

## **Alcohol and its uses under Islamic scope**

**DOI: 10.5281/zenodo.7501820**

Haris Ullah \*

Syed Hidayat Ullah jan \*\*

Dr. Muhammad Shuaib Yousaf \*\*\*



### **Abstract:**

*Alcohol derived from honey, wheat, barley or corn is haram when used as an intoxicant, in an amount that intoxicates. But, if not used in any such manner, and intended to use for medical purpose, hygiene, perfume, etc., then it would be permissible. There are some faqīhs, particularly of the Hanafi school, who take the concept of khamr literally and forbid only grape-based (or date-based) alcoholic beverages, allowing those made with other fruits, grains, or honey. This is, however, a minority opinion. Alcohol in Islam, Basically the world's religions have had differing relationships with alcohol. Many religions forbid alcoholic consumption or see it as sinful or negative. Others have allocated a specific place for it, such as in the Christian practice of using wine during the Eucharist rite. But according to Islam there is a consensus among theologians that the word khamr, meaning "intoxicants", refers to alcohol and all similar kind of beverages causing drunkenness, and that alcohol consumption is prohibited by Islam because it weakens the conscience of the believer. But on the other hand modern world is using alcohol as a preserver in different ways, so this article may highlight the correct ways of using of alcohol according to Islamic teachings.*

**Key words:** *Quran, Hadith, Jurist, Alcohol, Quantity, Quality, Verse.*

.....  
\* Department of Islamic studies and research, The university of Agriculture, DI Khan, KP, Pakistan.

College, Peshawar, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. amir@icp.edu.pk

\*\* PST Elementary and Secondary Education Govt of kpk.

\*\*\* Postdoc Researcher ,IRI,IIUI

**Alcohol's religious status****According to Quran****1<sup>st</sup> Verse**

يَسْأَلُونَكَ عَنِ الْخَمْرِ وَالْمَيْسِرِ قُلْ فِيهِمَا إِثْمٌ كَبِيرٌ وَمَنَافِعُ لِلنَّاسِ وَإِثْمُهُمَا أَكْبَرُ مِنْ نَفْعِهِمَا.<sup>1</sup>

"They ask you about wine and gambling. Say: In both there is great sin and some benefits for people. And their sin is greater than their benefit".<sup>2</sup>

**Commentary**

According to Imam Abu-Bakar Al-Jassas (370AH):

"هذه الآية قد اقتضت تحريم الخمر لولم يرد غيرها في تحريمها لكانت كافية مغنية ... ومنافع للناس لا دلالة فيه على إباحتها لأن المراد منافع الدنيا وأن في سائر الحرمان منافع لمرتكبها في دنياهم إلا أن تلك المنافع لا تفي بضررها من العقاب المستحق بارتكابها فذكره لمنافعها غير دال على إباحتها".<sup>3</sup>

"This verse necessitated the prohibition of wine. If there was no other verse mention of its prohibition, it would have been sufficient ... and benefits for people, there is no evidence of its permissibility, because what is meant is the benefits of world, and that in the rest of the prohibitions there are benefits for those who commit them in their world, except that these benefits do not meet the harm they deserve from the punishment due to their perpetration, so His mention of their benefits does not indicate their permissibility".

**2<sup>nd</sup> Verse**

يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا إِنَّمَا الْخَمْرُ وَالْمَيْسِرُ وَالْأَنْصَابُ وَالْأَزْلَامُ رِجْسٌ مِّنْ عَمَلِ الشَّيْطَانِ فَاجْتَنِبُوهُ لَعَلَّكُمْ تُفْلِحُونَ.<sup>4</sup>

"O you who believe! Wine, gambling, altars and divining arrows are filth, made up by Satan. Therefore, refrain from it, so that you may be successful".

**Commentary**

According to Imam Abu-Bakar Al-Jassas (370AH):

Among what was revealed regarding alcohol, which has no justification for interpretation, is His saying, the Most High, is the above mentioned verse.<sup>5</sup>

Now according to the above mentioned verses it is clear that the Alcohol's is totally prohibited but if we search further Allah says:

**3<sup>rd</sup> Verse**

يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا لَا تَقْرَبُوا الصَّلَاةَ وَأَنْتُمْ سُكَارَى حَتَّى تَعْلَمُوا مَا تَقُولُونَ-6

“O you who believe! Do not go near Salah when you are intoxicated, until you know what you say”.

So here in this verse, there is a reference to the prohibition of such quantity of alcohol as to cause intoxication, it also refers to the prohibition of intoxicating quantity. However it needs explain that what quantity and quality (kind) is known to be prohibited so for that we need to research this issue according to hadiths and jurists suggestions.

#### Alcohol's definition according to Hadith

"حدثنا عبد الرزاق، حدثنا معمر، عن يحيى بن أبي كثير، أخبرني أبو كثير، أنه سمع أبا هريرة، يقول: قال رسول الله صلى الله عليه وسلم: الخمر من هاتين الشجرتين: النخلة والعنب"-7

“It was narrated from Abu Hurayrah (RA) that I heard the Messenger of Allah (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) saying: Wine is from these two trees, i.e. dates and grapes”.

#### Alcohol's definition according to Jurists

##### According to Allama Burhan Al-Din Al-Murghainani (593AH)

"الأشربة المحرمة أربعة: الخمر وهي عصير العنب إذا غلى واشتد وقذف بالزبد"-8

“Forbidden drinks are four: wine, which is grape juice if it boils and thickens and is thrown with butter”.

##### According to Ibn Rusad Al-Hafeed (595AH)

"وأما النبات الذي هو غذاء فكله حلال، إلا الخمر، وسائر الأنبذة المتخذة من العصارات التي تتخمر ومن العسل نفسه أما الخمر فإنهم اتفقوا على تحريم قليلها وكثيرها، أعني: التي هي من عصير العنب وأما الأنبذة فإنهم اختلفوا في القليل منها الذي لا يسكر، وأجمعوا على أن المسكر منها حرام"-9

“As for the plant that is food, all of it is lawful, except for wine, and all other wines taken from the juices that ferment and from the honey itself. As for wine, they agreed that little and a lot of it is forbidden, I mean: that which is from grape juice. As for the unbelievers, they differed about a few of them that do not intoxicate, and they unanimously agreed that intoxicating ones are forbidden”.

## **Alcohol's definition according to chemists**

An Alcohol is a compounds in which a hydroxyl group,  $-OH$ , is attached to a saturated carbon atom  $R_3COH$ . The term 'hydroxyl' refers to the radical species,  $HO$ .<sup>10</sup>

### **Further two types**

#### **(a) Synthetic ethanol**

Is chemically identical to bio-ethanol, the only difference is that bio-ethanol is made from the fermentation of carbohydrate derived sugars, followed by distillation, identical to the process used for making alcoholic beverages such as vodka or whisky; whereas

#### **(b) Synthetic alcohol**

Is produced through a thermo-chemical process which begins with the creation of syngas from the gasification of a wide range of resources, and therefore not limited to grains and sugars.<sup>11</sup>

### **Uses of Alcohol**

#### **According to Allama Zailai Al-Hanafi (743AH)**

"يجوز التداوي بالمحرم كالخمر والبول إذا أخبره طبيب مسلم أن فيه شفاء، ولم يجد غيره من المباح ما يقوم مقامه والحرمة ترتفع للضرورة فلم يكن متداويا بالحرام"-12

"It is permissible to treat with forbidden things such as wine and urine if a Muslim doctor told him that there is a cure in it, and he did not find anything else permissible to take its place, and the prohibition rises to necessity, so he was not treated with the forbidden".

#### **According to Allama Zailai Al-Hanafi (743AH)**

"وقد وقع الاختلاف بين مشايخنا في التداوي بالمحرم ففي النهاية عن الذخيرة الاستشفاء بالحرام يجوز إذا علم أن فيه شفاء ولم يعلم دواء آخر"-13

"There has been a difference between our sheikhs in the treatment of the forbidden things, so in the book "Al-Nihayah" it is coated from book "Al-Zakhirah" that: seeking treatment in the forbidden is permissible if it is known that there is a cure and no other medicine is known".

#### **According to Allama Damaad Al-Afandi Al-Hanafi (1078AH)**

"وقيل يجوز التداوي بالمحرم كالخمر والبول إن أخبره طبيب مسلم أن فيه شفاء والحرمة ترتفع بالضرورة فلم يكن متداويا بالحرام"-14

“And it was said that: It is permissible to treat with forbidden things such as wine and urine if a Muslim doctor told him that there is a cure in it, and he did not find anything else permissible to take its place, and the prohibition rises to necessity, so he was not treated with the forbidden”.

**According Mufti Taqi Al-Usmani**

"الكحول' المسكرة اليوم صارت تستعمل في معظم الأدوية ولأغراض كيميائية أخرى ولا تستغنى عنها كثير من الصناعات الحديثة وقد عمت بها البلوى واشتدت إليها الحاجة والحكم فيها على قول أبي حنيفة سهل لأنها إن لم تكن مصنوعة من النبي من ماء العنب"-15

“Today, intoxicating “alcohol” is used in most medicines and for other chemical purposes, and many modern industries are indispensable for it. It has been most commonly usable thing, and the need for it has increased. And giving fatwa (about Alcohol’s definition) according to the view of Abu-Hanifah is easy to implement, if it (wine) is not made from raw grapes water”.

## Conclusion

The evidence for a positive outcome of the problem is that:

1. According to Islamic rules all types of Alcohols are permissible to use in any way except Graph and Date Alcohol.
2. As well as these two forbidden Alcohol types i.e. Graph and Date Alcohol are conditionally permissible when there is no other Halal (Islamic legal thing) is left to use e.g. Graph and Date Alcohol usage for medications etc.
3. Islamic scholars should raise awareness among people about the positive and necessary use of alcohol in society so as to deal with the problems that arise.

## References

<sup>1</sup>Al-Baqarah:219

<sup>2</sup>Translator: Mufti Taqi Usmani DB

<sup>3</sup>Al-Jassas, Abu-Bakar Ahmad bin Ali (370AH), Ahkaam ul Quran, Chapter : Bab Tahreem Al-Kahmer, Dar ul Kutub Al-Arabiyyah, Beirut- Lebanon, 1992AD, 2/3

<sup>4</sup>Al-Maidah:90

<sup>5</sup>Al-Jassas, Ahkaam ul Quran, Chp: Bab Tahreem Al-Kahmer, 2/5

<sup>6</sup>Al-Nisa:90

<sup>7</sup>(a) Al-Shaibani, Ahmad bin Hanbal (241AH), Musnad Imam Ahmad, Muassasa Al-Risalah, Beirut, 2001AD, 13/175, Hadith No.7753

(b) Al-Qushairi, Muslim bin Hajjaj(AH), Sahih Muslim, Dar Ihya Al-Turas Al-Arabi, Beirut, 3/1573, Hadith No.1985

8 Al-Murghainani, Burhan ud Din, Ali bin Abu-Bakar (593AH), Al-Hidayah Fi Sharh Bidayah Al-Mubtadi, Dar Ihya Al-Turas Al-Arabi, Beirut, Kitab Al-Ashribah, 4/393-396

9 Al-Hafeed, Ibn Ar-Rushad, Muhammad bin Ahmad (595AH), Bidayah Al-Mujtahid Fi Niyhayah Al-Muqtasid, Dar ul Hadees, Al-Qahirah, 1415AH, Kitab Al-Atemah w Al-Ashribah, 2/521-527

10 IUPAC Compendium of Chemical Terminology Gold book, version2.3.3, 2014-02-24, p53

11 <http://www.americanenergyindependence.com/syntheticalcohol.aspx>

12 Al-Zailai, Al-Hanafi, Usman bin Ali (743AH), Tabyin Al-Haqaiq Sharh Kanz Al-Daqaiq, Al-Matbah Al-Kubra, Al-Qahirah, 1313AH, Kitab Al-Karahiyah, 6/33

13 Ibn Al-Nujaim, Zain ud Din bin Ibraheem (970AH), Al-Bahar Al-Raiq Sarh Kanz Al-Daqaiq, Dar ul Kutub Al-Isalmi, Kitab Al-Tahrah, 1/122

14 Dammad Afandi, Abdul Rahman bin Muhammad (1078AH), Majm Al-Unhur Fi Sharh Multaq Al-Abhur, Dar Ihya Al-Turas Al-Arabi, Beirut, Kitab Al-Karahiyah, 2/555

15 Al-Usmani, Muhammad Taqi bin Muhammad Shafi, Takmilah Fath Al-Mulhim Be sharh Sahih Al-Imam Muslim, Maktabah Dar ul Uloom Karachi, Karachi, Pakistan, 1/349