

## Marijuana Discussion

From an Islamic Perspective; anything which intoxicates is Haram...

رَسُولُ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَآلِهِ: احذَرُوا كُلَّ مُسْكِرٍ ، فَإِنَّ كُلَّ مُسْكِرٍ حَرَامٌ.

The Prophet (SAWA) said, 'Every intoxicant is prohibited.' [al-Kafi, v. 6, p. 409, no. 9]

الإمام الباقر عَلَيْهِ السَّلَامُ: ما أسكر كثيره فقليله حرام.

Imam al-Baqir (AS) said, 'Whatever substance intoxicates when consumed in large amounts is prohibited even in small amounts.' [Bihar al-Anwar, v. 79, p. 131, no. 20]

- It is based on such traditions and more like it – that we find our maraja' are unanimous when it comes to intoxicants
  - Syed Sistani (HA) says: "It is forbidden to drink wine, beer, and everything that causes intoxication or drunkenness in solid or liquid form. Almighty Allāh says in the Qur'ān: "O you who believe! Intoxicants and games of chance and (sacrificing to) stones set up and (dividing by) arrows are only an uncleanness, the Shatan's work; shun it therefore that you may be successful." (5:90-91)" [A Code of Practice For Muslims in the West: Eating & Drinking – General Rules]

When it comes to Marijuana; it is included in this ruling – because one of the effects of Marijuana is Intoxication

- And so what we find is: In Shi'a fiqh, **all the mujtahideen of our time are unanimous** on this issue: their fatwa is that **intoxicating drugs are ḥarām** *except* for medicinal use only and that also should be based on the permission of a qualified physician.
  - We have not yet seen any dissenting view from those who are qualified to give fatwa.

A couple of points to discuss:

- One: It clearly must not be so bad if the government is making it legal – therefore shouldn't Islam reconsider its position?
  - Answer: Whether an item has been declared by the government as legal does not have an impact on the shari'a laws. Its same government which has also legalized alcohol -- that doesn't make it halal in Islam. Intoxicants are haram whether the government approves it or not. In Islam, the ruling is based on shari'a values and not on approval or disapproval of the government.
- Two: How come people don't view smoking shisha or cigars the same as smoking weed? If anything shisha and cigarettes are much more unhealthy and deadly.

- Answer: As the harms of smoking shisha and cigarettes are becoming more and more clear – we find that our Maraja’ are moving towards either prohibiting it absolutely or conditionally (i.e., if one is sure that it is harmful, then it is haram).
  - When it comes to Marijuana, the research is there to say that it may be harmful for certain people (children, youth...etc.) or in long term usage; however there might be some benefit in certain medical cases – however its prohibition is not based (as of yet) on medical reasons, rather because it is an intoxicant; and anything that is intoxicating in Islam is haram.
- Three: If something can make me relaxed for a couple of hours, especially during exams or midterms, why wouldn’t I take it?
  - Answer: Relaxation in this case is actually intoxication -- and therefore it is not permitted. Life is full of tests and trials; marijuana is not the solution for relaxation. If a Muslim wants to find true relaxation and peace, then he should seek the protection of the relevant du'as or the Qur'an. "Verily, by the remembrance of Allah, the hearts are at peace."

Are there exceptions to the Prohibition that has been described above?

- Islam is very clear that everything that intoxicates is Haram – however if one has a legitimate medical reason that their Doctor feels would be treated by the controlled use of marijuana – then in that instance it would be permissible.
  - In this case, the stand of marijuana with CBD only would be taken – not the strand which has THC

What are the ethics behind marijuana businesses? Primary growing, distributing, investing in businesses, being involved in some aspect of the business peripherally (fund transfers, mutual funds that include businesses etc)

- Getting involved for recreational use (growth or distribution or promotion) will not be permissible. However, investing in a business which only supplies to medical stores would be okay.