بسم اللہ الرحمن الرحیم

The Atonement for Sodomy in Sharīʿah

Darulifta Ahlesunnat (Dawateislami)

Question

What do the noble scholars and jurists of Islamic law say about the following: What is the atonement for sodomy?

Answer

Homosexual intercourse (sodomy) is a reprehensible, absolutely vile, impermissible, and ḥarām act. Sodomy is even more vile and reprehensible than zinā and this act has been condemned in the Qurʾān and ḥadīth. Punishment was sent to the people of Prophet Lūt علیہ السلام due to this very cursed act. Anyone who is involved in this act must immediately repent sincerely in the court of Allāh, feel regret, and make the firm intention to never engage in this act again. Sharīʿah has not stipulated any specific atonement for this. The true atonement for this is to make sincere and true repentance before Allāh Almighty.

Allāh Almighty has stated:

وَ لُوْطًا اِذْ قَالَ لِقَوْمِهٖۤ اَتَاْتُوْنَ الْفَاحِشَةَ مَا سَبَقَكُمْ بِهَا مِنْ اَحَدٍ مِّنَ الْعٰلَمِیْنَ(۸۰) اِنَّكُمْ لَتَاْتُوْنَ الرِّجَالَ شَهْوَةً مِّنْ دُوْنِ النِّسَآءِؕ بَلْ اَنْتُمْ قَوْمٌ مُّسْرِفُوْنَ(۸۱)

Translation (Kan-Ul-ʿIrfān): We sent Lūṭ, when he said to his nation, “Do you resort to the indecency never committed by anyone before you in this world? Indeed, you go forth to men with lust instead of women; rather, you are people who exceed the limit. (Part 8, Surah al-ʾAʿrāf, Verses 80 - 81)

A ḥadīth is narrated in Musnad Aḥmad:

عن ابن عباس، قال: قال النبي صلى الله عليه وسلم: ۔۔۔ ملعون من عمل بعمل قوم لوط

Translation: It is narrated from Ibn ʿAbbās رضی اللہ تعالی عنہ that the Prophet ﷺ said: Cursed is the one who does an act (sodomy) like the people of Lūt. (Musnad Aḥmad, Vol. 03, p. 386, Ḥadīth No. 1875, Publ. Muʾassisah al-Risalah)

It is stated in Al-Durr al-Mukhtār:

وفي البحر حرمتها أشد من الزنا لحرمتها عقلا وشرعا وطبعا ۔۔۔ وعدم الحد عنده لا لخفتها بل للتغليظ لانه مطهر على قول

Translation: It is stated in Al-Baḥr al-Rāʾiq that the impermissibility of sodomy is worse than zinā because it is prohibited rationally, according to the sharīʿah, and by nature. The absence of a prescribed punishment for it is not due to its insignificance, but rather due to its severity because punishment purifies one from the sin (according to one opinion). (Al-Durr al-Mukhtār, Vol. 06, p. 45, Publ. Dār al-Maʿrifah, Beirut)

It is stated in Bahār-E-Sharīʿat:

یہ (لواطت کا) فعل نہایت خبیث ہے بلکہ زنا سے بھی بدتر ہے، اسی وجہ سے اس میں حد نہیں کہ بعضوں کے نزدیک حد قائم کرنے سے اوس گناہ سے پاک ہو جاتا ہے اور یہ اتنا بُرا ہے کہ جب تک توبہ خالصہ نہ ہو، اس میں پاکی نہ ہوگی۔

Translation: This act (of sodomy) is totally vile, rather it is worse than zinā. That is why no specific punishment has been stipulated for it because according to some, carrying out a punishment for something cleanses from that sin. This act is so despicable that it cannot be cleansed until one makes sincere repentance. (Bahār-E-Sharīʿat, Vol. 02, pt. 09, pp. 380-381, Publ. Maktaba-Tul-Madīnah, Karachi)

وَاللّٰہُ اَعْلَمُ عَزَّوَجَلَّ وَرَسُوْلُہ اَعْلَم صَلَّی اللّٰہُ تَعَالٰی عَلَیْہِ وَاٰلِہٖ وَسَلَّم

(Allah Almighty knows best and His Messenger صَلَّی اللّٰہُ عَلَیْہِ وَاٰلِہٖ وَسَلَّم knows best.)

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