

## Triple divorce said at the same time

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Article taken and slightly adapted from: ferkous.com

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

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

**Question:** What is the ruling concerning the triple divorce said at the same time? May Allaah reward 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.

The triple divorce said at the same time is a question about which many texts have been reported. It is long and complex, and the debate it has generated is very old. The most compelling evidence and the most valid of all what is said about this issue is that triple divorce said in one word or in several (repeated) words at the same time -without being permeated by Raj'a (revocation)- does not take effect but with a single divorce. This opinion was adopted by Ahl At-Tahqeeq (scholars known for their thoroughness in the study of jurisprudential issues) and by Shaykh Al-Islaam Ibn Taymeeyah and his disciple Ibn Al-Qayyim, and was judged most valid by Ash-Shawkaanee رحمه الله.

This being said, the strongest evidence on which their standpoint relies is the hadeeth of Ibn 'Abbaas رضي الله عنهما reported in "Saheeh Muslim" and others with a chain of narration all its narrators were Imaams (erudite scholars). In this hadeeth Aboo As-Sahbaa' said to Ibn 'Abbaas: "Don't you know that a triple divorce said at the same time was made a single one during the era of the Prophet صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَآلِهِ وَسَلَّمَ, Aboo Bakr and in the early days of the Caliphate (succession) of 'Umar رضي الله عنهما?" He replied: "Yes, I do"<sup>1</sup>. The hadeeth has different versions and chains of narration. Furthermore, it has clear-cut indication of the fact that the triple divorce at the same time during the era of Allaah's Messenger صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَآلِهِ وَسَلَّمَ and that of Aboo Bakr was considered as a single divorce. In addition, this is the most valid ruling concerning the issue as it was clarified by the Messenger of Allaah صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَآلِهِ وَسَلَّمَ and there was a broad consensus among the Prophet's Companions on it. Whereas 'Umar Ibn Al-Khattaab made it three separate divorces as a punishment because people [during his era] underrated the question of divorce; and there was none who tried to overcome the aforementioned evidence by presenting another compelling evidence.

The perfect knowledge belongs to Allaah عَزَّ وَجَلَّ; 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, Safar 18th, 1428 H. Corresponding to March 07th, 2007 G.

<sup>1</sup> Narrated by Muslim (2/ 677) (1472), by Aboo Dawood (2200) and by An-Nasaa'ee (3406) -this hadeeth is mentioned according to his version-, from the hadeeth of Ibn 'Abbaas رضي الله عنهما.