

KHUTBA

Friday 29.04.11

English

The Evil of Intoxicants and a Warning against them

O people! Be pious and conscious of Allah and enjoy the good things that He has made lawful for you. Be grateful to Allah by carrying out the duties that He has enjoined upon you. Gratitude is a necessary condition for the perpetuation and increase of the bounties of Allah.

O people! Beware of making use of what Allah has made unlawful unto you. He has only forbidden that which would harm you concerning your life and religion. Allah is indeed the All-Compassionate, the Ever-Merciful.

One of the most harmful things that Allah has forbidden, and the Muslim jurists have therefore reached a consensus on its unlawfulness, is Khamr, or alcohol and all other intoxicants. The Prophet (saws) has described Khamr as: **“The source of all abominable matters.” He (saws) is also reported to have said: “It is the gate to all evils.”** Concerning Khamr, the Glorious Quran describes it to be that which means: **“...Defilement from the work of Satan, so avoid it that you may be successful.”** [5:90]

There are many Ahadeeth forbidding the consumption of Khamr, of which some are: Anas Ibn Maalik, may Allah be pleased with him, reported that the Prophet (saws) cursed ten categories of people in connection with Khamr: **“The one who produces it, the one for whom it is produced, the one who drinks it, the one who carries it, the one to whom it is carried, the one who pours it, the one who sells it, the one who earns from the sale of it, the one who buys it and the one for whom it is bought.”** All these categories have been cursed by the Prophet Muhammad (saws).

The Prophet Muhammad (saws) is also reported to have said: **“A person is not a (true) believer while he is engaged in drinking (alcohol).”** It is also narrated that he said: **“An alcohol-drinker will meet Allah (on the Day of Judgment) as if he was an idol worshiper.”** He also said: **“Allah has certainly made a covenant with those who drink Khamr that He will make them drink 'Teenat Al Khabaal.'”** Some of his companions asked: **“What is 'Teenat Al Khabaal?’”** and the Prophet (saws) replied: **“It is the sweat or discharge (of cyst or blood) of the denizens of the Hellfire. Whoever drinks Khamr will have his prayers rejected for forty days.”**

Khamr, in the Arabic language, is a general word signifying anything, regardless of type, that befogs the mind and causes intoxication. As far as its harms are concerned, Muslim jurists, physicians, psychologists as well as sociologists have mentioned many harmful effects resulting from the consumption of alcohol. Some of those effects may be outlined as follows:

- Khamr hinders a person from the remembrance of Allah and the performance of daily prayers. As an alcohol-drinker is very closely attached to his drink, he has great difficulty in attempting to leave it, and if he were to leave it, he would be extremely nervous, tense and irritable as a result.
- It incurs severe punishment and painful chastisement in this life and the next.
- It causes many physical diseases and ailments such as stomach ache, abdominal distension,

abnormal protrusion of the eyes (exophthalmoses), disfigurement, intestinal ulceration, as well as cirrhosis of the liver. It also hastens senility, affects the mind and weakens one's consciousness at the time of intoxication. It can even lead one to lose his mind altogether.

- It harbours hatred and kindles the fire of resentment and hostility among alcohol-drinkers and between them and their companions. Alcohol-drinkers always feel depressed and are never happy unless they are in the company of other drinkers. The smallest word can infuriate them and stir their blood.
- It erases virtues and undermines one's morality and chastity.
- It incites one to commit adultery or fornication, and perpetrate other heinous crimes. The Prophet (saws) has therefore labelled Khamr as: **“The source of all abominable matters and a gate to all evils.”**
- It depletes one's money and drains one's wealth until it makes one destitute. It may even cause a person to sacrifice everything, even his/her honour to get it.

The non-Muslim countries, upon discovering the social, moral, and financial harms of alcohol, confronted and conducted serious attacks against it, as well as set up particular societies in order to warn people against it. However, Islam was proactive in waging the war against alcohol; it prescribes severe penalties both in this world and in the Hereafter to warn people against its consumption.

When Khamr was prohibited, the Prophet (saws) ordered people to pour it out in the market places and to break the bottles that it was stored in. Likewise, Caliph 'Umar Ibn Al-Khattaab, may Allah be pleased with him, who was the Commander of the Believers, burnt down the house of a man called Ruwayshid (i.e., guided) who used to trade in alcohol, and said him: "You are not guided, but a misguided transgressor."

Hashish falls under the category of Khamr, yet it is more detrimental than alcohol from the viewpoint of intoxication and befogging of the mind. It corrupts a man's character, undermines his decent manners, erases his sense of modesty, and ultimately, causes his sexual desires to run out of control.

These foregoing dangers, whether obvious or not, and regardless of whether they appear quickly or otherwise, are the grave consequences of alcohol and intoxicants in this world; but the punishment of the Hereafter is more severe and strict, since no one can escape unless he or she regrets and turns repentant to Allah; may Allah save us from undergoing such affliction.

Allah says that which means: ***“O you who have believed! Indeed Intoxicants, gambling, [sacrificing on] stone alters [to other than Allah], and divining arrows are but defilement from the work of Satan, so avoid it that you may be successful. Satan only wants to cause between you animosity and hatred through intoxicants and gambling and to avert you from the remembrance of Allah and from prayer. So will you not desist? And obey Allah and obey the Messenger and beware. And if you turn away – then know that upon our Messenger is only [the responsibility for] clear notification.”*** [5:90-92]