

It is Necessary to specify a Place to Become a Muqem?

Q: Salaah-119: A friend who is a Molvi Sahib arrived in Makkah from Madinah on the 3rd of Dhul Hijjah. He was due to leave on a steamer on the 20th of Dhul Hijjah and because he stayed for sixteen to seventeen days, he performed his salaahs in full. He even led the salaahs in Mina, Arafaat and Muzdalifah. It now appears from a discussion with another Molvi Sahib that my friend was not a Muqem. When we asked the reason, he gave none and merely said that he had seen it in an Urdu book. Why should one not perform the salaahs in full when staying for fifteen or more days?

Answer: Your friend was not a Muqem but, remained a Musaafir because it is necessary to specify a particular place to stay for fifteen days. In this case, he had to stay a few days at Mina, Arafaat and Muzdalifa and all these places are so far from Makkah that the Adhaan and Iqaamah of each place is not within earshot of the other. They are therefore regarded as separate places. If he stayed five or six days out of Makkah, he would have stayed only about eleven days in Makkah and would therefore not be a Muqem. Although the four Rakaahs salaahs he performed will be valid, it will be Waajib (compulsory) to repeat them. If a person did so knowingly, he will be sinful and if done in error, Sajdah Sahw will suffice. However the salaah of a Muqem who may have performed salaah behind him will not be valid because the 3rd and 4th Rakaahs of the Imaam will be regarded as Nafl salaah. A Fardh salaah cannot be performed behind someone performing Nafl. And Allaah knows best what is most correct.

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