

Qat is prohibited but not Najis

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بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

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

Question: Many addicts of chewing Qat (Khat: leaves and buds that are habituating stimulants when chewed or used as a tea) tend to expectorate it in a plastic bag at the time of Salaah (Prayer), and chew it again afterwards. Is Qat Najis (ritually impure)? What is the ruling on the one who offers Salaah while keeping it in his mouth? Is it permissible for a person to delay Salaahs and combine them after they finish chewing it?

Shaykh Abdul-Azeez ibn Baaz (رَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ):¹ I do not know of any legal indication that it is Najis, for it is a well-known plant and the basic rule for plants is their permissibility. However, using it is prohibited according to the most correct of the two scholarly views. It is also impermissible to delay Salaah for the mentioned reason. Instead, a Muslim should offer Salaah on time with the congregation in the Masjids (mosques), for the Prophet (peace be upon him) said: **[Anyone who hears the call (for Prayer) but does not come has no Salaah (i.e. his individual Prayer will not count), unless he has a (lawful) excuse.]**²

When Ibn `Abbaas (may Allaah be pleased with him and his father) was asked about the excuse, he said: "Fear or illness". Using Qat is not a Shar'eh (Islaamically lawful) excuse; rather, it is a Munkar (that which is unacceptable or disapproved of by Islaamic law and Muslims of sound intellect). If the person who uses it does not offer Salaah on time with the congregation in the Masjid, that will be a worse sin.

It is not permissible for anyone who uses it to combine two Salaahs. It is authentically reported that when the Prophet (peace be upon him) taught his Companions the times of Salaah and clarified their starting and ending times, he said: **[Salaah is due between these two times.]**. It is also authentically reported in the Saheeh (authentic book of Hadeeth) of Muslim: **[that a blind man said: O Messenger of Allaah, I have no guide to lead me to the Masjid, can I have a concession to offer Salaah at home? The Prophet (peace be upon him) said: "Do you hear the call (i.e. for the Salaah)? He replied: Yes. The Prophet (peace be upon him) said: Then respond to it.]** According to an authentic narration by other than Muslim: He (peace be upon him) said: **[I do not find a concession for you.]**

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

² (Related by Ibn Maajah, Al-Daaraqutnee, and Al-Hakim with a Saheeh [authentic] Isnaad [chain of narrators])

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These authentic Hadeeths and others to the same effect show the obligation of offering Salaah in congregation in the houses of Allaah (Glorified and Exalted be He) (i.e. in the Masjids) and the prohibition of delaying or combining them without a Shar'eh excuse. My advice to those who use Qat, smoke, or take drugs is to guard themselves against these things and fear Allaah, because using them is an act of disobedience to Allaah (Glorified be He) and His Messenger (peace be upon him). Such substances are extremely dangerous, lead to adverse consequences, and restrain from remembering Allaah and observing Salaah. We implore Allaah to guide all Muslims to that which pleases Him and set aright the hearts and deeds of all Muslims. We also ask Him to protect them from evil companions who hinder doing that which is good. He is Ever Generous, Most Bountiful. May Allaah grant us success.