

AVOID FORNICATION (ZINA)

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الْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ نَحْمَدُهُ وَنَسْتَعِينُهُ وَنَسْتَغْفِرُهُ وَنَعُوذُ بِاللَّهِ مِنْ شُرُورِ أَنْفُسِنَا وَمِنْ

سَيِّئَاتِ أَعْمَالِنَا مَنْ يَهْدِهِ اللَّهُ فَلَا مُضِلَّ لَهُ وَمَنْ يَضِلَّ فَلَا هَادِيَ لَهُ،

وَأَشْهَدُ أَنْ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ وَحْدَهُ لَا شَرِيكَ لَهُ وَأَشْهَدُ أَنَّ سَيِّدَنَا مُحَمَّدًا عَبْدَهُ

وَرَسُولَهُ

اللَّهُمَّ صَلِّ وَسَلِّمْ وَبَارِكْ عَلَى حَبِيبِكَ وَرَسُولِكَ سَيِّدِنَا مُحَمَّدٍ وَعَلَى آلِهِ

وَأَصْحَابِهِ وَالتَّابِعِينَ لَهُمْ بِإِحْسَانٍ إِلَى يَوْمِ الدِّينِ.

أَمَّا بَعْدُ،

فِيَا عِبَادَ اللَّهِ، اتَّقُوا اللَّهَ أَوْصِيكُمْ وَإِيَّايَ بِتَقْوَى اللَّهِ، فَقَدْ فَازَ الْمُتَّقُونَ.

Let us all increase our devotion towards Allah the Almighty by performing all that He has decreed and abstaining from all that He has prohibited. Hopefully, we will be blessed in this world and in the Hereafter.

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Increases in the numbers of abortions, abandoned babies and illegitimate children are indicators that promiscuity and fornication are rampant in our society. This situation is caused by taking the sin of fornication lightly. Allah the Almighty says in the Quran in Chapter 17 (*Surah Al-Isra*), verse (*ayat*) 32:

وَلَا تَقْرَبُوا الزَّيْنَىٰ إِنَّهُ كَانَ فَحِشَةً وَسَاءَ سَبِيلًا ﴿٣٢﴾

Which means: “*And do not go anywhere near fornication: it is an outrage, and an evil path.*”

Allah the Almighty has called fornication an outrage and it certainly leads to evil. The sin of fornication is so grave that Imam Ahmad said:

Which means: “*I do not know of a greater sin next to a murder except fornication.*”

The consequences of fornication are devastating because fornication destroys human lineage, increases the occurrence of fetus- and child-dumping cases, taints the reputation of families, causes rifts in family relationships, spreads chronic illnesses, causes rampant lust and lowers the standing of the fornicators in the eyes of society. People who commit fornication actually lose their faith when they commit this vile act. Prophet Muhammad (May peace and blessings of Allah be upon him [PBUH]) said in a *Hadith* which was narrated by Imam Muslim:

لَا يَزْنِي الزَّانِي حِينَ يَزْنِي وَهُوَ مُؤْمِنٌ

Which means: “*The one who fornicates is not a believer at the time of committing the act.*”

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

In order to avoid fornication, Allah the Almighty commands us not to even approach any activity that drives us to commit this sinful act.

Therefore, stay away from anything that has been forbidden by Allah such as deliberately looking at human nakedness (*aurat*) or looking at pornographic materials. Allah the Almighty commands us to lower our gazes He mentioned in the Quran in Chapter 24 (*Surah An-Noor*), verse (*ayat*) 30:

قُلْ لِلْمُؤْمِنِينَ يَغُضُّوا مِنْ أَبْصَارِهِمْ وَيَحْفَظُوا فُرُوجَهُمْ ذَٰلِكَ أَرَبَّ لَهُمْ إِنَّ اللَّهَ

خَيْرٌ بِمَا يَصْنَعُونَ ﴿٣٠﴾

Which means: “[Prophet], tell believing men to lower their glances and guard their private parts: that is purer for them. God is well aware of everything they do.”

We must advise our family members to cover their *aurat* completely because exposing their *aurat* is also an act of approaching fornication. A person who leaves her home without covering her *aurat* properly and is adorned with excessive adornments may open the door to fornication. Prophet Muhammad PBUH said in a *Hadith* which was narrated by Imam Muslim:

Which means: *“There are two types of people who will be punished in Hell and whom I have not seen: men having whips like the tails of cows and they will be beating people with them, and, women who will be dressed but appear to be naked, inviting to evil; and they themselves will be inclined to it. Their heads will appear like the humps of the Bactrian camel inclined to one side. They will not enter Jannah and they will not smell its fragrance which is perceptible from such and such a distance.”*

Another act that can also lead to fornication is being alone between men and women who are not married (not *mahram*). This is prohibited no matter where it occurs: in flower gardens, hotel rooms or even vehicles. Being alone with a non-*mahram* allows *satan* the opportunity to corrupt the children of Adam and to slander them. This is inline with a *Hadith* which was narrated by *Imam* al-Tirmizi:

Which means: *“Behold! A man is not alone with a woman but the third of them is Ash-Shaitan (Satan).”*

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Currently we face great challenges as the grave sin of fornication has begun to be taken lightly. There are also groups that claim to be fighting for Human Rights who think that fornication is an individual's right. The more severe term ‘fornication’ has been replaced with ‘illegal intercourse’ or ‘extramarital sex’. Whereas in Islam, fornication is a prohibition that can invite the wrath of Allah the Almighty.

Fornication will have an adverse effect on both the perpetrator and the illegitimate child. Fornicators are punishable by *hudud* with one hundred lashes for the unmarried couples and being stoned to death for the married couples. A child who is born as a result of fornication cannot be considered the legitimate child of the fornicator, the child is not eligible for inheritance (or *faraid*) and cannot become a guardian or be given in marriage by the fornicator. In fact, these children may be psychologically injured with feelings of inferiority or shame. They may be unable to accept reality and become depressed, isolated or even despised by society.

The Prophet PBUH said in a *Hadith* which was narrated by *Imam Ahmad*:

Which means: “*My people are always in a good state as long as illegitimate children are not widespread among them. Once there are illegitimate children among them, surely Allah is close to punishing them.*”

Therefore, let us be reminded by the following warning from Allah the Almighty in the Quran in Chapter 24 (*Surah An-Nur*), verse (*ayat*) 02:

أَعُوذُ بِاللَّهِ مِنَ الشَّيْطَانِ الرَّجِيمِ

الزَّانِيَةُ وَالزَّانِي فَاجْلِدُوا كُلَّ وَاحِدٍ مِّنْهُمَا مِائَةَ جَلْدَةٍ وَلَا تَأْخُذْكُم بِهِمَا رَأْفَةٌ فِي دِينِ اللَّهِ

إِنْ كُنْتُمْ تَوَافِقُونَ بِاللَّهِ وَالْيَوْمِ الْآخِرِ وَلْيَشْهَدْ عَذَابَهُمَا طَائِفَةٌ مِّنَ الْمُؤْمِنِينَ ﴿٢﴾

Which means: “*Strike the fornicators one hundred times. Do not let compassion for them keep you from carrying out God’s law—if you*

believe in God and the Last Day—and ensure that a group of believers witnesses the punishment.”

بَارَكَ اللهُ لِيْ وَلَكُمْ فِي الْقُرْءَانِ الْعَظِيْمِ، وَنَفَعَنِيْ وَايَّكُمْ بِمَا فِيْهِ مِنْ
الْآيَاتِ وَالذِّكْرِ الْحَكِيْمِ، وَتَقَبَّلَ مِنِّيْ وَمِنْكُمْ تِلَاوَتَهُ، إِنَّهُ هُوَ
السَّمِيْعُ الْعَلِيْمُ. أَقُوْلُ قَوْلِيْ هَذَا وَأَسْتَغْفِرُ اللهُ الْعَظِيْمَ لِيْ وَلَكُمْ
وَلِسَائِرِ الْمُسْلِمِيْنَ وَالْمُسْلِمَاتِ وَالْمُؤْمِنِيْنَ وَالْمُؤْمِنَاتِ فَاسْتَغْفِرُوْهُ
إِنَّهُ هُوَ الْغَفُوْرُ الرَّحِيْمُ.