



## When you go to a place to relieve yourselves, do not turn your face or back toward the Qiblah while defecating or urinating, but face east or west.

Abu Ayyūb al-Ansāri (may Allah be pleased with him) reported that the Prophet (may Allah's peace and blessings be upon him) said: "When you go to a place to relieve yourselves, do not turn your face or back toward the Qiblah while defecating or urinating, but face east or west." Abu Ayyūb said: "When we arrived in Syria, we found privies built facing the Ka'bah. So, we would turn away from it and ask Allah, the Exalted, for forgiveness."

[Sahih/Authentic.] [Al-Bukhari and Muslim]

In this Hadīth, the Prophet (may Allah's peace and blessings be upon him) guides to part of the etiquette of answering the call of nature: One should not face or give his back to the direction of prayer, which is the Holy Ka'bah in Makkah, while relieving himself. The direction of prayer must be treated with utmost veneration. When answering the call of nature, one has to turn away from the direction of prayer and face the east or the west if the direction of prayer is not to the east or west, as is the case for the people of Madīnah. Since the Companions of the Prophet were the quickest of people to respond to his commands, Abu Ayyūb (may Allah be pleased with him) recounts that when they went to the Levant following the conquest, they found there toilets which were built facing the direction of the Ka'bah. Therefore, they would turn away from this direction and seek Allah's forgiveness out of piety and precaution.

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