

Dar-ul-Iftah

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Why is alcohol prohibited in Islam?

Islam is a complete code of life. In it, provision has been made for all aspects of life because it has a complete set of rules and regulations governing human behaviour. In this way, Islam has developed a set of laws which clearly establish what is Halal (allowed) and Haram (forbidden). These rules clearly state what is Halaal and what is Haram.

Islam has declared Halaal all that is spiritually and physically useful and profitable for human beings. Likewise, it has declared Haram all that is spiritually and physically harmful to mankind. Alcohol is one of those products which is Haram in Islam.

Drinking alcohol not only brings spiritual discomfort and deadly harm, it also affects the body by bringing several serious diseases and this has been so clearly established by modern medical science. In the Holy Quraan, it is repeatedly stated in various places that alcohol is forbidden and likewise in many pure Hadiths. In the following we shall quote from the Holy Quraan as well as from the authentic Hadiths about the prohibition of alcohol.

Allah says in the Holy Quraan:

- 1. “{O Beloved} They ask you the precept of wine and gambling. Say you, ‘in both there is great sin and also some worldly profit for the people but their sin is greater than their profit’”**
[S Baqara 2: V 219]
- 2. “O Believers! Approach not prayer while you are intoxicated, until you have so much sense that what you say, you understand,”** [S Nisaa : V 43]
- 3. “O Believers! Wine and gambling and idols and divining arrows are only unclean things, a work of devil (Satan) then save yourselves from them, so that you may prosper.”** [S Maida : V 90]
- 4. “The devil (Satan) desires only to put hatred and enmity among you in regard to wine and gambling and to bar you from the remembrance of Allah and from prayer, will you then desist?”**
[S Maida: V91]

Alcohol was prohibited in Islam in stages. Thus verse number 219 in Surah Baqara came to be the first revelation concerning the prohibition of wine (alcohol). The verse in Surah Nisaa was the second verse regarding alcohol prohibition. The verse revealed in Surah Maida was the last verse about alcohol. It was also the revelation establishing full prohibition of alcoholic drinks; after this revelation alcohol became fully prohibited till the Day of Judgement.

Some Hadiths on alcohol prohibition

1. Hazrat Wâ'il Hadhrami has reported that Taariq bin Souwaïd had asked the Holy Prophet regarding wines. So the Holy Prophet forbade him from using alcohol. He told the Holy Prophet that he used wines as a

medicine for some treatment. So the Holy Prophet informed him that alcohol is no medicine but in fact it is the root of disease. [Muslim Shareef]

Please note that the Holy Prophet has some 1400 years back said that alcohol is the root of disease and now after some 1400 years, medical researchers and scientists have found and proven that alcohol is indeed the cause of several diseases.

2. Hazrat Abdullah Ibn Umar has reported that the Holy Prophet said: “Whoever drinks wine, Allah will not accept his prayers (Salaat) for 40 days. But if he repents, Allah will accept his repentance and forgive him. After that, if he drinks alcohol again, Allah will not accept his prayers for 40 days. But if he repents again, Allah will accept his repentance. If for the third time, he drinks wine (or any alcoholic drinks), again Allah will not consider his prayers for 40 days. But again if he repents, Allah will forgive for the third time. Now if for the fourth time, he drinks wine, Allah will not accept his prayers for 40 days. Even if he repents now, Allah will not accept his repentance. (In other words, he has now become an addict; he has lost the capacity to make a real sincere Tawba; he will continue to drink during his whole lifetime and in this state will he die). And Allah will make him drink from the Khubaal canal which is made from the pus of people in Hell. [Tirmizi, Nasaï, Ibn Majah]

3. Hazrat Abdullah Ibn Umar has reported that the Holy Prophet said that the one who severs blood ties with his kin, the gambler, the one who reminds his favours or services and the chronic alcoholic will not go to Paradise. [Darimi]

4. Hazrat Ibn Umar has reported that the Holy Prophet has said that three categories of people will not enter Paradise and among them are those who were addicted to alcohol. [Nasaï]

Finally, we present you with a few reports concerning the Sahabas {Blessed Companions of the Holy Prophet which will provide you with a glimpse of their strict adherence to the command of Allah and His Beloved Prophet regarding alcohol and how much hatred they had for this impure substance.

Hazrat Ali has said that “if one drop of wine fell in a well and over it were built a minaret, then never would I ever give Azaan over this minaret. If one drop of wine fell in a river and then the river dried up and grass would grow on its bed, then never would I ever bring my animals to graze on such a land.” Subhaanallah, how much hatred did he have for alcohol. May Allah give us all Tawfeek to have similar ways of thinking. [Khazaa-inul Irfaan]

Hazrat Jibraeel Ameen said to the Holy Prophet that Allah likes four virtues in Hazrat Jaafar Tayyaar. When the Holy Prophet enquired with Hazrat Jaafar Tayyar, he said that among these four virtues, one of them is that he had never drunk wine in his life even before it becoming prohibited. The reason he gave was that he always knew that drinking wine affects the brain and intellect and he wanted to have a sharper mind. Secondly, he informed that he had never worshipped any idol because he knew that it could neither profit him nor cause him any harm. Thirdly, he had never committed adultery because he always considered it as a very shameful act. Fourth, he had never told a lie because he always considered lying as being something very mean and wicked. [Khazâinoul Irfaan]

We pray to Allah Almighty, by means of His Beloved Prophet, to protect us against wine and its evil effects and make us become good human beings.

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