

The adab of travel

Travel changes what is owed: the prayer shortens, the fast may be deferred, and the du'a' is answered. It also comes with manners for the road itself.



The prayer shortens

وَإِذَا ضَرَبْتُمْ فِي الْأَرْضِ فَلَيْسَ عَلَيْكُمْ جُنَاحٌ أَنْ تَقْصُرُوا مِنَ الصَّلَاةِ

"When you travel in the land there is no blame on you to shorten the prayer." The sunnah shows the four-rak'ah prayers prayed as two.

Qur'an 4:101

Take provision

وَتَزَوَّدُوا فَإِنَّ خَيْرَ الزَّادِ التَّقْوَى

"And take provision — but the best provision is taqwa." Said of the pilgrim, and read by the scholars of every journey.

Qur'an 2:197

What to say on mounting

وَتَقُولُوا سُبْحَانَ الَّذِي سَخَّرَ لَنَا هَذَا وَمَا كُنَّا لَهُ مُقْرِنِينَ

"And say: glory to Him who subjected this to us, for we could never have done it." The verse itself supplies the words.

Qur'an 43:13

The du'a' of the journey

اللَّهُمَّ إِنِّي أَسْأَلُكَ فِي سَفَرِي هَذَا مِنَ الْبِرِّ وَالتَّقْوَى وَمِنَ الْعَمَلِ مَا تَرْضَى

"O Allah, I ask You on this journey of mine for righteousness, taqwa, and deeds You are pleased with." Then: ease the way, and fold up its distance.

Sunan at-Tirmidhi 3447 • sahih • at-Tirmidhi: hasan gharib

Provisioned with taqwa

زَوَّدَكَ اللَّهُ التَّقْوَى

A man asked for provision before a journey. "May Allah provision you with taqwa" — then: and forgive your sin, and make good easy for you wherever you are.

Sunan at-Tirmidhi 3444 • sahih • at-Tirmidhi: hasan gharib

Appoint one of you

إِذَا خَرَجَ ثَلَاثَةٌ فِي سَفَرٍ فليؤمروا أحدهم

"When three set out on a journey, let them appoint one of them leader." A party of three is already a group that needs deciding.

Sunan Abi Dawud 2608 • sahih

His du'a' is answered

ثَلَاثُ دَعَوَاتٍ مُسْتَجَابَاتٌ لَا شَكَّ فِيهِنَّ دَعْوَةُ الْوَالِدِ وَدَعْوَةُ الْمُسَافِرِ وَدَعْوَةُ الْمَظْلُومِ

"Three supplications are answered, without doubt: that of a parent, that of a traveller, and that of the wronged."

Sunan Abi Dawud 1536 • hasan

Then come home

السَّفَرُ قِطْعَةٌ مِنَ الْعَذَابِ، يَمْنَعُ أَحَدَكُمْ طَعَامَهُ وَشَرَابَهُ وَنَوْمَهُ، فَإِذَا قَضَى نَهْمَتَهُ فليعجل إلى أهله

"Travel is a piece of punishment: it keeps one of you from his food, his drink and his sleep. So when his need is met, let him hurry back to his family."

Sahih al-Bukhari 1804

On the way back

صَدَقَ اللَّهُ وَعْدَهُ وَنَصَرَ عَبْدَهُ وَهَزَمَ الْأَحْزَابَ وَحْدَهُ

Takbir on every rise of the ground — and on the climbs out, takbir; on the descents, tasbih. Then: "Allah fulfilled His promise and aided His servant."

Sahih al-Bukhari 1797 • 2993