

Darul Ifta Birmingham

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Question

Salam. Another question about infidelity and ‘cheating’. A married woman committed zina. She made taubah and feels terrible about it. Her question is whether she should/has to tell her husband about it or not.

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

In the name of Allah, the Most Gracious, the Most Merciful

Answer:

Allah is indeed the Most forgiving, certainly all sins are cleared from our accounts after tauba, this is the promise of Allah and his Messenger s.a.w.

The Prophet s.a.w. has mentioned, “The one who repents from a sin is like the one without sin.”¹ If a wife commits zinaa, and is very regretful of it, then her Tawba to Allah is enough to have the sin removed if she has fulfilled all the conditions of Tauba.

Each person’s condition and marital relationship will be different, the shariah establishes that if two situations of difficulty or harm must be chosen from, then the option of lesser harm is preferred over the greater harm.² In some cases it will be better to inform the husband if he is a person of tolerance and gentle nature thus allowing him to know may aid in repairing the worn out marriage.

If however, the husband is not tolerant in nature and there will be further damage to the marriage, or violence against the wife, or the husband may use it as an excuse to commit adultery himself or seek retribution against the wife by using mental or emotional oppression then in this case the harms of confession will outweigh the benefits and it will not be advisable to inform the husband. The lesser harm or evil will be to not expose the sin after making proper tauba.

As persons who fear Allah, we should keep in mind that concealing one’s sins is not an avenue or excuse to continue committing sins. May Allah forgive all our mistakes and keep us on the straight path.

¹ Ibn Maajah (4250)

² Qawaaid Fiqhiyya,pg 33

May Allah guide us to earn his pleasure in every matter of our lives.

Only Allah knows best

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