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Ability to perform Hajj

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The fifth question of Fatwa no. 845

Q 5: Why does Algeria begin fasting a day before Morocco every year? What constitutes the "ability" to perform Hajj? Is there a greater reward in a person's setting out to Makkah to perform Hajj or in returning home after performing it? Is there a greater reward in returning to one's homeland, or in remaining there in Makkah?

A: The fact that Algeria begins fasting a day before Morocco every year in Ramadan should be referred to the officials in both countries, so that the answer is based on the status quo of both countries, as they know it better. This question should be directed to them, provided that the questioner is sure that it recurs every year.

As for the ability to perform Hajj, it means that a person must be healthy and have a means of transport to Allah's Sacred House. One may travel by plane, car, pack animal, or hiring whatever means of travel he can afford (each according to their ability), has enough provisions for the journey, back and forth, that are above what he needs to support his dependents until he returns from his Hajj. A woman must have her husband or a Mahram (unmarriageable male relative) in her travel to Hajj or 'Umrah.

As for the reward of Hajj, it is according to a person's sincerity to Allah, the rites they performed, the prohibitions they avoided for perfect performance of Hajj, the money they spent,

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and the effort they made, whether they return to their homelands, remain there, or die before or after the completion of Hajj. Allah knows best their status, and it is He who rewards them accordingly. A Mukallaf (person meeting the conditions to be held legally accountable for their actions) should strive to do their best, search their own deeds to make sure they have been acting according to the Shari'ah (Islamic law) outwardly and inwardly, as if they are seeing their Lord, for although they cannot see Him, He surely sees them. One must not investigate into the matters whose knowledge is reserved to Allah, for Allah is Merciful to His servants. He multiplies their rewards and forgives misdeeds. He is never unjust to anyone. Therefore, you should mind your own self and leave the matters related to Allah, as He is the Just, Merciful Judge.

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

Member	Member	Deputy Chairman
`Abdullah ibn Mani`	`Abdullah ibn Ghudayyan	`Abdul-Razzaq `Afify

Source: Fatwas of the Permanent Committee