83762 - What If a Woman Has No Mahram for Hajj?

the question

I am a single woman from Morocco, and I am 35 years old. I have quite a lot of money (and I do not think I will ever have this much again). After thinking for a long time, I decided that I could not find anything better to spend it on than going to the sacred House of Allah, to perform the obligatory duty of Hajj, as I long to visit that place. This is my hope in life, and I hope that Allah will not deprive me of that hope. The problem is that I do not have any Mahram. My brother cannot go because he is not well off, and the same applies to my father. I hope that you can advise me and find a solution to this problem for me.

Summary of answer

It is not permissible for a woman to travel without a Mahram even for Hajj or `Umrah. So if a well-off woman cannot find a Mahram to travel with her, Hajj is not obligatory for her, and she is excused, but will be rewarded for her intention.

Detailed answer

Praise be to Allah.

Is It Permissible for a Woman to Travel Without a Mahram?

It is not permissible for a woman to travel without a Mahram , even if she is travelling for the obligatory Hajj or obligatory `Umrah, according to the more correct of the two scholarly opinions.

Al-Bukhari (1729) and Muslim (2391) narrated from Ibn `Abbas (may Allah be pleased with him) who said: The Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) said: “No woman should travel

except with a Mahram, and no man should enter upon her unless there is a Mahram with her.” A man said: O Messenger of Allah, I want to go out on such and such a campaign, and my wife wants to go for Hajj.” He said: “Do Hajj with her.”

Is Hajj Obligatory for a Woman Who Lacks a Mahram?

Because of this Hadith and others which indicate that it is prohibited for a woman to travel without a Mahram, a number of scholars are of the view that the presence of a Mahram is one of the conditions of Hajj being obligatory for a woman.

So if you cannot find a Mahram to travel with you, Hajj is not obligatory for you , and you are excused, but will be rewarded for your intention in sha Allah.

Imam Ahmad (may Allah have mercy on him) was asked about a woman who was well off but did not have a Mahram – is Hajj obligatory for her? He said: No. (End quote from Al-Mughni, 3/97)

The Standing Committee was also asked (11/95): I have a problem for which I want to find a solution from Allah, who is Merciful towards His slaves. It has to do with my performing the obligation of Hajj. I am a woman in my fifties and for two years I have wanted to travel to perform the obligatory Hajj. What is preventing me from travelling is that I do not have a Mahram who can travel with me. My husband has no concerns except work and worldly matters, and he does not intend to travel for Hajj, unless it is arranged for free by the company for which he works. That will not happen until his turn comes, and I am afraid that I may die before I perform this duty. I have enough money to pay for provisions and the journey. To sum up: all my Mahrams are unable to travel with me because of their work.

They replied:

If the situation is as described, and neither your husband nor any of your Mahrams is able to travel with you so that you can perform the obligatory Hajj, then you are not obliged to do it so long as this situation persists, because the presence of your husband or Mahram for the journey to Hajj is one of the conditions of it being obligatory for you . It is prohibited for you to travel for Hajj or any

other purpose without a Mahram , even with your brother's wife and a group of women, according to the more correct of the two scholarly views, because the Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) said: "No woman should travel except with a Mahram." Saheeh – agreed upon. Strive to do righteous deeds which do not require you to travel, and be patient, in the hope that Allah will make things easy for you and grant you the means of travelling with your husband or a Mahram. (End quote from Fatawa Al-Lajnah Ad-Da'imah, 11/95)

And Allah knows best.