

3. You are not familiar with some legal methodology and with the basic foundational texts centering on various prohibited categories. Search the Qur'an and Hadith online (and only the Qur'an and Hadith) and tell us whether smoking is allowed or prohibited in Islam?

To answer the question of whether smoking is prohibited in Islam, we must first understand what is considered prohibited. In Islam the word associated with prohibition is "Haram". There is an extensive list of what is considered haram; Shirk (associating partners with Allah), fornication, riba, drinking alcoholic beverages, gambling, suicide, etc. All of the things I just mentioned are mentioned in the Quran and by the prophet Muhammad to stay away from or not take part of. The most simple answer to whether smoking is Halal (Islamic term for something that is allowed in Islam) or haram can be answered by Hadith that the prophet said, "There should be no harming or reciprocating harm to oneself" (translation from Urdu to English is very off with the meaning). The interpretation of the hadith can be that, Islam prohibits anything that can cause harm to a person. In case of causing harm or "harm to oneself" can be used as the side effects of smoking for a long term. This wouldn't apply to our ancestors as they didn't know the harm of smoking to a person is. However, in recent years with research and studies we have come to understand that smoking of any sort is very detrimental to human health. At the same time a person can have counterarguments to what I said because a person can use tobacco as medicine that releases stress. A person that is depressed and might have suicidal tendencies, after smoking they can be more relaxed-meaning people can use smoking as a medicine.

The Quran itself doesn't explicitly give instruction on what is Halal or Haram when it comes to smoking. However the Qur'an has two verses that say "Do not throw yourselves with your own hands into destruction " (Al-Quran 2:195), " Do not kill yourselves"(Al-Quran 4:29). These two verses or ayat can tell us anything that harms us is prohibited. Even suicide is considered Haram because it's the act of applying a destructive nature to oneself. The wording is too vague. For example the harm or danger to one health from smoking tobacco can take years to take in effect. In a sense this can apply to sugar, something that if you consume too much of, eventually becomes dangerous to a person as well. So does this mean that sugar or butter are haram because they cause harm to the human body? If that were the case, then can't one simply just take small amounts of tobacco which aren't harmful to the human body, and is that halal? What about those that use tobacco for health reasons or steroids (dangerous to health) to help with treatment. Since the Quran doesn't say " smoking is haram", we can't assume anything. The Quran has explicitly pointed out that eating pork is haram and the muslims don't eat pork. However, since it doesn't say anything about the use of tobacco, it's up people's own interpretation of whether it is prohibited or not.

The counter argument example that sugary or fatty food should also be haram as they cause human body harm is a valid point. However, the reason why most uluma consider tobacco haram is because of its intoxication effects on a person. The prophet made it very clear that any kind of intoxication is haram. In Surah Al-Balad, it says " O you who have believed, indeed, intoxicants, gambling, [sacrificing on] stone antlers [to other than Allah]. And divining arrows are but defilement from the work of Satan, so

avoid it that you may be successful.(5:90)". In this ayat from the Quran it points out that "intoxicants" is something that is associated with Satan (devil). One can use this ayat to argue since tobacco is an intoxicant it should be considered Haram. Another ayat from the Quran is, " And do not spend wastefully, Indeed, the wasteful are brothers of the devils, and ever has Satan been to his lord ungrateful" (29:69). The ayat does point out that wasting money on anything is bad, and is considered haram (being associated with Satan). We all know that buying tobacco substances is costly and if a person were to become an addict, they would spend endless amounts of money on them. Even if someone were to argue that smoking isn't intoxicating, you can't argue against the fact that it is a waste of money. Another Interpretation on this ayat is interesting because it says "wasteful are brothers of the devil", does this mean that "sisters" or "female" are excluded from wasting money?

The Prophet (ﷺ) said, "The deen (religion) is naseehah (advice, sincerity)." We said, "To whom?" He (ﷺ) said, "To Allah, His Book, His Messenger, and to the leaders of the Muslims and their common folk." Reference : Sunan an-Nasa'i 4199 In-book reference : Book 39, Hadith 51. <https://www.quora.com/Is-smoking-forbidden-in-Islam>