
Ruling on Qat, tobacco, and befriending smokers

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بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

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

Question: What is the ruling on Qat (Khat: leaves and buds that are habituating stimulants when chewed or used as a tea) and cigarettes which are widespread between Muslims? What is the ruling on befriending anyone who smokes these two types or one of them? What should a person do to prevent his brother or son from smoking?

Shaykh Abdul-Azeez ibn Baaz (رَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ)¹: Qat and cigarettes are unlawful for their harmful effects, and for they may anaesthetize and intoxicate the addict as indicated by smokers themselves. Scholars including Shaykh Muhammad ibn Ibraaheem Al Al-Shaykh, the former Muftee of Saudi Arabia (may Allaah be merciful to him), wrote books on its unlawfulness.

It is Waajib (obligatory) upon every Muslim to abandon all kinds of smoking. It is not permissible to sell or buy cigarettes or Qat for their price is unlawful and ill-gotten. We ask Allaah to save Muslims from them.

It is not permissible to befriend anyone who smokes any kind of intoxicants, for this might lead to committing this sin. It is Waajib to befriend righteous Muslims and avoid befriending evil people. The Prophet (peace be upon him) likened [**a good companion to someone carrying musk. The musk carrier will either offer you some free of charge, or you will buy some from him, or you will gain a pleasant fragrance from him.**] He (peace be upon him) also likened [**a bad companion to someone who blows bellows (a blacksmith); he will either burn your clothes or you will gain a repugnant smell from him.**] He (peace be upon him) also said: [**A man will most likely follow the religion of his friends, so be careful when choosing your friends.**] It is obligatory upon a householder to punish smokers among his family and prevent them even if by beating, disciplining, or ousting them until they repent. Allaah (Glorified be He) says: [**So keep your duty to Allaah and fear Him as much as you can.**] Allaah (Glorified and Exalted be He) also says: [**...and whosoever fears Allaah and keeps his duty to Him, He will make his matter easy for him.**] May Allaah set right the affairs of all Muslims and guide them to whatever is good for them and their families for He is the best One asked for help.

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