

﴿O you who believe, intoxicants, gambling, idols and divining arrows are an abomination, of Shayṭān's handiwork; therefore avoid such [abomination], so that you might prosper.﴾ (al-Mā'idah 5: 90)

This is by the kindness, mercy and wisdom of Allah. Hence when this verse was revealed, 'Umar said, "We have given them up, we have given them up."

With regard to *khamr* (translated here as «intoxicants»), this word refers to any intoxicant that affects the mind, no matter what kind of substance it is. Gambling refers to any contest in which one of the two sides pays the other, such as dice games and chess, or any verbal or physical contest in which prizes are awarded, apart from horse and camel races and archery. These types of contests are permissible, because they help with jihad; hence the Lawgiver granted a concession allowing them.

﴿They ask you how much they are to spend﴾ this is a question about how much they should spend of their wealth. Allah made it easy for them, and instructed them to spend the surplus, which is what is affordable of their wealth and is surplus to their needs and basic necessities. This differs from one person to another, according to his means and whether he is rich or poor or somewhere in between. Each should give what is surplus to his needs, even if it is half a date.

Hence Allah commanded His Messenger (ﷺ) to take what is surplus from people and what they give in charity, and not to burden them with something that would be too difficult for them. Allah (ﷻ) did not enjoin this upon us because of any need on His part or because He wanted to burden us with more than we can afford; rather He enjoined upon us that which is in our interests and is easy for us, and that which is beneficial for us and our brothers. For that He deserves the most perfect of praise.

After explaining this to others in a clear way and outlining the reasons for which He prescribed it, He said: ﴿Thus does Allah make