36567 - Can You Cut Hair or Nails If You Are Offering Sacrifice?

the question

Is it permissible for the one who wants to offer a sacrifice to cut his hair or nails?

Summary of answer

If you want to offer a sacrifice and the month of Dhul Hijjah has begun, then it is haram for you to remove anything of your hair or nails or skin until you have slaughtered the sacrifice. It is permissible for your family to remove things from their hair, nails and skin during the first ten days of Dhul Hijjah.

Detailed answer

Praise be to Allah.

Can you cut hair or nails if you are offering sacrifice?

Shaykh ‘Abd al-‘Aziz ibn Baz (may Allah have mercy on him) said:

“If anyone wants to offer a sacrifice , and the month of Dhul Hijjah has begun, either because the new moon has been sighted or because thirty days of Dhul Qi`dah have passed, then it is haram for him to remove anything of his hair or nails or skin until he has slaughtered the sacrifice. Umm Salamah (may Allah be pleased with her) narrated that the Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) said: “When you see the new moon of Dhul Hijjah – according to another version, When the ten days (of Dhul Hijjah) begin – and any one of you wants to offer a sacrifice, let him refrain (from cutting) his hair and nails.” (Narrated by Ahmad and Muslim)

According to another version, “Let him not remove anything from his hair and nails until he has offered the sacrifice.” And according to yet another version, “He should not touch his hair or skin.”

If he forms the intention to offer the sacrifice during the first ten days of Dhul Hijjah , then he should refrain from that from the moment he forms that intention, and there is no sin on him for anything he may have done before forming the intention.

Why should you avoid removing hair or cutting nails if you are offering udhiyah?

The reason for this prohibition is that when the person who wants to offer the sacrifice joins the pilgrims in some of the rituals of Hajj – namely drawing closer to Allah by slaughtering the sacrifice – he also joins him in some of the features of ihram, namely refraining from cutting his hair etc.

Should your family avoid removing hair or cutting nails if you are offer udhiyah?

This ruling applies only to the one who is going to slaughter the sacrifice. It does not apply to the one on whose behalf a sacrifice is offered . The Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) said, "If any one of you wants to offer a sacrifice." He did not say, "… is going to have a sacrifice offered on his behalf." And the Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) used to offer the sacrifice on behalf of the members of his household, and it is not narrated that he told them to refrain from that (cutting their hair and nails etc).

Based on this, it is permissible for the family of the person who is going to offer the sacrifice to remove things from their hair, nails and skin during the first ten days of Dhul Hijjah.

What to do if you remove hair or cut nails in Dhul-Hijjah

If the person who wants to offer the sacrifice does remove anything from his hair, nails or skin then he has to repent to Allah and not do it again, but he does not have to offer any expiation , and that does not prevent him from offering the sacrifice as some of the common people think.

If he does any of those things out of forgetfulness or ignorance, or some hair falls unintentionally, then there is no sin on him. If he needs to remove it, then he may do so, and there is no blame on

him, such as if a nail breaks and it annoys him, so he cuts it, or if a hair gets in his eye and he removes it, or he needs to cut his hair in order to treat a wound and the like.”

And Allah knows best.