

had about going back and forth between them, because during the jāhiliyah idols were worshipped at these locations. But Allah (ﷻ) stated that there is nothing wrong with doing that, so as to ward off these misgivings; it does not mean that this action is not obligatory.

The fact that this is specifically connected to Hajj and 'umrah indicates that there is no voluntary sa'iy that may be performed separately; it can only be part of Hajj or 'umrah. This is in contrast to ṭawâf or circumambulation of the Kaaba, which is prescribed as part of Hajj and 'umrah, but is also an act of worship in and of itself.

With regard to sa'iy, standing in 'Arafah and Muzdalifah, and stoning the jamarât, these are part of the rituals; if they are done outside of the rituals, then this comes under the heading of bid'ah (innovation). Innovation is of two types: worshipping Allah by doing an act of worship that was not prescribed at all, and worshipping Allah by doing an act of worship that He has prescribed should be done in a particular manner, in a manner other than that which was prescribed. The latter is applicable in this case.

﴿And whoever does good of his own accord﴾ that is, he does an act of worship, such as Hajj, 'umrah, ṭawâf, prayer, fasting and so on, sincerely for the sake of Allah (ﷻ), that is good for him. This indicates that the more a person does of acts of obedience, the more he increases in goodness, spiritual development, and status before Allah, because of the increase in his faith.

It also indicates that voluntary acts should be restricted to those that are good, because doing innovated actions of one's own accord, that were not prescribed by Allah or His Messenger (ﷺ), does not achieve anything but effort and troubles for no purpose. This is not good for the individual; rather it may be bad for him, if he did that deliberately, knowing that this act is not prescribed.

﴿then verily Allah is Appreciative, All-Knowing﴾. Ash-Shâkir (the Appreciative) and ash-Shakoor (the Most Appreciative) are among the