



Cannabis

Imām Ibn ‘Ābidīn¹

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Durr al-Mukhtār: ‘It is forbidden to consume either banj² or hashish’

Banj is a plant known as *sheykrān* in Arabic. It intoxicates, causes drowsiness, stupefies and causes hallucinations as explained by Shaykh Dāwūd in *Al-Tadhkirah*.

[Fayrūzābādī in] *Al-Qāmūs* adds: The worst is the red kind and then the blackish and the lightest is the white variety.

Also in *Al-Qāmūs*:

al-sabt is the day of the week, Saturday; and also a man who sleeps a lot.

al-musbit is a stupefied person.

Al-Quhistānī said: ‘It is a kind related to the species of plant known as Cannabis [*al-qinib*]. It is explicitly forbidden [*ḥarām*] to consume it because it intoxicates; and this is the preferential ruling in contrast to [the ruling about] other [solid intoxicants] like opium, which are forbidden only when used in quantities that can inebriate. This is what they meant in *Al-*

¹ *Radd al-Muḥtār* [*Kitāb al-Ashribah*, vol.7/pg.13]

² Banj in arabic is bhang in Indian languages.

Hidāyah and other texts, when they said bhang is permissible [*mubāḥ*] as clarified in *Al-Lubāb*.

I say: This is not conclusive [proof]. Because any intoxicant is impermissible and forbidden without any doubt; so, how can one say that it is *mubāḥ*? Rather, the correct opinion is - and that is probably the intention of the author of *Al-Hidāyah* - it is *mubāḥ* to use it in very small quantities for medicinal purposes; and those who expressly insist on its being forbidden speak about using it in quantities that can intoxicate.

This is proven from the comment in *Ghāyat al-Bayān*: ‘Consuming [or eating] very small quantities of saqmūniyā or banj is permissible for medicinal reasons, and anything more than that which can cause death or inebriation is expressly forbidden.’

