

What is better- repeating Hajj or giving charity to poor

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بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

In the name of Allaah, the Most Merciful, the Bestower of Mercy

Question: What is better for a wealthy person according to the Sharee'ah: repeating Hajj supererogatory every year or giving the money reserved for it to the poor and the needy? May Allaah reward you with good.

Answer: All praise is due to Allaah, the Lord of the Worlds. Peace and blessing be upon whom Allaah sent as a mercy to the Worlds, upon his Family, his Companions and his Brothers till the Day of Resurrection.

The hadeeths reported about exhorting to perform Hajj indicate that, in general, even if the Hajj is done by way of a supererogation, it takes precedence over giving charity to the poor and the needy. Among these hadeeths:

- The Prophet صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ was asked: "What are the best deeds?" He stated: "**Belief in Allaah Alone, Jihaad in the path of Allaah, then Hajj which is performed correctly are the best of deeds as between the sunrise and the sunset**"¹.
- He صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ said: "**Keep on following Hajj with `Umrah, and `Umrah with Hajj, for they wipe out poverty and sins as the bellows removes the dross of iron, gold and silver, and an accepted Hajj brings no less a reward than Paradise**"².
- He صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ also said: "**The (performance of) `Umrah is an expiation of the sins committed (between it and the previous one). The reward of the accepted Hajj (with which Allaah is pleased) is nothing except Paradise**"³, and
- "**Hajj erases what came before it (i.e., of sins)**"⁴.

¹ Reported by Ahmad (hadeeth 18531), At-Tabaraanee in "Al-Kabeer" (20/344), from the hadeeth of Maa`iz رَضِيَ اللهُ عَنْهُ. The hadeeth is authenticated by Al-Albaanee in "Saheeh Al-Jaami'" (hadeeth 1091).

² Reported by At-Tirmidhee in the chapter of "Hajj", concerning the reward of performing Hajj and `Umrah (hadeeth 810), An-Nasaa'ee in the chapter of "Hajj", concerning keeping on following Hajj with `Umrah and `Umrah with Hajj (hadeeth 2631), Ibn Hibbaan in his "Saheeh" (hadeeth 3693), Ahmad (hadeeth 3660) and Al-Bazzaar in his "Musnad" (hadeeth 1722), from the hadeeth `Abdullaah Ibn Mas'ood رَضِيَ اللهُ عَنْهُ. The hadeeth is authenticated by Ahmad Shaakir in his recension to "Musnad of Ahmad" (5/244). Al-Albaanee considered it as Hassan (good) in "As-Silsilah As-Saheehah" (3/197) and Muqbil Ibn Haadi Al-Waadi`i in "As-Saheeh Al-Musnad" (hadeeth 897).

³ Reported by Al-Bukhaaree in the chapter of "Hajj", concerning the obligation and merit of `Umrah (hadeeth 1683), Muslim in the chapter of "Hajj", on the merit of Hajj, `Umrah and the day of `Arafah (hadeeth 3289), An-Nasaa'ee in the chapter of "Hajj rites", concerning the merit of `Umrah (hadeeth 2629), Ibn Maajah in the chapter of "rites", concerning the merit of Hajj and `Umrah (hadeeth 2888), Ibn Hibbaan in his "Saheeh" (hadeeth 3696), Ibn Khuzaymah in his "Saheeh" (hadeeth 3072) and Ahmad (hadeeth 7307), from the hadeeth of Aboo Hurayrah رَضِيَ اللهُ عَنْهُ.

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- The Prophet صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ also said: "The camel of a Hajji does not raise nor put down its hoof except that Allaah writes for him by it a good deed, and erases for him a bad deed and raises him to a degree"⁵.
- The Prophet صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ said: "Allaah عَزَّ وَجَلَّ says: whoever I gave a good health, and made his life easy, then five years pass, yet he did not come to Me is surely frustrated"⁶. It was also the fatwa stated by Ibn Taymeeyah رَحِمَهُ اللهُ.

The perfect knowledge belongs to Allaah سُبْحَانَهُ وَتَعَالَى. Our last prayer is all praise is due to Allaah, the Lord of the Worlds. Peace and blessing be upon our Prophet, his Family, his Companions and his Brothers till the Day of Resurrection.

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⁴ Reported by Muslim in the chapter of "faith", concerning the fact that Islaam, as well as both migration and Hajj, efface whatever previous sins (hadeeth 321), Ibn Khuzaymah in his "Saheeh" (hadeeth 2515), from the hadeeth of `Amr Ibn Al-Aas رَضِيَ اللهُ عَنْهُ.

⁵ Reported by Al-Baihaquee in "branches of faith" (hadeeth 4116), from the hadeeth of Ibn `Umar رَضِيَ اللهُ عَنْهُمَا. This hadeeth is judged Hassan (good) by Al-Albaanee in "Saheeh Al-Jaami`" (hadeeth 5596).

⁶ Reported by Ibn Hibbaan in his "Saheeh" (hadeeth 3703), Aboo Ya`la in his "Musnad" (hadeeth 1031), Al-Baihaquee in "As-Sunan Al-Kubra": (10530), from the hadeeth of Aboo Sa`eed Al-Khudree رَضِيَ اللهُ عَنْهُ. This hadeeth is authenticated by Al-Albaanee in "Saheeh Al-Jaami`" (hadeeth 1166).