49897 - Can You Do `Umrah Twice in One Journey?

the question

We are going to go for `Umrah at the end of Sha`ban and the beginning of Ramadan, in sha Allah.

My question is: Is it possible to do more than one `Umrah? i.e., can we do `Umrah then wait a while and enter ihram again and do another `Umrah? How long should we wait between two `Umrahs?

Summary of answer

There is nothing wrong with repeating `Umrah. The Prophet encouraged us to do `Umrah and he did not define the time period that should elapse between two `Umrahs.

Detailed answer

There is nothing wrong with repeating `Umrah . The Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) encouraged us to do `Umrah and he did not define the time period that should elapse between two `Umrahs.

Ibn Qudamah (may Allah have mercy on him) said in Al-Mughni:

"There is nothing wrong with doing `Umrah several times in the year . That was narrated from `Ali, Ibn `Umar, Ibn `Abbas, Anas, `Aishah (may Allah be pleased with them), and `Ata', Tawus, `Ikrimah and Ash-Shafi`i (may Allah have mercy on them), because `Aishah did `Umrah twice in one month on the command of the Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him). And the Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) said: "From one `Umrah to another is expiation for whatever (sins) come between them." (Narrated by Al-Bukhari and Muslim)

Shaykh Ibn Baz (may Allah have mercy on him) was asked in Majmu` Al-Fatawa (17/432): Is it permissible to perform `Umrah repeatedly in Ramadan, seeking the reward for that?

He replied:

“There is nothing wrong with that. The Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) said: “From one `Umrah to another is expiation for whatever (sins) come between them, and an accepted Hajj brings no less a reward than Paradise.” (Narrated by Al-Bukhari, 1773 and Muslim, 1349)

If a person does `Umrah three or four times, there is nothing wrong with that. At the time of the Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him), at the Farewell Pilgrimage, `Aishah (may Allah be pleased with her) did `Umrah twice within a space of less than twenty days.

And the Standing Committee was asked (11/337):

I live in a town 100 kilometers away from Makkah. In Ramadan every year I go to Makkah for `Umrah, and I pray Jumu`ah and `Asr there, then I go back to my town. I discussed that with some of my brothers and they said that it is not permissible to do `Umrah every week in Ramadan.

They replied:

“If the situation is as you describe, that is permissible, because there is no text that specifies the length of time that should elapse between one `Umrah and the next.

Some scholars are of the view that time should be allowed between two `Umrahs for hair to grow that the pilgrim can shave in the second `Umrah. This time period is approximately one week or ten days.

Shaykh Ibn `Uthaymin (may Allah have mercy on him) said in Ash-Sharh Al-Mumti` (7/242):

“Imam Ahmad (may Allah have mercy on him) said: he should not do `Umrah until his head has turned black with hair.

Based on this, what many people do nowadays of performing `Umrah repeatedly, especially in the month of Ramadan every day, or once each day and once each night, is contrary to what the Salaf used to do.

Ibn Qudamah (may Allah have mercy on him) said in Al-Mughni:

"`Ali (may Allah be pleased with him) said (`Umrah may be done) once each month. When his hair had grown back, Anas (may Allah be pleased with him) would go out and do `Umrah again. Both reports were narrated by Ash-Shafi`i (may Allah have mercy on him) in his Musnad. `Ikrimah (may Allah be pleased with him) said: He should do `Umrah when his hair can be shaved by the razor. `Ata' said: If he wishes he can do `Umrah twice each month. Ahmad said: If he does `Umrah, then he has to shave his head or cut his hair. In ten days he can shave his head."

Shaykh Al-Islam Ibn Taymiyah (may Allah have mercy on him) said in Majmu` Al-Fatawa, 26/45:

"What Imam Ahmad (may Allah have mercy on him) stated is that it is not recommended to repeat `Umrah often from Makkah or elsewhere , rather one should allow time in between for the hair to grow back so that it can be shaved."

And Allah knows best.