

Dar-ul-Ifta

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بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

نحمده ونصلى على رسوله الكريم

Type of Alcohols

Question: According to religious law, how many different types of alcohol are there and what are the regulations concerning them?

Answer: From the point of view of Islamic law, there are 3 types of alcohol. We are now going to write about these various types and their corresponding rulings according to law so that people might know what to do when new questions will arise.

1. The alcohol which is produced from the wine of grapes or dates is unanimously considered as impure. If added to anything, that thing also becomes impure. Drinking such alcohol or using it in any other manner is totally forbidden (Haraam). However, under strong constraints, some medicine in which there is such alcohol is exceptionally allowed. And 'strong constraints' here implies that a specialist doctor has strong presumption that such a patient can only be cured by such a medicine and not any other medicine.

2. The second type of alcohol is the one which has not been produced by the wine of the above products, that is grapes and dates, but from the wine of other products such as potatoes or honey etc... There is disagreement on the purity or impurity, the lawfulness or unlawfulness of such alcohol among the Fuqaha (Jurists). Thus, Imam-e-Azam Abu Hanifa and Imam Yusuf are of the opinion that such alcohol is pure and can be drunk to an extent that does not cause intoxication, and Imam Muhammad is of the opinion that such alcohol also is impure and to drink it even in little doses is forbidden. The ruling (Fatwa) is hereby given according to the opinion of Imam Muhammad.

3. Thirdly there is the alcohol which has not been produced from any wine but rather from anything which is pure and Halal. This type of alcohol is pure and allowed. It can be used for any purpose and every manner possible.

Mufti Muhammad Ishaq Qadri Rizvi

Director of Dar ul ifta

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