

A Poem on Adultery

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In the name of Allah, the Beneficent, the Merciful.

Let us pray to Allah, The Most High, Who does not sleep.

Allah does not sleep, and He dislikes those who womanize and engage in adultery.

They [the adulterers] are nonbelievers who agreed to blasphemy.

They destroy marriage as they engage in adultery.

They will taste Allah's punishment.

Adulterers will experience great loss.

Allah's punishment awaits them on the Day of Judgement.

The Most High has created a special hellfire for adulterers.

Know that adulterers have shown their dislike towards Allah,

and they have rebelled against Muhammad as they commit adultery.

An adultery has given up hope and faith in Allah.

So what is the future of the adulterer?

The Most High will burn him as he is a heir of *Saqīmu*.¹

For the adulterer, there is no divorce.²

He cares nothing about divorce, nor does he care about the guardian.³

There is no observance of ritual prayers for adulterers.

Their refusal to repent is shameless.

¹ This is the name of one of the various hellfires. The scribe wrote *Saqību* but the correct word should be *Saqīmu*.

² What the author means here is that the adulterer does not take divorce seriously and does not care about Islamic teachings on divorce.

³ Here the author refers to the person who has the authority to give a woman in marriage in Islam, including the woman's father, uncle, or some close relatives.

They will remain in torment, the adulterers!

Let them live with their devious ways.

Do not stop me from exposing the deeds of adulterers.

The character of the adulterers has become widespread disease

Being deceitful is the way of the adulterer.

Know that adulterers will never be

more blessed than those who do not commit adultery!

They [adulterers] and the hypocrites will come together in hellfire.

Such is the fate of adulterers in the hereafter.

Food and drink will be forbidden to them,

If they refuse to repent for their adultery.

He appears to be crying when caught, but he is laughing in reality.

On the Day of Judgement, however, he will truly be crying.

When he speaks, his words should not be believed.

The adulterer is hardly ever truthful.

He is unthankful in his affairs.

There is no piety in the adulterer.

Indeed, they⁴ will be scattered in swarms, based on their actions.

They belong to the same group as adulterers.

You could say that their wealth is hellfire on Judgement Day!

If they had forgotten that they were adulterers, they would be reminded.

They have forsaken The Most High and The Most High has forsaken them!

⁴ Here "they" refers to hypocrites, liars, and other sinners listed in the previous verses.

Where do they have to return to now?

They do not intend to be with Muhammad on the Day of Judgement.

Adulterers will not be granted salvation.

A husband will identify, on the Day of Judgement, both the man
who committed adultery with his wife and his wife.

Oh, people ignore the adulterers and return to the righteous path.

Follow the Islamic law and stop committing adultery.

We pray to Allah, The Most High, The Generous:

May You protect us from the path of adulterers!

Foul water in *Sadīdu*, *Qabīhī*, *Radī'a* and *Ghayyā*⁵

is what adulterers will be served to drink.

Adultery spoils the good deeds you have performed.

To be saved from torments, stop committing adultery!

Let us implore The Most High to never let us relapse.

May we stay away from disbelief and adultery!

Let us strive for what is licit and avoid what is illicit.

Let us accept marriage and turn our back to adultery.

If you are going to marry, avoid marrying one who is unbeliever (adulterous).⁶

The adornment of a believer is when the person avoids adulterers.

A male disbeliever and a female disbeliever

both share the same path when it comes to adultery.

⁵ The poet uses Arabic terms to describe the conditions of the adulterers in hell. The words *Sadīdu*, *Qabīhī*, *Radī'a* and *Ghayyā* that he uses refer to places in hell. See Quran 14:16 and 19:59.

⁶ Here, the poet equates adultery with disbelief.

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Oh Allah, The Most Noble, The Most Generous, and The Most High,

guard us from becoming adulterers!

You will elevate us up on Resurrection Day,

the day of disgrace for the adulterer.

Do not associate with an adulterer, except if truly needed.

There should not be any ceremony for the adulterer.

It is forbidden for you to give food to him.

Stop shaking hands with anyone who is an adulterer.

Do not assist an adulterer with food and drinks.

The adulterer must stop wearing your clothes.

Also, shoes and your child's socks,

do not give them to him, if you know he is an adulterer.

Warana is a kind of fertilizer, you know?

Stop trying to help the adulterer.⁷

He is akin to impurity.

Once you know, distance yourself from the adulterer.

I always have water to clean impurities,

and to shower, including cleansing anyone with impurities.⁸

⁷ In the stanzas before and after the term *Warana*, the poet discourages his audience from assisting adulterers, listing instances where such assistance should be withheld. He then refers to *Warana*, a kind of fertilizer, as analogous to aiding the adulterer. As a fertilizer gives extra nutrients to plants, improves the yield of the crops, and creates the ideal environment for optimal plant growth, so assisting an adulterer in any form (materially especially), is promoting the growth, development, and reproduction of the sin of adultery.

⁸ The poet describes what he uses water for, including the mandatory shower that is prescribed for every Muslim after sexual intercourse.

When they [adulterers] shower, it is as if they did not.

The adulterers are certainly to be counted among the dwellers of hellfire.

When they wash their clothes, it is as if they did not,

because [they are] living unlawfully with the filth of adultery.

Anxiety will be the water they will shower with.⁹

They will experience great torments, the adulterers.

The torments will be painful to them, and they will complain

On the Day of Judgement, the adulterers.

Their condition once you witness it, you will never forget

their unfortunate everlasting fate in the hereafter.

But they will be identified if they repent. So, endeavor to know them.

Otherwise, they will experience degradation—adulterers

You should know that there is no profit in their business.

Where do you see the benefits of an adulterer?

Extend [this message] to fellow Muslims so they may hear it.

They must stop associating with adulterers.

They will spoil your work if you follow theirs.

Stick to your good work and let go the adulterer – caprice follower!

It is not forbidden to be generous to others,

but it is forbidden in the case of adulterers.

For instance, holding events that mix men and women

⁹ The poet uses conditions such as anxiety as if it were substance to describe what the adulterers would use to shower. It is a way of describing how anxiety will be an order of the day to them.

is an invitation to commit adultery.

If you do not have power over your household,

then you do not have the power to stop adultery.

Extend [this message] to fellow Muslims so they may hear it.

They must stop associating with adulterers.

We express gratitude to Allah in this poem,

and pray to You, Allah, that we may stop committing adultery.

We express gratitude to Allah and pray for [for the Prophet].

Let us choose [the path of] Muhammad and stop committing adultery.

Accept our repentance, Oh, our Lord!

We shall no longer return to adultery!

Whether at home or on the road,

be careful, you who keep mistresses!

An era has come where friends commit adultery with their friends' wives.

Know that the Judgement Day is scary! So think twice about this adultery!

And as for [adultery] with a sister-in-law and a sibling, don't even think about it!

One might say about them: "I have introduced [them to] adultery!"

It's not out of fear that I describe all the men and women [committing adultery].

Words, too, lead people into adultery.

They take a bride to where the groom is,

and [in this way] many of them [bride's attendants] get seduced into adultery!¹⁰

¹⁰ Taking the bride to the groom's home for marriage in Hausaland entails a large ceremony where men and women mingle, including young women who serve as the bride's attendants. According to the poet, such events are conducive to adultery.

[Mss incomplete]