

The ruling concerning shaving beard for surgical needs

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بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

In the name of Allaah, the Most Merciful, the Bestower of Mercy

Question: A man was afflicted with a disease and accordingly the doctor stipulated that he must shave his beard in order to operate him. So, what is the ruling concerning shaving the beard in such a case? And may Allaah reward you.

Shaykh Aboo `Abd-al-Mu`iz `Alee Ferkous al-Qoobee (May Allaah the Most High preserve him): All praise is due to Allaah, the Lord of the Worlds. Peace and blessing be upon whom Allaah sent as a mercy to the Worlds, upon his Family, his Companions and his Brothers until the Day of Resurrection:

In such issues, if there is a compelling need for a surgical operation which cannot be done unless by taking off a part of the beard or shaving it completely, and none of the other doctors could do it (without shaving the beard), then the patient -under compulsion- has to choose the lesser of the two harms and the easiest mischief, according to His saying عزَّ وجلَّ:

[فَاتَّقُوا اللَّهَ مَا اسْتَطَعْتُمْ]

The meaning of the verse:

[So keep your duty to Allaah and fear Him as much as you can]¹

And according to his saying صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَآلِهِ وَسَلَّمَ: **“When you are commanded to observe a matter, observe it as much as you can”**².

The perfect knowledge belongs to Allaah عزَّ وجلَّ; and our last prayer is all the praises and thanks are to Allaah, the Lord of the Worlds, and prayers of Allaah are to Muhammad and his Family, Companions and Brothers until the Day of Resurrection.

Algiers on: Rabee' Ath-Thaane the 7th, 1427 H. Corresponding to May the 6th, 2006 G.

¹ [Soorah At-Taghaaboon: 16]

² Narrated by Al-Bukhaaree (7288) and by Muslim (20517) from the hadeeth of Aboo Hurairah