally hard to convince, but a little easier to silence. How do you anticipate the reaction of one who, if disproven, will have to face YEARS of make-up Prayers (qada')? If he is stubborn, he would rather fight to the end, and believe that when he faces northeast in USA or Canada, that he is facing the tropical region of Mecca, not the arctic region that is northeast of USA and Canada, then hope for God's Mercy in the Afterlife. Only the honest and sincere slave of Allāh willingly retracts a mistake and is happy to reconcile it. Hopefully, though, they will be convinced.

The issue is easier than one may think. There is no math or special terminology that is not easily understood, but there are a few diagrams that address the most basic and vital matters needed to understand the case and repel the fallacies. One may need to read some passages more than once to understand them; remember that the proper way to acquire the knowledge is by teachers with isnād (chains of narration) and not reading on one's own.

Certainly, Allāh supports those who support His Religion, and He helps those who help their fellow Muslim.

## THE DIRECTIONS

There are two sets of directions:

1. **Four Cardinal Directions:** east<sup>1</sup>, west<sup>2</sup>, south, and north<sup>3</sup>.
2. **Six Relative Directions:** up, down, front, back, left, and right.

The **cardinal directions** are the directions relevant in the qiblah issue. They are fixed; unshifting, and do not vary depending on one's personal bearings. Earth's shape does not alter them, and no terrain detours them. Therefore, north is north whether underground, overground, in the sky, at sea, or even under the sea. Have no mistake! The curvature of the ground has **no influence** on the cardinal directions. The surface and shape of the earth have **nothing to do** with the directions<sup>4</sup>.

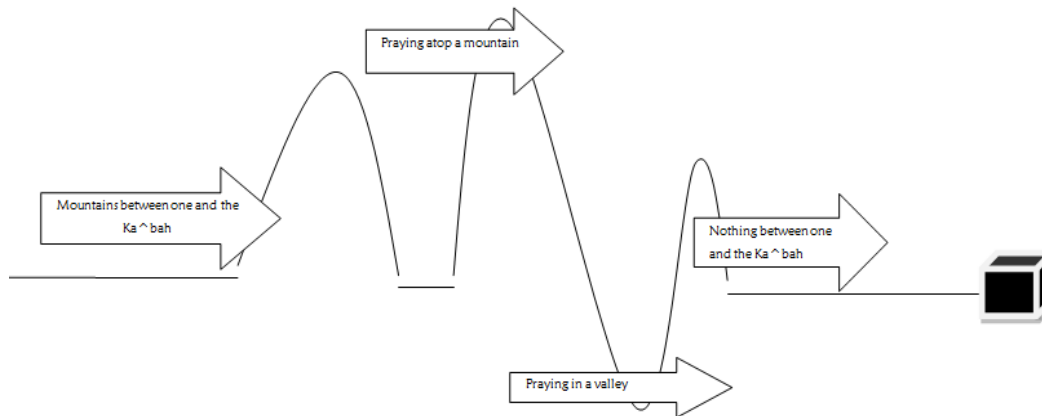
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<sup>1</sup> East is **RELIGIOUSLY** proven by sunrise: (قَالَ إِبْرَاهِيمُ فَإِنَّ اللَّهَ يَأْتِي بِالشَّمْسِ مِنَ الْمَشْرِقِ فَأْتِ بِهَا مِنَ الْمَغْرِبِ) <Abraham said, "Certainly, Allah brings the sun from the east. Bring it from the west!"> It is from the east that we know the dawn prayer is first in, even at the North Pole.

<sup>2</sup> West is **RELIGIOUSLY** proven by sunset. From that direction we know that the night prayer is first in. The Messenger of Allah ﷺ said: وَأَدْبَرَ النُّهَارُ مِنْ هَهُنَا، وَغَرَبَتِ الشَّمْسُ فَقَدْ أَفْطَرَ الصَّائِمُ إِذَا أَقْبَلَ اللَّيْلُ مِنْ هَهُنَا، If the night approaches from here (and he pointed to the east), and the daylight disappears from here (and he pointed to the west), and the sun has set, the fasting person breaks fast. We watch the western horizon to break our fasts and to spot the new moon.

<sup>3</sup> North is **RELIGIOUSLY** proven by the north star, also known as the Polaris, and the south is its opposite. This star is either the subject of, or is included in the Saying of Allah: <(وَبِالنَّجْمِ هُمْ يَهْتَدُونَ)> <By the star they are guided.>

<sup>4</sup> Many would disagree and say that the shape of the earth does influence the directions. In fact, this is much anticipated from them, because otherwise there would be nothing to prove northeast as the Qiblah. Challenge him to prove a direction by the earth's shape (not by a globe and a string; which still does not prove a direction). He will be unable. It is also not claimed by Muslims nor by scientists that the real earth is shaped like the globe.



This is why south in Alaska is the same direction as south in Australia, and east on a mountain top is the same direction as east in an underground cavern. West in the eastern world is the same direction as west in the western world, and in the northern and southern world.

If that is clear, and if you know how to read **any** map, then you know for sure that a person who faces northeast “because the earth is not flat” actually has no idea what he is talking about<sup>2</sup>! Do not be duped or second guess your own intelligence because he is an imam or has a PHD!

**The relative directions** are ‘relative’ because what is in front of one person may be behind another. Therefore, east - a fixed, cardinal direction - may be to one person’s right, but to another’s left, since “right” and “left” are **relative**. These six relative directions are NOT the directions sought for the Qiblah!

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<sup>1</sup> They say that we must consider the surface of the earth and face the northeast because one does not pray “through the earth”. This is invalid for two reasons:

1. This is a result of not reading the map, either purposely or ignorantly.
2. Nor does one pray “over (the surface of) the earth”, since the Prayer is not a traveling entity. Qiblah is not an issue of embarking on a journey.

This is further indication that those who face northeast have confused the issues of “travel” and “direction”. Whoever understands this difference knows that one does not have to consider the surface of the earth or a route of travel for facing the Qiblah.

<sup>2</sup> Many who support northeast, if not all of them, do not know what directions are. One of them said, “**The direction is the direction a person moves.**” Then when asked, “If I move in a circle, what direction is that?” he had no answer!

Anyone should agree that cardinal directions are fixed and that it is the relative directions that vary, or else he would be denying reality, and further discussion would be futile!<sup>1</sup> Some people who face northeast in USA and Canada disagree<sup>2</sup> with this; they are confused, believing that cardinal directions are relative! Why else would they put a string over a globe, thinking that this is how to use a globe<sup>3</sup>? Did they learn that method in middle school or at the university level? They have made ignorance a scholastic standard!<sup>4</sup>

And let us establish that directions are physically confirmed and existing, not mere concepts without actual reality. One can simply point, or even look in a direction, thereby confirming it. In fact, if a person faces east, north is to his left, west is behind him, and south is to his right. Therefore, if he faces south,

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<sup>1</sup> So do not continue the conversation, he is too ignorant to understand. Some people who face northeast are not worth talking to, because there are different groups of them. Some claim to follow the Four Schools. Some openly disregard the Sunni scholars. They have many confusions and fallacies, such as those who think that directions are not real, and those who think that it is valid for the sun to rise in the south and set in the south at the north pole. Some are not sure which continents are in the east and which are in the west, and yet accuse others of ignorance of geography. Some believe that Makkah is actually north of North America, and maybe all of them believe that the globe is not a map. Some who face northeast say that the earth is round, so you can face the Qiblah by putting your back to it, because your direction will swing back around the world and hit the Ka<sup>^</sup> bah from the other side. Many of them say that the Qiblah is not a religious issue! This is what contradicting the rules of the Religion does to a person. To argue against the southeast Qiblah, one of them said, "I do not know whether the Salaf used to consult the North Star and whether they were aware that the sun rises sooner in an eastern land than in a western land." As for the majority of people who face northeast, they are unaware of these matters and are only following their imams and the masses who do the same, without learning the proper details.

<sup>2</sup> Some who believe that the proper Qiblah is northeast believe that the cardinal directions are relative. They are confused, and have confessed that they are not sure if Africa is east of the USA or not.

<sup>3</sup> A map is not a Qiblah proof, as will come. However, if we use any map to discuss these directions, like a globe, then we must read it as a **map**, and not look at it as a **mere ball**. No map has Mecca NE of USA.

<sup>4</sup> As will return, putting a sting over a globe to prove a northeast qiblah is one of the most **IGNORANT** things that anyone can do! Using a globe this way is like using a bottle opener to break a container open because of not knowing how to use it properly, or mishandling any other tool because of not knowing how to use it. Always shame anyone who puts a string over the globe for the Qiblah, and never, ever allow them to argue for the Religion in this way!



north is behind him, east is to his left and west is to his right. This used to be common knowledge.

**One mistake of northeasters is mixing these two sets of directions;** the relative and the cardinal. The result of that mixture is that despite that in the real, physical world in which we live, Makkah is still south of the southernmost USA - and they know that - their fallacy is to say:

***If one embarks on a journey going northeast, then stayed on a straight course going 'forward', without going right or left, he will reach Makkah without turning, although it is southeast in terms of bearing, not direction.***

They are, unfortunately, so ignorant about how to read a map that they do not realize that the string that they put over the globe turns left and right! How could they read any map and not know what represents a right or left turn? In this case, they fool themselves by looking at their string with an aerial, bird's eye view, so that the string looks straight by looking down at it from overhead! We will come back to this with diagrams, God willing! And concerning their saying: ***"It is southeast in terms of bearing, not direction,"*** those words are mere fluff to make their contradiction obscure!

### **Do You Have to Plot a Course to Face the Qiblah?**

Only if you face northeast in North America! Otherwise, the fact that one can face a direction without plotting a course or comparing his prayer to an airplane flight is of the utmost importance: Had one travelled or moved,

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<sup>1</sup> The conclusion is that they say that one must face north while knowing that Makkah is south of the USA. However, to make that southern position of Makkah ambiguous, they evasively say, "Southeast is the bearing, not the direction."

things that were in front of him become behind him, and what was on his right or left go to the other side, but nothing will change those fixed cardinal directions<sup>1</sup>. It is obvious that one can easily face directions without concerning himself with travelling or moving<sup>2</sup>.

For the Qiblah, we want a **cardinal direction**, not a shape, nor a route, nor a motion/movement, nor an arc, nor a distance. None of these five things matter. Nor is the Qiblah an advanced math problem. This is why the correct way to pray an obligatory or optional prayer in a moving vehicle, like a boat, plane, train, or even a howdah<sup>3</sup>, is to **not** turn with the vehicle<sup>4</sup>; you **must** maintain your prayer direction<sup>5</sup>: ﴿فَوَلُّوا وُجُوهَكُمْ شَطْرَهُ﴾ {Turn yourselves towards its shaṭr<sup>7</sup> (**direction**)}. Do not mix praying in a moving vehicle with the specific case of praying an optional prayer while riding upon the back of an animal. In that case, you make your takbīr in the direction of the Kaʿbah, then turn your animal in the direction of your destination, and that becomes your Qiblah - even for a short journey<sup>8</sup>.

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<sup>1</sup> In other words, his movement also does not make the cardinal directions change, so movement and travelling are meaningless.

<sup>2</sup> Our concern is praying, not travelling, relocating or moving. It is when travelling that one is concerned with the shortest distance between his location and his destination, with his bearing, and with the relative directions of forward and behind, above, below, right and left, not when praying.

<sup>3</sup> The seat on the back of the camel or elephant.

<sup>4</sup> Fathul-Wahhab

<sup>5</sup> Except who is steering the vessel; he faces the Qiblah for takbīr, then steers the vessel while praying an optional prayer (Fathul-Wahhab).

<sup>6</sup> Al-Baqarah, 150

<sup>7</sup> It is worth noting that some who face the northeast do not translate “shaṭr” in the verse, which means “**direction**”, as in Nuh Keller’s book - unless it has been updated. Ash-Shafiʿiyy and many others said that the *shaṭr* is the *jihah* (direction). See Fathul-Wahhab in Shafiʿiyy fiqh by Al-Ansariyy.

<sup>8</sup> Fathul-Wahhab



Concerning that verse: <فَأَيْنَمَا تُولُوا فَتَمَّ وَجْهَ اللَّهِ>, <Whichever way you turn, then there is the Wajh of Allah.> two things need to be clarified:

1. *Wajh of Allah* does not mean that Allah has an organ called ‘face’. ‘Wajh’ in this spot means ‘jihah ([valid Qiblah] direction)’.
2. Some think that the verse proves that the Qiblah is valid in any direction. Imam As-Siyutiyy commented in Al-Itqan<sup>1</sup>:

فَإِنَّا لَوْ تَرَكْنَا وَمَذْلُولَ اللَّفْظِ لَأَقْتَضَى أَنْ الْمُصَلِّيَ لَا يَجِبُ عَلَيْهِ اسْتِقْبَالُ الْقِبْلَةِ سَفَرًا وَلَا حَضَرًا وَهُوَ خِلَافُ الْإِجْمَاعِ

“Had we been left with only the apparent meaning of the expression, it would have dictated that it is not obligatory on the one who prays to face the Qiblah, whether traveling or residing, which is against the Consensus...”

#### ❖ The Consensus<sup>1</sup> ❖

That is also why Imam Abu Hanifah, when mentioning the **unanimous** rule about facing the Qiblah<sup>2</sup>, mentioned the cardinal directions, not front and back, nor right and left:

الْمَشْرِقُ قِبْلَةُ أَهْلِ الْمَغْرِبِ وَالْمَغْرِبُ قِبْلَةُ أَهْلِ الْمَشْرِقِ وَالْجَنُوبُ قِبْلَةُ أَهْلِ الشَّامِ وَالشَّامُ قِبْلَةُ أَهْلِ الْجَنُوبِ

East is the Qiblah of the people west (of the Ka’bah), west is the Qiblah of the people east (of the Ka’bah), the south is the Qiblah of the people north

<sup>1</sup> At-Tahawiyy conveyed<sup>1</sup> what Ahlus-Sunnah, the Sunnis, believe about the Consensus:

وَلَا مَنْ يَدَّعِي شَيْئًا يُخَالِفُ الْكِتَابَ وَالسُّنَّةَ وَالْإِجْمَاعَ الْأُمَّةَ

“And (we do not believe) anyone who opposes the Book, the Sunnah or the Consensus of the Nation.”

<sup>2</sup> Tabyin Al-Haqaiq Sharh Kanz Ad-Daqaiq.

(of the Ka^bah), and the north is the Qiblah of the people south (of the Ka^bah).

In the USA and Canada, we are west of the Ka^bah, so our Qiblah cannot also be west; it must be eastward. And contrary to an uneducated opinion, we are also **INDISPUTABLY** north of the Ka^bah, so our Qiblah cannot also be north; it must be some degree to the south. The **RELIGIOUS EVIDENCE**; the traditional fiqh method, is the fact that the north star is higher in the sky here than it is at the Ka^bah. <وَبِالنَّجْمِ هُمْ يَهْتَدُونَ> <By the star they are guided<sup>1</sup>.> These obvious, elementary truths must be stated because the northeasters say that we should not turn any degree south of east. They say: “Because there is a curve in the earth, we must turn north of east!”

This is indeed a legal consensus, but based on an ancient rule, not based on some people’s choosing to abandon that rule and deny the consensus! The Qiblah of USA and Canada is only south of east, with varying degrees of south from northern Canada to southern USA. Due east itself would not be the Qiblah in North America until getting into Mexico! Northeast is the Qiblah of a portion of Mexico, and of Central and South America!

The legal consensus, that south is the Qiblah when north of the Ka^bah, was followed by all Muslims since the time of the Prophet ﷺ. The first Muslims in North America knew that they were north and west of the Ka^bah, so they faced east then south. Then, no matter the reason, the people of North America defied that old rule, only recently in the 70’s, then denied that there

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<sup>1</sup> **NOTE:** We are INFERRING from the north star that the Qiblah is south of east, not merely claiming that the direction is ESE, then using the north star to face that claimed direction. Northeasters CANNOT infer from the north star that the Qiblah is any degree of NE. We are applying an ayat of the Qur’an, they are not.

was ever any consensus about being north and west of the Ka<sup>^</sup>bah! Imamul-Haramayn said: [وَالْإِجْمَاعُ حُجَّةٌ عَلَى الْعَصْرِ الثَّانِي وَفِي أَيِّ عَصْرٍ كَانَ] *“The Consensus is evidence for the following era, and for any era to come...”* We must follow the same rule that existed for over a millennium; it applies to us also.

There is actually no evidence to disprove the southeast Qiblah; they simply prefer not to use the traditional rules for facing the Qiblah, because those rules would lead one to face southeast. They either do not care - or deny - that arguing against southeast is actually a refutation of the Sunnah. They do not deny that their method of determining the prayer direction is new; they rather thought they were entitled to use a new method because they live in North America<sup>2</sup>, but put in their own words, it is because they “live on the other side of the world”<sup>3</sup>. However, the Muslim belief is that the Sunnah is applicable all over the world and until the end of time:

﴿الْيَوْمَ أَكْمَلْتُ لَكُمْ دِينَكُمْ وَأَتَمَمْتُ عَلَيْكُمْ نِعْمَتِي وَرَضِيتُ لَكُمُ الْإِسْلَامَ دِينًا﴾

This third verse of Surat Al-Ma'idah proves that our Religion was complete before the Prophet died,<sup>4</sup> and approved by Allah.

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<sup>1</sup> Al-Waraqat

<sup>2</sup> They assumed that the scholars **INVENTED** the Qiblah rules under the supposition that the world was flat. They therefore fabricated the condition of needing to know the shape of the earth to determine the Qiblah. They say that the old, esteemed imams did not know of this side of the world, and they did not know the shape of the earth, so their Qiblah rules do not apply in USA and Canada (although they apply in Mexico, Central and South Americas). They come very close to saying that north and south for Makkah is one way, and for North America, north and south work differently. That is why they say that the North Star works for Makkah and the surrounding lands, but in North America we must use calculations.

<sup>3</sup> Although South America is on the same side of the world but uses the ancient Qiblah rules; they face northeast as they should.

<sup>4</sup> It is allowed to explain this verse as: “This verse is revealed to inform that I have completely revealed what you need for your accountability; you slaves of God now have all that you need for

وبالله التوفيق

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learning the lawful and unlawful, and what is solely known through Revelation. That includes all the general rules that the mujtahids will need for making legal comparisons (qiyas) and ijtihad.”

## THE OBLIGATION OF FACING THE KA^BAH

Allah says<sup>1</sup>:

﴿وَمِنْ حَيْثُ خَرَجْتَ فَوَلِّ وَجْهَكَ شَطْرَ الْمَسْجِدِ الْحَرَامِ وَحَيْثُ مَا كُنْتُمْ فَوَلُّوا  
وُجُوهَكُمْ شَطْرَهُ لِئَلَّا يَكُونَ لِلنَّاسِ عَلَيْكُمْ حُجَّةٌ إِلَّا الَّذِينَ ظَلَمُوا مِنْهُمْ فَلَا تَخْشَوْهُمْ  
وَاحْشَوْنِي وَلَا تَمْنَعُوا نِعْمَتِي عَلَيْكُمْ وَلَعَلَّكُمْ تَهْتَدُونَ﴾

< From wherever you (Muhammad) went out, turn yourself the shaṭr (direction) of the Sacred Masjid, and wherever you (Believers) were, turn yourselves its shaṭr (direction), so that the (Jewish<sup>2</sup> and pagan<sup>3</sup>) people do not have an argument against you,<sup>4</sup> except those of them who are unjust (regardless<sup>5</sup>). And do not fear (debating<sup>[J]</sup>) them (about which way to face, and do not fear their criticisms<sup>[N]</sup>), and fear Me (by obeying My Commands), and (face that way) so that<sup>6</sup> I may complete My endowment upon you (by rewarding you in the Afterlife<sup>[N]</sup>), and so that you may be guided (to the Qiblah of Abraham<sup>[N]</sup>).>

<sup>1</sup> [J]: Jalalayn. [N]: Nasafi

<sup>2</sup> The Jews said, "He denied our religion yet faced our qiblah!"

<sup>3</sup> The pagans said, "He claimed the Religion of Abraham yet went against his qiblah!"

<sup>4</sup> The Jews' argument against the Believers would be that they did not face the Two Qiblahs; had they not turned as the Jews knew they should, they would have discredited the Muslims as having the awaited Religion.

<sup>5</sup> They will still say, "He only faced it for his inclination to the Religion of his ancestors!" [J].

<sup>6</sup> Here, "so that I may complete My endowment upon you" is connected to "so that the (Jewish or pagan) people would not have any argument against you". Also, the connection continues into the beginning of the next verse with "Just as ..."

**Qiblah** is the name of what you face. Linguistically, it is from *muqabalah* (facing; opposite<sup>2</sup>). Religiously, the Qiblah is the Ka<sup>^</sup>bah, that known building first erected by the father of men, Prophet Adam ؑ, then later rebuilt by our Master, Prophet Ibrahim (Abraham) ؑ after it was destroyed in the flood of Prophet Nuh (Noah) ؑ.

In the Qur'an, we are ordered to face the Ka<sup>^</sup>bah, which is contained in Al-Masjidul-Haram. This is a condition for the validity of the prayer that would be achieved by two steps:

1. **Establish bearings**; find the DIRECTION of the Ka<sup>^</sup>bah from your location; not its distance. Your prayer direction will be **OPPOSITE** your direction from the Ka<sup>^</sup>bah. For example, **the religious way** is for you to say: I am west of the Ka<sup>^</sup>bah because the sun rises there before it rises here, so the Ka<sup>^</sup>bah is east of my position, and I am north of the Ka<sup>^</sup>bah because the north star is higher in my location than it is at the Ka<sup>^</sup>bah, so I must turn some degree south after facing east! This is the easy way for all laymen and scholars.
2. Without concerning oneself with the issues of travel, distance, motion, or the shape of the earth, and without one imagining himself praying **through** the earth, **over** the earth, or any other irrelevant matter, one uses the **religious** references to his utmost ability to **simply face that said direction**.

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<sup>1</sup> Al-Hisniyy said: هِيَ الْكُعْبَةُ وَاسْمُ قِبْلَةٍ لِأَنَّ الْمُصَلِّيَ يَقَابِلُهَا "It (The Qiblah) is the Ka<sup>^</sup>bah; called as such (as a 'qiblah') because the praying person is *muqabil* (opposite) of (or faces) it."

<sup>2</sup> We are north and west of the Ka<sup>^</sup>bah. The opposite of northwest is southeast, not northeast.



## ❁ How to face the Qiblah ❁

Some people were ignorant, so they asked: “How do we face the direction as Allāh commanded?” Their ignorant teachers told them: “Figure out the shortest way to get there and face that way!” They convinced their followers that the shortest route over a curved surface is the direction to face, and fooled themselves into thinking that one can go from northeast to southeast without changing direction! Instead of that, memorize this quote<sup>1</sup> of Imam An-Nawawiyy, although many who face northeast have no respect for the fuqaha’:

ومن أمكنه علم القبلة حرم عليه التقليد والاجتهاد.

Anyone able to know (e.g. see) the Qiblah is forbidden from imitating and ijtiḥad.

وإلا أخذ بقول ثقة يخبر عن علم.

Otherwise, he takes the word of a trustworthy person<sup>3</sup> informing about what he knows.

فإن فقد وأمكن الاجتهاد حرم التقليد.

If that were lacking, and one could make ijtiḥad, imitating is forbidden.

This quote spells out one’s first steps in facing his prayer direction:

1. If you have **knowledge**<sup>4</sup> of the Ka’bah’s location by seeing it, then you may not use any other means to face it, not the word of another, nor a determination by using the likes of the stars or shadows.
2. If you cannot achieve knowledge of the Ka’bah because you cannot see it, then before making ijtiḥad by the sun, stars, etc., take the word of a

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<sup>1</sup> Minhaj At-Talibin

<sup>2</sup> If you meet a northeaster who disregards the scholars of law, and yet argues for a northeast prayer direction, do not detach the scholars like An-Nawawiyy from your argument for his sake! Rather, shame him for speaking about the Religion without knowledge and for not taking from the scholars as per his obligation!

<sup>3</sup> Even a slave or woman, not a major sinner or child (Fathul-Wahhab).

<sup>4</sup> A realization that complies with reality.

trustworthy person who informs you about his seeing the Ka<sup>^</sup>bah, not his own ijtiḥad.

3. If you do not have knowledge of the Ka<sup>^</sup>bah by seeing it, nor are you informed by a trustworthy person who sees it, then make your best determination (ijtiḥad)<sup>1</sup>, and **only** face *ghalabatudh-dhann*; your overwhelmingly confident conclusion of its direction. In fact, it is NOT VALID to face anything other than what you are most confident about! In the USA and Canada, the direction is certainly south of east, without any room to be any degree of northeast in any way whatsoever, but the degree of south varies from northern Canada to southern USA. A person following this step cannot imitate another; you cannot rely on another's Qiblah determination.
4. If you are unable to make an ijtiḥad because of being blind or a child not yet possessing the skill to make a proper determination, only then may you imitate another. This is why An-Nawawiyy also said:

ومن عجز عن الاجتهاد وتعلم الأدلة كالأعمى قد ثقة عارفا.

Anyone unable to make ijtiḥad or to learn the (Qiblah) references, like the blind, imitates a trustworthy, knowledgeable person.

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<sup>1</sup> When you make ijtiḥad somewhere, you do not have to repeat the ijtiḥad unless you forgot the prior one. If you change your ijtiḥad, you do not have to remake the prayers because ijtiḥad does not invalidate ijtiḥad. Remaking them would only be when you are sure that the first ijtiḥad was a bonified blunder.

<sup>2</sup> Permission to turn from the Qiblah intentionally is only granted to specific types of people: the traveler riding an animal or walking while praying an optional prayer - and that has details, and during extreme fear, such as hand-to-hand combat. Anyone unable to face the direction like someone who is sick and cannot find anyone to turn him, or someone who is tied to a pole, praise as he is and is obligated to repeat the prayer (Fathul-Wahḥab). The citizens (mustawṭinun) and residents (muqimun) of North America have been in peace and safety, and are not travelers (musafirun). And when they are, they are not usually riding animals<sup>2</sup> or walking, and they are not unable to turn the correct way. Therefore, both their obligatory prayers, as well as their optional prayers, must be prayed facing the Qiblah; east southeast.

Zakariya Al-Ansariyy adds a detail:

"فَإِنْ ضَاقَ وَقْتُهِ " عَنْ الْإِجْتِهَادِ هَذَا مِنْ زِيَادَتِي " أَوْ تَحَيَّرَ " الْمُجْتَهِدُ لِظُلْمَةٍ أَوْ  
تَعَارُضٍ أَدِلَّةٍ أَوْ غَيْرِ ذَلِكَ

If there is not enough time to make ijtiḥād before the prayer time exits, or one is confused due to darkness or conflicting Qiblah proofs, or some other reason,

"صَلَّى " إِلَى أَيِّ جِهَةٍ شَاءَ لِلضَّرُورَةِ " وَأَعَادَ " وَجُوبًا

He prays in any direction he wants for the necessity (of praying on time), then repeats the prayer out of obligation,

فَلَا يُقَلِّدُ لِقُدْرَتِهِ عَلَى الْإِجْتِهَادِ وَلِجَوَازِ زَوَالِ التَّحَيُّرِ فِي صُورَتِهِ

And he still does not imitate someone else's determination, since he is able to make his own determination and it is possible that his confusion will go away.

Turning away from the Qiblah intentionally invalidates the Prayer. This is the rule, as also mentioned by An-Nawawiyy:

إِنْ اسْتَدْبَرَهَا أَوْ تَحَوَّلَ إِلَى جِهَةٍ أُخْرَى عَمْدًا، بَطَلَتْ صَلَاتُهُ

If he turned his back to it, or turned to another direction intentionally, his prayer is invalidated.

And here is the short answer for someone who claims that you are allowed to choose anywhere within a certain range/degree, especially if he claims to be a Malikiyy:

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<sup>1</sup> Rawḍ At-Talibin

From the famous Malikiyy manual, *Mawahib Al-Jalik*:

### ص (وَبَطَلَتْ إِنْ خَالَفَهَا وَلَوْ صَادَفَ)

(ORIGINAL TEXT): “One’s prayer is invalid if he goes against his own determination, even if he were correct in the direction he faced.”

ش: يُشِيرُ إِلَى مَا نَقَلَهُ صَاحِبُ الذَّخِيرَةِ عَنْ صَاحِبِ الطَّرَازِ وَنَصُّهُ: قَالَ إِذَا أَدَّاهُ  
الْاجْتِهَادُ إِلَى جِهَةٍ فَصَلَّى إِلَى غَيْرِهَا ثُمَّ تَبَيَّنَ أَنَّهُ صَلَّى إِلَى الْكَعْبَةِ فَصَلَاتُهُ بَاطِلَةٌ عِنْدَنَا  
وَعِنْدَ الشَّافِعِيِّ وَأَبِي حَنِيفَةَ لِتَرْكِهِ الْوَاجِبَ

(EXPLANATION): The author of the original text signals to what the author of Adh-Dhakhirah copied from the author of At-Tiraz (quote): “If his determination leads him to a direction, and he prays in a different direction, then it became clear that he actually faced the Ka^bah, his prayer is INVALID according to us, and Ash-Shafi^iyy, and Abu Hanifah, for leaving out the obligation (of facing what he is confident is most accurate).

### ❖ Imitating Another’s Prayer Direction ❖

You **MUST NOT** follow another person’s determination, because like you, he does not see the Ka^bah, and he also lacks the word of a trustworthy person reporting his sighting the Ka^bah. You cannot face someone else’s conclusion and he cannot face yours! You both have the same obligation, so how can you follow each other? If you cannot make ijtiḥad, like a child or blind man, only then can you imitate someone else’s ijtiḥad, and only if he is trustworthy and knowledgeable. The occurrence of this northeast tragedy makes the wisdom of this rule clear!

It is not valid for the one who can determine the Qiblah to just follow without checking the Qiblah references and making his own determination, except anywhere the Prophet prayed, or a masjid several centuries old where centuries of scholars, jurists and perfectionists have prayed! That includes every pubescent Muslim who can see and is able to learn the obligatory basics of reading the stars! If you fit that description, you cannot blame your imam for your facing the wrong direction! The Prophet ﷺ said:<sup>3</sup>

إِنَّ اللَّهَ لَا يَقْبِضُ الْعِلْمَ انْتِزَاعًا يَنْتَزِعُهُ مِنَ الْعِبَادِ، وَلَكِنْ يَقْبِضُ الْعِلْمَ بِقَبْضِ الْعُلَمَاءِ،  
حَتَّى إِذَا لَمْ يُبْقِ عَالِمًا اتَّخَذَ النَّاسُ رُءُوسًا جُهَالًا، فَسُئِلُوا فَأَفْتَوْا بِغَيْرِ عِلْمٍ، فَضَلُّوا  
وَأَضَلُّوا

**“Surely, Allah does not take the knowledge by merely stripping it from (the hearts of) the slaves, He instead takes the knowledge by taking (the lives of) the scholars, until when He does not leave a scholar remaining.**

**The people will take ignorant heads for themselves who are asked (religious questions), and they give verdict without knowledge, going astray and misleading others!<sup>4</sup>”**

<sup>1</sup> These are counted as verified, and one can pray in such a place without making a determination.

<sup>2</sup> It was on you to acquire the knowledge; to learn what is valid and what is invalid, and then implement it, and it was not proper for you to merely have faith in your imam and live the life of one who is blind, may Allah have mercy on you. Ignorance is not an excuse, so if you do not know what renders the prayer invalid, this does not mean that your prayer is still valid if you committed an invalidator ignorantly. What proves that a person might invalidate his prayer, despite his ignorance and despite his good intention, is when the Prophet ﷺ said three times to the man in the hadith called “the hadith of the man who prayed incorrectly<sup>2</sup>”: “ارْجِعْ فَصَلِّ، فَإِنَّكَ لَمْ تَصَلِّ” “Go back and pray, for you have not prayed.”<sup>2</sup>

<sup>3</sup> Sahih Al-Bukhariyy

<sup>4</sup> It is not a condition for this to happen that there would be absolutely no scholars. The mere decline in the number of scholars will cause this to happen, as in our days, so how about if they are all gone?

## ❖ Adillatul-Qiblah (the Qiblah References) ❖

Over 1,000 years ago, the scholars mentioned the easy, religiously recognized signs for determining the Qiblah. An-Nawawiyy also said:

وَلَا يَصِحُّ الْاجْتِهَادُ إِلَّا بِأَدَلَّةِ الْقِبْلَةِ،

Ijtihad (for Qiblah) is invalid except by the (religiously recognized) Qiblah proofs.

وَهِيَ كَثِيرَةٌ فِيهَا كُتِبَ مُصَنَّفَةٌ،

There are many, having books authored about them.

وَأَضْعَفُهَا الرِّيحُ لِاخْتِلَافِهَا وَأَقْوَاهَا الْقُطْبُ

The weakest is the wind for its fluctuation, and the strongest is the Polaris (North Star).

We will focus on the strongest sign. As will be repeated, the North Star plays two roles:

- a. It gives the direction of north if one were to face it, and the south by turning one's back to it, but most importantly for us is what the northeasters ignore and dislike:
- b. It also enables you to tell which lands are more northern than others; the more northern the land, the higher it is in the sky (from the horizon).

In Makkah, one sees the North Star very close to the horizon. In the United States, he sees the North Star even higher; further from the horizon. In Canada, one sees it even higher, until reaching very far north, where one

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<sup>1</sup> Rawd At-Talibin



would find the North Star directly overhead. This means that Makkah is south of the United States and Canada.

Anyone who learns **fiqh** properly will be able to find the directions any time of the day or night, and face the proper direction - if it is not cloudy. Since Makkah is southeast of our position:

- One can find the east **in the morning** by finding **the light of dawn**, or **the horizon of sunrise**, face that direction, then turn to the right slightly.
- **At zenith (noon)**, the sun is in the center of the sky; between east and west. One can then know north and south by facing **the sun**<sup>1</sup>.
- In the **beginning of the night**, if he relies on **the horizon of sunset**, he puts his back to it so that he faces the east, then turns to the right to face south of east.
- **After the night settles**, he may also find **the North Star**, turn his back to it for the south, and then turn to his left to face southeast. The southern regions of the earth that cannot use the North Star have other **stars** that they can use.

What is mentioned here is simple and applicable by all people, not just mathematicians and geographers<sup>2</sup>. Anyway, no geographer will claim that Makkah is north of North America, nor would a mathematician if he knows geography! It is a person so ignorant that he confidently puts a string over a

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<sup>1</sup> In the southern regions like Australia, the sun will be in the northern sky, and in the northern regions, like the USA and Canada, it will be in the southern sky.

<sup>2</sup> So we then ask them: If directions change and vary because of terrain or shape of the earth, how can we determine the directions and distinguish them from each other? They would not say: by observing the sunrise, sunset and other signs. If they did, then they would validate all our references and make our argument against northeast stronger.

globe; a complete failure in geography, who is calling your bluff, saying, “It seems you are lacking in basic geography!”

### **The Legend<sup>1</sup> of the Sun Over the Ka^bah**

Without a classical reference, they say that there is indeed a proof stronger than the north star; one used far and wide for centuries and is utterly famous: Twice per year, when the sun is directly over the Ka^bah, you can face the sun in the USA and Canada, and you will be facing northeast! Say: “You are not supposed to face the sun!” If they say: “But at that time it is like facing the air over the Ka^bah, and it is valid to do that!” Say: “Anyone who faces the air above the Ka^bah only faces it because he sought the Ka^bah itself, but because of being higher than the Ka^bah, he faced the air above it!”

We tell them to bring the reference for the imam who validated this practice. For those of them who do not care about Sunni scholarship, this challenge is extremely weak opposition. Otherwise, any northeaster who claims to follow the Four Schools is easily refuted by the documents of the schools that the strongest sign for the those who cannot see the Ka^bah is the north star:

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<sup>1</sup> In their claim, the people would be eagerly waiting all year for that day or two to verify their Qiblah. This is untrue, especially since the Muslims were the masters of even the worldly sciences; astronomy, geometry, and all the other sciences that Muslims in North America are misapplying. When did such waiting start? During the days in Al-Madīnah? Or perhaps it was during the days of the Followers of the Followers? They never produced a ḥadīth about it, and never thought to ask! In fact, the Muslims had absolutely no need to await those days for verifying their Prayer directions. This claim implies that they were uncertain of their Qiblah until the moment the sun rises over the Ka^bah, then they would hurriedly verify their Qiblahs before the sun declines from its zenith. Then, after a while, somehow they would become doubtful again about their direction, so they would again await that day to verify their Qiblah, like a holiday, and then again and again every year, fixing their Qiblahs and adjusting their miḥrābs<sup>1</sup> by the sun being over the Ka^bah for a few short moments. Let them produce their classical references!

<sup>2</sup> If this ‘sun over the Ka^bah’ theory is so reliable, undeniably rational, and precisely practical, why did no one talk about it until people in North America decided to throw away the Sunnah? Where is it from the Sunnah of the Prophet ﷺ and his Companions? Those northeast people have no religious reference, only imagination.

- a. If he is a Shafi'iyy, we already cited Imam An-Nawawiyy.
- b. For Hanafiyy, Ibn 'Abidin: **قَوْلُهُ كَالْقُطْبِ هُوَ أَقْوَى الْأَدَلَّةِ** *"The Polaris is the strongest of the (Qiblah) references."*
- c. For Hambaliyy, Ibn Qudamah: **وَآكَدَهَا الْقُطْبُ الشَّمَائِيُّ** *"The most reliable star is the northern polar star."*
- d. So this is included<sup>1</sup> in the quote of the Malikiyy, Ahmad Ibn Mayyarah, who cited verses that establish stars as references for directions, and he confirmed the consensus about that.

They imagine that they can know when the sun is at its zenith above the Ka'bah when they cannot see the Ka'bah! God knows how they are certain that they are not too early or too late<sup>3</sup> when they direct themselves toward the sun without seeing the Ka'bah! They made a rule that the sun becomes the person's Qiblah on those special days, at those special few moments, and all the other days and times in the USA and Canada are based on those. They think that seeing the sun at that time is like seeing the Ka'bah. One should seek the Ka'bah itself, which is east-southeast of our position, then face the

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<sup>1</sup> Some Malikis - or people claiming to be - have said that they have not found an explicit documentation in the Malikiyy school about the North Star specifically being the strongest sign, and therefore the Malikiyy school allows using the legend of the sun over the Ka'bah and calculations.

<sup>2</sup> If they say, "But if you can see the air over the Ka'bah, this gives you definite knowledge of the Ka'bah, and it is just as strong as seeing the Ka'bah itself," we tell them, "The scholars said that the one who cannot see the Ka'bah does not have knowledge of the Ka'bah. What fiqh are you upon?" They might proudly say: "Modern fiqh!"

<sup>3</sup> How can they be in North America and certain of the exact moment the sun reaches its zenith in Makkah? The zenith is an extremely short time, and they do not even know the exact moment of the sun's zenith in the neighboring town, let alone in a city across the ocean! If they say that they know it by way of technology, then their claim that the scholars of the past used this method would be exposed as a lie, not to mention that religious rules are not dependent on technology, so this answer nullifies its validity in and of itself.

air above it if he has to, like if he is in a plane<sup>1</sup>, or the ground below it if he has to, like if he is in a valley, cavern or tunnel.

The legend of the sun over the Ka'bah is a fairy tale! Fear Allah and accept the Sunnah! Face the proper direction and advise your loved ones! Be afraid to be someone who will enter his grave without valid prayers, and come out of his grave without valid prayers, the Day when there is no turning back!

## Calculations

In fact, as will be seen if Allah willed, the method used to (falsely) verify the northeast qiblah is useless for an illiterate person, or a layman, or someone who does not know the shape of the earth<sup>2</sup>. For example, instead of using the universally accessible signs we just mentioned, northeasters say:

*Since Earth has a spherical shape, we can use the formula for great circle to find qibla direction for any point on the Earth. Indeed, this direction can be easily computed using the following one-line formula:*

$$\alpha = \arctan \left( \frac{\sin(\lambda_2 - \lambda_1)}{\cos \phi_1 \tan \phi_2 - \sin \phi_1 \cos(\lambda_2 - \lambda_1)} \right)$$

*where  $(\phi_1, \lambda_1)$  is the latitude-longitude of your location, and  $(\phi_2, \lambda_2) = (21.42, 39.83)$  is the latitude-longitude of Ka'ba. The returned value,  $\alpha$ , specifies the angle of qibla clockwise from true North.*

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<sup>1</sup> This is how one faces his Qiblah in an airplane; he has to figure out the land (or sea) below him, and then where the Ka'bah is from there. Then, in the plane he faces the direction he would face had he been on the surface. This is because in our Religion, the judgment of the air follows the judgment of the surface below it. For this reason, it is valid to make flights of landings (levels; floors) around the Ka'bah for Tawaf and at the place of Sa'y; performing the worship on the second and third levels is like performing it on the ground level. Therefore, it is incorrect to face the sun claiming that the sun gives definitive knowledge of the direction while above the Ka'bah. This is another misapplication of the rules.

<sup>2</sup> It is not a condition to know the earth's shape to know the Qiblah. It is not a condition to have a western education and believe modern theories, nor to even be the least bit literate. It is not even a condition to know what is traditionally believed about Heavens and Earth to be able to find the Qiblah!

There is nothing easy about that for the layman, and it is at odds with the authentic ḥadīth that is an advocate for the illiterate layman:

إِنَّا أُمَّةٌ أُمِّيَّةٌ، لَا نَكْتُبُ وَلَا نَحْسِبُ

Indeed, we are an illiterate nation, not writing nor calculating!<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Al-Bukhariyy, Muslim and others

<sup>2</sup> Check some explanations of the ḥadīth:

#### طرح التثريب في شرح التقريب:

وَالسَّبَبُ الشَّرْعِيُّ لِلْوُجُوبِ إِنَّمَا هُوَ الرُّؤْيَةُ لَا عِلْمُ ذَلِكَ بِالْحِسَابِ لِقَوْلِهِ - عَلَيْهِ الصَّلَاةُ وَالسَّلَامُ - فِي الْحَدِيثِ الصَّحِيحِ «إِنَّا أُمَّةٌ أُمِّيَّةٌ لَا نَحْسِبُ وَلَا نَكْتُبُ» الْحَدِيثُ انْتَهَى. وَقَدْ ظَهَرَ بِمَا بَسَطَاهُ صِحَّةُ مَذْهَبِ الْجُمْهُورِ فِي تَغْلِيْقِ الْحُكْمِ بِالرُّؤْيَةِ دُونَ غَيْرِهَا وَبِهِ قَالَ مَالِكٌ وَالشَّافِعِيُّ وَأَبُو حَنِيفَةَ وَجُمْهُورُ الْعُلَمَاءِ مِنَ السَّلَفِ وَالْخَلَفِ

#### Tarḥ At-Tathrib by Al-ʿIraqiyy:

“The religious reason of the obligation is SIGHTING, not knowing that by calculation, because of his saying, ‘We are an illiterate nation, neither writing nor calculating.’ The correctness of the school of the majority has become clear by what we have explained in detail: the ruling depends on sighting, not something else. This is what Malik, Ash-Shafiʿiyy and Abu Ḥanīfah said, and the majority of the scholars of the Salaf and the Khalaf.”

#### عمدة القاري شرح صحيح البخاري:

وعلق الشارح الصوم وغيره بالرؤية لرفع الحرج عن أمته.

#### ʿUmdat Al-Qarī by Al-ʿAyniyy the Ḥanafiyy:

“The Law Bringer (the Prophet ﷺ) has made fasting and other things dependent on sighting, to lift the burden from his nation.” And Al-ʿAyniyy says:

فَإِنْ قُلْتَ: {فَاكْتُبُوهُ} أَمْرٌ مِنَ اللَّهِ تَعَالَى، وَثَبَّتَ فِي (الصَّحِيحَيْنِ) عَنْ ابْنِ عَمَرَ، قَالَ: قَالَ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ، صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ: (إِنَّا أُمَّةٌ أُمِّيَّةٌ لَا نَكْتُبُ وَلَا نَحْسِبُ)، فَمَا الْجَمْعُ بَيْنَهُمَا؟ قُلْتُ: إِنْ الدِّينُ مِنْ حَيْثُ هُوَ غَيْرُ مَفْتَقَرٍ إِلَى كِتَابَةٍ أَصْلًا لِأَنَّ كِتَابَ اللَّهِ قَدْ سَهَّلَ اللَّهُ حِفْظَهُ عَلَى النَّاسِ وَالسُّنَنُ أَيْضًا مَحْفُوظَةٌ عَنْ رَسُولِ اللَّهِ، صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ، وَالَّذِي أَمَرَ بِكُتَابِهِ إِنَّمَا هُوَ أَشْيَاءُ جُزْئِيَّةٌ تَقَعُ بَيْنَ النَّاسِ، فَأَمَرُوا أَمْرَ إِرْشَادٍ لَا أَمْرَ إِجْبَابٍ، كَمَا ذَهَبَ إِلَيْهِ، وَهُوَ مَذْهَبُ الْجُمْهُورِ، فَإِنْ كُتِبَ فَحَسَنٌ، وَإِنْ تَرَكَ فَلَا بَأْسَ.

“If you say, “How do you reconcile that {فَاكْتُبُوهُ} <Write it> is an order from Allāh to write, but it is confirmed from the Messenger of Allāh: ‘We are an illiterate nation, not writing nor calculating’? I say: The Religion in itself does not need writing fundamentally, because Allāh made memorizing the Book of Allāh easy on the people, and the Sunnats are also memorized (or preserved) from the Messenger of Allāh. What was ordered (in the Qurʿān) to be written is only some particular dealings between people; they were given an order to guide them, not an order of obligation... and this is the school of the majority. If one wrote, it is good, and he did not, there is no problem.”

#### فتح الباري لابن رجب:

ويدل على ذلك من الأدلة الشرعية: قول النبي - صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ -: ((إِنَّا أُمَّةٌ أُمِّيَّةٌ، لَا نَكْتُبُ وَلَا نَحْسِبُ، الشَّهْرُ هَكَذَا وَهَكَذَا وَهَكَذَا)) ، وخمس إبهامه في الثالثة، ثم قال: ((صوموا لرؤيته، وأفطروا لرؤيته، فإن غم عليكم فأكملوا العدة)) فتبين أن ديننا لا يحتاج إلى حساب ولا كتاب.

#### Fathul-Barī by Ibn Rajab:



This proves that the religious obligations are easy matters, achievable by both the literate and the illiterate. The northeasters hate this ḥadīth! It will often stop the conversation! For the northeaster, instead of reflecting and accepting that this ḥadīth proves the ease<sup>2</sup> of only requiring vision and knowing how to locate the sun, shadows, stars, etc., debunking and nullifying this ḥadīth will become his top priority! The cost of refuting and undermining an authentic ḥadīth is not his concern; the only concern is a means to an end: facing northeast.

One may think calculations should be used, because “they are available”, but the religious references that he does not want to use are available too, and in fact, they have priority! Ask him: “If the Prophet of Allah ﷺ said that we do not calculate, then why calculate?” Once he says, “Because...” then know that he does not want to comply although he is able. In fact, he even thinks that you are an uneducated, uncultured, unfunny comedian for even submitting such a ḥadīth as evidence! However, his opinion<sup>3</sup> is meaningless in the

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“...The religious evidence proving that is the saying of the Prophet, **‘We are an illiterate nation, neither writing nor calculating. The month is like this or like this...’** (Ibn Rajab said:) It thus became clear that our Religion does not need calculations nor writing.”

<sup>1</sup> Among what they say is that rejecting the northeast method is a call to ignorance, since it is an abandonment of technology, and Islam calls to knowledge, not ignorance. We respond that foremost, calling to northeast is an abandonment of the Sunnah. Which of the two is more deserving to be followed and which is more deserving to be abandoned? Where is their Imān? To that fallacy, say:

1. Using the Sunnah to determine southeast does not contradict any technology.
2. None of the rules are dependent upon technology.

If the use of technology leads to what conflicts with the Sunnah of the Religion, then the technology has no place. The religious rules practiced by the Prophet ﷺ and his Companions have priority over all technology and calculations. This argument of theirs is also the argument of those who prefer to calculate the beginning of Ramadan instead of observing the moon.

<sup>2</sup> The North Star is easy, while calculations for the majority of people are not. Obey the Messenger ﷺ and choose the easy route. He said: [وَأَخِيراً دِينَكُمْ أَيْسَرَهُ] **“The best of your Religion is the easiest of it.”**

<sup>3</sup> In his mind, the calculations are math, and properly applied math is correct, however the Qiblah is Religion, and misapplied religious rules lead to mistakes! The Religion is not by our opinions.



Religion of Allah. We command him to obey the Messenger of Allah ﷺ, who said:

الْمُتَمَسِّكُ بِسُنَّتِي عِنْدَ فَسَادِ أُمَّتِي لَهُ أَجْرُ شَهِيدٍ.

**Whoever holds fast<sup>1</sup> to my Sunnah when my nation is corrupt has the reward of a martyr<sup>2</sup>.**

They blatantly oppose the hadith; the more ignorant are more transparent about rejecting the hadith, and even disrespecting what it implies, like they disrespect the Sunni scholars.

**If someone were to ask:** “We cannot use any new inventions or devices besides those signs?” **The answer is:** If those other means comply with the original Qiblah proofs, they are useful, like a tested compass<sup>3</sup>. On the other hand, if any new invention contradicts the known, original signs - like the silliness of putting a string on a globe, or the futility of calculating distance on the earth’s surface - leading one to ignore the north star, then they are rejected<sup>4</sup>, and the original signs are kept! When it was said to someone who faces northeast: “We only want the original ways of practicing the Religion,

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Had it been, then we would have wiped on the bottom of the khuff because that is the side that gets dirty. However, Imam ^Aliyy said, “I saw the Messenger of Allah ﷺ wiping the top.”

<sup>1</sup> They will not hold fast to the hadith that negates calculations, because no calculations means no northeast. If Allah blinds the heart, the person will follow his desire over the evidence, even if he claims Ahlus-Sunnah. The Prophet said: “**One’s love of something blinds and deafens.**”

<sup>2</sup> Some narrations mention that he has the reward of 100 martyrs.

<sup>3</sup> One should not purchase a compass and rely on it without testing it against (comparing it to) the North Star.

<sup>4</sup> Here, it is good to warn from the so-called “qiblah compasses” manufactured by people who support the northeastern qiblah. Many laymen believe these compasses point towards the Qiblah. People who know about compasses know that a compass gives one the (magnetic) north, not the Qiblah. The way these actually work is that they point north like any other compass, but it has a prepared line that marks the northeast instead of the north. Laypeople then just face the line and have no clue that they have been misled.

and any new way has to comply with the old, and the northeast people want a new way without concern about it complying with the old way, he disrespectfully said, “We just want to face the Ka'aba in obedience to Allah. That's all. New, old, yada yada... facing Mecca is the objective.” Maybe he will listen to An-Nawawiyy who said: [وَلَا يَصِحُّ الْإِجْتِهَادُ إِلَّا بِأَدْلَةِ الْقِبْلَةِ] “Ijtihad (for Qiblah) is invalid except by the (religiously recognized) Qiblah proofs.”

وبالله التوفيق

## MISGUIDING MUSLIMS WITH OPTICAL ILLUSIONS

Some Sunni theologians said that the difference between a “place” and a “direction” is that place is general; it does not imply a comparison. A direction is a place, but relative to something. Be certain that each cardinal direction is different from the other; they are not one and the same<sup>1</sup>. Had they all been the same, there would be no way to tell one from another, and no one would be able to understand the two opposite directions in what was reported about the Prophet ﷺ:<sup>2</sup>

قَالَ بِيَدِهِ إِذَا غَابَتِ الشَّمْسُ مِنْ هَهُنَا، وَجَاءَ اللَّيْلُ مِنْ هَهُنَا، فَقَدْ أَفْطَرَ الصَّائِمُ

**He said (by pointing) with his hand, “If the sun disappeared from here, and the night came from here, the fasting person breaks his fast.**

Some directions are different, but not opposites, so it is possible to have southeast, northeast, southwest and northwest. Some directions are polar opposites of each other, so it is impossible to have eastwest or westeast or southnorth or northsouth<sup>3</sup>. Would someone contradict this? Would someone put a string over a globe to prove the Qiblah?

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<sup>1</sup> Thus, north is not the same as south, east or west; south is not the same as north, east or west; east is not the same as north, south or west, and west is not the same as north, south or east.

<sup>2</sup> Sahih Muslim

<sup>3</sup> So here, it is fitting to remind the brothers who believe that it is valid to face both northeast and southeast that this is also not the case. The Ka ^ bah is in one place, and the person knows that. How would it be valid for such a person to face two directions when he knows that the Ka ^ bah is in one place, and when both directions are polar opposite to each other? It is one thing if it were a difference between east and east-southeast, or south and south-southeast, or even for argument’s sake east and east-northeast, but it is another thing to be a difference between northeast and southeast! The difference between facing north or south is like the difference between facing east or west!

Nuh Keller diagram 1

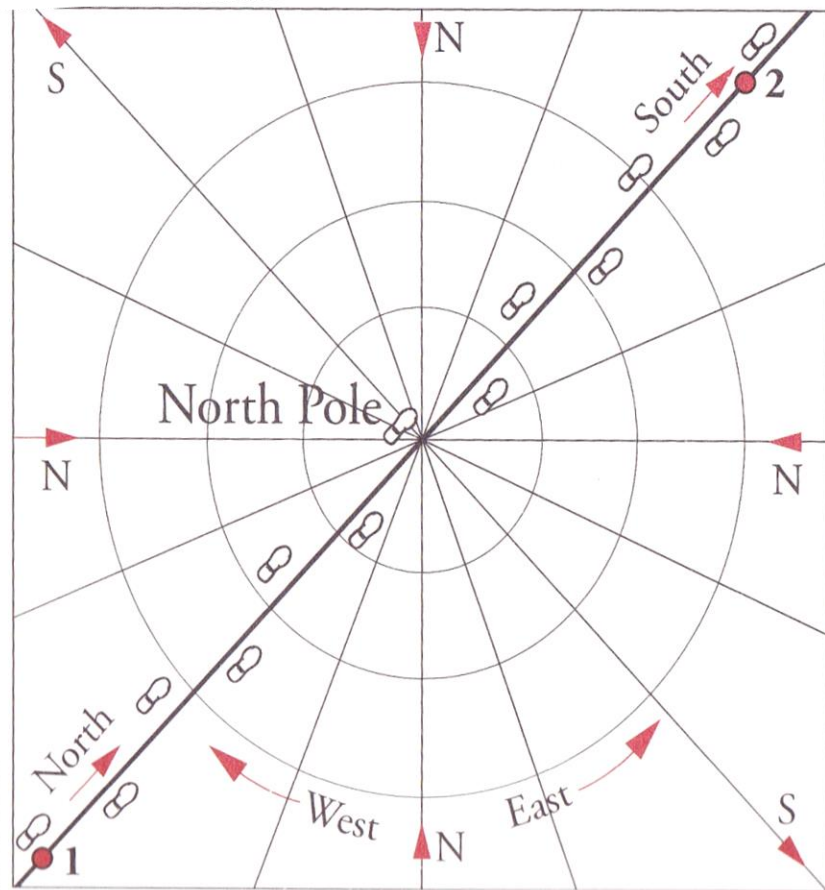


Figure 3. Footsteps across the North Pole

The goal of this image is to delude a Muslim into thinking that it is possible to go north and then south without ever turning, or to turn while staying in the same direction! It also links travel and movement to the prayer direction. The translation of this diagram is: *This is why northeast prayer direction is valid, even in northernmost Canada, although Mecca is south of the southernmost USA; either you did not really make any turn, and it is all one direction or you turned and stayed in the same direction!* That would mean that north and south are the same direction! It is therefore valid to call the bold line in this

diagram northsouth or southnorth<sup>1</sup>. However, this optical illusion truly **HIDES** a right turn, as we shall see, God willing. Here, expect any of three outcomes from anyone stubbornly arguing for NE qiblah:

1. To drop out of the debate without conceding.
2. To explicitly say that it is correct that one can turn and stay in the same direction.
3. To explicitly say that one can move in two opposite directions without turning (or moving backwards).

**If he says:** “You ignorant one! You can go in two directions without turning, or turn without changing directions - because the earth is not flat!” **then say:** “Show me; go in two directions without turning<sup>2</sup>, or turn without changing directions, since the earth is not flat!” He will be unable.

**If he says:** “I cannot demonstrate that for you because I would need vast distance to cover!” **then say:** “Then you don't have any evidence more than

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<sup>1</sup> Another mistake is that he abandoned the religiously recognized signs for determining the directions, and instead preferred imaginary markers. Our Religion is easier than that, applicable by the literate and illiterate. According to his diagram, directions are determined by imaginary markers, not the signs of Allāh like the sun and the stars. According to this, a person could be facing the north, and instead of going back in the other direction, take one step in the same direction, and be facing the south!

<sup>2</sup> Here, turning includes walking backwards without turning around!

<sup>3</sup> They think that we use imaginary lines to face the Qiblah. They would say, “We establish markers (lines that are drawn on maps and imagined to truly exist on the real earth) to determine the directions, and if someone passes one of those markers, he will have “officially interrupted” that direction and commenced a new direction - without changing directions.” We have already mentioned that the true signs that the Muslim should use for determining the directions are the sun, stars, and other actual creations, not imaginary markers.

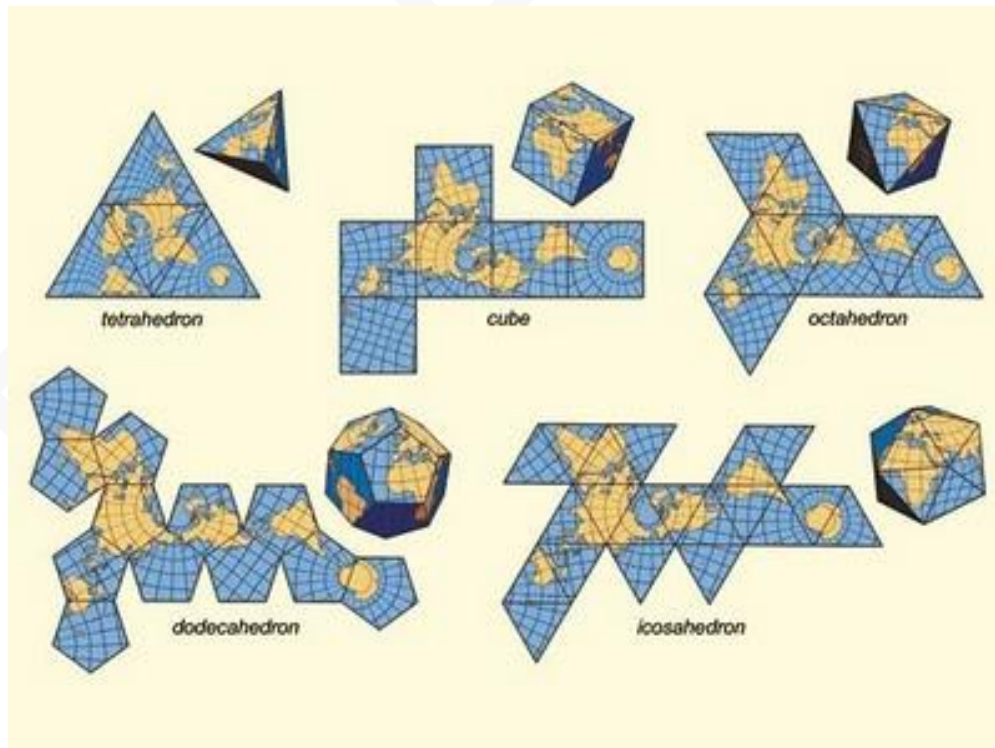
a theory<sup>1</sup>! It doesn't matter what shape the earth is; what you are saying is impossible, O educated one!" Directions are not stuck to the surface so that the earth's shape would matter.

**If he says:** "Regardless of the names north or south, it is a single direction without turning; the direction of *forward!*" **then say:**

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<sup>1</sup> Do not accept a string on a globe as a replacement. Make him admit that he could never demonstrate it, nor could anyone else, or else wait for the demonstration, and do not accept a string over a globe, which is the only thing he or anyone else can demonstrate.

<sup>2</sup> Despite the fact that the earth is not flat, it is impossible to go north and then to go north in the opposite direction. Therefore, neither the terrain of the surface nor the shape of earth affects the directions between two points. In other words, it is true that the earth is not flat, but that fact does not change the fact that Makkah is south of us, and had the earth been flat, Makkah would still be south of us, because the shape of the earth does not influence the directions. Each of the following shapes has a north and a south. Hence, the shape has absolutely no influence:



The corners and edges resulting from the varying shapes do not change the directions. As long as the grid is accurate, the map is correct. For this reason, Makkah is south of the USA on every map, no matter its projection, even a globe.



1. If that is all that matters, why call your line *northeast* and not merely *forward*?
2. The directions in the issue of the Qiblah are cardinal directions, not relative!

**If he says: “Prove it!” then say God’s Statement:** <(وَبِالنَّجْمِ هُمْ يَهْتَدُونَ)> <By the star they are guided<sup>1</sup>.> Does the star guide them forward and backward, or north and south?<sup>2</sup> A Qur’anic Qiblah verse cites cardinal directions specifically: <(وَلِلَّهِ الْمَشْرِقُ وَالْمَغْرِبُ فَأَيْنَمَا تُولُو فَتَمَّ وَجْهُ اللَّهِ)> <To Allah belongs the east and the west, so whichever way you turn (in voluntary prayer upon an animal while traveling), then that wajh (direction) is valid to Allah.> So does another:

﴿سَيَقُولُ السُّفَهَاءُ مِنَ النَّاسِ مَا وَلَاهُمْ عَن قِبَلَتِهِمُ الَّتِي كَانُوا عَلَيْهَا قُلْ لِلَّهِ الْمَشْرِقُ وَالْمَغْرِبُ يَهْدِي مَنْ يَشَاءُ إِلَى صِرَاطٍ مُسْتَقِيمٍ﴾

<The fools amongst the (Jews, hypocrites, and pagans<sup>3</sup>) will say: “What turned them from their qiblah (of [the boulder<sup>[N]</sup> of] Baytul-Maqdis) that they were facing? Say: “To Allah belongs east and west (and every direction; there is no objection to Him!) He guides whomever He wills to a straight path; (correct qiblah<sup>4</sup>).”>

<sup>1</sup> Note that we are INFERRING from the north star that the Qiblah is south of east. We are not merely claiming that the direction is ESE, then using the north star to face that claimed direction. Northeasters CANNOT infer from the north star that the Qiblah is any degree of NE. We are applying an ayat of the Qur’an, they are not.

<sup>2</sup> Some northeasters argue that this verse is not a proof about the Qiblah!

<sup>3</sup> As for the Jews, they disliked facing the Ka’bah and they did not believe in abrogation. As for the hypocrites, they took advantage of every opportunity to criticize and mock. And as for the pagans, they said that Muhammad abandoned the qiblah of his fathers and now he is back to facing it!

<sup>4</sup> Nasafi. OR: Correct Religion (Jalalayn).

Also, since the Companions in Medina were north of the Ka^bah, the Messenger of Allah ﷺ taught them:

إِذَا أَتَيْتُمُ الْغَائِطَ فَلَا تَسْتَقْبِلُوا الْقِبْلَةَ، وَلَا تَسْتَدْبِرُوهَا بِبَوْلٍ وَلَا غَائِطٍ، وَلَكِنْ شَرِّقُوا  
أَوْ غَرِّبُوا

If you go to the lavatory, do not face the qiblah, and do not turn your back to it while urinating or defecating; face east or west<sup>1</sup>.

We even have the documentation of a mujtahid, Abu Hanifah:

الْمَشْرِقُ قِبْلَةُ أَهْلِ الْمَغْرِبِ وَالْمَغْرِبُ قِبْلَةُ أَهْلِ الْمَشْرِقِ وَالْجَنُوبُ قِبْلَةُ أَهْلِ الشَّامِ وَالشَّامُ  
قِبْلَةُ أَهْلِ الْجَنُوبِ

East is the Qiblah of the people west (of the Ka^bah), west is the Qiblah of the people east (of the Ka^bah), the south is the Qiblah of the people north (of the Ka^bah), and the north is the Qiblah of the people south (of the Ka^bah).

Completely lacking self-awareness, he does not have a religious proof that the directions in the Qiblah issue are anything other than cardinal! If the northeaster were not one of those who disregard the scholars, and he found authentic scholarly talk about the Qiblah in which they mention forward or behind, or the like, all of that is secondary explanation **based on** the proofs presented. He merely selected those quotes for something they do not support!

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<sup>1</sup> This hadith prohibits facing or turning one's back to the qiblah while urinating, as well as facing or turning one's back to the Qiblah while defecating. When the Prophet ﷺ told them to face the east or the west, he said that while in Al-Madīnah addressing his Companions, so facing the east or the west specifically is not for everyone; it is not the general rule. Their location was north of Makkah, so the Qiblah is south of them, hence he told them face the east or the west. The rule itself is that one does not face or turn his back to the Qiblah, wherever it may be in respects to that person.

Another problem with this optical illusion is that it implies; suggests that there is a place where east, west and north all become south!<sup>1</sup> In the imaginary world (theory), this place is where imaginary lines converge<sup>2</sup> - lines that they

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<sup>1</sup> Denial of this illusion does not imply that we are saying that the earth is flat. Actually, this diagram itself is covertly saying something that they do not believe: that there is a fine edge from which one could fall off of the earth, since according to this picture, all directions disappear but one: south. No one can say that this diagram is like the one who climbs to the peak of a mountain, because there is no mountain top at which all directions are the same.

<sup>2</sup> One person who wishes to undermine the correct direction in North America explained why one must consider the North Pole, in his claim. He said (in quotes), “**Direction is determined by using the North Pole as the focal point.**” Untrue: The Companions and other early humans successfully determined the directions without using the North Pole as a focal point, otherwise they were all making a mistake; if the North Pole has to be factored in to reach the correct conclusion, then they reached incorrect conclusions for leaving out a factor. If one says that they did not need the North Pole because they were close to Makkah, then how far does one have to be for it to become a factor? He said, “**The North Pole is the centre of direction and it is used as a reference in order to relate direction.**” Untrue: In our Religion, the Ka’bah is the naval of the earth. That is why it is called in the Qur’an: Umm Al-Qura (the mother town), and that is why it is the Qiblah for Muḥammad’s nation. He said, “**However, in order to determine the direction of the Ka’bah, there will be a drastic change between the earth being a surface and the earth being spherical and oblate.**” Where is this from the rules of the Qiblah? These people insist on using a method that is foreign to the Religion, and they know it, but do not care. They might call it “modern fiqh”. Those bad pupils might forget who the master is and who the learner is, and thus say that the later scholars became aware of what the Prophet ﷺ did not know! It therefore gets added to the Religion according to them! The Prophet ﷺ is the one who knew from Allāh by way of revelation what others did not know! This exposes a conviction that results in arguing for NE qiblah: arguing that the Prophet ﷺ was ignorant about religious rules, and that there are gaps in the Sacred Law. He said, “**Consider the following illustration of an orange peel. When a visible mark is made on the orange peel and the orange is carefully peeled and flattened, the mark will not remain at the same point.**” Firstly, this is totally irrelevant to facing the Ka’bah. By this they make the issue distorted and convoluted. Secondly, this claim is untrue. The mark remains on the peel where it is, and it is the peel itself that moves, just like a ring on a finger; the ring remains in its place on the finger, but the finger moves. This example is totally irrelevant for facing the Qiblah. “**The earth is a sphere and expressing directions of this sphere as a surface creates great distortions.**” This is untrue. The directions are clear. The way to read a globe is clear. There is no ambiguity in north, east, south and west on a globe, or on the real earth. The only thing unclear for the majority of people is the calculations used to face northeast, and what is even more unclear, is why a person believes that he has to reject the Sunnah for facing the Qiblah in North America. What muddles the issue is insisting on cramming geometry and trigonometry into the rules of Qiblah! School children can easily know what is east of something or north of something by using a globe. There is absolutely nothing difficult about that. What is difficult is the ingredients needed to convince a person that they have to face north to face the south. He said, “**In short distances, this may be insignificant but in long distances it will matter.**” This is untrue. Directions do not change due to distance. North of Makkah is north of Makkah no matter the distance. This is the same for all other directions. He said, “**Our concern here is the direction of facing Makkah and not the direction one would take to reach Makkah.**” This is the true concern, but it is not truly the concern of the northeast people. The concern of the northeast person is to face the shortest route to Makkah, which is not part of facing the Qiblah. “**Whilst the direction to reach Makkah - irrelevant - may be many but the**

would turn around and **ALTOGETHER** reject if used to debunk the NE qiblah - because they do! In the real world, however, this place does not exist<sup>1</sup>. In this theoretical place, where south goes in four directions, a person could face the direction behind him! That direction would be his right-left. There is no real situation in which someone who wants to pray would be seeking such a border line for the Qiblah; he does not use a drawn map and a compass, for instance, look at his surroundings, and then say, “X marks the spot! If I take one step forward I’ll cross an imaginary line and be in the west and no longer in the east, hence my Qiblah is like this, but if I take a step backwards, now my Qiblah is like that...”

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direction of facing Makkah from any point will only be one. Notwithstanding the arguments of the modernists in their decision, the underlying principle of the Fuqahaa (for those who cannot see the Ka'bah) is to face the direction of the Ka'bah. “The direction of travelling (i.e. shortest route along the great circles) undoubtedly cannot be a blanket rule in determining the direction of the Ka'bah due to the constant change of directions. - the cardinal directions do not change - It is not necessary that the great circle route will always (NOT) be the direction of facing your destination neither will the rhumb line route always be the method of facing your destination.” - Makkah is not our destination, because we are not travelling - “However, the rising and setting of the sun will determine East and West, and the movement of the sun is according to the spherical shape of the earth. Therefore, when determining direction on earth, the spherical shape of the earth cannot be ignored.” This is also irrelevant. The person seeking the Qiblah does not have to consider the reality of the sun’s rising and setting. All he has to know is that the sun rises from the east and sets in the west. Nothing more is needed in this issue. There is more talk after these quotes, but perhaps what is mentioned here is sufficient to know that the North Pole has nothing to do with facing the Ka'bah. Also, notice how far this answer diverges from the original question: why must we consider the North Pole? The fact is, no one has to care about the North Pole to face the Qiblah. North pole is only a condition to argue for NE qiblah.

<sup>1</sup> Among what demonstrates that they believe that this imaginary zone exists is what one of them posed in a debate, “Another point (among many others) that indicates the invalidity of your method in some parts of the world is that it becomes insufficient in determining the Qiblah direction at the two poles. A religiously method that is valid all over the world should not become insufficient to determine the direction of Qiblah at the poles.” The answer is that had a person truly been at the Poles, the east would still be the direction of sunrise, and the west would be the direction of sunset. In our Religion, the sun sets in the west until the day it shall rise from its place of setting. That is among the major signs of Judgment Day. On that day, the Door of Repentance will be closed, and the Beast of the Earth emerges. There is no inconsistency in using the Sunnah of the Qiblah at the poles; the Muslims belief is that the Sunnah is applicable throughout the entire universe! What this man said is due to a creed that implies that the Revealed Laws are not applicable all over the world and until the end of time, a creed generated by misapplying the rules and following **wahm** (delusion; imagination).

Perhaps the photographs of the North Pole (which is said to be a place without stable land mass) are more accurate than these theories; they show it to be a place like every other: with **FOUR** cardinal directions, including the direction of sunrise: <فَإِنَّ اللَّهَ يَأْتِي بِالشَّمْسِ مِنَ الْمَشْرِقِ> <Certainly, Allah brings the sun from the EAST>! How could so many Muslims fall into such a massive blunder? Part of it is western education that speaks about the creation of Allah ignorantly, and not knowing what to believe as a Muslim! Some non-Muslims have even written articles, insulting North American Muslims for a mistake not made by a middle-schooler!

**Yet another problem** with this diagram is that the footsteps truly represent a person tall enough to walk across continents in single steps! The only way the center dot could validly represent anywhere in the world on which we live, it would have to represent an area wide enough for four directions! Then, the footsteps would be too small to show up!

### ❁ The Difference Between a Map and the Real Earth ❁

There are very important differences between a map and the real earth! If you are unaware of them then you will be confused without realizing! How do you determine directions in each respective case? In the real, physical world, a learned Muslim would look for the sunrise for east, and sunset for west, and the North Star for north, and put his back to it for the south, for example<sup>1</sup>.

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<sup>1</sup> If he is in the northern part of the world, he can also face the sun at its zenith for the south, and turn his back to it for the north.



This is for the Muslim who wants to practice like the Prophet ﷺ and his Companions. The Messenger of Allah ﷺ said<sup>1</sup>:

إِنَّ خَيْرَ عِبَادِ اللَّهِ الَّذِينَ يُرَاعُونَ الشَّمْسَ وَالْقَمَرَ وَالنُّجُومَ وَالْأَظْلَّةَ لِذِكْرِ اللَّهِ

“Surely, the best of the slaves of Allah are those who observe the sun, the moon, the stars and the shadows for the remembrance of Allah (the Prayer).”

A map, on the other hand, does not have such indicators. Instead, a map uses a grid called **latitude and longitude** lines. The fact that it is by this grid on a map that directions are **represented** that makes putting a string over a globe to prove the direction one of the most uninformed, uneducated things that a person could do! You are supposed to read the grid, not put a string over the globe! Those imaginary markers do not determine any real directions! Also, the globe is not a qiblah proof.

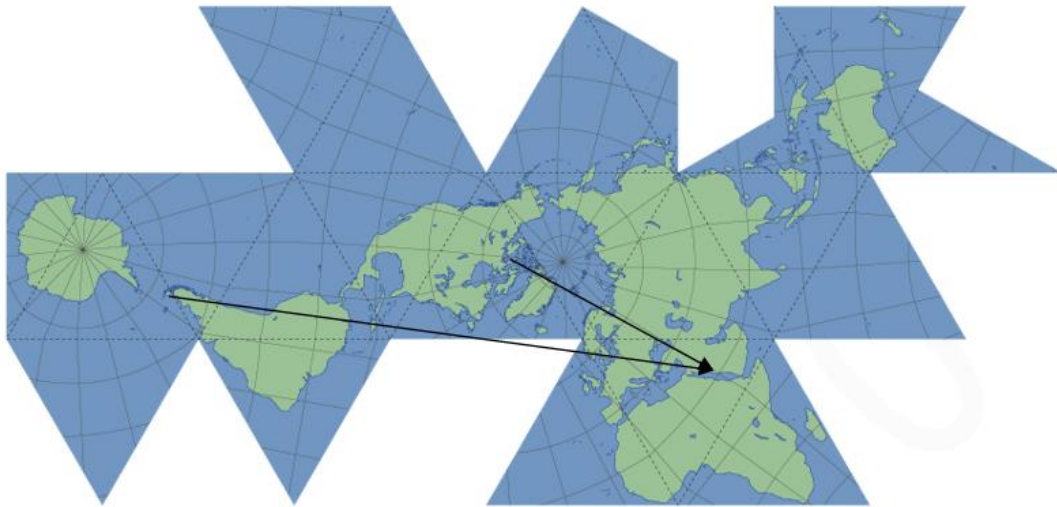
On the real earth, North America is closer to the Arctic, where it is cold, and Makkah is in the tropics, where it is warm; south of the USA, the direction the birds fly to escape the cold of winter. On maps, latitude and longitude coordinates put Makkah east and south of the USA: Makkah's latitude coordinates are 21° N, which is south of ALL coordinates in the United States or Canada. Key West, Florida, among the southernmost points in the United States, is at 24° N; north of Makkah. Also, South America must face northeast. Who is ignorant about geography? How could southernmost Chile face northeast, and northernmost Canada also face northeast? To answer this,

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<sup>1</sup> At-Tabaraniyy and others.

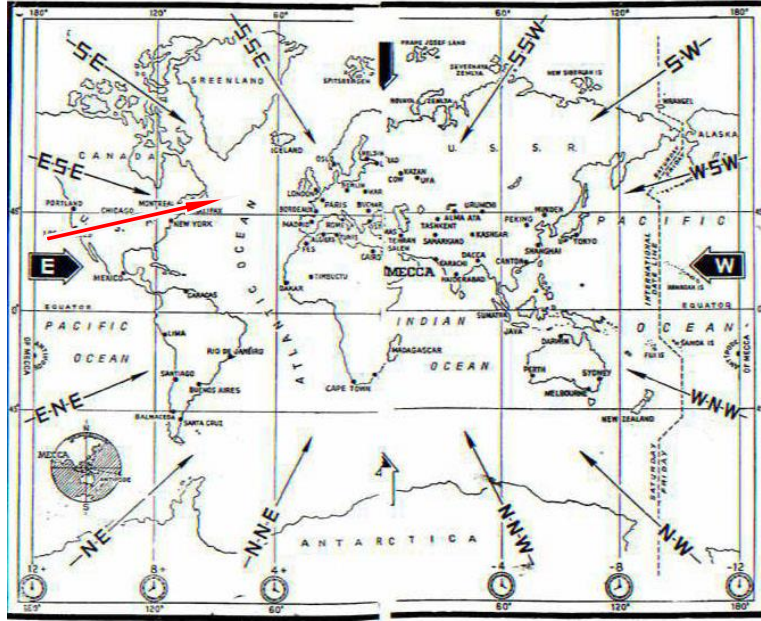


one of them would use a distorted flat map after discrediting every flat map for being distorted:



This reveals their great misunderstanding: they believe (because of not knowing how to read a map) that east is north of west!

Thus, according to them, the entire western hemisphere, its northern part and southern part, must face northeast, and this is clearly absurd! It is as if they are saying that an entire corner of the earth is missing, because Siberia faces southwest, Australia faces northwest, South America faces northeast, and according to them, no one faces southeast!



Whether Makkah is south of the USA or not is not actually the question at hand. However, they most likely will never willingly confess to the fact! Some may end the conversation if you insist that he answers with a mere, unadulterated and unexplained “yes” or “no”: On this earth that is not a map, and has no latitude or longitude lines drawn on it, is Makkah **PHYSICALLY** south of the USA?

وبالله التوفيق

## PEOPLE WHO FACE NORTHEAST DO NOT READ THE MAP<sup>1</sup>

1. globe/glöb/ ... A spherical representation of the earth or of the constellations with a map on the surface. 2. Globe [gləʊb] n (Earth Sciences / Physical Geography) a sphere on which a map of the world or the heavens is drawn or represented 3. Globe - a sphere on which a map (especially of the earth) is represented 4. A sphere on which is depicted a map of the earth (terrestrial globe) 5. Globe [countable] 1 a round object with a map of the Earth drawn on it ...

People who face northeast seemingly do not know how to read a map! This lack of simple and universal knowledge makes non-Muslims chuckle at northeasters! Challenge them to go with you to a university campus and ask anyone who walks by, and every single one of them will refuse the challenge every single time! Some of them do not even know what a map is or is not, because several say that the globe is not a map! One said, “**And again a globe is not a map. They are two completely different things.**” More than one of them said, “**Maps are flat, the earth is round!**” It is as if he is saying that there are no maps of the earth! Say:

1. If the globe is not a map, why does it have latitude and longitude lines on it?
2. If it is not a map, what is it? A mere ball?
3. If every map is flat, what is the point of calling a map that is not a globe a flat map?

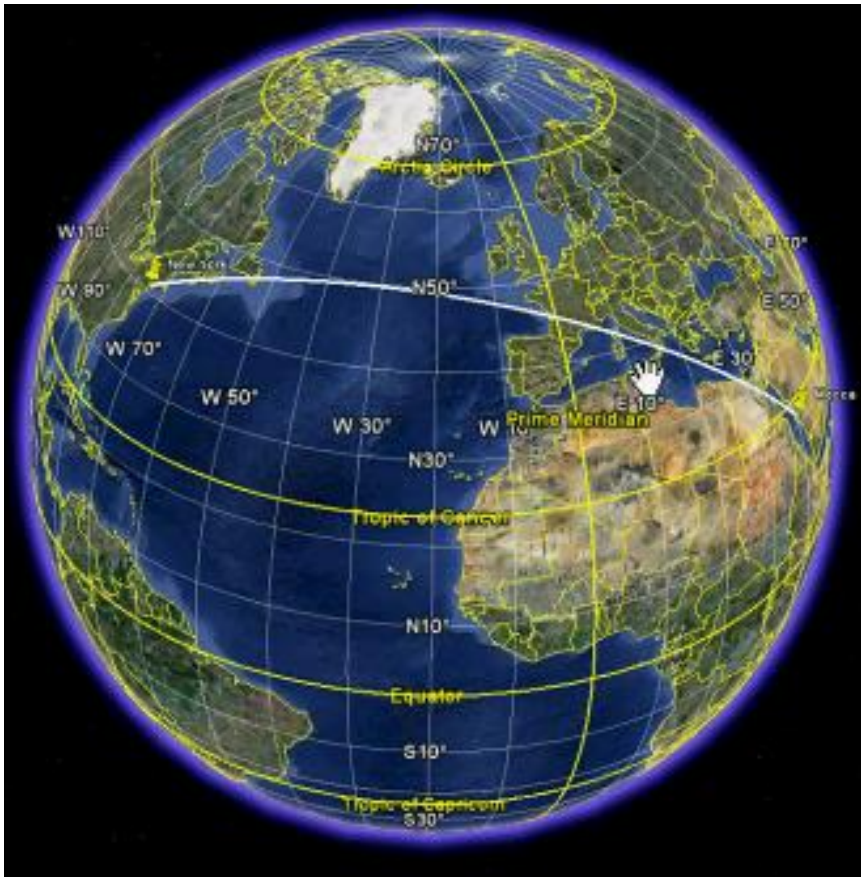
So, the essence of their mistake is that they looked at the globe, not as a map, but as a mere ball. They say, “Earth is not flat, therefore we need a globe to truly express the issue!” Then, in their ignorance, they pull a string from New York to Makkah and say, “Look how the string goes northeast!” If the listener

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<sup>1</sup> It is very important to understand here, that we are not citing maps to verify southeast. The Qiblah is verified by the religiously recognized signs. It is the map that must comply with the Qiblah references, not the other way around. They refer to a map to prove the northeastern direction: a globe, however they do not read it. They merely use it as a ball. It is this notion that we are attacking. We are not saying that maps are the evidence of the southeast Qiblah. However, no map contradicts the southeast Qiblah.

<sup>2</sup> Tell him: “Actually, your line definitely changes (both cardinal and relative) direction, and your claim of an unchanging direction is false: Had you gone forward (east), without changing that

also does not know how to read a map, he would easily accept; all he knows is that north is up and south is down! If he knows how, though, then he would say, “Wait! Look at the grid! The string is turning from northeast, to east, then to southeast! That’s not how to read a map, and that is not a single direction that can be faced!”



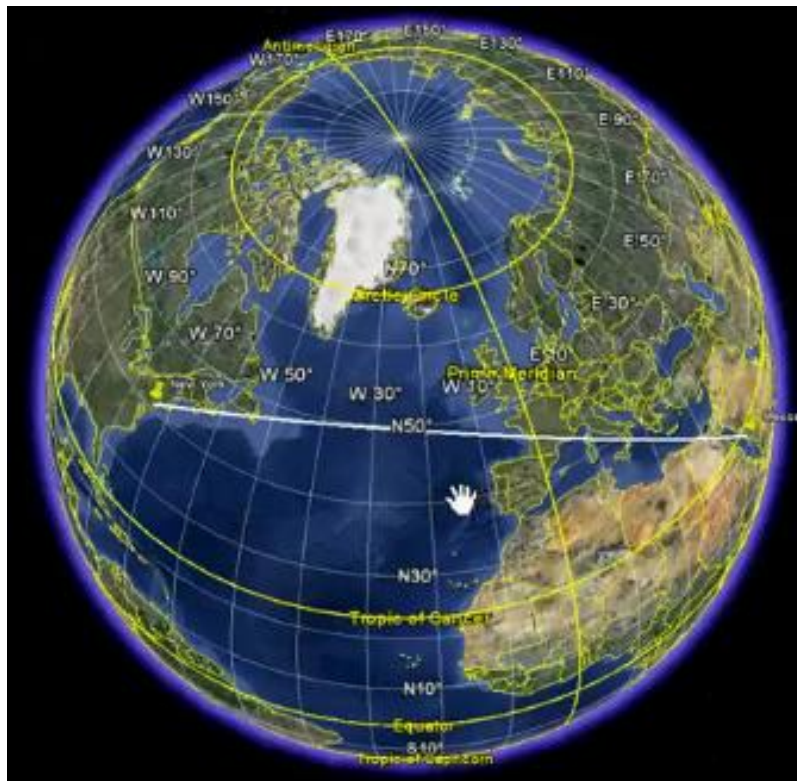
The person arguing for northeast would easily ignore that as if it is child babble, and justify his northeast argument, saying, “Don’t be ignorant! It’s not

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direction to go backward (west), while keeping the constant direction of forward (east) you are still going from side to side (north then south). This means that you are changing directions; starting northeast, turning, and ending southeast. Earth’s shape is irrelevant. This is crystal clear, dubious beyond uncertainty, and cannot be denied without astounding an intelligent person’s mind, yet they deny it. Contradicting that makes the school children laugh, but they contradict it.



changing, actually! Look from the top and see that it is a straight line; the shortest distance from New York to Makkah!!”

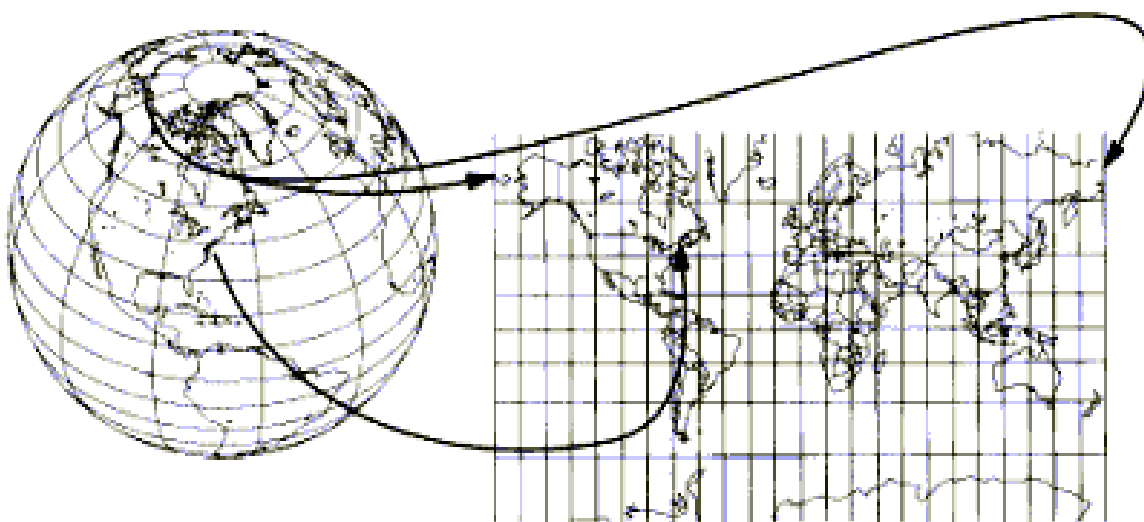


This will only work for someone not looking at the globe like a map, but as a mere ball. Whoever properly reads the coordinates of the globe will be unable to accept that nonsense!

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<sup>1</sup> The coloring gives the impression of a sphere, and when the person who generated this flat image was challenged by it being said to him, “This is a flat map,” He said, “No, it’s a sphere!” Either he has been deceived by his own illusion, or he is stubborn, and for both to be true is not impossible. One clearly sees the line that changes direction. They deny that what you see is true, and claim that you have not looked properly! Then they change the angle, and voilà: a supposed straight, unchanging direction!

Demonstrating the relationship between a globe and a flat map



In their minds, the person is travelling forward, and therefore maintaining one constant direction until reaching Makkah. One of them said, “**You do realize that the pilot is continuing in the same direction he started out in right? That Northeastern direction. He never steers right, he never steers left, and you know what happens....He ends up in Mecca. I say: This is proof enough. Just like if I was in Mecca and could see the Ka'aba from a mile away. If I was to walk straight, never turning to the right, never turning to the left I would walk right smack dab into the Ka'aba. The reality is, the pilot is going straight, this Southern direction you say he's going is the result of the Earth's shape, a reality we don't ignore!**” What this person did ignore is the fact that north and south are two opposite directions! Going from northeast to southeast while moving forward requires a **RIGHT TURN!** If one is facing east, the north is to his left and the south is to his right!



They are like people who only look at the pictures in a book without reading the words, and then misinterpret the pictures because of not reading. One does not read the book, either because he does not know how, or because he does not want to. **This is why** they discuss the Qiblah with any round or even slightly round object - even balled-up paper, but reject any and every map that is not a globe; reading the map is not their true concern, even if it is on a sphere. **This is why** they ignore the latitude-longitude coordinates that prove that Makkah is southeast of the USA, whether on a globe or a flat map (except when they say that directions are based on the poles), and this is why the issue makes sense in their minds. They imagined the string that they pulled over the globe as one direction because they saw a line from point A to point B over a mere ball, but this is not the way to read a map.

One of them said, “**I would say put aside north, south, east and west<sup>1</sup>, and just connect two points on a globe or ball<sup>2</sup>. Then draw your poles and latitudes<sup>3</sup>. Unless one of your points is at a pole, or both points line up on the equator, you will have a direction that has different bearings along its path.**” This is why they will never answer these questions with a straight, honest answer<sup>4</sup>:

❁ Is Makkah closer to the Equator than we are?

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<sup>1</sup> Putting those four directions to the side is his confession to ignoring the map, as well as his confession that he is not seeking a cardinal direction, which is the point of the Qiblah!

<sup>2</sup> Connecting two points on a globe or a ball is the proof that he is not seeking a direction.

<sup>3</sup> Drawing the poles and latitudes after the fact means that he was not using the globe as a map from the beginning.

<sup>4</sup> One of them said when asked, “Is Makkah in the tropical region or the arctic?” “**That’s like me asking you for the exact angle going South from East in degrees, that will allow you to hit the Ka’aba exactly while veering straight, never having to turn to the right or left. This is the question you should be asking.**” The answer to the question is simply: “Yes, Makkah is in the tropical region.” He avoids stating the answer because he does not want to confess to his mistake. If he says, “the tropic region”, we will ask him what direction that is from us. Of course it is south. Therefore, to avoid the exposure of being mistaken, he exposes himself in a different way: by avoiding the question.

❁ Are we closer to the North Pole?

They only answer such questions - if they answer - with lengthy explanation, although they are very simply answered with a mere 'yes' and nothing more is needed. If they were looking at the globe as a map, then their claim would be as ridiculous to them as it is to everyone who reads it as a map, but if they look at it like a mere sphere, seeking the shortest distance (and not the direction) between points A and B, and not being concerned with the cardinal directions of north, south, east and west, then their math is correct (for the shortest distance between two points on an object).

### ❁ **How to read a map**<sup>1</sup> ❁

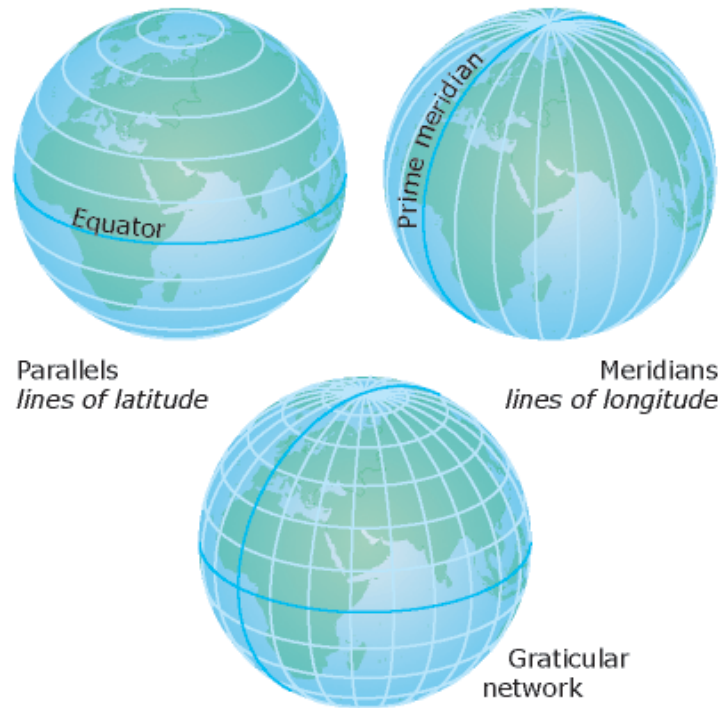
This is how one reads a map<sup>2</sup>: Cartographers<sup>3</sup> draw two sets of lines: east-west lines parallel to the Equator, and north-south lines crossing the Equator. The result is a grid, a network of reference lines for pinpointing locations and establishing distance and direction between places:

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<sup>1</sup> This chapter is not needed for facing the Qiblah; it is for combatting the confusion and miseducation that caused so many people to face the wrong way.

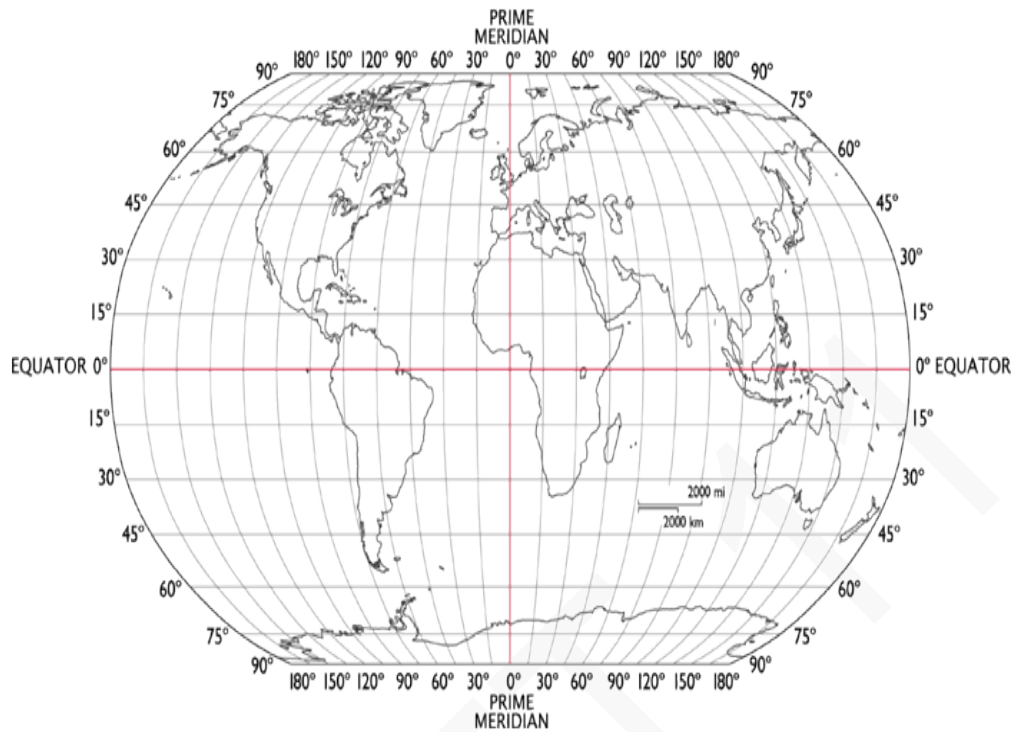
<sup>2</sup> What is mentioned here is general guidelines for understanding a map. Maps have other features not mentioned in this booklet.

<sup>3</sup> Mapmakers



The position of a point north or south of the Equator is known as its 'latitude'. Its lines are called 'parallels of latitude' or simply 'parallels'. Lines of latitude run east-west (across), but north-south (up and down) positions are referenced by them. The entire USA and Canada has a higher degree of latitude than Makkah, so Makkah is to their south.

A second set of lines passing through the poles is known as 'meridians of longitude', or simply 'meridians'. One meridian is designated as the Prime Meridian. The position east or west of a prime meridian is its 'longitude'. Lines of longitude (meridians) run north-south (up and down) but east-west (across) positions are referenced by them. There is no difference in opinion that Makkah is to our east, but it is not true that east is sufficient; the north star proves otherwise. Here are other projections with respective latitude and longitude lines:



A flat map is correct if the grid is correct.

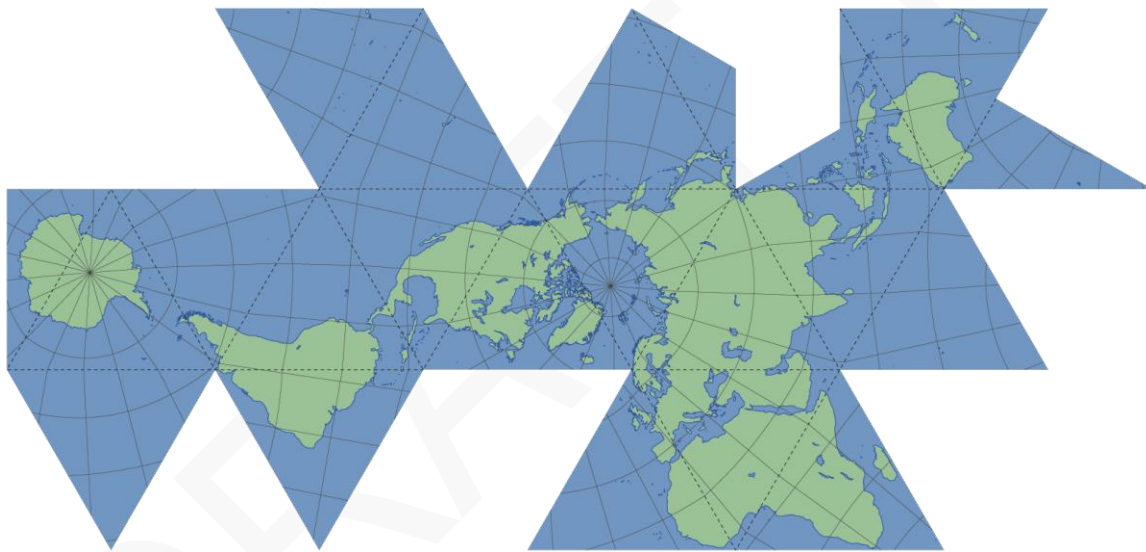


There are various projections, but if the parallels and meridians are correct, the map is correct

It is for this reason our determination of Makkah being southeast of the USA does not contradict any map; we are actually reading the map and following its

rules, without the map being our proof; the map complies with the reading of the north star! As long as the 'land masses' fall on the grid (latitude and longitude lines) properly, the distortion of the map is irrelevant concerning the direction, not size! The string over the globe is itself distortion on the map! When did Muslims become ignorant of how to read maps?

Therefore, the Equator is  $0^\circ$  on any flat map or globe, even if that map's projection shows the Equator bending, broken, closer to the top of the page, or closer to the bottom:

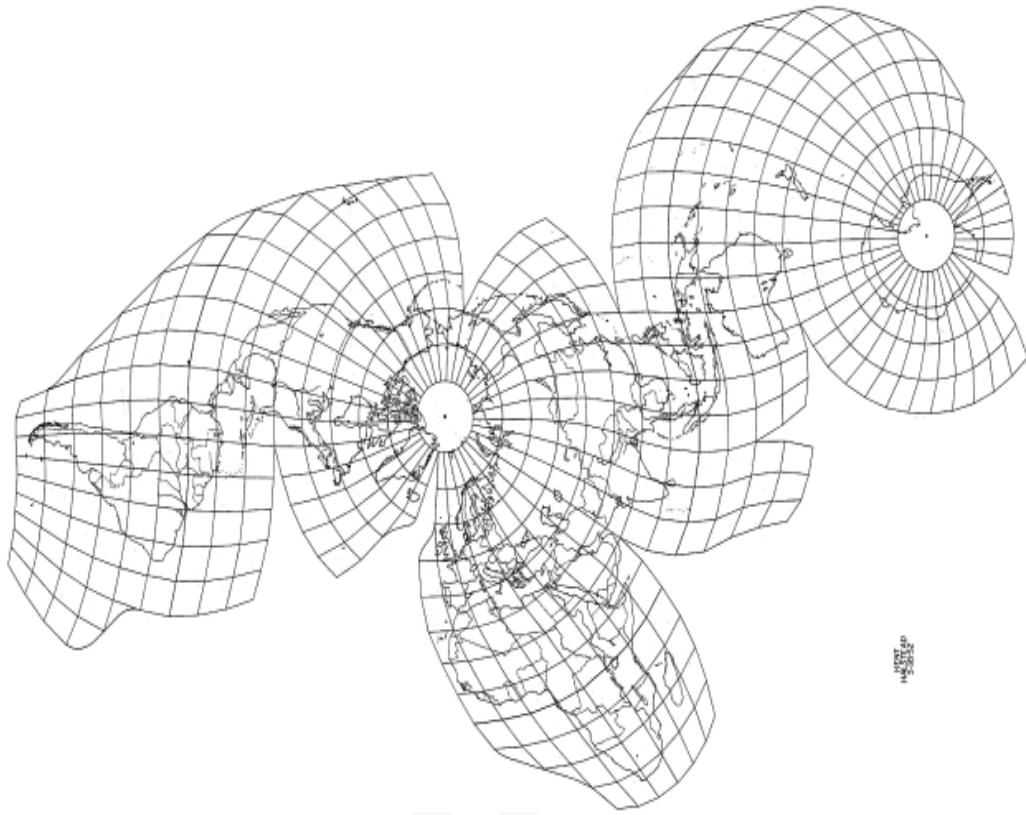


Also, north and south poles are both  $90^\circ$  on any flat map or globe, no matter the projection or distortion:

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<sup>1</sup> We do not need the map.





Their rejection of a flat map is not truly because the globe is a better representation; it is because the flat map, by virtue of being flat, exposes the change in direction that they somehow hid from so many people by slightly shifting a globe like an amateur magic trick!

And so, we ask the northeast supporter, “Is latitude and longitude relevant or not?” If he says yes, then he must face southeast as per reading the map as it should be read. If he says no, then how and why is he calling his line ‘northeast’? Knowing north on the map is by latitude lines, and knowing east on the map is by longitude lines. That is as far as reading a map is concerned. In reality, knowing north would be by the North Star and knowing east would be by the sunrise. However, a mere ball or sphere is not regarded as having



north or south. Once we assign north or south on the ball or sphere, it becomes a sort of map, and then must be read as maps are read.

The person who supports northeast cannot hold both sides:

1. **If he wants a round object**, like an orange or tennis ball, simply for its shape, then cardinal directions do not apply to it. It is not a map, and no string over it can validly be called ‘northeast’. Although, he can successfully find the shortest distance between two points on the surface of that object by placing a string over it between them.
2. **If he wants a globe**, he cannot ignore the fact that it is a map, not a mere ball, and thus cannot validly name a line ‘northeast’ in the way that he does; that is not how you read a map. Nor can he refuse any other map because of its distortion, because all maps have one thing in common: latitude and longitude lines. His string itself is a greater distortion than anything else on the map.

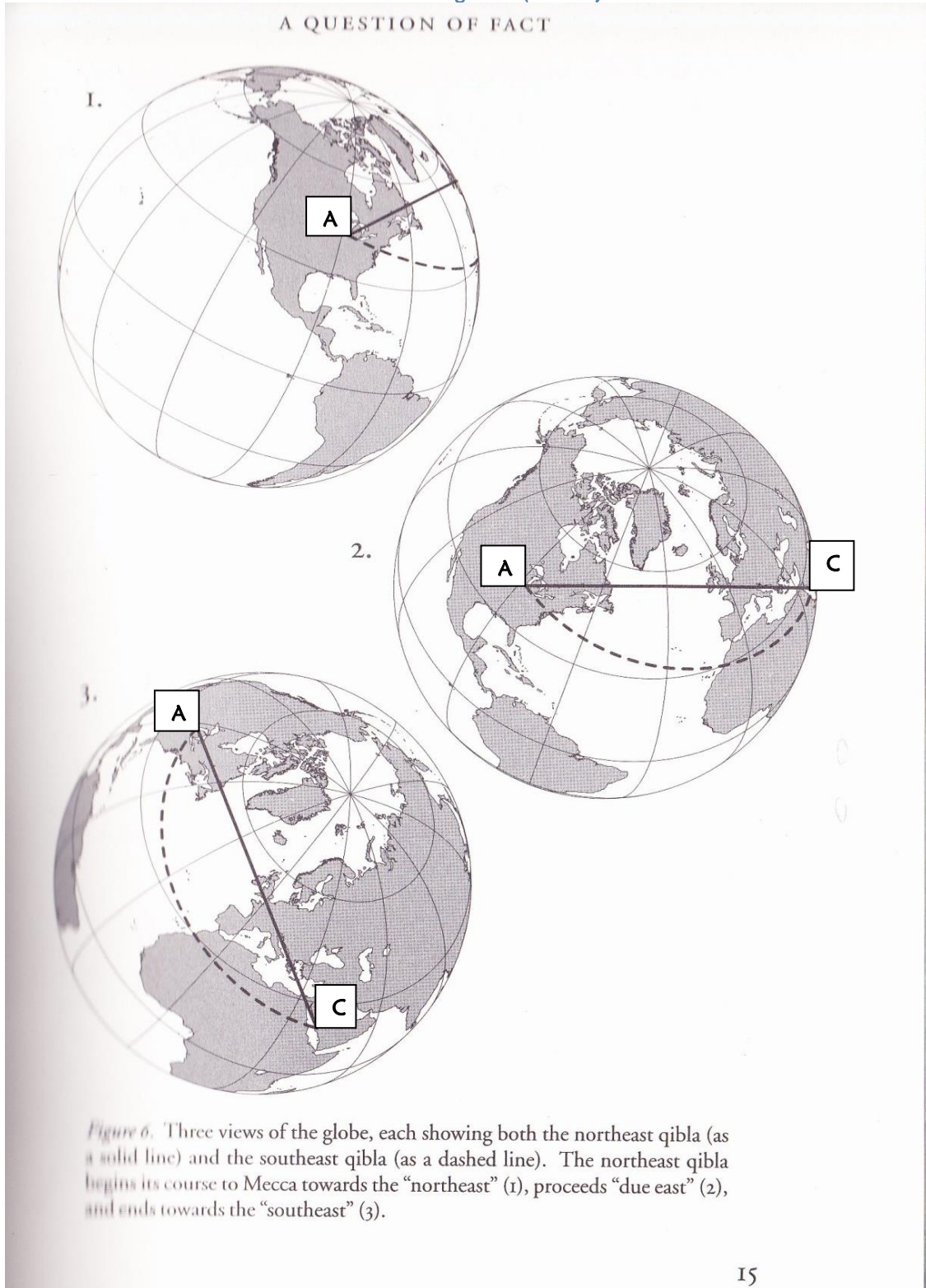
So, if the grid on the map is irrelevant, then based on what is he determining north and east on the globe when he pulls his string? If he names his line “northeast” because of a North Pole at  $90^\circ$  and an Equator at  $0^\circ$ , then he has to be consistent all the way through, and accept the latitude and longitude coordinates in between  $0^\circ$  and  $90^\circ$ , and face southeast. If he wants to ignore all latitude and longitude, then he has confessed that he is not seeking a direction on the map, and has validated that of which we have accused him: not facing the direction.

وبالله التوفيق

## AN UNCHANGING DIRECTION AND A STRAIGHT LINE?

If it is clear that all cardinal directions are different, it is then clear that if a line designated:  $\overline{AC}$  were a perfectly straight, unchanging northeast direction, then line  $\overline{CA}$  would be a perfectly straight, unchanging southwest direction, since it is the polar opposite direction! That is indisputable, unless you argue for NE qiblah, like Nuh Keller. Let us call this: ***the case of the unchanging direction***. Find lines  $\overline{AC}$  and  $\overline{CA}$  in Nuh Keller's pictures below:

A QUESTION OF FACT



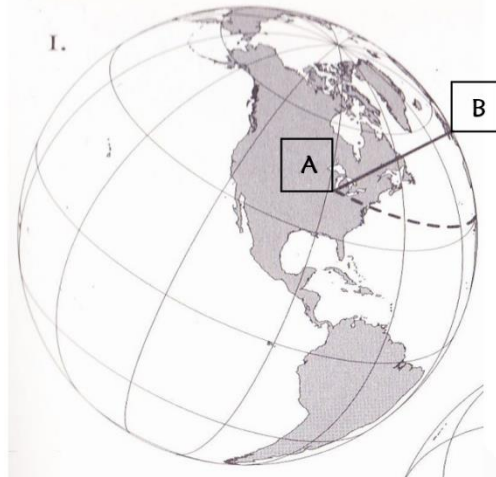
How many illusions can you detect?

1. One illusion is that the circles seem three dimensional while they are only pictures drawn on a flat surface; these are flat and not spherical globes.
2. Another, and the most horrendous, is that line  $\overline{AC}$  is **north**(east), and line  $\overline{CA}$  is **north**(west) instead of **south**(west) despite being the exact opposite. We will return to target this insult to the intelligence, God willing!
3. Yet a third illusion is that a line that is not curved occurs over what represents a curved surface. This is why drawing an unbendable solid black line for northeast, and a curved<sup>1</sup>, dotted line for southeast is rather underhanded!

Another rather underhanded thing was how he depicted only the western hemisphere in a diagram with a NE line that we will designate as  $\overline{AB}$ :

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<sup>1</sup> At this point, many who defend southeast will slip and lose their footing in the debate, so be attentive: **If they say:** “But your line (over the surface) is curved too; you have no straight direction, like us, and no one else has one either!” **The answer**, as repeated again and again, is that we do not figure out the Qiblah by drawing lines on a ball, and we do not use the shape of the earth to determine directions! We face the Qiblah by the religious Qiblah proofs!

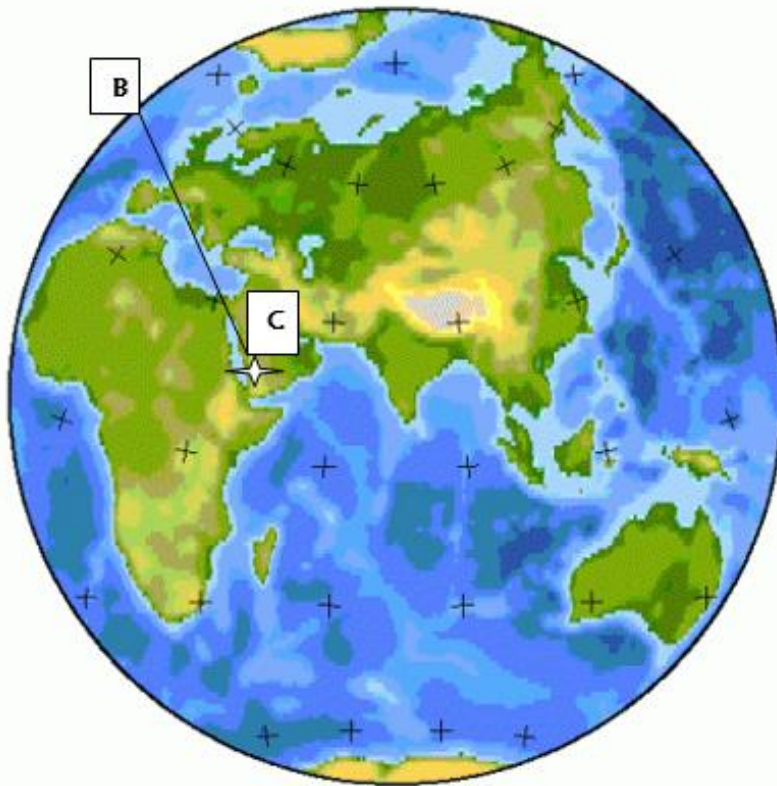


This is half of line  $\overline{AC}$ . From this, they name their entire line 'northeast'; the dishonesty being that they apply this name to the other half of the line, on the eastern hemisphere side - the part of the line that changes direction; the change they deny. However, if this line is truly an *unchanging direction*, then showing the eastern hemisphere side alone would be just as valid as showing the western hemisphere side alone. Why do you think they never show that side alone? Out of honesty and objectivity, or because it reveals only a southeastern line, labelled here as  $\overline{BC}$ :

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<sup>1</sup> This is like how the Wahhabiyyah, the so called Salafis, only refer to Imam Muslim's narration of the slave girl hadith, because it has the wording of their choice, but they avoid the narration of Malik and hide it because it exposes the truth.





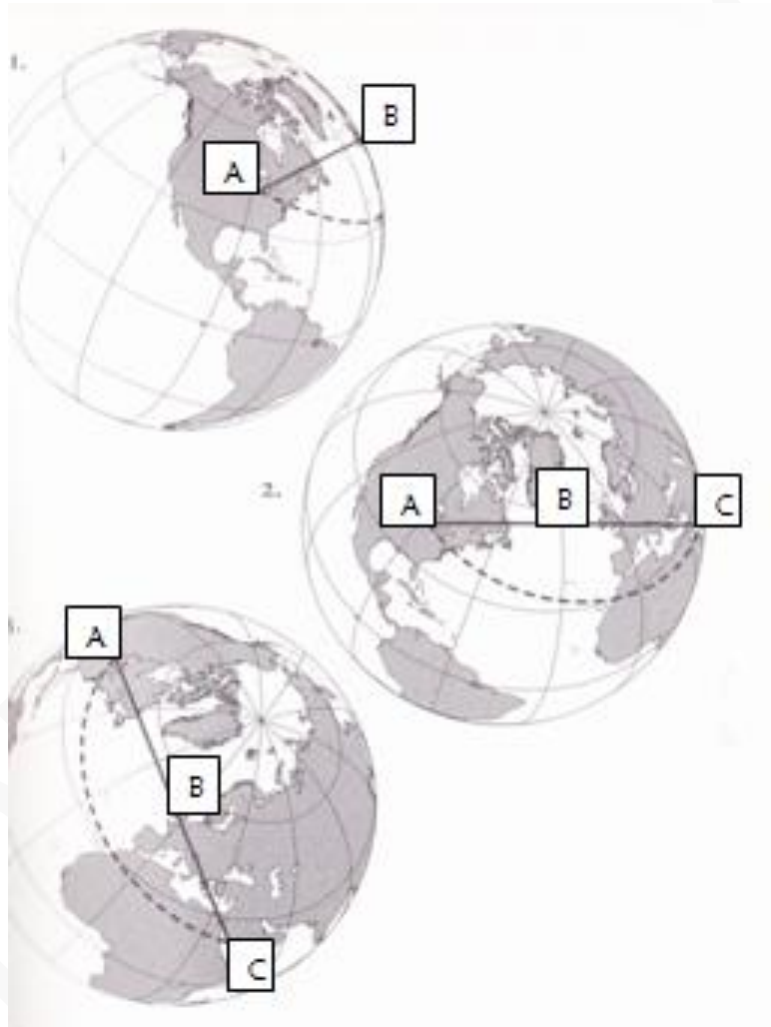
As seen, if only the eastern hemisphere side were shown, the line would be clearly southeast only. Why is that? Is it because Makkah is southeast of USA but they want to face northeast anyway? If their entire line is truly an *unchanging direction*, then we should be able to take only this portion of the line, and it would not make a difference because there is no change in direction, right? For some reason, we cannot find a single northeaster who will ever accept! Is this refused only because they will be unable to call it “northeast”, although the line did not change according to them? Is it the name that matters? Is there some agenda or conspiracy behind calling this entire line from beginning to end “northeast”? Should we not be able to take

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<sup>1</sup> Why would it be necessary to consider the point that starts at New York, which is  $\bar{A}$ , if the line is one unchanging direction?



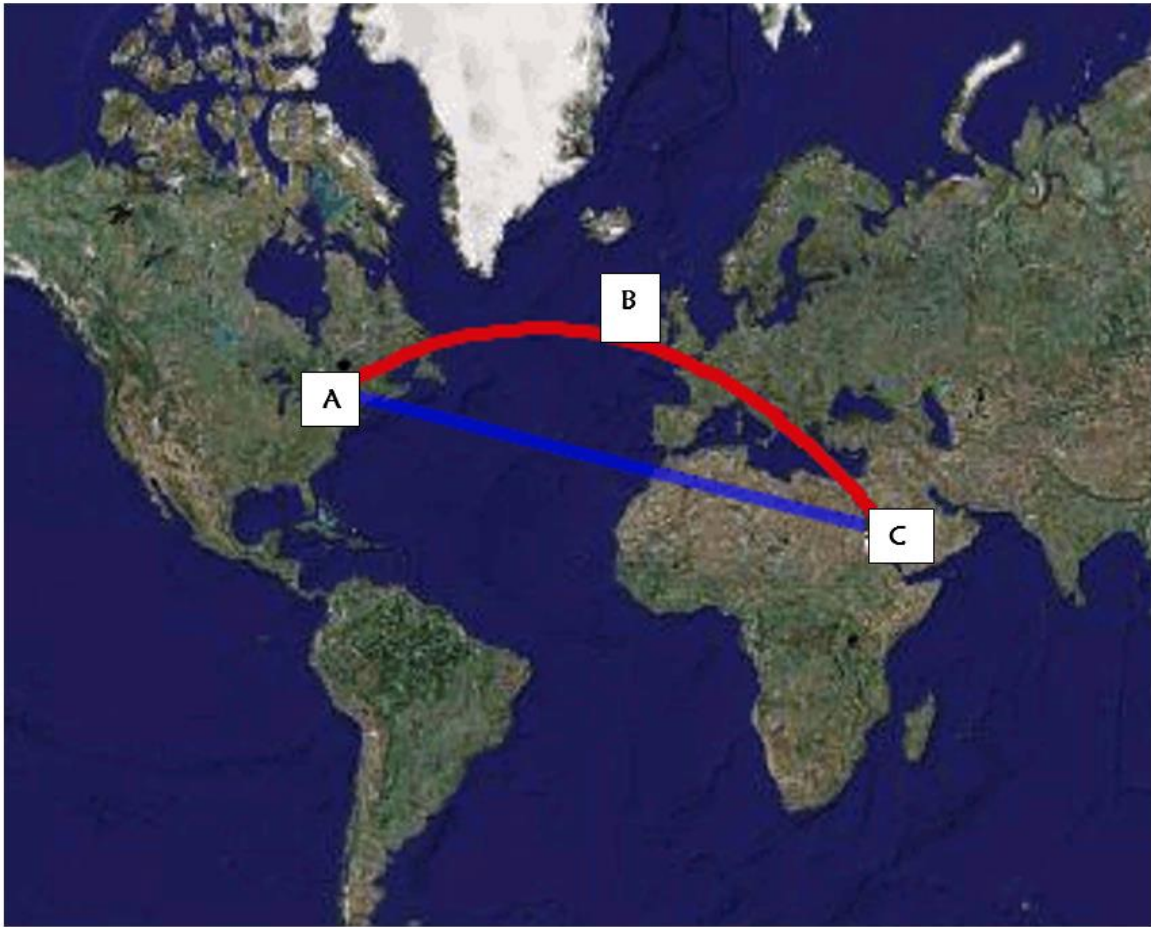
**ANY** point of the *unchanging direction*? It should be valid to start at  $\overline{B}$  in the middle of the *unchanging direction*, and then change the name of this *unchanging direction* to 'southeast', and it will still be the same line they drew:



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<sup>1</sup> In their claim, since it is an unchanging direction,  $\overline{ABC}$  would be the same as  $\overline{BC}$ , because no change took place anywhere on the line. If it is truly one unchanging direction, then it would not matter at what point you start.

If you think of a reason why you must start at  $\overline{A}$ , then there must be a change before reaching  $\overline{C}$  that you are trying to avoid, as if you know that according to the way maps are read, your 'line' is an **ARC**, actually, and you are 'hiding it in plain sight' from those who do not know better:

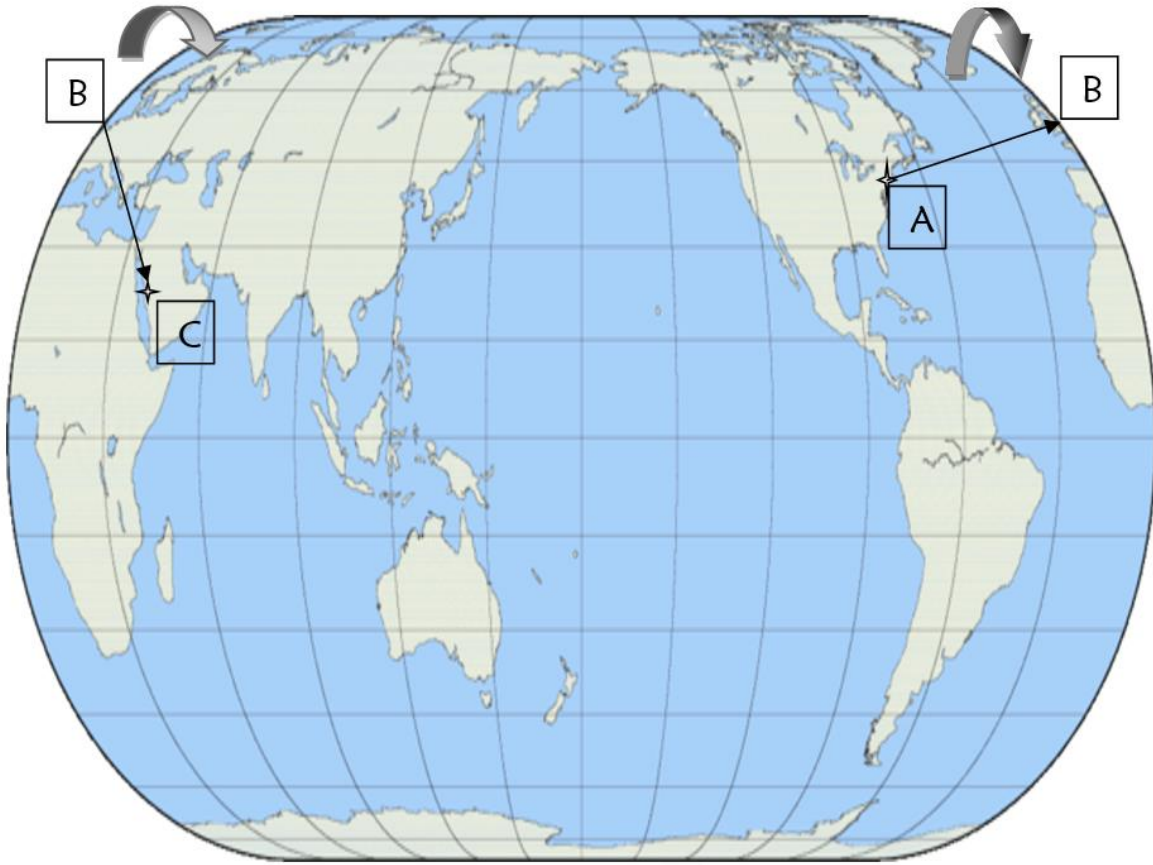


The flap map is actually better for demonstrating the true direction than a globe, because you cannot shift the flat map to make the curve go away<sup>1</sup>! So,

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<sup>1</sup> Unless they want to attempt an explanation for why North America has to face the same direction as South America according to them, they want absolutely nothing to do with a flat map, because it has no visual that they can use to delude someone. They therefore are in the direst need to resort to a globe so that they can put a string over it. It is to their detriment that their method does not work with every map. However, it should be known that claiming that the Qiblah is

again, why cannot you look at the *unchanging direction* from the halfway mark; take  $\overline{BC}$  only, and forget about the point that starts at New York<sup>1</sup>:



Note that “B” represents the same point on both sides of the page.

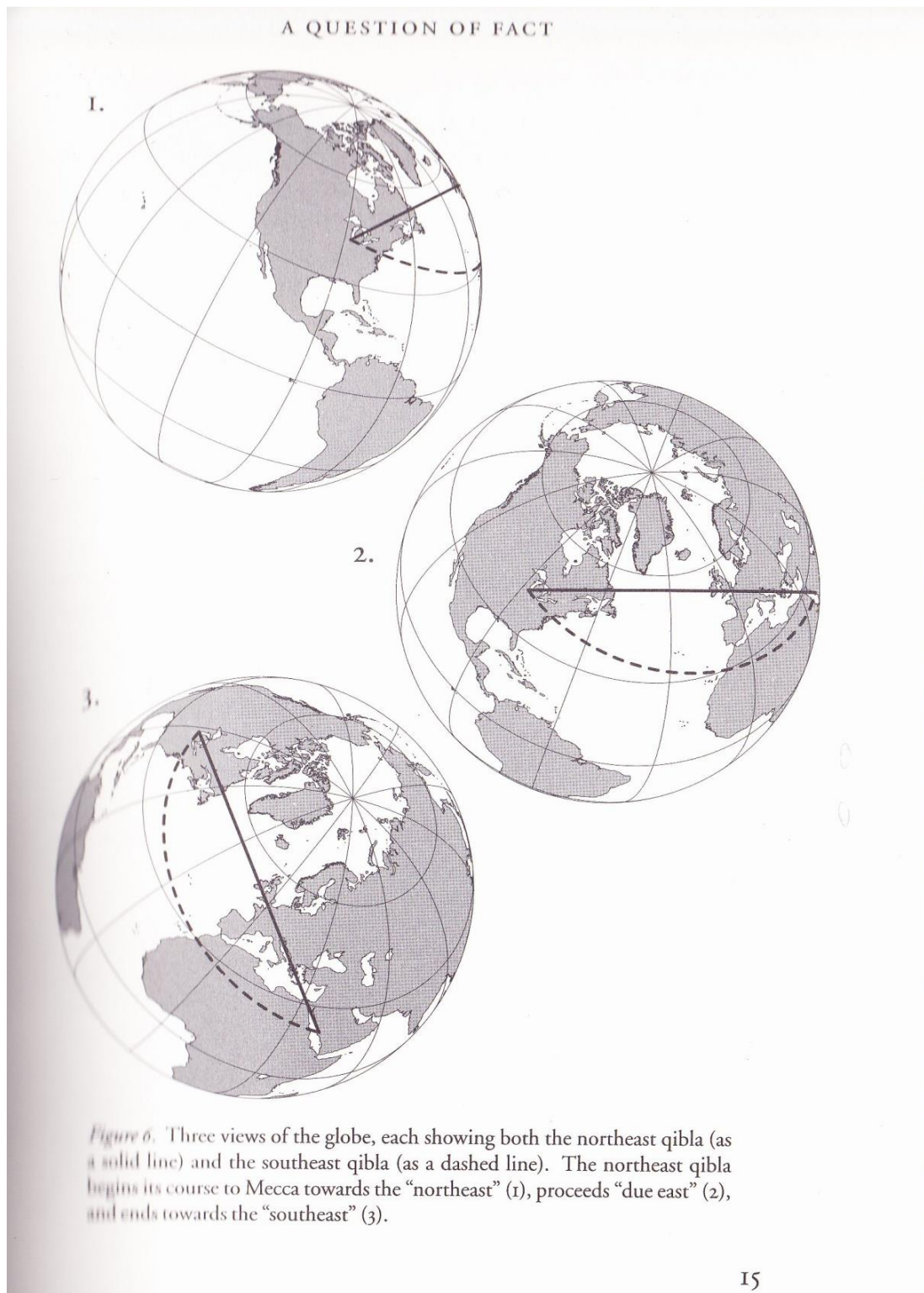
They are merely hiding that change by positioning the “globe” as they wish, by showing the western hemisphere to convince you of the northeastern direction, and by showing the “northern” view to claim that the line is unrelentingly straight:

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southeast does not contradict **ANY** map projection, flat or globe; no map has Makkah north of the USA.

<sup>1</sup> Looking at both sides reveals the obvious curve that alters the direction. Line  $\overline{BC}$  on the left side is southeast, while line  $\overline{AB}$  on the right side is northeast.





The key to the riddle is that there are three points all having something in common: *northeast*, *east*, and *southeast*. The common denominator is *east*; that alone is the one constant, unchanging direction, not northeast. Looking from a bird's-eye view eliminates the visual of the north-south change; the arc, and preserves only the straight line of east to the eye. If one were to simply adjust the globe, the **ARC** reappears<sup>1</sup>; the turn from north to south while going east. It is this change that they unrightfully and stubbornly deny.

In other terms, they call the entire line *northeast* because of how it starts, and do not acknowledge the ending direction of southeast **AS A DIRECTION**, and instead call it a bearing. That is how they manufactured an *unchanging direction*. However, they get stuck with a northeast line whose opposite is northwest, and could not care less about the contradiction<sup>2</sup>! Then they call you ignorant for pointing it out!

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<sup>1</sup> Imagine looking at a bridge from the side; it arcs. Look at the same bridge from the air; it is a straight line.

<sup>2</sup> If the direction from Makkah to New York is northwest (which both sides agree upon), then by necessity, northeast would not be the direction from New York to Makkah. On the other hand, it is not impossible for the route of travel to start northeast, and then for the return trip to start northwest. Thus is the difference between the route of travel (because of the terrain or shape of the surface) - and this is NOT what Allāh ordered to face in our prayers - and the actual direction, which IS what we are ordered to face. The Qur'an orders us to face the direction. According to Imam Ash-Shafi'iy, one must strive to face the exact entity of the Ka'bah.

## CONCLUSION

One must be firm and face the correct prayer direction, no matter what others think, including family! Some people have abandoned the path of bidding the good and forbidding the evil so that they can mix with others or not be alienated. Some have lost hope and felt that warning against this issue is fruitless. They turn a blind eye, and some even have found an excuse for themselves to pray with people who are facing the wrong way. However, there is fruit in speaking up about this issue. Benefitting one Muslim who fixes his prayer is much more of a concern for us than how annoyed the people who face the wrong way feel. It is only out of loving for our brothers and sisters what we love for ourselves that we advise, and even beg them to rethink their position about facing the northeast. Its method has poison for the heart. Its symptoms are blindness, arrogance, ignorance, major sin and foolishness.

How can a person accept that a line that changes directions gives an unchanging direction? How can a person with education refer to an arc as a straight line? Can one refuse the fact that Makkah is physically in the tropics while we are physically closer to the arctic? How can one deny that the globe is a map? How can one refuse to read the map as a map while referring to it? How can one feel safe from the punishment of Allah for facing north while knowing the north star is higher where he is? How can one feel safe from the horrors of Judgment Day concerning his prayer? How can one bring up issues of bearing, distance, geometry, trigonometry, geography, history, Fiqh, trajectory, compasses, and linguistics to convince a person that he cannot validly face something in the south by facing southward? Do not defy your



own intelligence! We ask Allah for forgiveness, steadfastness and guidance,  
and that He would support the truth and eliminate the falsehood,

AND ALLAH KNOWS BEST.

**Draft 10: 06-03-2013.**

**Draft 11: 03-15-2023.**

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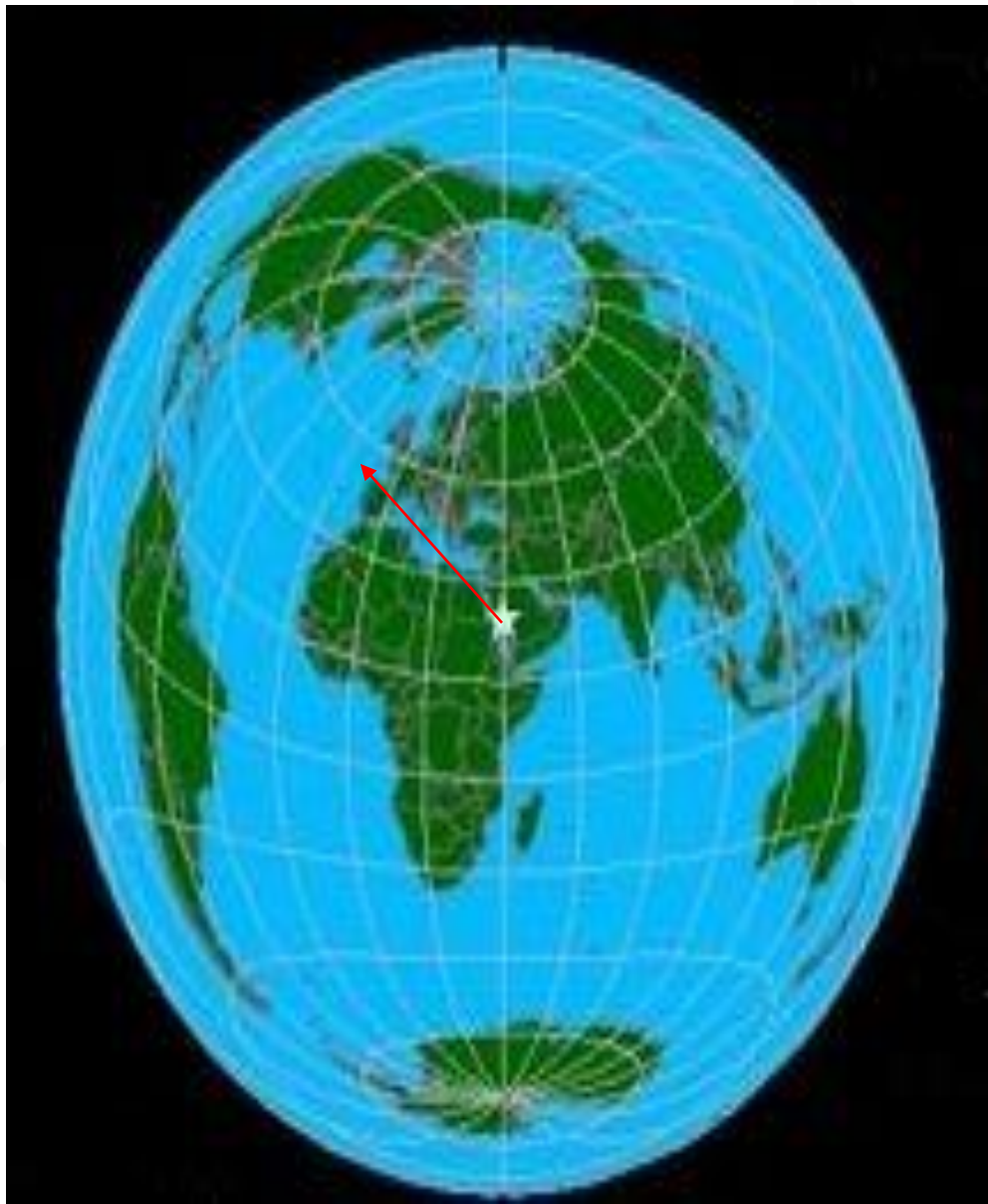
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DRAFT 11