

Fatwa no. 7552

Q: My problem in short is that one day I was with a friend of mine and he told me a secret, asking me not to divulge it to anyone. I swore that if I told anyone, my wife would be Haram (forbidden) for me. After a while, I saw another friend and I told him the secret that my friend confided to me, out of ignorance and forgetfulness. I thereby disclosed the secret that I had taken an oath not to divulge to anyone. What worsened the matter is that I had sexual intercourse with my wife and did not remember the oath I had broken until after having intercourse with her. I hope you can find for me a solution to my problem. May Allah bless you for it. May Allah preserve you for Islam and the Muslims.

A: If the reality is as you mentioned, that you disclosed the secret and also had intercourse with your wife as you forgot about the oath you made, there is no sin on you.

This is because Allah (Exalted be He) says:

Our Lord! Punish us not if we forget or fall into error.

It is also authentically reported from the Messenger of Allah (peace be upon him) that Allah (Glorified be He) said:

I did.

Meaning that Allah responded to the previously mentioned supplication. You must keep this secret throughout your life. If you disclose it intentionally, remembering your oath, you will have to perform a Kaffarah (expiation) for a broken oath if you have intercourse with your wife. This is because declaring your wife to be Haram to you carries the ruling of a broken oath.

May Allah grant us success. May peace and blessings be upon our Prophet Muhammad, his family, and Companions.

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