

Drinking intoxicants out of necessity

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بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

In the name of Allaah, the Most Merciful, the Bestower of Mercy

With regards to drinking intoxicants due to dire need, the Shaykh Muhammad ibn Saalih al 'Uthaymeen (رَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ)¹ states:

Is it permissible to do something muharram (forbidden) in the case of necessity or not?

And the answer is that it is permissible, as per the statement of Allaah, the Most High:

[...and He has explained to you in detail what is forbidden to you, except under compulsion of necessity.]²

So whoever is compelled by necessity to eat carrion (dead meat), then it is permissible for him to eat from it. And whoever is compelled by necessity to eat the meat of the pig, then it is permissible for him to eat pig meat and so on in this way.

And whoever is compelled by necessity to drink khamr (an intoxicant), then it is permissible for him to drink the intoxicant.

However the necessity to drink the intoxicant only holds true in one circumstance; and that is when (the person) is choking on a morsel of food and he doesn't have anything with him except khamr. So he drinks it in order to dislodge the morsel.

And as for drinking khamr because of thirst, then this is not permissible. The people of knowledge have said this is because khamr only serves to increase the thirsty person in thirst.

(Sharh al Arba'een an-Nawawee (p136) of Shaykh Muhammad ibn Saalih al 'Uthaymeen (رَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ))

¹ (رَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ) (rahimahullaah) May Allaah the Most High have mercy on him

² سورة الأعراف - Soorah al- An'aam [6:119]