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## Smoking and shaving the beard

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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 smoking? Is it similar to the prohibition of shaving the beard?

**Shaykh Abdul-Azeez ibn Baaz** (رَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ)<sup>1</sup>: Smoking is one of the prohibited acts. It is of the evil things that Allaah has prohibited, for the great harm it causes. The evidence supporting its prohibition is the following Ayah (Qur'aanic verse) in which Allaah (Exalted be He) says: [**They ask you** (O Muhammad ﷺ) **what is lawful for them** (as food). **Say: "Lawful unto you are At-Tayyibaat** [all kind of Halaal (lawful-good) foods which Allaah has made lawful (meat of slaughtered eatable animals, milk products, fats, vegetables and fruits)]."] Allaah (Glorified and Exalted be He) further describes His Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) by saying: [...**He allows them as lawful At-Tayyibaat** (i.e. all good and lawful as regards things, deeds, beliefs, persons, foods), **and prohibits them as unlawful Al-Khabaa'ith** (i.e. all evil and unlawful as regards things, deeds, beliefs, persons and foods)]. Scholars explain the word "At-Tayyibaat" to mean the useful and safe foods and drinks. It is known that smoking lacks this quality, for it is one of the abominable and prohibited harmful things. Smoking is even worse than shaving the beard in some aspects and lighter in some others. This is because shaving the beard is a sin that is seen publicly and the Prophet (peace be upon him) has ordered Muslims to let the beard grow and become thick and to trim and clip the moustache.

As for smoking, it may be hidden from people, so it is not the same as shaving the beard. Yet, it is more harmful to the body and mind, and a means of wasting money. Furthermore, its harm not only affects the person who smokes, but also those who are exposed to its toxic odour.

Generally, smoking and shaving the beard are both Munkar (acts that are unacceptable or disapproved of by Islamic law and Muslims of sound intellect) that affect the society as a whole and cause evil consequences. They openly oppose the Sharee'ah (Islamic law), not to mention their negative effects on the economy. It should be noted that a smoker sets a bad example for his family and friends who may imitate such a sin.

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<sup>1</sup> (رَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ) (rahimahullaah) May Allaah have mercy on him