

mental retardation, and have closely set eyes, a small nasal bridge, epicanthal eye folds, heart valve lesions, microcephaly, small teeth and poor tooth enamel, limited joint movement & an inability to pay attention. To avoid fetal alcohol syndrome, not only are mothers recommended to completely avoid alcoholic drink, but doctors also recommend that men practice abstinence for several months prior to conception. "...**Will you then not abstain?**" (5:91)

There is great wisdom in the prohibition of drinking alcohol! "Whosoever believes in God & the Last Day must **not** sit at a table at which alcohol is consumed." It is violence, homicide, suicide & drunk driving which takes most lives. The adage (used in alcoholic advertising with sexy women) that alcohol is "liquid courage" is probably the basis for many drinks imbibed. This is misguidance. Follow scriptural guidance.

One "benefit" of the Americans fighting in the Middle East was abstention from alcohol. "Our sick call rate went down, our accident & injury rate went down, our incidents of indiscipline went down, and health of the force went up. So there were some very therapeutic outcomes from the fact that no alcohol was available whatsoever in the kingdom of Saudi Arabia." (Norman Schwarzkopf, commander of allied forces in the Persian Gulf War, explaining to the US Congress how a scarcity of alcohol made for a better American soldier. June 13, 1991)

Alcohol is the only disease which is sold in bottles: is advertised in newspapers, magazines, radio & television; is contracted by the will of man; has licensed outlets to spread it; produces revenue for the government; brings violent deaths on the highways; has no germs or viral cause; propels one's health to self-destruction; destroys family life & increases crime. "O God, that men should put an enemy in their mouths to steal away their brains! That we should with joy, revel & applause transform ourselves into beasts!" (Shakespeare's Othello)

One day, as he came out from his mosque, the Prophet (p), noticed his cousin & son-in-law, Ali visibly upset. When the concerned Prophet (p) asked Ali what was troubling him, Ali simply pointed to the bloody carcass of his dearly cherished camel – no ordinary camel, but the war-weathered camel that Ali would mount in his valiant defense of the Prophet & Islam on the battlefield. Ali told the Prophet (p) that one of their uncles had been responsible for the unsanctioned slaughter of his animal. The Prophet (p)

went to ascertain the uncle's side of the story.

Entering in the presence of his uncle, the Prophet (p) found him drunk with wine. Upon seeing the displeasure in his nephew's face, the uncle knew at once, despite his intoxication, that the Prophet (p) had come to question him about Ali's camel. With nothing good to say in his defense, the guilt-ridden, drunken uncle blurted out: "You & your father are my slaves!" The Prophet's (p) only response to the blasphemous outburst was to exclaim: "**Truly, alcohol is the mother of every evil!**"

One German convert to Islam eloquently wrote: "Islam values the moral & spiritual health of a nation as much as its physical well-being. It considers anything that interferes with the normal working of the mind, numbs our senses, thereby reducing our level of shame or responsibility, or clouds our perception as harmful – this includes alcohol as well as other mind-altering drugs. And recognizing that different people react quite differently to the same stimulant, **it does not leave the judgment, as to how much is acceptable to them.** Too many people thought they had control over their drinking habit, yet ended up having 'one glass too many'. Islam categorically states that if a substance can destroy the clarity of the mind in large quantities, it is harmful even in minute quantities. Islam, therefore, advocates a total prohibition of narcotic drugs, including alcohol. **It forbids the use, not just the abuse of these substances.**"

In the year 988 CE, Prince Vladimir, sovereign leader of Russia, opted for Orthodox Christianity as his state religion. Legend says his ambassadors were much more impressed with the gold & grandeur of Byzantine's cathedrals, especially Constantinople's Church of Santa Sophia (now Istanbul's Mosque of Haya Sofiya) than they were with the simple & austere décor of the Islamic mosques in nearby Volga Bulgaria. But another, more telling reason for the Russian Prince's favoring Christianity over Islam was, so the chroniclers tell us, the Russians' love of alcohol. The Muslims' absolute abstention from liquor was a sacrifice too far for Vladimir's countrymen to make. Alas, it would appear that their insatiable thirst for a "good" drink, particularly vodka, has plagued the Russian nation ever since. According to a report published in the year 2000, a staggering two thirds of Russian men die drunk & more than half of that number die in extreme stages of intoxication.

In the US there are "Muslim brothers" who sell alcohol & have copies of the Quran on their store

walls. "Brother, you have the Quran and sell alcohol." He replies, "Barakah brother. Barakah (for Allah's blessings)!" Yes, the Quran is a barakah, nobody can deny it, but look at his "warped" understanding. He's destroying the neighbourhood with an illegal "earning." How do these "Muslims" explain this to their spouses, to their children. And eventually to God.

It is only because Islam seeks the benefit/betterment of man that Islamic law criminalizes the consumption, production, transportation & sale of alcoholic drink. In fact, the mere consumption of alcohol is a criminal pursuit so serious that it carries with it a severe corporal punishment. As for the Hereafter, the punishment is truly grotesque: "Every intoxicant is prohibited. God has made a covenant regarding those who consume intoxicants to give them to drink the **discharge** of the inhabitants of Hell!"

A bad woman invited a good man to bad deeds. The man, fearing God, flatly refused. Determined not to let her prey escape, the woman offered him one of three choices, each one more dastardly than the other: to consume alcohol, to commit adultery, or to murder her child from a previous marriage. If he refused, she would cry rape. After having pondered his predicament, the pious man chose what he reckoned to be the lesser of the three evils...Alcohol. The man became drunk & then under the influence of the brain-killing beverage, he killed the child & committed adultery.

Ponder, and then consider how easily you yourself could **degenerate as a human being if, that is, you too were to embrace "the mother of every evil."** Don't rationalize the blackouts, innumerable hangovers, broken relationships & family tensions characteristic of the alcoholic's story.

According to Mayo pharmacist Noel Stenson: "Everyone has seen the warning about not consuming alcohol when taking certain medicines; it's important to take that warning seriously. Mixing alcohol with certain medications can be harmful & even dangerous. Man **partially** warns & God warns **totally. Will you not then abstain? God asks ...what is your answer? Listen to God's words & make a more sobering assessment.** From the Bible come these warnings: "You shall not give your neighbour strong drink." (Proverbs) "No drunkard shall enter the kingdom of heaven." (Revelation) The curse...the hearse...the eternal fiery thirst...Beware!

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The Mother of every EVIL Alcohol

The Quran, 5.90: "O you who believe! **Intoxicants, gambling & idolatry are an abomination of Satan's handiwork. Avoid such abominations that you may prosper.**" What a sober belief! On the contrary those who are in the terrifying grip of a self-defeating addictive alcoholic behaviour cannot quit. How can they eliminate their irrational belief? Alcohol has become an irreplaceable component of "having fun" & partying. No get-together seems complete without alcohol, masquerading in fancy names: Tequila, Bloody Mary, One Night Stand, Tangerine Dream, Hanky Panky. Rum. "Let's go have fun tonight" is being replaced by "Let's go get drunk tonight." The first thing in the human personality that dissolves in alcohol is dignity. It can be difficult to deal with an environment where peer pressure is overpowering – which it almost always is. God gives us instructions because He is All Knowing. Most of AA's well-meaning policies are ineffective. Everything in Islam has a practical & healthy reason behind it. Many "studies" extolling the virtues of alcohol are false. Google "Deception in Reporting About Alcohol" by June Russell. The Quran, 5.91: "Satan's plan is to excite enmity & hatred between you, with **intoxicants & gambling & hinder you from the remembrance of God & from prayer: Will you not then abstain?**"

The most effective policy: Listen to God. Beware of the ads on TV...they lie. Horrible Lies...Dangerous Lies...Lies. TV, yes that is the idiot box, has a drinking problem. However, a disconnect between cause & effect is inevitable in a visual culture that wallows in fantasy & favours "reality television" over realism. If you must drink & drive, then drink **water.** It will save your life as well as others.

Prophet Muhammad (p): **“Truly God has cursed alcohol & has cursed the one who produces it, the one for whom it is produced, the one who drinks it, the one who serves it, the one who carries it, the one for whom it is carried, the one who sells it, the one who earns from the sale of it, the one who buys it, and the one for whom it is bought.”**

Abraham Lincoln declared: **“Alcohol is the greatest & most blighting curse of our modern civilization. The liquor seller is simply & only a privileged malefactor – a criminal.”**

Let us start to remove this curse from our society by pulling down all the billboards that promote this plague & to stop all advertisements on TV/radio.

You carry a deep secret. It haunts you. At a party you became drunk. And you were raped. Repeatedly. Since that regretful day you have **not** touched alcohol again. But all the makeup that you wear cannot mask your inner hell. And it's self-inflicted. In modern times “parties” are just a whore-fest. All the girls talk/text about is the boys. All the boys talk/text about is certain parts of the girl's anatomy. And the alcohol...is your liquid regret. You were conned by all those alcoholic ads in the mags for girls that you read (Cosmopolitan, In Style, Vibe & Vogue).

Alcohol is everywhere. Walk down any street in the western world (and the eastern world too) and before long your feet will kick against an empty beer can, or your attention will be captured by an alluring advertisement that suggests that alcohol can magically transform your life. Myth.

Alcohol advertising does create a climate in which **dangerous attitudes** toward intoxicants are presented as normal, appropriate & innocuous. Such advertising spuriously links alcohol with precisely those attributes & qualities: happiness, wealth, prestige, sophistication, success, maturity, athletic ability, virility, creativity, sexual satisfaction that the **use of alcohol usually diminishes & destroys.**

Ads lie...and alcoholic ads lie the worst.

“Lead a more colorful life,” is what Macallen drinkers are promised when they drink that brand of Scotch. Messages such as this want us to believe that our real lives are dull & boring. We need alcohol in order to free ourselves & experience a richer, more interesting life. Ads that tell us we can't survive without alcohol make the act of drinking a cause for celebration. “Real friends. Real bourbon.” For Jim Beam drinkers, alcohol is just as important as friendships & relationships. An ad for Michelob beer says, “Pour a Party” – just open that bottle & your life will be fun. Ads such as these are dangerous.

Sex is the adman's technique of persuasion. Alcohol ads look like pictures from Playboy – women with big breasts & big hair designed to appeal to men. The models look like they have stepped out of fashion magazines & the message is that you can use alcohol to unleash your wild side. The truth is that it unleashes your limp & flaccid side. The truth is so hard to take.

Another devilish way to market alcohol to young people is to sponsor music concerts. And at sports events. Not only do these ads make alcohol part of playing sports, they also feed the impression that booze is an essential part of watching sporting events. “It's just not football without something to pass around” says an ad for Scotch. And have you noticed how “wonderful” the sponsors are? They stress “moderation.” hahaha. O, it's not funny, though!

Alcohol is often linked with romance, but researchers have found that people with drinking problems are seven times more likely to be separated or divorced. Ads that portray drinking as a passport to adulthood, coupled with “bridge drinks” such as “alco-pop” malt beverages & alcohol-based jello, can be very successful lures for young drinkers. Beware, adulthood does not mean “I can start drinking!”

The world will be better off without “responsible drinking” campaigns, which are often just platforms from which the industry can promote myths & damaging attitudes.

Is “all things in moderation” your motto? Really? Don't follow that old, tired saying. It's too easy from such a platform to become an alcoholic. Too easy to believe that you need a drink to cope, especially when movies & TV shows like *Bewitched* pounded the “I need a drink” catch-phrase into our brains since childhood.

Movies & TV have been the major gateway through which sins such as alcohol have become mainstream. When encouraged to ‘have a drink to relax’ keep in mind that the result of an alcoholic drink is not true relaxation, but being ‘drugged’ or ‘tranquilized.’ It's not just your body suffering from dehydration. Your soul will be consumed by an eternal conflagration. It's easy to replace “bad spirits” with the good spirit of God. If the Muslims 1400 years ago could quit instantly on hearing the Word of God...so can you! **QUIT NOW!!!**

Intoxicants were **forbidden** in the Quran through several separate verses revealed at different times over a period of years. At first, it was forbidden for Muslims to attend to prayers while intoxicated (4:43). Then a later verse said that alcohol contains some good & some evil, but warned that **the evil is greater than the good** (2:219). This was the next step in turning people away from consumption of it. Finally, “**intoxicants & games of chance**” were called “**abominations of Satan's handiwork**,” intended to turn people away from God & forget about prayer. Muslims were ordered to abstain (5:90-91).

In the first verse cited above, the word for “intoxicated” is *sukara* which is derived from the word “sugar” & means drunk/intoxicated. That verse doesn't mention the drink which makes one so. In the next verses cited, the word which is often translated as “wine” or “intoxicants” is *al-khamr*, which is related to the verb “to ferment.” This word is used to describe other intoxicants such as beer.

These verses forbid any intoxicating substance – whether it be wine, beer, whiskey. The result is the same & the Quran outlines that it is the **intoxication**, which makes one forgetful of God & prayer, which is harmful. Over the years, the list of intoxicating substances has come to include more modern street drugs. *When the LSD took effect, I was very frightened. The walls looked as though they were melting: I heard strange noises; I hallucinated, even after closing my eyes. The sights were very unpleasant with frightening images.*

Prophet Muhammad (P) instructed his followers to avoid any intoxicating substances – “if it intoxicates in a large amount, it is forbidden even in a small amount.” For this reason, Muslims avoid alcohol in any form, even small amounts that are sometimes used in

cooking. According to the American Heart Association (2001), **every drink** is associated with **greater brain shrinkage.**

Want a Baby? Say No to Alcohol. Even in moderate quantities, it can significantly reduce a woman's chances of becoming pregnant, according to a Danish Study. It showed that women who drink between 5 and 10 units of alcohol a week are up to 50% less likely to conceive than teetotallers.

A unit is counted as a glass of wine, half a pint of beer or a measure of spirits. Results of the study, involving 430 Danish couples between the ages of 20 and 35, were published in the British medical journal on 22nd August 1998. One of its authors, Miss Tina Kold Jensen, said that drinking more than 10 units a week cut the prospects of pregnancy by two-thirds. She added: “It's obvious that women who want to become pregnant should avoid any alcoholic drink.” So then isn't the wisdom shown to us by God in the sacred pages of His Scriptures TRUE? All modern day studies point to harm when using alcohol.

Alcohol damages all organs of the body in due course. It damages the liver (cirrhosis), causes stomach bleeding (ulcer), muscle failure of the heart (cardiomyopathy), markedly affects testosterone metabolism (sex hormones) & adversely affects the immune system (increased incidence of infections). Its effect on the brain can be acute (intoxication, delirium) or chronic (ataxia, memory loss, coordination). All of which occur **earlier** in women than in men despite a significantly **shorter** exposure to alcohol.

Alcohol has been linked to breast cancer by many researches. One of the largest studies revealed that alcohol boosts the growth of the most common type of breast cancer (accounting for 70% of tumors, which are connected to the activity of both the estrogen and progesterone receptors (ER+/PR+). Even moderate alcohol consumption (1-2 daily drinks) was enough. Higher consumption meant higher risk. Even the unborn are not safe from the dangers. In fetal alcohol syndrome, the child will often display signs of

Quran: 2:219

They ask you concerning **alcohol & gambling**: Say: **“In them there is great sin...”** great sin great sin great sin