

SUMMER IMMERSION PROPHETIC MEDICINE



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SESSION 3

Hadith 3-6 Cauterization

- Initially, the Prophet (ﷺ) prohibited cauterization for the Ummah in the early stages of Islam, though he later permitted it for medical necessity. Thus, there are no contradictions.
- Whenever the Prophet's verbal statements appear to conflict, the Prophet's actions are given precedence because they leave no room for misinterpretation.
- This principle is evidenced by the fact that the Prophet (ﷺ) himself administered cauterization to treat a wound during the Battle of Khandaq.
- During the Prophet's time, cauterization was often performed by using heated arrowheads, spearheads, swords, or metal rods to stop bleeding and treat wounds.
- The three primary medical methods to control bleeding are:
 - 1. Direct pressure:
 - Applying firm compression to the wound site until a natural blood clot forms.
 - 2. Tourniquet:
 - Placing a band tightly around a limb to stop life-threatening blood loss from a wound.

- 3. Cauterization:
 - Utilizing devices like a Bovie (electrocautery) to apply high-frequency electrical currents to simultaneously cut through tissue and seal off blood vessels.
 - Cauterization not only controls severe bleeding; it can also cure bacterial infections.
- Clarification on the authentic narrations stating that 70,000 of the Prophet's followers will enter Paradise without any reckoning or punishment, among them are those that do not get themselves cauterized.
 - Cauterization is permissible as a medical necessity when no other viable alternatives remain (e.g., to save a life). Thus, those who perform it are not exempt from those 70,000 people.
 - Islamic jurisprudence widely recognizes the principle that dire necessity makes the prohibited permissible. When human life or health is in imminent danger and no lawful alternative exists, utilizing makruh or haram methods is deemed acceptable. However, one should always choose the halal medical option when an alternative exists.
- Practical steps to navigate your medication choices include:
 - 1. Request plant-based alternatives:
 - Consult your pharmacist to see if vegetarian gelatin capsules are available, and request those alternatives.
 - 2. Ask for alternative formats:
 - See if your pharmacist can prescribe or compound the medicine as a liquid or syrup.
 - 3. Empty the capsule:
 - If no alternative exists, you can open the capsule and consume only the medicine inside to avoid ingesting the gelatin.

- The importance of maintaining a halal lifestyle:
 - We must ensure everything we do, from what we consume to the income we earn is halal, as this purity is the foundation for having our du'as accepted.
 - Example: Sa'd ibn Abi Waqqas
 - He was a Sahabi famously known as Mustajab al-Da'wah (one whose prayers are readily answered).
 - His du'as were answered as a direct result of his strict adherence to the teachings of the Prophet (ﷺ).
 - The Prophet (ﷺ) told Sa'd ibn Abi Waqqas:

"يَا سَعْدُ! أَطْبِ مَطْعَمَكَ، تَكُنْ مُسْتَجَابَ الدَّعْوَةِ، وَالَّذِي نَفْسُ مُحَمَّدٍ بِيَدِهِ، إِنَّ الْعَبْدَ لَيَقْذِفُ اللَّقْمَةَ الْحَرَامَ فِي جَوْفِهِ، مَا يُتَقَبَّلُ مِنْهُ عَمَلٌ أَرْبَعِينَ يَوْمًا، وَأَيُّمَا عَبْدٍ نَبَتْ لَحْمُهُ مِنَ الشُّحْتِ وَالرِّبَا، فَالنَّارُ أَوْلَى بِهِ"

"O Sa'd! Purify your food, and your supplications will be answered. I swear by He in whose [control] the life of Muhammad lies, if a servant puts a morsel of unlawful food into his stomach, no deed of his will be accepted for forty days. And any servant whose flesh has grown from unlawful earnings and usury, then the Fire is more deserving of him." (Al-Mu'jam Al-Awsat)