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HARAAM, SHAITAANI 'IFTAAR' FUNCTIONS OF THE FUSSAAQ

QUESTION: SEEKING GUIDANCE

With the approach of the month of Ramadan, iftaar gatherings are held in many places, including those arranged exclusively for women. At such meetings the Qur'an is recited and religious talks and reminders are delivered.

However, it often occurs that group photographs are taken at these gatherings and later posted on statuses, and conversations may drift away from beneficial topics into idle talk and sins of the tongue. Many Muslim women — both married and unmarried — attend these events.

Since Maghrib time falls in the evening, women do not always go there accompanied by a husband or mahram.

Some sisters argue that these gatherings provide spiritual benefit and an opportunity to spend time in a women's jama'ah.

We request clarification regarding how such practices conform to the rulings of the Shariah for Muslim women, and ask for a detailed response with advice so that others may also benefit.

ANSWER

The only Islamically sounding aspect of these confounded functions and gatherings is the term 'iftaar'. But, this term is deceptively employed to convey the idea of the shaitaani gathering being 'islamic'. However, these shaitaani functions have absolutely no relationship with *Iftaar* nor with anything commanded by the Deen. These gatherings are in reality shaitaani schemes designed by Iblees for the fulfilment of the base, lustful desires of the nafs.

From whence did these evil men and women acquire these functions which they deceptively designate 'iftaar'. There is absolutely no resemblance between these evil shaitaani gatherings and the Masnoon Iftaar *amal* of the Sunnah.

The time of Iftaar which coincides with the time of Maghrib Salaat is never for merrymaking and fulfilment of nafsani desires. The Sunnah method of Iftaar is

with a couple of dates and/or water, and with NOTHING else. Then immediately after this simple Sunnah Iftaar follows Maghrib Salaat.

But these evil fussaag and faasiqaat gathering at some venue for merrymaking commit the haraam act of delaying Maghrib Salaat for no valid reason. Maghrib Salaat may not be delayed for merrymaking. The so-called ‘religious’ talks are also part of shaitaan’s scheme to detract from the Sunnah commanded by Allah Ta’ala.

Instead of following the Sunnah method of Rasulullah (Sallallahu alayhi wasallam), these miserable Fussaag and Faasiqaat – all of them in addition being fujjaar – follow faithfully the villainy with which Iblees inspires them. What is the Sunnah method of Iftaar?

Rasulullah (Sallallahu alayhi wasallam) said:

“The people will be on rectitude as long as they make haste with Iftaar.”

In Mirqaat it is mentioned: *“Rasulullah (Sallallahu alayhi wasallam) loved to make iftaar with three dates or with something which was not touched by the fire (i.e. uncooked).”*

Rasulullah (Sallallahu alayhi wasallam) said: *“Whoever finds dates, should make iftaar with it, and whoever has no dates should make iftaar with water.”*

In a Hadith Qudsi, Allah Ta’ala says: *“The most beloved of My servants are those who are the quickest with Iftaar.”*

In the light of these Ahaadith and the Sunnah practice of Rasulullah (Sallallahu alayhi wasallam), the gluttonous practices, the merrymaking gatherings, the delay of Maghrib Salaat, the chit-chat which is incumbent with these satanic practices are all haraam. The emergence of women, with the aggravated factor of the emergence being after Maghrib, is evil compounded with evil. They are exhibiting the tendencies of prostitutes with their emergence, especially at the onset of night time.

Furthermore, these haraam shaitaani practices satanically dubbed ‘iftaar’ are in blatant rebuff of the Call of Allah Azza Wa Jal. During the Month of Ramadhaan, right from the time of Maghrib, the Special *Tajalli* of Allah Azza Wa Jal descends to the First Sama’ from where Allah Ta’ala constantly calls on His servants to seek forgiveness and to seek succour for all their needs. This Divine Calling is incessant and ceases the moment Subh Saadiq dawns.

While Allah Azza Wa Jal is calling His servants to turn to Him in supplication, these vile, lewd men and women fulfil their gluttonous desires in merrymaking shaitaani functions satanically dubbed ‘iftaar’. This is the evil way in which these evil men and women squander the auspicious moments of Ramadhaan, satanically oblivious of the Close Proximity and Call of Allah Ta’ala. The ***La’nat*** of Allah Ta’ala settles on these foul persons at their foul shaitaani ‘iftaar’ functions.