

104926 - What is meant by 'umrah in Ramadaan being equivalent to Hajj

the question

'Umrah in the month of Ramadaan is equivalent to Hajj. What is meant by that? I would like a detailed explanation.

Detailed answer

Praise be to Allah.

Firstly:

Al-Bukhaari (1782) and Muslim (1256) narrated that Ibn 'Abbaas said: The Messenger of Allaah (peace and blessings of Allaah be upon him) said to a woman from among the Ansaar - Ibn 'Abbaas mentioned her name but I forgot it - "What kept you from performing Hajj with us?" She said: We only have two camels and the father of her son and her son had gone for Hajj on one camel, and he left us the other camel so that we could carry water on it. He said: "When Ramadaan comes, go for 'Umrah, for 'Umrah in (that month) is equivalent to Hajj."

Secondly:

The scholars differed concerning the one who attains the virtue mentioned in the hadeeth. There are three opinions:

1 - That this hadeeth applies only to the woman who was addressed by the Prophet (peace and blessings of Allaah be upon him). Among those who favoured this view was Sa'eed ibn Jubayr among the Taabi'een, as was narrated from him by Ibn Hajar in Fath al-Baari (3/605). Among the evidence quoted in support of this view is the hadeeth of Umm Ma'qil who said: Hajj is Hajj and 'Umrah is 'Umrah. The Messenger of Allaah (peace and blessings of Allaah be upon him) said this

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to me and I do not know whether it was just for me or for all people. Narrated by Abu Dawood (1989), but this version is da'eef (weak); it was classed as such by al-Albaani in Da'eef Abi Dawood.

2 - That this virtue is attained by the one who intends to do Hajj but is unable to do it, then he makes up for it by doing 'Umrah in Ramadaan. For by combining the intention to do Hajj with performance of 'Umrah in Ramadaan, he attains the reward of doing a complete Hajj with the Prophet (peace and blessings of Allaah be upon him).

Ibn Rajab said in Lataa'if al-Ma'aarif (p. 249).

It should be noted that the one who is unable to do a good deed and regrets that and wishes that he could do it will share the reward with the one who does it - and he mentioned a few examples of that - Some women missed out on doing Hajj with the Prophet (peace and blessings of Allaah be upon him), and when he came they asked him about what would make up for that Hajj, and he said: "Do 'Umrah in Ramadaan, for 'Umrah in Ramadaan is equivalent to Hajj or to Hajj with me." End quote.

Ibn Katheer said something similar in his Tafseer (1/531).

This view was mentioned by Shaykh al-Islam Ibn Taymiyah as something possible in Majmoo' al-Fataawa (26/293-294).

3 - The view of the scholars of the four madhhabs and others, that the virtue mentioned in this hadeeth is general in meaning and applies to everyone who does 'umrah in the month of Ramadaan. 'Umrah at that time is equivalent to Hajj for all people, not just for a few people or in certain circumstances.

See: Radd al-Muhtaar (2/473); Mawaahib al-Jaleel (3/29); al-Majmoo' (7/138); al-Mughni (3/91); al-Mawsoo'ah al-Fiqhiyyah (2/144).

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The most correct of these opinions – and Allaah knows best – is the last one, and the virtue is general in meaning and is attained by all those who do ‘umrah in Ramadaan. This is indicated by the following:

1-The hadeeth was narrated from a number of the Sahaabah. Al-Tirmidhi said: Concerning this topic (reports were narrated) from Ibn ‘Abbaas, Jaabir, Abu Hurayrah, Anas and Wahb ibn Khanbash. Most of the reports make no mention of the woman who asked the question.

2-The action of people throughout the ages, namely the Sahaabah, Taabi’een, scholars and righteous people, who have always been eager to perform ‘umrah in Ramadaan so that they may attain this reward.

As for the idea that the virtue could only be attained by one who was unable to perform Hajj that year because of some impediment, it may be said that if a person sincerely intended and resolved to do Hajj, and took the appropriate means, then was prevented by something that was beyond his control, then Allaah will decree the reward for that action because of his intention. So how could the Prophet (peace and blessings of Allaah be upon him) make the reward conditional upon doing some additional action, namely performing ‘umrah in Ramadaan, when the sincere intention is sufficient to attain the reward?

Thirdly:

There remains the question about what is meant by the virtue mentioned, and that ‘umrah in Ramadaan is equivalent to Hajj. That may be explained as follows:

Undoubtedly ‘umrah in Ramadaan does not take the place of the obligatory Hajj, i.e., the one who does ‘Umrah in Ramadaan has not discharged the duty to perform the obligatory Hajj for the sake of Allaah.

What is meant by the hadeeth is that they are alike in terms of reward, not in terms of fulfilling the

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duty.

Nevertheless, what is meant by equivalency between the reward for 'umrah in Ramadaan and the reward for Hajj is equivalency in terms of amount, not in terms of type. Undoubtedly Hajj is superior to 'Umrah in terms of the type of action.

The one who does 'umrah in Ramadaan will attain a reward equal in amount to that of Hajj, but the action of Hajj brings special virtues and status that are not present in 'umrah, such as du'aa' in 'Arafah, stoning the jamaraat, offering the sacrifice and so on. Although they are equal in terms of the amount - or number - of reward, they are not equal in terms of type or nature.

Ibn Taymiyah said something similar when he spoke about the hadeeth which says that Soorat al-Ikhlaas is equivalent to one third of the Qur'aan. You can see what he said in the answer to question no. [10022](#).

Ishaaq ibn Raahawayh said:

What this hadeeth, i.e., " 'umrah in Ramadaan is equivalent to Hajj", means is similar to the report narrated from the Prophet (peace and blessings of Allaah be upon him) in which he said: "Whoever recites Qul Huwa Allaahu Ahad has recited one third of the Qur'aan." Sunan al-Tirmidhi (2/268).

In Masaa'il al-Imam Ahmad ibn Hanbal (1/553) there is a report from Abu Ya'qoob al-Koosaj:

I said: Who said " 'Umrah in Ramadaan is equivalent to Hajj"? Is that proven? He said: Yes, it is proven.

Ishaaq said: It is proven as he said. What is means is that there will be recorded for him a reward like that of Hajj, but he will never be like the one who performed Hajj at all. End quote.

Ibn Taymiyah said in Majmoo' al-Fataawa (26/293-294):

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It is well known that what is meant is that your 'umrah in Ramadaan is equivalent to Hajj with me, because she wanted to do Hajj with him but was not able to. So he told her of what would take the place of that. The same applied to others among the Sahaabah who were in the same position as her. No wise man would say what some ignorant people think, that the 'umrah of one of us from the meeqaat or from Makkah is equivalent to Hajj with him, because it is obvious that a complete Hajj is better than 'umrah in Ramadaan, and even if one of us does the obligatory hajj it cannot be like Hajj with him, so how can 'umrah be like that? The most that can be understood from the hadeeth is that the 'umrah of one of us from the meeqaat in Ramadaan is equivalent to Hajj. End quote.

See also the answer to question no. [13480](#).

And Allaah knows best.