

Offering congratulations at beginning of Hijree year

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

In the name of Allaah, the Most Merciful, the Bestower of Mercy

Question: What is the ruling on congratulating people on the occasion of the Hijree New Year, and how should one reply to a person who offers congratulations?

Shaykh Muhammad ibn Saalih al-'Uthaymeen (رَحِمَهُ اللهُ)¹: If someone offers you congratulations, then respond to him, but do not initiate such greetings. This is the correct view concerning this matter. So if a person says to you, for example, "Happy New Year", then you can say, "May Allaah make it a good and blessed year for you." But you should not initiate such a greeting, because I do not know of any report that the Salaf [early generations of Islaam] congratulated one another on the occasion of the new year, rather the Salaf did not regard the first of Muharram as the first day of the new year until the caliphate of 'Umar ibn al-Khattaab (رضي الله عنه)².

¹ (رَحِمَهُ اللهُ) (rahimahullaah) May Allaah have mercy on him

² (رضي الله عنه) (rad iyallaahu `anhu) May Allaah be pleased with him