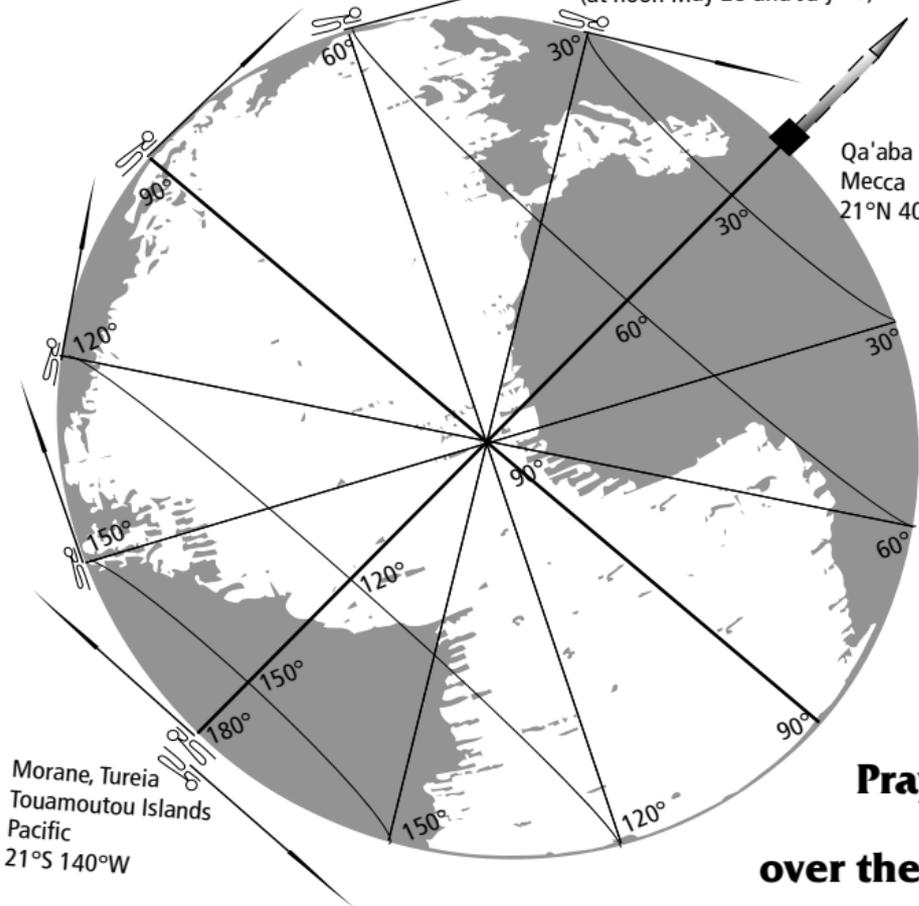


imaginary minaret with the sun at its top
(at noon May 28 and July 16)

Qa'aba
Mecca
21°N 40°E



Morane, Tureia
Touamoutou Islands
Pacific
21°S 140°W

**Praying
over the top**

Advice on praying direction

Ever since Muslims pray into the direction of the holy Qa'aba in Mecca there have been wise men who could tell the people where to find this direction on the place where they were staying.

In the early times of Islam this could be more easily done than now, because the Muslims tended to live in a closer circle around Mecca. The sun stands exactly overhead Mecca twice a year and is, as it were, the highest point of a huge imaginary minaret on top of the Qa'aba. On these two moments the exact position of Mecca can be located. The people had a good reason to assume that they were praying into the right direction, certainly when they thought earth is flat.

Also nowadays some wise Muslims give advise on the Qibla direction. With Muslims spread all over the globe this is more and more a necessity. The wise Muslims have some tricks or tables on how to determine the right direction. The results are shown, among others, on internet sites as www.moonlighting.com and www.islamicfinder.org.

These people should not be blamed, for their intentions are good.

Some of those wise men have, in my humble eyes, strange beliefs, e.g. that the earth is still flat or that prayers behave as radiowaves.

In this advice I would like to give a solution for the problem of the finding of the Qibla out of sight of the Qa'aba.

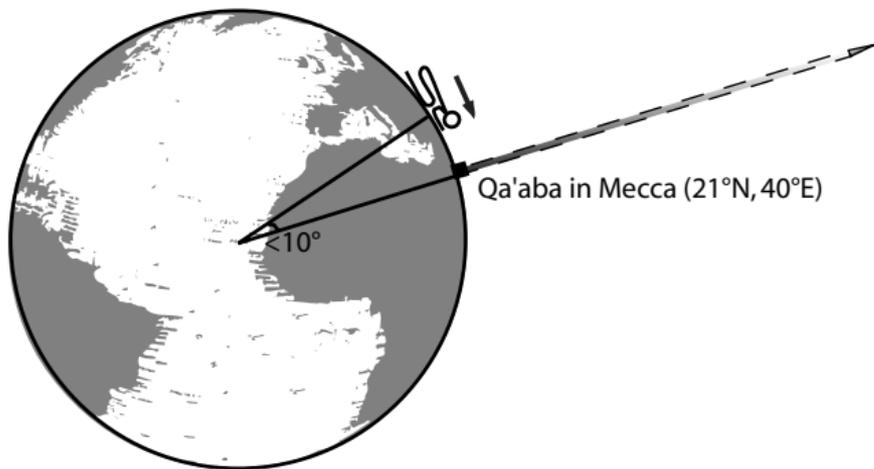
The best thing to do is to consider the real position of Mecca, even if this means you'll have to pray exactly through the midpoint of the earth. You won't think the mass of stones and lava inside the earth will obstruct your prayer from reaching the Qa'aba, do you?

In order to adapt your praying position, we advise all Muslims who live out of the sight of the Qa'aba to make use of the specially designed adaptive praying furniture, which helps you lead your prayers exactly into the right position.

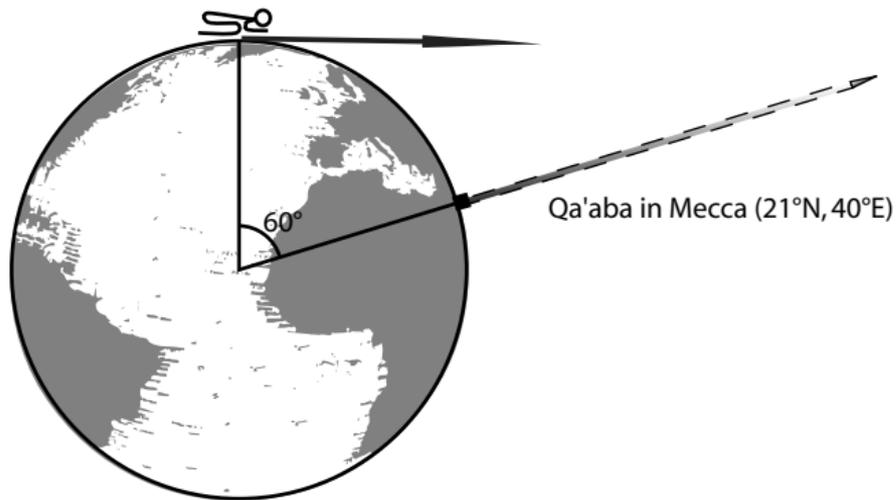
Mu'ammam el Munadi

Of course there's no problem when you're close to the Qa'aba. Especially when you're in Mecca during your hadj, you can be sure to have the correct orientation. This is one of the very good things of the hadj: during this period there is no need for uncertainty concerning the Qibla!

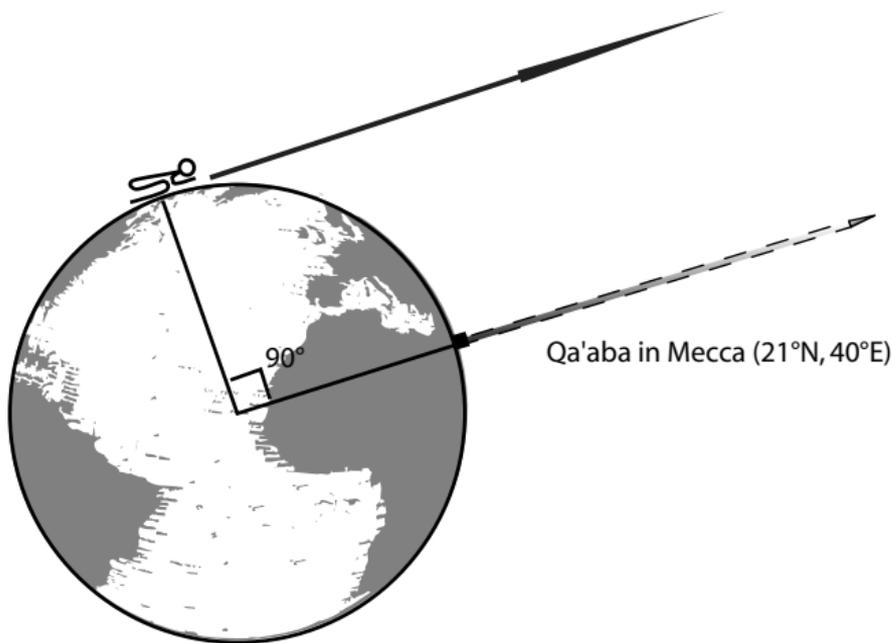
The further you go away from Mecca, the more the problems arise: Muslim density is lower, so take care you



ask advice from a trusted source for Qibla direction.
And more, the problem of the earth being a globe arises: your actual praying direction (when you live in W.Europe, Africa, etc) in these circles (30° and 60°) is far over the Qa'aba's top. This is quite acceptable e.g. when traveling, because at least you pray into the direction of the imaginary minaret on top of the Qa'aba.
At home and in mosques adjustable furniture could be

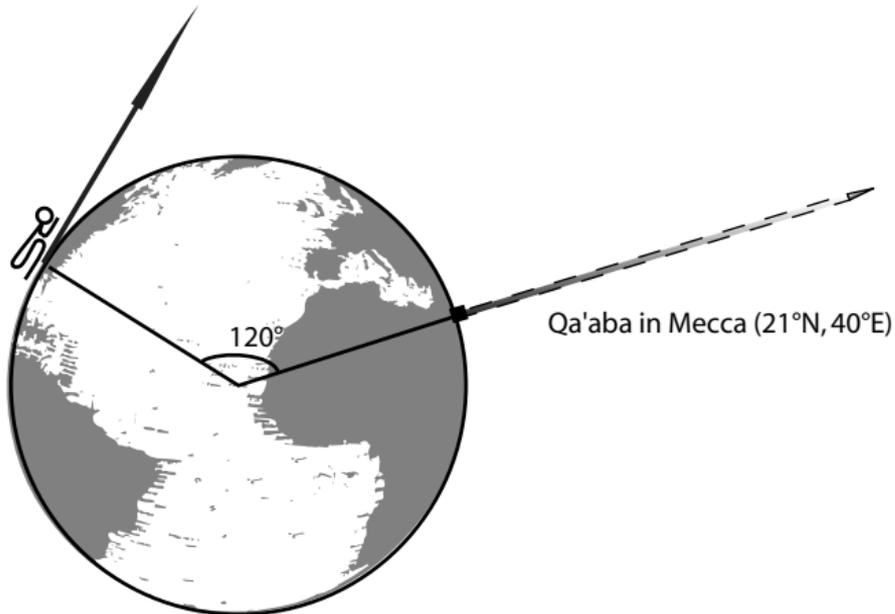


used and is cordially advised. The problem grows with the distance until Muslims on the 90° circle pray parallel to the imaginary minaret. This is the case in e.g. New York, Brasilia City and Jakarta. Their prayers never reach the Qa'aba, not even the imaginary immensely high minaret on top of it. They might get lost in outer space. Muslims over the



90° circle pray away from the Qa'aba. This is the case when you live in America, Japan, Australia, etc. Here you can see the problems rising. In the USA there are two movements:

1. The people who think they have to pray into the direction where an airplane would go: the shortest route along the globe. They are North-East-prayers (see <http://moonsighting.com/qibla.html>)



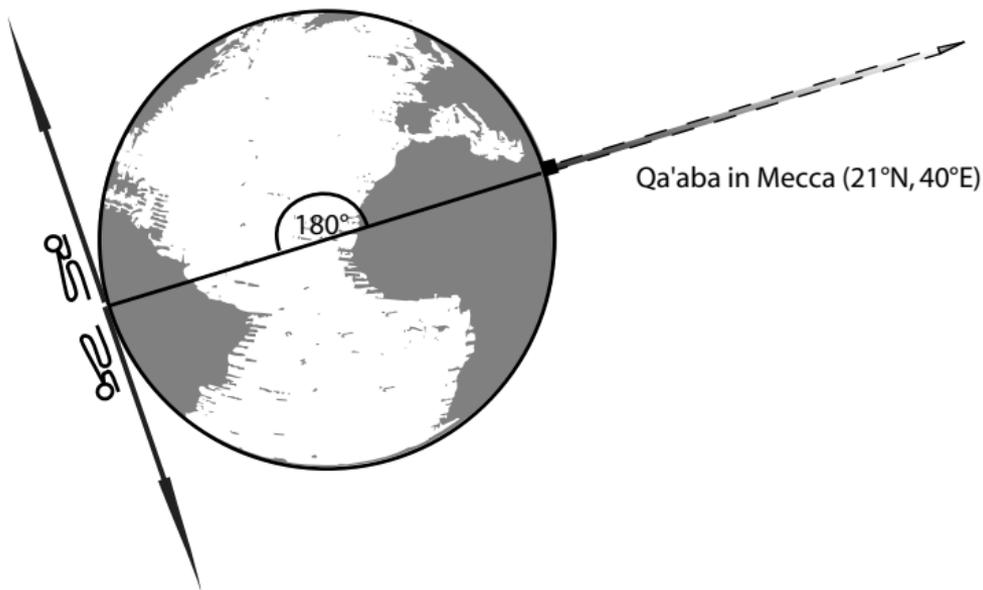
2. On the other side there are people who spread out their maps (mercator or azimuth projections of the earth with Mecca as the center). They say direction is not necessarily the shortest route, but more how you see it on the map. They pray south-east (<http://www.mediamonitors.net/afzalkhan1.html>).

Next to these quasi scientific methods in Surinam you see how culture and habits play a role. Muslims from Java who did not adapt to their new country still pray westward, those who did pray eastward.

Objectively and brightly looking it's apparent that neither the fold-out-map-method nor the shortest-way-around-the-globe-method are valid.

My proposition, my opinion of the best Qibla-direction is to pray towards the Qa'aba just neglecting all "obstacles" like traditions, stones and maths, but just head to the exact position of the Qa'aba in 3D-space. Not doing this would eventually lead to the worst

case scenario: your actual praying direction
(when you live in the Pacific Touamoutou Islands, e.g.
Morane, Tureia 21°S 140°W) is at right angles with the
Qibla direction.



In order to direct your prayers straight towards the Qa'aba it's necessary that you do not pray down on the floor, but you should use the specially designed praying furniture, which allows you to position yourself into a specific angle with the ground. Depending on your distance to Mecca this angle will increase, with a maximum of 90 degrees when you're on the Pacific islands just opposite to the Qa'aba.

With the use of either our website or a special calculator it will be possible to compute the correct adjustments for your position.

We plan to offer fixed-angle praying benches for local use in your house or in your office, where you know your Qibla position and can make the correct adjustments.

Soon we will make available manually adaptive-angle praying devices. Ideal for when you travel a lot. The edge can be fixed to one degree precisely, so that you can easily adjust the praying bench to your location.

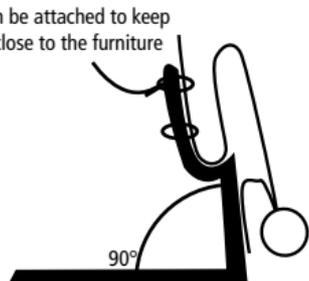
Future enhancements can be expected: a motorised automatical-adaptive praying device with built-in GPS (global positioning system). No doubts anymore in Qibla direction and angle! Easier climbing especially in the more strenuous positions, because it will take the correct angle after you took place. It even solves the problems of fast-moving praying Muslims (see http://www.space-travel.com/reports/Malaysia_Conference_Considers_How_To_Practice_Islam_In_Space.html), because it will adjust its position on the fly.



For use in a closer circle around Mecca (e.g. in Europe)



For use in the 120° circle (e.g. USA, Indonesia)



For use only in the most extreme case (Pacific Ocean Islands)

Dutch publicist Mededeler asked El Munadi to share his thoughts with him and with you.

Comments and suggestions are welcome on

<http://www.mededeler.nl/meddeling/> and will be passed forward, As soon as production dates and prices of the furniture are known, a link to El Munadi's website will be placed here.

Please visit the site www.mededeler.nl, subscribe to the publications and leave whichever thoughts you have on your mind. Mededeler can also be reached by e-mail through this site.