

Fruits for the Week

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THE DETRIMENT OF *KHAMR* (INTOXICANTS)

Anas ibn Malik (RA) narrated saying: “*The Messenger of Allah (SAW) had cursed ten people who have contact with Khamr (intoxicants). He cursed the one who extracts it, the one for whom it is extracted, the one who drinks it, the one who carries it, the one to whom it is served, the butler, its seller, the one who benefits from its proceeds, its purchaser, and the one for whom it is purchased.*”

Khamr (intoxicants) is a name of everything that intoxicates and dulls or excites the mind and faculties of man, regardless of its type or given name. The scholars of *Shariah*, the physicians, the psychologists, and the scientists attributed many disadvantages, harm and detriment to drinking intoxicants.

The first and most important one is that it diverts man from remembering Allah (SWT) and performing his prayers. Being addictive, it makes man cling to it and not do anything else except that. Even though he may not be drinking at a certain moment, his heart is attached and occupied by its awe.

The second harmful matter attributed to intoxicants is the harsh punishment and warning that Allah (SWT) has threatened the drinker with. Medically, a lot of harmful things could happen to drinkers, such as stomach problems, fitness problems -- especially when they develop metabolic problems that are related to the body's chemistry. That is why we see a lot of drinkers with big stomachs. Many drinkers get old early and some of them develop cirrhosis and intestinal ulcers. Moreover, some of them become sterile.

These are some of the physical harm that may occur to those who indulge in intoxicants. As for the psychological adverse effects of drinking, they can be summed up in the following: weakening of the intellectual ability, insanity, depression, terrible thoughts, and the desire for committing suicide.

Drinkers do not behave normally amongst each other. They often fight and sometimes become dangerous psychopaths with the urge to hurt others regardless of their situation, whether they are under the influence of intoxicants or sober. Many of them fall into sinning easily, which means that drinking makes them lose their morality and self-control.

The Prophet (SAW) called the intoxicants the mother of all sins, and “*the key of all evil*”. The Qur'an says: “An abomination of *Shaitan's* handiwork”.(Al-Maidah:90) Intoxicants hurt the drinker financially as well because he spends every penny he earns on nurturing this detrimental habit. Thus, when he runs out of money, he becomes willing to do anything and sell any of his possessions, even his honour if he must, just to quench his thirst for this poison.

May Allah (SWT) save us all from perversion in our behaviour and ethics, and from the wickedness of our deeds and desires. May Allah (SWT) protect us from the defects and diseases of our hearts and guide us all to repent and regret our sins. Wallahu A'lam.

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