

Hadith 1 Sincerity of Intention

Narrated by Umar

What does it mean for actions to be 'by intentions'?

It means that the reward of an action is determined by whether you intended something for heavenly or worldly benefit. If you wanted worldly benefit then that is where your reward will lie, if you wanted Allah's pleasure then that is where your reward will lie.

This hadith therefore means, the reward of an action made by a person is given based on his intention. A person should therefore not do anything without correcting his reasons for doing so and thinking about the effect it has on his hereafter and the hereafter of others.

Vocabulary Break down

Prince of the believers (title of khalifah)	امير المؤمنين
Father of Hafsa (title of Umar)	أبي حفص
Umar ibn al-Khattab	عمر ابن الخطاب
I heard (1 st person, sg)	سمعت
The prophet of Allah	رسول الله
Saying ([lit: He is saying] 3 rd person, sg mudari)	يقول
Verily (special particle that restricts one idea to the other)	إنما
Actions (def, pl)	الأعمال
Are by intentions (particle of jarr + def, pl noun)	بالنيات
And (harf atf)	و
Verily (again this particle is called hasr or qasr)	إنما
For every (harf jarr + def mudaf)	لكل
Man (or person) (sg, indef)	امرء
Is what ("is" is assumed) (ma here is mawsulah)	ما
He intended (3 rd person, sg madi)	نوى
So whom	فمن
His hijrah was (intended is implied) (kana means was)	كانت هجرته

For Allah and his messenger	لله ورسوله
So His hijrah	فهجرته
Is for Allah and his messenger	لله ورسوله
And him	فمن
Whose hijrah was	كانت هجرته
For wordly purposes	لدنيا
To obtain some of it (verb + pronoun) (verb is literally he (3 rd /m/sg) is getting it(fem))	يصيبها
Or	أو
A woman	إمرأة
To marry (he is marrying her)	ينكحها
So his hijrah was	فهجرته
For what	الى ما
He made hijrah to	هاجر اليه