



Non-pilgrims who intend to sacrifice must avoid cutting hair and nails

The third question of Fatwa no. 1407

Q 3: Concerning the Hadith which states that anyone who wants to offer an Ud-hiyah (sacrificial animal offered by non-pilgrims), either to be done by them or on their behalf, must refrain with the onset of Dhul-Hijjah from cutting anything from their hair, skin or nails until they have offered the Ud-hiyah. Does this prohibition apply to all the members of a household, old and young, or does it apply to the adults only and not the children?

A: The wording which we know for this Hadith is not as mentioned by the questioner. The wording which we know to be authentically reported from the Prophet (peace be upon him) is the one narrated by five out of the six Compilers of Hadith (Muslim, Ibn Majah, Abu Dawud, Al-Tirmidhy and Al-Nasa'y; except Al-Bukhari) on the authority of Um Salamah (may Allah be pleased with her) that the Messenger of Allah (peace be upon him) said: *(When you see the new moon of Dhul-Hijjah, and one of you wants to offer an Ud-hiyah, let them refrain from (cutting anything) from their hair or nails.)* According to the version narrated by Abu Dawud which was also narrated by Muslim and Al-Nasa'y: *(Anyone who has an Ud-hiyah to slaughter, when the new moon of Dhul-Hijjah appears, should not remove anything from their hair or nails until they have offered the Ud-hiyah.)* This Hadith indicates that a person who wants to offer an Ud-hiyah is not allowed to remove anything from their hair or nails after the first ten days of Dhul-Hijjah begin.

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The first report includes a command to refrain, which basically implies that refraining is obligatory, and we do not know of any reason to interpret it otherwise. The second report includes the prohibition on removing anything, which basically implies that it is Haram (forbidden), and we do not know of any reason to interpret it otherwise. Thus, it is clear that this Hadith applies only to a person who wants to offer the Ud-hiyah. As for a person on whose behalf the Ud-hiyah is being offered, whether old or young, they are not forbidden to remove anything from their hair, skin or nails, based on the basic principle, which is that these actions are permitted. We do not know of any evidence to the contrary.

May Allah grant us success! May peace and blessings of Allah be upon our Prophet Muhammad, his family and Companions!

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