

## Winning a Hajj or 'Umrah trip in some competitions

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بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

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

**Question:** Some media institutions organise seasonal competitions in which the winner gets the complete sum for performing Hajj and 'Umrah. So, what is the ruling concerning taking part in such competitions? Moreover, the asked questions may be related to movies, sports games, music or other things. What is the ruling of going to Hajj or 'Umrah through winning in such competitions?

Can the same ruling be applied to each kind of competitions which are related to many fields of knowledge: like knowledge related to Sharee'ah and knowledge related to worldly subjects or else? We hope to deliver us a detailed answer and 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.

We should distinguish between the religious competitions in which there are pecuniary rewards given by the rulers, a charitable organisation or by charitable persons, and the competitions diffused by media institutions.

The first example of competitions are organised according to the purpose of the Legislator (Allaah عزَّ وجلَّ) which consists in being prepared as regards faith: learning Qur'aan and Sunnah, learning scientific matters related to Sharee'ah; these are joined to the competitions which the Prophet صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ limited by saying : "**Prizes are allowed only for racing camels, or horses or shooting arrows**".<sup>1</sup>, that is to say, riding horses, camels and archery, and anything which is related to the material preparation among the means of Jihaad in the way of Allaah for strengthening the power of the Muslims. Prizes in such things are valid (permissible), as both preparations (material and faith-related preparations) are a requirement and a purpose by the Sharee'ah, because they are means for a purpose supported by the Sharee'ah, as "**The means take on the same ruling as their aims**".

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<sup>1</sup> Reported by Aboo Dawood, chapter of "Jihaad" concerning prizes (hadeeth 2574), At-Tirmidhee, chapter of "Jihaad" concerning betting and prizes (hadeeth 2878), Ibn Hibbaan (hadeeth 1638) and Ahmad (hadeeth 9788) from the hadeeth of Aboo Hurayrah رضي الله عنه. This hadeeth has been judged as Hassan (good) by Al-Baghawee in "Sharh As-Sunnah" (5/525) and judged authentic by Ibn Al-Qattaan in "Al-Wahm Wal-Ehaam" (5/382), by Ahmad Shaakir in his recension of "Musnad Ahmad" (13/232), by Al-Albaanee in "Al-Irwaa'" (hadeeth 1506), and by Al-Waadi'ee in "Saheeh Al-Musnad" (hadeeth 1408).

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Therefore, the licit rewards which are given by the donors to the winners, in order to reach this purpose, is absolutely permissible, whether it is for a Hajj or a 'Umrah or other things without any embarrassment.

As for the competitions diffused by media institutions like newspapers, journals, magazines or else, it is not permissible to participate in them, because they include gambling. The participant in such competitions pay money, even a little amount, in order to buy the mass medium, while the media institution gets money and incomes by promoting such competitions.

On the other hand, the aim of the Legislator (Allaah عزَّ وجلَّ) is not reached by such means which, on the contrary, go against it. In fact, many aspects of obscenity, nudity, temptation are embodied during the course of these competitions by diffusing films and spreading musical instruments and music, and other manners that go against our true religion, even though we can find some valid competitions, they are submerged in a corrupt environment, as if there is an imposed will by this media means to destroy the Islaamic values and exchange them for the ignobility of the occidental society's values in order to separate religion from the social life, and this, under the influence of secularity that the Islaamic Nation undergoes nowadays, and because of the deceived people of our Islaamic society.

That being said, and as "***The means take on the same ruling as their aims***", it is not permissible to use the gifts and rewards given in such a way because of the two aforementioned reasons. Thus, the person winning gifts after knowing they are prohibited, should give them as charity or spend their value in different ways of good. In fact, one of the conditions of making repentance is to get rid of the illicit money. However, if a person performs Hajj with such money, his Hajj is valid according to soundest of the two opinions of scholars, and the person is not required to perform this duty, but he incurs sin because of committing something prohibited, as the side of order is separated from the side of prohibition, and this person will not be rewarded for his Hajj, in accordance with Allaah's عزَّ وجلَّ saying:

وَتَرَوُودُوا فَإِنَّ خَيْرَ الرِّادِ التَّقْوَى

[And take a provision (with you) for the journey, but the best provision is at-Taqwaa (piety, righteousness, etc.). So fear Me, O men of understanding!]<sup>2</sup>

And the Prophet's صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ saying: "**Verily, Allaah عزَّ وجلَّ is good, and He never accepts but good**"<sup>3</sup>; whereas, before knowing its prohibition, he does not incur sin because he is excused by his ignorance, in accordance with Allaah's عزَّ وجلَّ saying:

فَمَنْ جَاءَهُ مَوْعِظَةٌ مِنْ رَبِّهِ فَانْتَهَى فَلَهُ مَا سَلَفَ وَأَمْرُهُ إِلَى اللَّهِ

<sup>2</sup> Soorah al-Baqaraah [2:197]

<sup>3</sup> Reported by Muslim, chapter of "The obligatory charity", concerning accepting the charity which comes from the good earnings, and its growth (hadeeth 2346), At-Tirmidhee in "Qur'aan exegesis" (hadeeth 2989) and Ahmad on the authority of Aboo Hurayrah رَضِيَ اللهُ عَنْهُ

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[So whosoever receives an admonition from his Lord and stops eating Ribaa (usury) shall not be punished for the past; his case is for Allaah (to judge); but whoever returns [to Ribaa (usury)], such are the dwellers of the Fire - they will abide therein]<sup>4</sup>

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

Algiers, Sha'baan 14th, 1428H. Corresponding to: August 27th, 2007.

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<sup>4</sup> Soorah al-Baqaraah [2:275]