The Intoxicants

By

SAID BIN ABDULLA SEIF AL HATIMY

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Author: Said Bin Abdulla Seif Al Hatimy
P.O. Box 6749
Ruwi, Sultanate of Oman

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DEDICATION

To my dear parents, to all Muslims worldwide, and to every sane person who cares about his health — this short journey is dedicated.

Introduction

ALHAMDU LILLAHI RABBI L'AALAMIINA WA SSALAATU WA SSALAAMU 'ALAA ASHRAFT L–MURSALIIN.....!

Herewith I try in a simple way to point out the danger that the World at large faces today, the Muslim World in particular. This is firstly to remind myself, and secondly, my brethren in Islam, on how we are digging our own graves by using the different types of intoxicants.

I delivered the talk in Arabic sometime in 1396 A.H. (1976 A.D.). At that time, friends asked me to translate it into English. I did so, and it was published in *"The Journal of the Muslim World League"* in 1399 A.H. (issue January 1979 A.D.). [1]

The Arabic version was published in "Al Ba'ath Al Islaamy" in Ramadhan 1399 A.H. (August 1979 A.D.).

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1 It seems that what I wrote then was of some use, because I read brother Muhammad Imran's book *'The Malady and Remedy,'* writing nearly very similar article (about smoking) to that published in the Journal.

Once again friends approached me asking me to write the same in Kiswahili. I published the booklet *"Vilewe-shaji vya Kila Aina"* in 1982. And then another booklet in Arabic in 1983. And now it is my hope that this version shall meet the requirements of brothers.

Last, but not the least: I want to thank my niece Dr. Y. bint Salim bin Abdulla Seif al Hatimy for the pains she has taken to go through the papers.

I shall not forget the trouble taken by sister Kamilia, my brother Salim's wife, for her work in keying this book, and her attention to detail, editing and proofreading.

The Servant of Allah.....,

Said bin Abdulla Seif Al Hatimy

Al Khoudh
Jamadi Al-Awal 1412 A.H.
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Part One — SMOKING

The Story of Smoking

Dr. Harold Sherac explains the story in his book about cigarettes. Christopher Columbus and his crew on their first trip to the New World were astonished when they saw the aborigines breathe out smoke from their mouths and noses. This was the first experience for Europeans about tobacco and its use in smoking. The North American Indians first learned how to wrap the tobacco with the inner leaves of maize; hence they managed to make raw tobacco.

Other explorers found that in different parts of the New World, tobacco was well looked after and was being used by the aborigines. This was much in vogue in Canada's Great Lakes Region to the south of the Gulf of Mexico in Central America. The North American Indians did not only smoke cigarettes but sometimes used to grind the tobacco and smoke it in a pipe made of stone or wood. Others used to chew the tobacco. In one part of South America, they used the tobacco as powder or paste and put it in their noses or mouths as snuff.

The Indians of the New World believed in superstitions, thinking that the tobacco had secret elements producing special effects. The use of tobacco in a pipe was a familiar site, as a sign of safety and harmony between people and different tribes.

It is very easy for us to understand the attention and attraction the explorers received upon returning to Europe bringing with them the secret American plant

that could be smoked. There was a false belief of the benefit and usefulness that this plant could bring.

It is said that a servant of one of the Lords of Britain saw smoke coming out of the nose and mouth of his master. Thinking his master was on fire, he ran out and returned with a bucket full of water and proceeded to pour it over him. The Master became very furious but then laughed when he realized the reason. He told his servant that he had brought a mysterious but pleasant thing from the New World. It was that of which when you burned it and put it in your mouth it gave you a pleasant fragrance and expelled out the smoke he had seen.

Only today have we understood that the servant was right. His master was really burning internally, and we shall Inshaa-Allah too know this.

When Franco Firendes went back to Spain in 1558, he took with him tobacco he had from Mexico. In 1559, John Nico (from whose name we got nicotine), introduced tobacco to France. In 1585, Sir Francis Drake and the first Governor to Virginia, Ralf Lein, took tobacco with them to England.

We learn from these simple introductions how quickly the use of tobacco spread in European countries and even in Asia. The demand for tobacco was so great in Europe that an important trade was soon established for this commodity. After setting up James Town in the New World in 1601, people quickly grew and cared for tobacco. By 1619, 20,000 pounds of tobacco was exported from James Town to England. In Maryland, exporting tobacco started in 1631. Hence, the planting of tobacco, its use, and its exportation went on an

increase in America in line with the increase of the population. Up to 1860, common types of tobacco still consisted of cigarettes, pipes, chewing and sniffing.

Everything has got its good and bad sides. The exploration of the world is no exception.

The explorers of the New World brought back with them many things. Among the bad items was tobacco. Those who went to the East with the help of Ahmed bin Maajid, from Mombasa to India, opened trading companies. One of the companies was the East India company which used to grow tea and sell it to the World at large; with it they used to sell opium and heroin. Palestine was then the centre for its distribution in the Middle East.

The Danger of Smoking

Smoke affects the nervous system. A smoker may lose his balance or even his equilibrium if he remains without smoking for some time. He may become nervous, worried, stressed or unhappy. He may suffer from a frequent cough and disease similar to the disease of Bronchitis.

When he smokes, he burns the entire cigarette or the major part of it. There is no doubt that if someone eats or drinks anything partially or entirely burned, he exposes himself to danger. When someone hears the Word "SMOKE," what picture does he get in his mind? That black thing that mixes with the air and pollutes the atmosphere. This is exactly what a cigarette does; smokes and pollutes.

Look carefully at a smoker smoking a cigarette, at how the smoke accumulates in front of his face, entering through his nose and collecting in his lungs. This affects his breathing and, more seriously, his health. Smoke coming from him also troubles those sitting next to him or nearby. What have they done to be punished? In public places such as offices, closed - window shops and markets and public transport, this has become an unbearable situation for non-smokers. The smoke coming from a smoker affects a non-smoker in the same way it pollutes the smoker's body. Think of how perturbed a non-smoker feels when he is to be seated by a heavy smoker in a crowded public transport.

Because of this and many other reasons, some people in Europe and other parts of the world wage wars against this unwanted, filthy habit. Millions of dollars are spent on advertising to convince people to give up smoking or at least reduce their use. An interesting point to note is that cigarettes are much more costly in Europe than in the East and yet one finds more smokers in Europe compared to the East. But thanks to the endeavours of those who are waging wars against smoking, the number of smokers in Europe is gradually reducing.

Smoking pollutes the air from which we get the necessary oxygen essential for our life, animals and plants. How shall someone feel if a man spoils the water he drinks from? Naturally he will become furious and fight the intruder, for drinking water is an important aspect of living; so, polluting the air with smoke is endangering an even more important aspect of living: breathing – as the air purifies the blood through the lungs.

In some parts of the World when non-smokers travel, they are well protected. There are special apartments for them where smoke is not allowed. There is a fine levied for smoking in such assigned places. Such places are generally labelled NON-SMOKING in more than one language. This is giving due respect to sensible people. Those steps have been taken to protect those people who care for their health. In early days if you were to sit in the non-smoking section you may sit alone. But things are improving these days.

The Holy Prophet (P.B.U.H.) narrated a similar meaning:

> *"He who eats garlic or onion may not enter our mosque, let him stay at home"* (Muslim and Bukhaary).

He ordered the person who has eaten green garlic or green onions to stay in his house and not to attend congregational prayers. A congregational prayer is always urged to be attended. Its reward is 25 or 27 fold (times) than that of the one who says prayers alone. The reason is that people may be disturbed by the smell of onion or garlic.

Let us take a simple comparison between the odour of one who eats garlic and the smell of one who smokes. The person who smokes gives off an odour similar to that of a DURIAN. This is a fruit as large as a melon, with a thorny exterior and the fruit inside is sweet, soft white berries, mostly found near the Equator, especially in Zanzibar, South India, especially in Tamil Nadu, Singapore, Indonesia and Malaysia. Now, the smell of durian and garlic can be easily removed merely by eating citrus fruits such as mandarins, oranges or even

cucumber. The smell does not remain in the apparel of the person. The smell of tobacco remains in the clothing and upholstery of the smoker for some time. (Mere air fresheners work only temporarily.)

A persistent cough is generally common for smokers due to the blocked airways to their lungs. They are constantly trying to clear the sputum (smoke and dust particles) lodged in the air passage warp. Stains are found on the teeth and tongue giving off a bad odour while talking or even breathing. The hand that holds the cigarette has stained fingers and nails, and if it were possible to view the rib cage lung cavity and bronchials, they too would be stained with nicotine.

Smoke affects the digestive system and causes loss of appetite. For some they lose their sexual urge. Constipation is a known side effect. It is well known that smoking is the main cause of lung, stomach, throat and lip cancer. It may even lead to a fatal disease, heart failure. It is estimated that about one million people die annually because of smoking. Some of them die because of cardiovascular disease.

Cause of the Death of Kings of Britain

The medical correspondent of the Sunday Times, Mr. Oliver Gillie, wrote an interesting article in 1978 about smoking in the monthly Readers Digest under the title *"Smoking: The King Size Killer."*

The writer of the article in his study of the lives of four British kings came to the conclusion that they used

to smoke too much. Smoking was the main reason for their deaths. He went on to summarize the death of each one of them.

King Edward VII made smoking popular and socially acceptable. He used to smoke one cigar and two cigarettes before breakfast. He smoked a daily average of 12 enormous cigars and 20 ordinary cigarettes. In his forties, he had a severe attack of bronchitis. The doctors advised him to reduce the number of his daily intake of cigarettes and cigars. All their endeavours went away with the wind. In his sixties, the King became severely short-minded and died at the age of 67.

King George V was so much addicted to smoke that he suffered from frequent attacks of bronchitis and finally accumulated chronic bronchitis. He died at the age of 70. Medical reports say that the immediate cause of his death was the infection of a virus like the one of influenza.

King George VI and his brother Edward VIII began smoking when they were naval cadets at the ages of 12 and 13 respectively. King George VI used to smoke an average of 40 to 50 cigarettes per day. The result was a severe degeneration of his arteries. He had to undergo a lung operation for cancer. His left lung was greatly deteriorated and was therefore removed. Due to smoking he then suffered a coronary heart attack and died in 1952.

His brother, the Duke of Windsor (Edward VIII) was also an adamant smoker. This led to throat cancer which was the cause of his death.

Many important articles against smoking have been written in different International papers such as the London Times and The Guardian. Reputed writers like Dr. Keith Ball took part in a campaign against this evil habit of smoking.

Carbon Monoxide

In Britain alone more than 40,000 people die annually of coronary heart disease. At least 10,000 people die annually due to the addiction of smoking. Doctors say that there is nicotine and carbon monoxide in tobacco. Nicotine causes the secretion of adrenaline which then increases the workload of the heart. Fatty deposits are distributed throughout the arteries and veins which inhibits the blood flow and causes thrombosis, the obstruction of blood flow leading to heart failure.

Combined with haemoglobin, this reduces the oxygen content in the haemoglobin going to the heart. The use of cigars and pipes exposes one to the dangers of lip, mouth, larynx and esophagus cancer.

Pregnant women are to refrain from smoking because it may cause miscarriage or stillborn babies. The embryo absorbs carbon monoxide twice as much as its mother. Carbon monoxide is one of the components of the smoke from tobacco. This is so because of the uncompleted burning there is insufficient oxygen. The reason the oxygen level is low is because the carbon monoxide combines with the hemoglobin particles and they travel along as one. The duration of the cigarette enables more and more of carbon monoxide to over-power the oxygen available on the hemoglobin particles, thus giving a low oxygen rate on each hemoglobin particle that transfers to the blood.

Nicotine

An ordinary cigarette contains 23 mg. of nicotine. The part that is smoked has 17 mg. Out of 17, 3 mg. goes into the mouth of the smoker. If a person smokes 10 cigarettes a day, he takes in a total of 30 mg. of nicotine.

Of that 30 mg., about 10% is absorbed by the human membrane. The amount of absorption depends on circumstances such as if the smoker is addicted or not, if he is a regular smoker or a casual smoker. It is a proven fact that if a person given a dose of 60 mg. of nicotine at one time, he will naturally succumb at once. The human blood takes 70% of nicotine in the lungs to be rid of through urine output. But the remaining 90% pass through different chemical changes which are contained within the body. All this takes place within 24 hours.

Nicotine affects the lymph glands at the communication centres between muscles and nerves. Once the nicotine stimulates the lymphial gland it may freeze the nervous system, which in turn, prevents the breathing muscles to work. This is because the nerve currents are not being sent out to the muscles.

Nicotine affects the eye as such that it widens the pupils. When there is strong light, the pupil is unable to constrict so as to protect the eye. Therefore, the eyesight of a smoker is reduced.

Blood pressure and pulse rate are increased because of the constriction of blood vessels in the body. The vessels become smaller and so the blood flow becomes stronger at a desperate effort to maintain a normal

blood flow. This is a very serious condition and often leads to heart failure due to overload. It also affects the bladder in the same way, making passing urine a very difficult thing. Shivering and headaches are also a known side effect.

Smoke and Pregnancy

Dr. Winnia Simpson said the irregularity of the menstrual period is generally twice as common in female smokers. An early stoppage of menses discharge before its period generally occurs in smokers. Disorder of the Darcia gland is seven times more likely in smokers than in non-smokers. All of this gives strong evidence that smoking has a bad effect on the fetus because the poisonous products of tobacco go directly to the blood tissues of the embryo.

Cigarettes, Cigars or Pipes

Studies show that the percentage of those affected by lung cancer is less in those who smoke pipes and cigars than those who smoke regular cigarettes, providing it is less than half a packet a day. Those who smoke pipes and cigars are more likely to suffer from lunch cancer than non-smokers.

Other Dangers of Smoking

In order that we may not waste our dear reader's time, let us mention some of the dangers of smoking in brief:

- **Tar:** The hard particles inhaled in the mucous membrane of the main passages. A hard layer of tar is

formed blocking the passages and constricting the way to the lungs. Heavy smokers and long-time smokers have tar extended into the lungs, leading to lung detention and lung cancer.

■ **Weakness in Educational Attainment:** Many studies and experiments were made on students of higher education to know what extent smoking affects their educational achievement. In the results, it was found that 10% of the students lost some of their mental power. A group of them were weak in the fields of analysis, distinguishing and analogy. This is because smoking weakens the mental activity and slackens to answer to call of the nerves.

■ **Heartbeat:** Dr. Pastido says that the power of the heart becomes weak while smoking. The heart becomes tired and therefore the output of heart palpitations is less. Heart palpitations are common due to the irregular workload required. The treatment of this is very easy in young adults but constant use of tobacco causes permanent damage to the power of the heart.

■ **Quick Assimilation of Food and Blood Sugar:** Dr. Harold Sherac says that among the quick effects of cigarette smoking is the fast assimilation of food. The body tissues quickly absorb the intake of smoke thinking that it is food, hence the body gets energy and quick assimilation. When food is assimilated very quickly the body burns more fuel and produces energy and heat more quickly than if the food assimilation had been slow. Blood sugar is the main source of energy for the body tissues. The blood takes the sugar to all parts of the body where it mixes with oxygen and produces energy and heat. The body then becomes ready to respond, and by producing a large quantity of sugar then

had been stored in the liver, the food assimilation is quicker. This is how cigarette smoke increases the blood sugar in the body.

By now it must be clear that the quick response the body gives to smoke is in emergency cases. Excess burning of fuel occurs when there is sufficient fuel to burn. This in turn gives the heart a very difficult and demanding task to perform in order to preserve and maintain a reasonable pressure of blood for the entire body. It is now clear to see why the heart and its vessels are more likely to deteriorate more rapidly in a smoker than a non-smoker.

Let us wind up with what George Washington Karver said about a man who lived in the tobacco growing area:

> *"Tobacco is neither a food nor a drink. The human body is built out of food and drink. Drugs do nothing in the building of a human body; moreover, had the Almighty God meant the nose to be used as a funnel, he would have made its nostrils facing upwards."*

There are no better words to describe the absurdity of tobacco than this. O brethren, let's remember what our Holy Prophet Mohammed (P.B.U.H.) said:

> *"Any piece of flesh that grows out of Haraam (the unlawful), the Hellfire is its more deserving...*

Part Two — ALCOHOL

Prohibition in Four Stages

In the first part we discussed smoking and its repercussions to the smoker and to those around him, and the diseases caused by smoking. Let us now try and talk about drinking and its ills. Islam dealt with the problem of alcohol and other intoxicants in an excellent way. It did so in four stages. May Allah grant us success in our endeavours.

FIRST STAGE

The first stage was when Islam was still in its initial and infant stage in Makka. Let us see what the Holy Qur'an has said to those first pioneers of Islam:

> *"And from the fruit of the date palm and the vine, you get out wholesome drink and food..."* ([Qur'an 16:67] Translated by Abdallah Yousuf Ali.)

While commenting on this very verse, Abdallah Yousuf Ali has the following to say: "There are wholesome drinks and food that can be got out of the date palm and the vine, e.g., non-alcoholic drinks from the date and the grape: vinegar, date sugar, grape sugar and dates and grapes themselves for eating." If the sugar must be taken in the sense of fermented vine, it refers to the time before intoxicants were prohibited. This is a Meccan Sura and the prohibition came in good and useful products from the date-palm and the vine, such as, food, drink and fruit. We sometimes misuse these good things that Allah has given us. Instead of

taking them as wholesome food and drink, they are turned into intoxicating drinks by those of us with a bad inclination so that their minds go bad.

One of the scholars says: "Those fruits that come out of life which rain water dispenses and from which you take SAKAR (Sugar) (Sakar: intoxication was not yet prohibited) and wholesome food..." The text points out "the blessing of livelihood is other than khamr (sakar: intoxicant) and the intoxicant is not good livelihood." This was all preparation for what was coming later about the prohibition of sakar. This Aya (verse) was telling them that they used to make khamr out of the date products and the vine. There is no ruling of these being Halaal (lawful). It was just paving the way for making them Haraam (unlawful) later. *"In this is a sign for those who are wise,"* [Qur'an 16:66].

Mohammed Mahmoud Hijaazy has the following to comment:

> *"From the products of date palms and vine you make Sakar and Khamr (intoxicants) and get wholesome food for your livelihood and for eating..."*

They say this is the first Aya revealed to prohibit khamr. It was revealed in Makka as the Sura is a Makkan one, while the prohibition of khamr was in Madina. Some ask, how is this?

As khamr was a deep-rooted thing which became part of their daily lives, it was unbecoming to reveal its prohibition abruptly. It may have met strong resistance and not been acceptable by the people. This Aya was just a hint, preparing the ground for how khamr was to be revealed. So utilize the wholesome food from date

palm; the vine and the like is a very useful and desired thing. But to take sakar from them is a misuse of that blessing given by Allah. There is no goodness in sakar as we shall see in the coming verses.

SECOND STAGE

The second stage of prohibition occurred in Madina where Muslims started building an Islamic society under the guidance of the Holy Prophet (P.B.U.H.). The Islamic society that was being built was the first well organized one.

The companions of the Holy Prophet (P.B.U.H.) were so doubtful about intoxicants, that they often asked him about it. In reply to their question the following verse was revealed.

> *"They ask thee concerning Khamr (wine) and gambling, say: 'In them is great sin, and some profit for men, but the sin is greater than the profit...,'"* [Qur'an 2.229].

Commenting on this verse Abdallah Yousuf Ali says that this literally means the fermented juice of the grape. It is used in religious terms to mean all types of intoxicating liquor or drug. There could be some benefit in it but the harm is greater than the benefit.

Mohammed Mahmoud Hijaazy says: *"The Almighty Allah answers questions that were asked by the Sahaba (Companions of the Prophet (P.B.U.H.) one after another in accordance with the proper time He deems right to answer."*

Ayas (verses) about khamr were revealed four times gradually (for the Arabs) until finally it was prohibited. Allah treated the problem four times gradually. This shows one of the miracles of Islam. While dealing with subjects that are not deeply rooted in customs and habits, it gives consideration to deeply rooted customs and habits allowing some graduation. We see this while dealing with khamr, as we have just seen.

The first Aya revealed was: *"...And from fruit of date palm and the vine you get out wholesome drink and food..."*

If anyone was asked the secret regarding this very Aya as one of those prohibiting khamr, the answer is that the verse praised wholesome food and ignored sakar. By not mentioning anything about it this shows a good sign that no good can be gotten from it. This is a remembrance to humanity from very far.

Coming back to the very verse we were talking about - "...In them is great sin and some profit for men..."

After its revelation some refrained from drinking, while others went on.

The Arab linguists use the word "khamr" for anything that veils or covers the minds. The companions understood what khamr meant because some were very good scholars, graduating from the teachings and practices of the Holy Prophet (SAW). The word khamr

is used for fermented grapes, raisins, dates, maize, barley and the like. When the Hadith (Tradition) narrated:

> *"Everything that inebriates is Khamr (wine) and every Khamr is Haraam (unlawful). What intoxicates much, little of it is also Haraam..."*

Some types that are called khamr are found in grape juice once bitter is added. Others once cooked, 2/3 (two-thirds) of it is evaporated, becoming lawful to drink once the intoxicating matter has gone.

Khamr: There is great sin within it. It consumes the money, affects the mind and destroys the health. It is the main source of all evils. It suffices that it reduces the human being to be on par with a ferocious animal. Health and medical officials agree about the bad effects it has on people. Some of the Christian countries have also made it unlawful.

There is great sin in wine drinking and one of the things Allah forbade is sins. So, sins of whatever nature are forbidden. Can anyone, then, say that alcohol is not forbidden in the Holy Qur'an? Those who say so do not understand Arabic, let alone the secret of the Holy Qur'an. The Arabs themselves find difficulty in understanding the language of the Holy Qur'an. Any foreigner of a language, however conversed he may be in a particular language, will meet up with difficulty in comprehending even ordinary words written by a local writer and speaker of that original language.

There may be meanings hidden within the spaces of the writer's words understood only by those familiar with the language.

He who says that alcohol was not prohibited in the Holy Qur'an has either been affected by the enemies of humanity or has a bee in his bonnet. The enemies of Islam in particular try their best to distract Muslims from Islam and derail them from their true and straight path. They try this and, if unsuccessful, they pose another banner of doubt. They say something like this: *"We can't gain Muslims into our religion, so let's now make the younger generations doubt some aspects of their religion. Let's take alcoholism and polygamy as our main topics to lead them into doubt."*

Some pretend that the khamr that is forbidden is that extracted from grapes, dates, wheat, barley and maize, started at the time of the Holy Prophet (P.B.U.H). Such show ignorance to the texts of our Holy Qur'an and the traditions and sayings of our Holy Prophet (P.B.U.H.) about khamr. The lexicons tell us the connotation of the word khamr is to conceal or cover something. We find that the khamr works from the initial stage of consumption, covering up the mind of the user of khamr. It was reported that 'Umar, Ma'adh and other companions of the Holy Prophet (P.B.U.H.) asked him:

> *"O! Prophet of Allah; give us a Fatwa (religious ruling) about Khamr, because it takes away the mind and spoils the money...!!"*

So to take away the mind is to cover it up or depart with it. All of these meanings are very near to each other. What it really does is stop the mind from functioning properly in the way it is designed to.

There is also great sin in gambling. Enmity without reason or cause, hatefulness, waste of time is a "harmful thing," diverting the mind from careful and logical thinking. Over and above that it causes laziness and indolence.

There is said to be some profit for man in khamr, whichever type. There is profit, trade for those who work for it. In gambling there is unexpected wealth which was not laboured for. But there is no blessing in the two and their sin is much greater than their benefit. They also pose the problem of how to spend money. More is spent than really needed rather than reasonable amounts on the individual and his dependents.

A Muslim ruler has the right to propose on the rich, a moderate amount of money a person and his dependents need with the excess being spent on the poor and needy Muslims when it is necessitated. Making khamr and gambling unlawful and exemplifying guidance on how to utilize any extra money for the necessities of life provides happiness for the society in this world, and the hereafter. Allah has explained this in a clear-cut way through verses of Qur'anic legislation.

Any matter that inebriates the mind, spoils health, wastes money and exterminates the human personality is haraam. Things like wine, opium, hashish, heroin and any other derivative that may be involved to ruin Allah's creation is considered unlawful. And to those people who try to lift their hand against Allah Almighty and say: Islam did not forbid alcohol. If he really did forbid it,

show us the exact verse that deals with the prohibition. Let them read the following Aya carefully:

> **Say:** *"The things that my Lord hath indeed forbidden are shameful things, whether open or secret, sins and trespass against truth or reason...,"* [Qur'an 7:33].

And now compare it with the Hadith:

> *"...Everything that inebriates is Khamr and every Khamr is Haraam...!*
>
> *And what intoxicates much, little of it is also Haraam...!"*

The Holy Prophet (P.B.U.H.) was the most eloquent Arab, as when He spoke He used chaste language in all His speech. He was born in Makka from Quraish the most eloquent of Arabs. He spent most of His life with the Quraish. His early youth was spent with the Bani Saa'ida in the wilderness. Is it then becoming to say that it was very difficult for Him to comprehend the meaning of some of the Holy Qur'an so that He took the following drastic steps had khamr not been forbidden?

Some of the steps He took about Khamr were as follows:

He prohibited people from drinking khamr. He flogged those who drank and He cursed those who drank. The khamr that had belonged to some of the orphans was ordered by Him to be spilled and not to be utilized in any sense. After the death of our Holy Apostle (P.B.U.H.) we see that His successors, the companions, followed His lead. Not only them, but the chain goes on and on from followers to our present day.

They are all in agreement to the rule of calling khamr unlawful. There is very strong reason to support the claim that khamr is haraam. All the Muslim sects are agreed that khamr is unlawful. So is it then that all of them were lead astray and the westernized are right in making khamr and the shameful matter lawful...?

Abdul Hassan Sheikh 'Ali bin Muhammed Al Bisyawy said in his book *"Mukhtasar al Bisyany"*: *"The flogging of a drinker is milder than that of a caluminator. He is to be stripped well, but the whiteness of the armpit of the flogger should be seen while beating (he should raise his arm very high). The flogging of a drunkard is the same as that of one who has drunk Khamr if he is inebriated...".*

Intoxication is the thing that goes away with the mind. Some of our scholars say that the intoxicated is not to be flogged until he become sober...! Two witnesses are sufficient for khamr or two females and one male.

"...In them is great sin and some profit..." After the revelation of the above Aya some Muslims gradually refrained from drinking as it was of no use doing something whose harm was greater than its benefits. Others were not able to do so as the drinking had become such a deeply rooted habit that they regarded it as part of their daily life.

THIRD STAGE

The third stage of the gradual prohibition was when the following Aya was revealed.

> *"O!, ye who believe! Approach not prayers with a mind befogged until ye can understand all that ye say..."* [Qur'an 43:6].

Nour Diin Abu Muhammed 'Abdulla bin Humayyid as Saalmy ibn Jawhar says: *"There are restrictive ordinances for those who drink to prevent his mind. Lo! He should be thankful. Surely intoxication is the quick madness. How then does a sane person run for madness. He who drinks khamr is to be flogged even though he were not inebriated. In the Holy Qur'an we are told to eschew it, not to even go near it..."*

Abdallah Yousuf Ali says: *"The reference is either to a state of intoxication or to a dazed state of mind on account of drowsiness or some other cause. Or perhaps both are implied. Before the prohibition of intoxicants was altogether promulgated it was, at the least, unbecoming that people should come to say prayer in such a state. For prayers it is only right that we should collect our mind and body in whole and approach Allah in a spirit of reverence..."*

Sayyid Qutub comments, *"...The teaching started with an order of worshipping Allah interdicting them to associate him with anything, with Salaah (Prayers) as a motto of worship. And in the Aya that comes after, there comes some rules of prayers and how to purify oneself before praying...."* It is a service of the Almighty teaching to the Muslim group that the Islamic curricula picked them up from the Jahilia or pre-Islamic period when the rule was similar to survival of the fittest. Khamr was one of the first and original Jahilia traditions, and a peculiar phenomenon for a society such as theirs. The Roman Society adopted khamr at the peak of its Jahilia. And it is also today in the European, African and American societies at the summit of their new Jahilia. In Sweden one of the most highly cultured countries, every family in the first half of the century would prepare wine for themselves. The average weekly consumption per person was 12 litres. When the danger

of addiction was felt, the government took the policy of monopolizing khamr and averaged limits to the consumption. Wine present in public places was prohibited but later on, the restriction was reduced to being permitted in public restaurants provided food was eaten. Then a restricted amount of public places were also allowed to sell khamr.

The government of the United States of America once tried to eradicate khamr. It enacted a law (Law of Drought) in 1919 which was enforced for 14 years until the government was forced to annul the law. It still tried all possible means to make people abstain from drinking. Publicity for the campaign such as publication, mass media, public cinemas and other communication means were set up to show the bad and ill effects of alcohol. It is estimated the United States government spent at least 60 million dollars and 110 billion pages of books and pamphlets to enforce the law. Three hundred people were executed and 532,335 people were sentenced. Sixteen million dollars were collected in fines and 404 million dollars worth of property was confiscated.

All this endeavour went with the wind and was in vain. The result was the American nation became more attached to liquor than ever before. The nation was so obstinate that the government was forced to withdraw the law in 1933 and make liquor legal.

Had a nation tried to stop people from intoxication in the same method, it would have lead itself to the same result as that of the United States of America. [1]

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1 Tanqiihaat by Abdul A'alaa Mawdudi quoted in Maadhaa Khasira L'aalamii Bi-inhalaah 1 Muslimiina by Abdul Hasaan Nnadwy.

Look at the heavenly way given to us for dealing with such an aspect as the eradication of khamr. There was no need for big armies, huge amounts of money thrown away or any such thing to eradicate this dangerous and harmful khamr.

Once Allah's warnings touched Muslims' ears, miracles happened that neither the United States, the USSR, the United Kingdom, France nor any other nation could have performed. Many nations of the World Organizations, e.g., International Commission for Prevention of Alcoholism (ICPA), are still trying to eradicate alcohol and drug dependence. Most of their campaign efforts go with little effect. We may note though that ICPA fares a little better than others.

Oh! ye brothers in Islam, go back to the core of your religion. Go back to your original curriculum and adhere to the teachings of Islam and you shall, Inshaa-Allah, be the best of nations. Had you an ardent feeling of Islam you would never had thought of liquor.

It is narrated that Hazrat 'Umar (R.A.A.) was drinking in Jahilia during his early years of Islam before the revelation of the following Aya:

> *"...They ask thee concerning Khamr and gambling say: In them is great sin, and some profit...,"* [Qur'an 219:2].

He was so affected by the verse when he heard this, that he said:

> *"...O! Allah, give us a straight forward and satisfactory explanation concerning liquor!"* He remained in such a state until the following verse was revealed. *"...Oh,*

ye who believe! Approach not prayers with a mind befogged until ye can understand all that ye say..." [Qur'an 43:6].

'Attai bin Saaib on authority of Abdul Rahamaan Ssulamy on authority of 'Ali bin Abu Taalib narrates:

'Abdur Rahmaan bin 'Auf organized a banquet and invited some of the Muhajiriin and Ansaar. He prepared delicious food and a lot of drinks. They ate and drank till they were drunk. When the time for prayer was due and so he was asked to lead the congregation prayer, as it is much emphasized to say prayers in a congregational way under the leadership of an Imam. The Imam proceeded to read the Suratil 'Kafiruun, but mistakenly read it incorrectly. He read it in the following manner:

"...O! Ye who reject faith, I worship that ye worship, and ye worship that I worship...," Instead of: "...O! Ye that reject faith. I worship not that ye worship nor will ye worship that I worship..."

This is the heavenly treatment of that deeply rooted tradition and it is the only way to cure such ailment.

Islam treated it, as we said in stages. Stage one was at Makka and is just a glimpse that something about wine is on the way. The second stage was at Madina and at a time when Islam formed a government where its word carried weight. Stage three is the gradual prohibition being exercised. This stage was the most difficult one for habitual drinkers. They were forbidden from drink at times near to prayers due to what the newly revealed Aya stated as not to approach prayers with a mind befogged, let alone saying their prayers in

such a dazed state of mind. And, as Muslims, they felt they should comply with the Holy teachings.

During the daily prayers there is not sufficient time for an inebriated person to become sober in time for the next prayer. Therefore people had to refrain from drinking during daytime hours as they were supposed to say obligatory prayers five times a day. There is generally only one to two hours difference between Dhuhr (noon) and Asr (afternoon) prayers. The same can more or less be said about Maghrib (sunset) and 'Isha (night) prayers. The only time they could have a long period was between 'Isha anf Fajr (dawn) prayers, and Fajr and Dhuhr prayers. Although it was the most difficult stage for drinkers, it certainly went a very long way in solving the acute problem of the drunkard.

FOURTH AND FINAL STAGE

After the battle of Uhud and when the Muslim front was hale and hearty and calm as a grassy sea, Muslims once again started asking Allah the Almighty to give them a satisfactory answer about khamr. Hazrat 'Umar and Mw'adh were taking lead in this dua and while doing so, the final and the most clear-cut Aya about khamr was revealed:

> *"...O ye who believe! Intoxicants and gambling, (dedication of stones) and (divination) by arrows, are an abomination of Satan's handicraft. Eschew such (abomination) that ye may prosper. Satan's plan is but to excite enmity and hatred between you, with intoxicants and gambling, and hinder you from remembrance of Allah, and from prayer: Will ye not then abstain..."* ([Qur'an 5:93,94] Translation by Abdallah Yousuf Ali.)

It was then not so difficult for Muslims to abstain from drinking altogether because they were mentally prepared and encouraged to stop drinking. Although it was not an abrupt prohibition, it had strong power. When this fourth and final stage of prohibition was revealed in the third year after the battle of Uhud, proclaiming before the Muslims that liquor and drugs were not to be taken by Muslims, it was then that we can see its Heavenly effect. When the reciter of the revealed verse reached: "...Will ye not then abstain...?"

All Muslims said in one voice: ...*"We have really abstained O Allah, our Sustainer..."* Here is the magic touch of the heavenly training: The drinkers poured out, on the earth, all the alcohol that remained whether in a jar, mug, tumbler, or any other container available. And not only that, but they also spat out what was in their mouths.

Hazrat 'Umar was called and it was read to him. He said: *"...We have abstained. Khamr has been made the same as gambling, dedication of stones and divination by arrows. Far be it, far be it and remote from us."*

Abdulla bin Abbaas narrated that the Aya was revealed because two of the Ansaari tribes drank till they were drunk. They quarrelled and fought hard. When they became sober and saw the effect of the fight on their faces and beard, they said it was my nephew or cousin. Had he been kind to me, he would have not done such a thing to me. There was much ill among them. To this, was the verse revealed.

However, the reason some people say liquor is an abomination and it is in so and so's belly and he is martyr of Badr or Uhud, the following was their answer:

> *"There shall be no sin (imputed) into those who believe and do good works for what they may have eaten (in the past)..."* [Qur'an 5:93]

> *"O! Ye who believe, leave all this debate and follow the command of your Creator and that of His Apostle (P.B.U.H.) and do not go against it. He hath already warned those who do not follow His commands. And let those who conspire to evade orders beware lest grief or painful punishment befall them..."* ([Qur'an 24:63] Translation by Muhammad M. Pickthall.)

If one of us ponders about drinks, he shall come to the conclusion that it has, if at all, very little use. Liquor, or alcohol, covers the mind. The one who is not usually able to stop drinking goes on drinking because the controller, the mind, is covered up. There is no sensor to stop him from eating justly. He is unable to make rational reasonable judgements because the alcohol has clouded all his motor facilities within the brain. This explains the unruly behaviour which stems from drinking.

The Holy Qur'an warns us about the tricks of our mortal enemy, Satan. Suffice us what is said in the verses that prohibit khamr. In them we read that his plan is to excite enmity and hatred between us. Brethren, we want to live in complete harmony and understanding among ourselves and with others. There should be no hatred or enmity between us and liquor is one of the causes of the enmity and hatred.

To discard ourselves of alcohol would be to discard that problem. The Holy Prophet (P.B.U.H.) used to tell his companions what it means: *"...Do not tell me anything (bad) about any of my companions. I want my heart and mind to be free and have no grudges against anyone...!"*

Salaat (Prayers) is the first pillar of Islam after the Shahada (Oneness of Allah). A Muslim is told not to approach Salaat when he is not clean. He must first purify himself before he approaches prayers. He must be pure of mind and body. There should not be any disturbance or detractor. He must be sober and should be in clean clothes also. Islam regards prayers as a monologue between a Muslim and the Creator of the Universe. So he is prohibited to approach this monologue while inebriated or under the influence of alcohol.

With reference to Satan's evil tricks, Allah hath warned man through his four books and by the mouths of his Messengers. Prophet Issa, "Jesus" (PBUH) warned his people about how Satan was able to seduce Hawaa (Eve) to eat from the forbidden tree. We read in the Gospel how Satan's snake was able to reduce Eve and then he made Adam eat from the forbidden tree. It says: "now the snake like the most cunning animal that the Lord God had made." The snake asked the woman, "Did God really tell you not to eat fruit?....We may eat the fruit of any tree...!" The woman answered, "Except the tree in the middle of it... If we eat, we will die." The snake replied, "That's not true. You will not die. God said that because He knows when you eat it, you will be like god..." (Genesis 2:35).

The Holy Qur'an says: *"...Then did Satan make them slip from the (Garden) and get them out of a state (of felicity)."* [Qur'an 2:36] This means that we should be very careful about the instigations of our mortal enemy. That is why we are told to rid ourselves of all abominable things: as in the last revealed Aya on intoxicants, that drinks, gambling, etc., are abomination of Satan's handicraft, and as we read in may other verses of the Holy Qur'an. Had the khamr not been unlawful the Apostle of Allah (P.B.U.H.) would not have ordered all the liquor to be thrown away no matter who it belonged to, this pertaining to some khamr belonging to Orphans which was also ordered to be spilled. Had the Messenger of Allah (P.B.U.H.) not understood that liquor is Haraam he would not have forbidden Muslims from drinking it. Had it not been prohibited by Allah the prophet (P.B.U.H.) would not have cursed the khamr, and all people having anything to do with the making or packaging of it. Had the khamr not been haraam the Apostle of Allah (P.B.U.H.) would not have ordered the drinker to be flogged.

Sayings and Teachings of the Prophet Muhammad (P.B.U.H.)

There is a very good collection of Hadith (Sayings and Teachings of the Holy Prophet P.B.U.H.), dealing with intoxicants. Some are given below:

Abu 'Ubaida narrates on the authority of Djaabir from Ibn 'Abbaas (M.A.B.P.W.Th) saying: "...A man gave the Messenger of Allah (P.B.U.H.) two jars full of khamr. The Prophet said *"Do you not know that it is prohibited?"* The man replied "No" and whispered something in another's ear. The Prophet asked,

"What secret did you confide in him?" He said, "I ordered him to sell it." The Prophet answered, *"He who hath made its drinking unlawful hath also prohibited its selling!"* Then the two jars were opened and the liquor spilled on the ground to the last drop."

Abu 'Ubaida narrates on the authority of Djaabir from Anas bin Maalik saying: "I was serving khamr to Abuu Dudjaana, Abaa Talha, and 'Ubay bin Ka'ab, which was made from dates. When the verse reached them, I said, "Liquor is prohibited." Abu Talha said, "O! Anas go and break all those jars!!" I took a big iron bar to break the bottom and all the khamr flowed on the ground...!

Ar Rabi'i narrates on the authority of 'Ubbaada bin Ssaamit saying: The Holy Prophet (P.B.U.H.) said: *"Time will come when the Umma shall deem liquor lawful by calling it other names than its original one. He who drinks khamr in this world, it shall be unlawful for him to drink it in the Hereafter."*

On the authority of Quis ibn Sa'ad ibn 'Ubbada, he said: "Every intoxicant is khamr and every khamr is haraam...!"

In another hadith, Hazrat 'Aisha bint Abu Bakr (M.A.B.P.W.Th) said: "When the Prophet was asked about date syrup that Yemen's used to drink as alcohol, He said, "*Everything that intoxicates is unlawful!!*" "

Abu Daud narrates on the authority of Ummu Salama (M.A.B.P.W.H) that she said the Prophet (P.B.U.H.) prohibited all intoxicants and drinks that slacken a person's mind. Abu Daud narrates on the

authority of "Abdulla bin 'Abbas (M.A.B.P.W.Th) that the Prophet said: *"Abstain from khamr because it is the key (main source) of all evils."*

Abu Huraira (M.A.B.P.W.H) said that the Prophet (P.B.U.H.) said: *"Anyone who commits adultery, fornication or steals or drinks liquor cannot remain a true Muslim while disobeying Allah's law by committing any of these great sins."*

Al Hakiim narrates that the Prophet (P.B.U.H.) said: *"He who commits fornication or adultery or drinks wines, Allah removes that person's faith from him in the same way as one takes off one's clothes."*

Abu Daud writes: " The Prophet (P.B.U.H.) said: *"Allah Ta'alaa curses: khamr, the drinker, the server, the buyer, the brewer, the brewery, the container, the carrier, the receiver, and the one who uses the money which has been earned by selling such a drink....!"* "

Ahmed narrates that the Prophet (P.B.U.H.) said: *"People who drink khamr, the people who cut off family (relations) ties and those who believe in witchcraft shall never enter Paradise. He who dies and has not abstained from drinking, Allah will make him drink from the river of GHOTTA (the river flowing from the sex organs of the prostitutes). The people of Hell shall be perturbed by the nasty smell from sex organs of the prostitutes."*

An-Nasaai writes the same story in another way. He says that the Prophet said: *"Three types of people shall never enter Paradise, the drinker of khamr, those who break away from their relatives, and the dayyuuth"* (a shameless person who is not annoyed when his wife commits adultery).

Ibn 'Abbas (R.A.A.) narrates: I heard the Apostle of Allah (P.B.U.H.) saying: *"He who drinks a little of khamr Allah Ta-allah shall not accept neither his mandatory nor his optional prayers for three days. And the one who drinks a cup of liquor the Almighty will not accept his prayers for forty mornings (days). Allah hath promised the drinker of khamr to make him drink from the river of Khibaal (blood puss of the people of Hell)."*

Ibn Maaja writes that the Prophet said: *"Wine whether taken in small or large quantities, intoxicates a person, therefore it is haraam."*

Sa'ad ibn Abii Waqaas says: "The Messenger of Allah (P.B.U.H.) said, *"I forbid you from drinking (even) a little of what that, when taken in great quantity, intoxicates." "*

'Umar (RAA) narrates: "I heard from the Prophet saying: *"He who believes in Allah and the Last Day should not sit at a table of which people drink." "*

Abdulla bin 'Umar said: *"Do not say Salaam (greeting) to the drinkers and do not visit them when they are sick."*

Abu Huraira writes: The Prophet said: *"The drinker of liquor is like the worshipper of idols."* It is also narrated that the Prophet (P.B.U.H.) said, *"He who knows (by heart probably) one verse from the Holy Qur'an and drinks wine, in the Last Day each single letter of that Aya will sue a case against him before Allah Ta'alla until each of them gets its right."* Woe to

him who is sued by the Holy Qur'an. He cannot get rid. He is to be punished.

A group of people meeting together at a bar or a similar place for drinks, shall be gathered together in Hell, where each one of them will blame the other saying, "If it were not for you who led me astray, I would not have been in Hell today...!"

Anyone who had been drinking khamr in this world shall be made by Allah to drink poison from Asawida, (black, poisonous snakes) that will make both the skin and flesh of his face fall into the vessels he drinks from. Allah the Almighty shall accept neither the fasting, prayers, nor the pilgrimage of the alcohol drinker. Nor from the brewer, the seller, the wine carrier, the person to whom it was brought to, or the person who uses the money obtained by selling wine. If these people did not repent of their deeds before they died, this is the punishment. But once anyone of them repents heartily, pledging never to commit evil again (Tawba Nasuuha), Allah will accept their repentance. Otherwise, they will be forced to drink the puss of Hell for every single drop of alcohol they had taken in the world.

'Abdullah Ibn 'Umar said the Prophet said: *"Do not sit together with the drinkers of khamr, nor visit them when they are sick. Do not even attend their funerals. The drinkers of wine shall come on the Last Day with black faces, their tongues leaking on one side and saliva coming out of their mouths. Anyone who sees their filthy appearance will know that the people were the drinkers of liquor."*

Ummu Salama (R.A.A.) (one of the wives of the Prophet) said, "One of my daughters fell ill. I gave her some liquor." Soon the Prophet (P.B.U.H.) entered with serious eyes and saying: *"What is this O Ummu Salama?"* I told him that I was curing my daughter. He then replied, *"Allah did not make the cure of the illness of Muslims from what He hath ordained to be haraam (unlawful)."*

About Khamr

The Qadhi Ahmed bin Hajar Al Buutaamy writes in the book co-authored with his son, Dr. Hajar bin Ahmed, under the title of *"Liquor and Other Intoxicants, Drugs and Smoking: Their Being Haraam and Dangerous"*:

- **Point 1: Khamr is Haraam** (unlawful)

Khamr is haraam whether consumed a little or in great quantities. There are clear cut verses from the Holy Qu'ran, Hadith and the General consensus of Muslim Ulamas (theologians).

- **Point 2: The Legalizer is Kaafir** (apostate)

As khamr is unlawful in the Holy Qur'an, in tradition (hadith) and in the general consensus, so anyone who says anything contrary to this is saying, i.e., it is halaal and he is to be regarded as kafir (infidel). His blood and property are halaal for Muslims. That is what Ibn Hazm rules out. Shiite Imam's say that they who deem liquor lawful are to be killed because they are apostates. They are not to be made to repent as they have repudiated as they know that it is part of Islamic injunctions.

- **Point 3: Deserves Punishment of Ordinance**

The one who drinks khamr is to be punished according to the Ordinance of Allah, even though he drank first a single drop of wine, in accordance with the consent of the Sahaaba (followers of the Prophet) and of the interpretation of the Hadith; what intoxicates when taken in great quantity little of it is also unlawful.

- **Point 4: The Punishment of the Drinker of Wine and Other Intoxicants**

He who insists on drinking is to be administered eighty strokes of the whip according to the following sects (schools): Hanafii, Hambali, Maaliki, Ibaadhii, Zaidi, and Imami and Hazrat 'Umar. In one of his two narrations, Shaafi and Dhaahiri say he is to be administered forty strikes of the whip.

- **Point 5: Benefit from Khamr is Haraam**

No Muslim is to get any benefit from any intoxicant. Allah Ta'alaa told us to eschew such abomination and not to utilize it in any way.

- **Point 6: No Guarantee for the Spoiling of Khamr**

If the liquor belongs to a Muslim, and someone else spoils it, he is not to be charged for it. There is no guarantee as there will be no case to answer. The ruler may even burn the place where the wine is sold, such as a bar, pub or shop.

Very recently the late Ruler of the Emirate of Adjmaan, Sheikh Rashid bin Humayid al Nu'amy, demolished a casino where khamr and other unlawful things were sold on the cost of Adjmaan. He first called the owner of the casino three times to stop him from selling liquor. When he did not stop, the Sheikh then sent bulldozers to pull down everything and threw them into the sea.

■ **Point 7: Khamr is Impure**

The consensus of the Muslim theologians agree that khamr is Najis (impure) like urine or blood. This is in accordance with Aya: "...Verily intoxicants and gambling (dedication) stone (divination by) arrows, are an abomination of Satan's handicraft."

■ **Point 8: It is Haraam to Brew Khamr or Possess It**

No Muslim is to brew khamr, have it in his possession, sell it or buy it, or even take it from one place to another by any means, be it by person or vehicle or boat, aircraft of my other means. It is unlawful to do so.

■ **Point 9: Unlawful to Hire a Place for Sale of Khamr**

It is haraam to hire a place to sell khamr or store it inside. It is also unlawful to use any means to facilitate its drinking or the preserving of it for drink. (Allah curses khamr, the drinker the brewer, the server...).

■ **Point 10: Khamr is no Gift**

Hadith...the Holy prophet (P.B.U.H.) had a friend from Shaqiif Daus. On the day of the conquest of Makka, he met the Prophet and presented him with a jar full of khamr. The Apostle of Allah said: "O! Fulaan (Mr. so and so), have you not heard that Allah Ta'alaa hath made it unlawful?". The man then turned and told his servant to go and sell it. The Messenger said: "What did you tell him"? He answered, "I told him to sell it!" The Prophet said, *"He who hath made its drinking haraam, hath also made the selling of it unlawful."* Then the wine was spilled in the bat-haa (Muslim).

■ **Point 11: No Sitting at the Same Table**

"He who believes in Allah and the Doomsday SHALL NOT sit at a table where khamr is taken." It is unlawful to sit with them at the same table.

- **Point 12: Neither Salaam nor Visit**

A Muslim must not say Salaam Aleikum (Peace by upon you) to a drinker, the brewer and the seller, the buyer, the waiter, even the one who carried it. Nor should he visit any of them when they fall sick. He should abandon them. Hadith... "Ye are not to say "Salaam" to the drinker! Ye are not to visit the drinker of wine when he falls ill!!" (Al Bukhaari).

Bible and Wine

With reference to the Gospel a selection from the Christian Bible, we would find a number of extracts that forbid wine drinking. Like, for example, Paul's letters. He tells Emperor Litus:

"But You must teach what agrees with sound doctrine. Instruct the order men to be sober, sensible and self-controlled, to be sound in their faith, love and endurance. In the same way instruct the order women to behave as women should. They must not be the slanderers or slaves of wine....! (Paul's letter Litus 2:14)

"If a man is eager to be a church man, he dires an excellent work. A church leader must be without fault, he must have only one wife, be sober, self-controlled and orderly....! He must not be a drunkard or be violent....!" (Paul's first letter to Timothy 3:13)

I leave Paul's quotation uncommented till I can place the Lord's Supper or communion in the proper place with Paul's versions. It is said that body and blood of

Jesus turned to bread and wine (respectively). I have not yet been able to grasp this. I am studying the subject once again.

After a very cursory reading of the Old Testament, one comes to the following:

"The Lord said to Aaron:...You and your sons are not to enter the tent of my presence after drinking wine or beer. If you do you will die. This is a law to be kept by all your descendants." (Leviticus 10:8-10)

"Listen Lemuel and Kings should not drink wine or have a craving for alcohol. When they drink, they forget the laws and ignore the right of the people in need. Alcohol is for people who are dying, for those who are in misery...!" (Proverbs 31:4-7)

"You are doomed! You get up early in the morning to start drinking and you spend long evenings getting drunk. At your feasts you have harps and tambourines and flutes - and wine. But you do not understand what the Lord is doing and so you will be prisoners..." (Isaiah 5:11-14)

"Even the prophets and the priests are so drunk that they stagger. They have drunk so much wine and liquor that they stumble in confusion... The table where they sit are all covered with vomit, not a clean spot is left..." (Isaiah 28:7-9)

"You are doomed! Heroes of the wine bottles! Brave and fearless when it comes to mixing drink...." (Isaiah 5:22)

"The Kingdom of Israel is doomed! Its glory is fading like the crowns of flowers on the heads of its drunkard. The proud heads are well perfumed, but there they die, dead drunk. The Lord has someone strong and powerful ready to attack them, someone who will torrent of rain, like a rushing overpowering flood, and will overwhelm the land. The pride of those drunkard leaders will be trampled underfoot...." (Isaiah 28:1-3)

The Gospel of Barnabas

We read the following discussion:

That took place between Gabriel (Alaihu Salaam) and Virgin Mary "The Angel (Gabriel) answered: "You are now carrying a Prophet who you shall call Jesus. You shall keep him away from wine and other strong intoxicants and all unclean meat, because the child shall be blessed by the Lord Almighty...""

Later on we come across the following dialogue between Gabriel and Joseph the Carpenter. "The Virgin shall bring a baby boy who you shall call Jesus. You will keep him aloof from liquor and other intoxicant drinks and all impure meat, because this child shall be blessed before the Lord Almighty...."

Excerpt from Reader's Digest on Wine

Alcohol causes ulcers and cancer of the stomach, Jane Brondy said in her article published in Readers Digest – December 1971 under the title: "You can cut your cancer risk." She says, "Alcohol also has been

shown to increase the chances of developing cancer, particularly cancer of the esophagus, mouth, throat, larynx and livers. The risk of developing esophageal cancer is many times greater in heavy drinkers than for non-drinkers. And the greatest cancer risk is faced by people who both smoke and drink...."

The Teaching of Buddha

If we read Guatama Buddha we come across this:

"Lord Buddha always teaches his students and disciples not to take alcohol or to use drugs under whatever circumstances that may be. The greatest evil lies in them."

Alcohol and Diseases

A lot of experiments that were taken proved that alcoholism is one of the main causes of the spread of many diseases, especially cancer diseases.

Some of the German scientists of the German Research Institute for cancer at Heida Leipzig, made experiments on the effect of beer, the popular national drink. The result was that beer in the lightest measure contains about 70% of nitrocomen. And the concentrated black beer contains more than 80% of nitrocomen.

What is being discovered today about the ills of alcoholism is still very little compared to what we are going to discover later. Let us not go too far. All these

discoveries and the ones yet to come aid the idea of why Islam told its adherents to eschew the abomination of all the intoxicants.

Let us not forget that the neo Jahilia brought with it many a fatal disease from different corners of the world. From drinks we get diseases such as Osteoarthritis that generally attack the drunkards during the winter season in some parts of Europe.

The Arthritis disease is very painful and there is general weakness in joints and the blood may block. Sometimes the joints swell. If the attack is very severe, then there is no hope for the patient to recover. People stay there only waiting for the death of the patient at any moment.

Health is the Crown Known Only by the Sick

All the alcoholic liquors are but the slow killing gulps that one takes to shorten one's way to ultimate death. One of the reasons for this is that it has been discovered that in beer and in other alcohols is found the killing, cancer-causing Nitrocomen.

If this dangerous matter was found in the cheap popular national drink – beer, what about the other costly and highly concentrated types of intoxicants? The scientists at the German Research Institute for cancer at Heida Leipzig made experiments on 158 types of beer and came to the conclusion that beer contains at least 70% of the dangerous nitrocomen. They think that the

heavy drinker complains because of the following reasons:

> Esophageal verices and hemorrhoids are common; lack of the blood clotting agents fibrogen and prothrombin that stop bleeding. All of these factors are working against a person who is a heavy drinker and the bleeding repeats itself again and again, leaving the person anaemic. In anaemic cases, the red blood cells are low in number and in oxygen content, leaving them weak. When an infection, or as our body sees it, a foreign body enters the body it clings to the red blood cells and the defense system is to fight them off. But they are slow to react and, as a result unable to overcome the foreigner. Thus, the infection or disease takes over and leaves the body weaker than before. A heavy drinker is exposed to the different disease attacks which in the long term eat away at the inside of the body; the liver, the lining of the stomach, and many other internal areas.

The Holy Qur'an said:

> *"Their sin is much greater than their benefit....!"* [Qur'an 2:219]

And experiments show that the harm of khamr and gambling on the human health and property is far greater than the supposed imaginations of benefits. Khamr and gambling are two of the greatest sins and Allah forbids them. The Qur'an says, *"We shall show them our portents on the horizons and within themselves until it will be manifest into them that it is truth. Doth not thy Lord suffice, since he is witness over all things....?* **[Qur'an 4:53]** Translation by Muhammed M. Pickthall.)

There is a general agreement that liquor is not a cure for any disease, but it is itself a disease, according to the sayings of the Holy Prophet. When Taariq bin Suwaid said, "...but I am making it for cure (to cure)....," The (Prophet) then answered: *"It is not a medicine but it is itself disease...!"* (Muslim and Al-Tirmidhy).

Very very few theologians make exception for unforeseen circumstances that might cause a fatal death to a human being. Such cases as: choking on food with no liquid available other than khamr; shivering to death with cold; a severe cough when all other remedies have failed. These circumstances are based on, if a life is at stake, a life threatening situation. But very very few theologians are of this opinion. Most of them say, No, khamr is not a medicine and it is not to be used for the treatment of any ailment whatsoever. This is in accordance with the Hadith: "Allah Ta'ala did not make your cure from disease from what He hath made haraam...."

There are hundreds of types of intoxicants with very little use, if at all, such as Araq, used in Sudan, Syria and Iraq; Tody, used in India; Tende, Pombe and mtindi, common in East Africa. Their brewers are said to be people with infectious diseases like tuberculosis and leprosy. Whiskey, cognac are common names used in Europe.

Part Three — DRUGS

Drugs

Sheikh Nuurud Diin 'Abdulla bin Humaid Ssaalmy said: "Tell he who eats hashish, oh you mean person you have lead the worst life. The most important thing for the mind is its coolness. You stupid one, why did you sell your mind because of "Bhangh"...!"

The smoker and eater of bhangh and opium, and the drinker of khamr are flogged according to the Ordinance of Allah. Drugs are more dangerous than liquor. Drugs are the cause of uncountable bad habits. There is loss of mind, loss of physical shape and abnormality, loss of temper and the risk of insanity. This results in self-neglect and careless behaviour. A drug user also does not want to face reality, the owning up to self-acts, so he continues to take in more of the drug before sobering up. He tries to keep himself at a continuous high, an ecstasy felt by drug users. And being at this artificial level of existence the drug user is unable to perform prayer or to remember Allah.

All types of drugs, whether natural or man-made belong to the same category; they destroy human beings. Do they not know of the bad after-effects...? The deterioration of the health; destruction of brain cells; loss of interest in self-respect, self-dignity; the wasting of money on such a harmful thing; the tremendous strain put on family; loss of judgement and decision-making (usually affecting employment). The list is endless and very often fatal.

The Qadhi Sheikh Ahmed bin Hajar al Bartumaany and his son, Dr. Hajar bin Ahmed state in their book, *"Khamr, intoxicants, drugs, and smoking"* of their being unlawful and harmful.

Cologne, the foreign highly spirited costly perfume, has a very high percentage of alcoholic matter mixed with other substances. The type of alcohol contained in perfumes is called methyl alcohol. It is an organic compound and colourless liquid obtained by the dry distillation of wood. The other type, ethyl alcohol is the alcoholic matter found after fermentation of dough. It is greatly found in liquor such as red and white wine. When methyl alcohol is used in drinks, it becomes extremely dangerous. Regarded as poisonous, it acts like a silent killer. It is generally undetectable in drinks but acts on the inner cells of the eye resulting in blindness. Signs of alcohol poisoning are giddiness, dizziness, anguish, vomiting (sometimes of blood) stomach cramps, difficulty breathing, shortness of eyesight and profuse sweating. If the drinker is already drunk, his body may go directly into a coma or he can die of a heart attack.

There is a new phenomena among the youth of the Gulf States due to the New Jahilia. They smell the sawdust and get intoxicated. Strange but a fact. Their senses are lost and hysteria sets in. The smelling of petrol is another evil of our present day. The intoxicating odour eats away at valuable brain cells of young people while they enjoy a few minutes of uncontrolled being.

Sheikh Suleiman Al Mahmiini writes in his book, *"Raising of the Curtain,"* "Many drugs cause the loss of equilibrium and sensory feeling. The poison of the drug goes through the body and causes loss of the strength

and mind control, leading to insanity." There might be an unnatural secretion and palpitation increases.

He who is addicted to drugs is scarred for life. The spleen is left with back stains, secreting bad matter. Scarred lungs are on the verge of collapsing if the drugs are inhaled. The attack on the nervous system is deadly, sometimes paralysing altogether. It is also able to be passed down genetically in offsprings which is an unfair tragedy in itself.

A list of some of the drugs available are:

> Opium, bhang, qaat (leaves from Yemen), Marungi (similar to qaat but found in Kenya), Marijuana (found in the Americas), hair cream (used generally in Gulf States), cologne (used mostly in East Africa).
>
> Mixed spirits known as methyl alcohol, the most dangerous one being capenja (similar to Opium). All of the mentioned drugs affect the human body differently but they all lead to the same fatal ending.

A Whisper

Dear brethren, let us eschew all types of intoxicants as it is insane for a gentleman, let alone a Muslim to throw himself into the dangers of wine as we have just seen only a small portion of the dangers mentioned.

Let us be clean and pure, let us make a last and final decision of abandoning this abominable thing as it is one of Satan's handicrafts. We are much superior than our mortal enemy in many respects. Why then do we become his prey...? Is cigarettes, wine or drugs one of

the necessities of life? If worse comes to worse and we cannot help it, let us not drink in front of our families. These small children tend always to imitate their elders, especially fathers, mothers and teachers and their heroes.

You can rid yourself of this bad habit in many ways. Abandon those friends who do it. Leave it gradually.

BOOKS BY THE SAME AUTHOR

A. In *ARABIC*

1. *Al–Mar'atufil Islaami*
2. *Innahaa La Kabiirah*
3. *Manaasikul Hadji Wal'Umra*

B. In *ENGLISH*

1. *Woman in Islam*
2. *The Intoxicants*
3. *The Rites of Hajj & 'Umra & The Visit to Al Madina*
4. *Islaam in 'Uman*

C. In *SWAHILI*

1. *Wasalivyo*
2. *Waliosilimu Mwanzo*
3. *Mamama Wa Mitume*
4. *Kanuni Za Uzima Wa Akili*
5. *Salaa*
6. *Tukatembeeni Peponi Na Motoni*
7. *Adabu Njema*
8. *Kuhiji na 'Umra!*
9. *Saumu*
10. *Vileweshaji Vya Kila Aina*
11. *Kamusi*
12. *Hadithi Za Mitume Kwa Watoto Wadogo*
13. *Hivi Ndivyo Kusali*
14. *Mambo Yaliohusika Na Ndoa*

المسكرات

بالانجليزيه

بقلم

سعيد بن عبدالله سيف الحاتمي