

## Danger of travelling to a country of disbelievers

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بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

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

**Question:** I am a university teacher who travels every year to the land of disbelievers for scientific research. One day, when in the bus, a girl sat near me and started to touch my hand and some sensitive parts of my body. This made me sexually aroused and some semen came out of me. I am still sorry for what I committed, so, what is the ruling of such deed and what am I required to do ? What is your advice? May Allaah bless you.

**Answer:** 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 till the Day of Resurrection.

It is clear for you that living and settling among disbelievers will cause to resemble them and be assimilated to them. It has also many dangers on the faith of the Muslim and on his moralities, especially if this person is far from his family or brothers.

For this reason, it is of his duty, if he is obliged to travel to these countries, to protect himself from temptations by knowing the Sharee'ah and showing its rites, and to act according to Allaah's commands with full knowledge that He sees all his acts, in order to get away from places of temptation. Nevertheless, if someone commits an act as yours, which is a means to committing adultery and lewdness that are forbidden by the Sharee'ah, it is less sinful than the act of fornication itself; as committing an illegal means is not like committing the sinful act itself as regards punishment and retribution.

Besides, the person who is involved in such illegal means like the lewd mixing of the two sexes and the fact of being illegally with a woman or other things which are means to illegal things, should turn into Allaah with a sincere repentance and feel sorrow for what he committed and abstain from it. The fact of not insisting in doing wrong deeds expiates sins whatever significant they are, especially if they are followed with good deeds. Allaah عزَّ وجلَّ said:

قُلْ يَا عِبَادِيَ الَّذِينَ أَسْرَفُوا عَلَىٰ أَنفُسِهِمْ لَا تَقْنَطُوا مِن رَّحْمَةِ اللَّهِ إِنَّ اللَّهَ يَغْفِرُ الذُّنُوبَ جَمِيعًا إِنَّهُ هُوَ الْغَفُورُ  
الرَّحِيمُ

[Say: "O `Ibaadee (My slaves) who have transgressed against themselves (by committing evil deeds and sins)! Despair not of the Mercy of Allaah, verily Allaah forgives all sins. Truly, He is Oft-Forgiving, Most Merciful]"<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Soorah az-Zumar [39:53]

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He عز وجل also said:

وَالَّذِينَ لَا يَدْعُونَ مَعَ اللَّهِ إِلَهًا آخَرَ وَلَا يَقْتُلُونَ النَّفْسَ الَّتِي حَرَّمَ اللَّهُ إِلَّا بِالْحَقِّ وَلَا يَزْنُونَ وَمَنْ يَفْعَلْ ذَلِكَ يَلْقَ أَثَامًا. يُضَاعَفْ لَهُ الْعَذَابُ يَوْمَ الْقِيَامَةِ وَيَخْلُدْ فِيهِ مُهَانًا. إِلَّا مَنْ تَابَ وَآمَنَ وَعَمِلَ عَمَلًا صَالِحًا فَأُولَئِكَ يُبَدِّلُ اللَّهُ سَيِّئَاتِهِمْ حَسَنَاتٍ وَكَانَ اللَّهُ غَفُورًا رَحِيمًا

[And those who invoke not any other Ilaah (god) along with Allaah, nor kill such life as Allaah has forbidden, except for just cause, nor commit illegal sexual intercourse and whoever does this shall receive the punishment. The torment will be doubled to him on the Day of Resurrection, and he will abide therein in disgrace; except those who repent and believe (in Islaamic Monotheism), and do righteous deeds, for those, Allaah will change their sins into good deeds, and Allaah is Oft-Forgiving, Most Merciful]<sup>2</sup>

The Prophet صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ said: "The one who repents from sin is like the one who did not sin"<sup>3</sup>. The Prophet صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ also said: "By Him in Whose Hands is my life, if you were not to commit sin, Allaah would sweep you out of existence and He would replace (you by) those people who would commit sin and seek forgiveness from Allaah, and He would have forgiven them"<sup>4</sup>.

Returning to Allaah and repenting to him should be followed up with good deeds, steadfastness and patience; these are the reasons of uprightness which lead to please Allaah عز وجل. Allaah عز وجل said:

وَأَلَوْ اسْتَقَامُوا عَلَى الطَّرِيقَةِ لَأَسْقَيْنَهُمْ مَاءً غَدَقًا

[If they (non-Muslims) had believed in Allaah, and went on the Right Way (i.e. Islaam) We should surely have bestowed on them water (rain) in abundance]<sup>5</sup>

We ask Allaah عز وجل guidance for you and us and ask Him to accept our deeds and make us righteous and away from errors, lapses and afflictions be they open or secret.

The perfect knowledge belongs to Allaah سبحانه وتعالى. Our last prayer is all praise is due to Allaah, the Lord of the Worlds. Peace and blessing be upon our Prophet, his Family, his Companions and his Brothers till the Day of Resurrection.

Algiers, Safar 24th, 1428 H. Corresponding to: March 13th, 2007

<sup>2</sup> Soorah al-Furqaan [25:68-70]

<sup>3</sup> Reported by Ibn Maajah, chapter of "Asceticism" (hadeeth 4250), Al-Baihaquee (hadeeth 21150) and At-Tabaraanee in "Al-Mu'jam Al-Kabeer" (hadeeth 10281) from the hadeeth of `Abdullaah Ibn Mas'ood رضى الله عنه. Ibn Hajar said in « Fath Al-Baaree » (13/557): "Its chain of narration is Hassan (good)". Al Albaanee judged it as Hassan (good) in "Saheeh Al-Jaami'" (hadeeth 3008).

<sup>4</sup> Reported by Muslim in the chapter of "Repentance" concerning the obliteration of sins through asking Allaah for forgiveness (6965), Ahmad in his "Musnad" (8021) and Al-Baihaquee in "Shu'ab Al-Eemaan" (7102) from the hadeeth of Aboo Hurayrah رضى الله عنه.

<sup>5</sup> Soorah al-Jinn [72: 16]