

Meaning of "Anyone who swears an oath then sees that something else is better ..."

Q: What is your opinion on the following Hadith? **The Messenger of Allah (peace be upon him) said, "Anyone who swears an oath then sees that something else is better than it, let them do that which is better and offer expiation for their (broken) oath."**

Is this Hadith Sahih (a Hadith that has been transmitted by people known for their uprightness and exactitude; free from eccentricity and blemish) and does this Hadith apply to the first and second questions? Please give us an explanation of this Hadith. May Allah reward you with the best.

A: This Hadith is authentically reported from the Prophet (peace be upon him) by Muslim in his "Sahih (Book of Authentic Hadith)", Al-Tirmidhy, Al-Nasa'y, and Ibn Majah in their Sunan (Hadith compilations classified by jurisprudential themes) from a Hadith that was narrated by a group of the Sahabah (Companions, may Allah be pleased with them), including Abu Hurayrah (may Allah be pleased with him).

This Hadith does not apply to the first question, as that was not an oath, but was self-talk. It does apply to the second if he intended by what he did to forbid it, and then he changed his mind. In this case he should expiate for (breaking) his vow.

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

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