

## Adultery & Fornication

Living in a society in which people have accepted the un-Islamic lifestyle as their way of life has brought immorality at every step. Modesty, Shame and honour hold such a high station in the religion of Islam that the Holy Prophet (saw) said, “Modesty is a part of Iman” (Sahih Muslim).

Unfortunately today, Muslims are increasingly banishing their modesty.

Many so called “religious” Muslim brothers and sisters are also falling victims of immoral acts and evils of the society they live in, where alcohol, drugs, adultery, fornication, etc are all a part of everyday life. A Muslim should realise that these acts bring the displeasure of Allah (swt) and their consequences are severe in this world and the Hereafter.

Amongst the most common of these evils is adultery and fornication. The committing of adultery is from the category of major sins. The Shari’ah not only prohibits the ultimate evil of adultery, but all means leading to this evil act. Allah (swt) says in the Holy Qur’an, **“Do not come near to adultery, indeed it is a shameful deed and an evil way.”** (17:32)

In the above verse, it is not only adultery itself that is prohibited but also the various means and ways which lead to adultery. This verse is an eloquent expression of the prohibition of the ways and acts which are introductory to adultery, thus adultery as well as all approaches towards adultery are forbidden.

Imam Bukhari (r.a) has stated a Hadeeth on the authority of Sayyiduna Abu Hurairah (r.a) that the Holy Prophet (saw) said, “The adultery of the eyes is evil looks. The adultery of the feet is to walk towards the sin. The adultery of the tongue is lustful talk. The adultery of the heart is the evil desire and in the end the sexual organs testify all this or deny it.”

In another Hadeeth the Holy Prophet (saw) said, “The hands also commit adultery, their adultery is touching;

the feet also commit adultery, their adultery is walking towards adultery, the mouth also commits adultery, its adultery is kissing.” (Abu Dawood, Muslim)

The Holy Qur’an condemns this evil act which ruins families, destroys household peace and strikes at the root of pure and pious living and prescribes an exemplary punishment for it. The Holy Qur’an says, **“Do not come near to adultery, indeed it is a shameful deed and an evil way.”** (17:32)

In another verse Allah (swt) says, **“The woman and the man guilty of fornication, flog each of them with a hundred lashes, let not compassion move you in their case, in a matter prescribed by Allah, if you believe in Allah and The Last Day, and let a party of the believers witness their punishment.”** (24:2)

In another verse Allah (swt) says, **“ Those (are the servants of The Most Gracious Allah) who invoke not with Allah any other God; nor take the life which Allah has forbidden except for a just cause; nor commit adultery; and who so does this shall meet the punishment. The punishment will be doubled for him on the Day of Resurrection, and he will dwell therein disgraced forever.”** (25:68-69)

The Holy Prophet (saw) has said, “When an unmarried male commits adultery with an unmarried female they should receive one hundred lashes and be exiled for one year, and in the case of married male committing adultery with a married female, they should be stoned to death.” (Muslim)

The Holy Prophet (saw) has said, “A person who commits adultery does not commit it in the state of Iman. A person who drinks alcohol does not drink it in the state of Iman.” (Bukhari, Muslim, Abu Dawood, Nasai)

In another Hadeeth the Holy Prophet (saw) has said, “When a person commits adultery, his Iman comes out from him and it stays like an umbrella over his head; and when he stops committing adultery, his Iman returns to him.” (Abu Dawood, Tirmidhi, Baihaqi)

The great mufassir (commentator) Shaykh Ata ibn Abi Rabah under the tafseer of the verse, “It (the Hell) has seven doors,” states, “The most severe of these doors from the point of grief, heat, punishment and bad smell, is for those people who committed adultery after having knowledge (of it being a sin and Haram).”

## Detrimental Effects of Adultery and Fornication

Sayyiduna Anas (r.a) narrates that the Holy Prophet (saw) has said, “Avoid adultery/fornication, for it has six effects; of these, three are experienced in this world and the other three in the Hereafter.

The three experienced in this world are:

1. Noor (light) vanishes from the faces of the adulterers.
2. It brings poverty and famine.
3. The life span is reduced.

The three experienced in the Hereafter are:

1. Allah (swt) subjects the adulterers to His anger.
2. They will be subjected to a strict reckoning on the Day of Judgement.
3. They will be cast into Hell.” (Baihaqi)

The aforementioned verses of the Holy Qur’an and the Ahadeeth of the Holy Prophet (saw) are explicitly clear that the evil act of adultery and fornication is harmful both in this world and the everlasting life of the Hereafter.

We are living in a society where temptations dominate every individual, and the protection from such temptations is Taqwa (piety) and Taqwa is acquired through obedience to Allah (swt) and His beloved Prophet (saw).

A person who has obeyed Allah (swt) and controlled his/her desires will be deserving of the promise of Allah (swt) **“And as for he who feared the standing before his Lord and has restrained his self from impure desires. Indeed for him the Garden is the everlasting home”** (79:40-41).

Also Allah's truthful Messenger (saw), has also made a promise "Whosoever gives me the guarantee of safeguarding his tongue and private parts; I give him guarantee of Paradise." (Bukhari)

My dear brothers and sisters there is a saying in Arabic, that "Youth is a branch of insanity." This is a very crucial and critical stage of a person's life. Young people growing up can be attracted to many evils around them leading them in different directions.

A person who fights the temptations of youth and fulfils the Commands of Allah (swt), will be protected under the shade of Allah (swt) on the Day of Judgement.

The Holy Prophet (saw) has said, "Allah will shelter (categories of) people under His Shade on the Day when their will be no shade beside His Shade.

They are:

1. A Just Ruler.
2. A young man who passed his youth in the worship and service of Allah (swt).
3. One whose heart is perpetually attached to the Masjid.
4. Two such persons who love each other for the sake of Allah (swt), they joined together for His sake and parted for His sake.
5. A man who is invited (for sin) by a beautiful woman of high status and he declined, saying: 'I fear Allah (swt)'.
6. One who spent in charity in a secret way (without making a show), so that his left hand did not know what his right hand had spent.
7. One who remembered Allah (swt) in solitude and tears flowed from his eyes." (Bukhari, Muslim)

### Remedy for This Illness

The Holy Prophet (saw) has prescribed a remedy for those who are concerned and wish to abstain from this heinous crime.

He (saw) said," O group of youths, whosoever amongst you has the means of getting married, should do so because it lowers the gaze and protects the private parts;

and whosoever does not have the ability, should fast, for indeed, it is a protection for him." (Bukhari)

May Allah (swt) safeguard us from all evils, give us the ability to obey His Commands, and resurrect us on the Day of Judgement amongst the followers of the Holy Prophet (saw). Ameen!

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