

Q: Some people look here and there while in salah. Is this permissible?

A: For a person who stands to perform his salah, the masnun method is to set his eyes on the spot where he is to perform his sajdah; and if his eyes are not on that spot and he is looking towards what is in front of him, this act of his is contrary to sunnah, but the salah will still be valid. Now, if a person is looking towards his right or left and he has done it in a manner that his neck has not turned towards either side, his salah will be valid, although doing so unnecessarily is makrooh (reprehensible). And if he intentionally looks towards his right and left having turned his neck then, this is outright impermissible; and if anyone does this in a way that the average onlooker finds it totally foreign to salah, then, the salah itself will become invalid.

Contemporary fatawaa