

## Halal and Haram and Society

Thanks be to Allah for allowing the Halal, and disallowing the Haram. It is a mercy to the believers. I do testify that there is only one god with no partners, it is Allah. He made in the halal a good substitution for the hararm. He gave human nature its right to enjoy the good which will satisfy its needs and fulfils its demands. That also kept the human nature away from the bad destroying to the individual and society. I also testify that Mohammed is the messenger of Allah, the best example to be followed (may PPBU).

Dear Muslims, Islam determined the authority that can decide what is allowed and what is forbidden to be Allah alone. The Quran took it against the people of the book (Jews and Christians) that they gave this authority to their priests. Aya 31 of surat Tawba explained how they took their priests as gods. When some Christian argued that they Jews and Christians did not worship their priest, the prophet (PPBU) said, "Of course they did, They forbid them the halal and allowed them to do the haram, and they followed them to that. And that is worshipping them". Islam specifically called upon Muslims who prohibit what is halal to refrain from that because they make things tight for ordinary Muslims due to their rigidity.

Islam has shown what is halal and what is haram in some detail. It is always Ok to do what is clearly halal, and there is no permit to do what is clearly haram. In some areas the line between Halal and haram becomes blur. Such area is the suspicious area. It is advisable in Islam to avoid such suspicious areas. Letting oneself acts in a suspicious area will lead one to sometimes unknowingly stray into the haram. Satan will find it easier pulling those into the haram.

Islam talks about two concepts: the right action and correctness of the heart. That is making right the exterior and the interior of oneself. The prophet divided all things into three parts:

- 1) the clear halal like eating all allowable foods like plants fruits etc.
- 2) the clear haram, like adultery, alcohol theft etc.

3) the suspicious acts. Those acts have some features of halal and some of haram. Both sides had arguments for it and therefore it remained unclear to most people. Such suspicious situations are quite clear to those who understand the shariaa (الشريعة). Allah said “Ask the people of the knowledge (Quran) if you do not know”.

Satan operates with humans at different levels. And works to move a human from one level to the next. Satan makes wonderful for a human to do the right thing, and keeps persuading him or her until they move the haram. He starts by the minor of haram, then moves to the major harams. Then satan will try and get them to abandon the religion of Allah all together. For Allah has warned his slaves from following the steps of Satan and falling victim to his enticements. The Islamic basic guidance rule is “the obligation to block what leads to haram”. For example, the free mixing of men and women, and the unaccompanied company of a man and a woman, because they may be the rout to adultery. Or for some employee accepting presents from clients which may be interpreted as bribes.

The human heart turns more than a boiling pot. One duaa off the prophet (PPBU): “Lord of all hearts, keep my heart fixed unto your religion”. Indeed, being good or bad depends a lot on the heart. Allah says: “That day that no money and no siblings will be of any value to anyone, Except those who come to Allah with a good heart” Ayah 88-89 of surah Shuaaraa. What is bewildering is that people do not look after their hearts as they do with their other organs. If they sense the start of a sickness they rush to doctors. But they don't seem to care to refresh their hearts from solidifying. Before Allah puts a stamp on it when it then becomes harder than a rock. A real believer pays attention to his/her heart, blocks all doors of haram to it. Watch over it. For the degraders of a heart are a lot. One should indulge into remembering Allah and praising Allah whenever one feels the heart is getting harder. To keep it on the right path of guidance and goodness. We ask Allah to keep our hearts righteous, and make it operate in its obedience. We ask Allah to show us the right and make us follow it. And show us the badness and make us avoid it. And all thanks be to Allah.