

Drinking intoxicants out of necessity

With regards to drinking intoxicants due to dire need , the Shaykh Muhammad ibn Saalih al 'Uthaymeen *rahimahullaah* states:

Is it permissible to do something *muharram* (forbidden) in the case of necessity or not?

And the answer is that it is permissible, as per the statement of Allaah, the Most High:

...and He has explained to you in detail what is forbidden to you , except under compulsion of necessity.

Soorah al An'aam (6) aayah 119

So whoever is compelled by necessity to eat carrion (dead meat), then it is permissible for him to eat from it. And whoever is compelled by necessity to eat the meat of the pig, then it is permissible for him to eat pig meat and so on in this way.

And whoever is compelled by necessity to drink *khamr* (an intoxicant), then it is permissible for him to drink the intoxicant.

However the necessity to drink the intoxicant only holds true in one circumstance; and that is when (the person) is choking on a morsel of food and he doesn't have anything with him except *khamr*. So he drinks it in order to dislodge the morsel.

And as for drinking *khamr* because of thirst, then this is not permissible. The people of knowledge have said this is because *khamr* only serves to increase the thirsty person in thirst.

(Sharh al Arba'een an Nawawee (p136) of Shaykh Muhammad ibn Saalih al 'Uthaymeen *rahimahullaah*)