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Hijrah

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The sixth question of Fatwa no. 7150

Q 6: What are the conditions of Hijrah (a believer's migration to an Islamic land) according to Islam? What is meant by the following statement of the Prophet (peace be upon him): (Worship (of Allah) at times of turmoil is like Hijrah to me.) ?

A: Hijrah means leaving the non-Muslim country to a Muslim country, which is Wajib (obligatory). Allah (Exalted be He) says: (Verily, as for those whom the angels take (in death) while they are wronging themselves (as they stayed among the disbelievers even though emigration was obligatory for them), they (angels) say (to them): "In what (condition) were you?") until His Saying: (Such men will find their abode in Hell - What an evil destination!) Commenting on the Ayah (Qur'anic verse), Ibn Kathir said: "The general meaning of this glorious Ayah includes all those who reside among Mushriks (those who associate others with Allah in His Divinity or worship) and cannot freely perform the rites of the religion while able to emigrate. Such persons, by remaining there are wronging themselves and committing an unlawful act by Ijma' (consensus of scholars)." 

As for the Hadith stating: (Worship (of Allah) at times of turmoil is like Hijrah to me) it indicates the superiority of worshipping Allah during times of turbulence and fighting, which is equal in reward to migration to the Prophet (peace be upon him) undertaken by Muslims of his time to Al-Madinah from the non-Muslim country, i.e. Makkah before the Victory of Makkah. This Hadith does not mean exemption from Hijrah for those residing in non-Muslim countries and cannot

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practice their religion while living among non-Muslims.

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

Member	Member	Deputy Chairman	Chairman
`Abdullah ibn Qa`ud	`Abdullah ibn Ghudayyan	`Abdul-Razzaq `Afify	`Abdul-`Aziz ibn `Abdullah ibn Baz

Source: Fatwas of the Permanent Committee