



Chapter 3 - Prohibitions and Regulations Regarding Drugs, Alcohol, and Gambling: An Islāmic Perspective

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Gambling and games of chance are strongly discouraged and considered a great evil in Islām. Similar to the Qur'ānic verses, the teachings of the Prophet Muhammad (ﷺ) emphasise the prohibition of gambling due to its detrimental effects on individuals and society as a whole. Even the mere consideration of participating in gambling is considered blameworthy in Islām. It has been suggested by the Hanafi scholar Imam Abu Bakr al-Jassas that "There is no difference of opinion between the scholars regarding the prohibition of gambling." (Ahkam al-Qur'ān, 1/329). The Messenger of Allāh (ﷺ) said; "Whoever says to his friend, 'Come, let me gamble with you,' should give something in charity." (Bukhārī (c)).

Muslim users sometimes rationalise tobacco, alcohol, and drug consumption, including *Shisha* smoking, as less serious or even merely disliked (*makrūh*) compared to outright prohibition. This frame of thinking is quite baseless according to Divine law. Muslim scholars are unanimous on the prohibition of contemporary drugs. Sheikh Yusuf AlQaradawi (2001) suggested that there is no basis for such differentiation. Islāmic scholars unanimously agree on the prohibition of contemporary drugs, applying principles of Islāmic jurisprudence to derive judgments even on substances unknown during the Qur'anic revelation. Al-Qaradawi emphasises that substances like marijuana, cocaine, and opium fall under the forbidden category of *khamr* due to their ability to distort perception, impair reasoning, and induce escape from reality. This prohibition extends to any recreational drug with similar effects, encompassing cocaine, methamphetamines, heroin, cannabis, and other psychoactive substances.

It was narrated from Abu Malik Ash'ari that the Messenger of Allāh (ﷺ) "People among my nation will drink wine, calling it by another name, and musical instruments will be played for them and singing girls (will sing for them). Allāh will cause the earth to swallow them up and will turn them into monkeys and pigs." (Ibn Majah (c)).

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