

Is it permissible to bring flowers to the sick?

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The Faqeeh of the Era

Is it permissible to bring flowers to the sick?

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بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

In the name of Allaah, the Most Merciful, the Bestower of Mercy

Shaykh al-Uthaymeen (رَحِمَهُ اللهُ)¹: (Reading the question) It has become widespread during this time that which is known as 'forever flowers', especially when you enter the hospitals. Thus what is the ruling on presenting flowers to the sick? And does this have a basis? And why aren't the officials alerted about this phenomenon so it can be avoided?

I do not know of any basis for this, but if it has a pleasant smell which will bring about happiness in the sick person and affability towards him, then there is no problem with it. But I fear the affair will evolve into something else, thus if it is avoided it is better.

And there is possibly something else of note. It is as though the one visiting the sick wants to make the ill person happy with a physical, tangible happiness; instead of making Du'aa for him to be cured and have good health and saying to him, 'be patient and seek a reward and you will have a reward and compensation. This is because he thinks by way of this gift he will give him a physical happiness. So this also could prevent someone from saying this is permissible.

(Here the Shaykh and the students have a conversation, discussing if the flowers are real or synthetic as synthetic flowers do not have a scent. The students states the flowers are real.)

Shaykh al-Uthaymeen (رَحِمَهُ اللهُ): But I am afraid we will be overcome with the affair of soothing the body and physical comfort as opposed to comfort of the heart. Reflect and contemplate upon it.

Questioner: So there is something which prevents declaring this to be permissible?

Shaykh al-Uthaymeen (رَحِمَهُ اللهُ): There is something which prevents declaring it permissible but it is not necessary that it is impermissible. Declaring something impermissible is difficult. Declaring something impermissible when there is no text stating its impermissibility is difficult.

¹ (رَحِمَهُ اللهُ) (rahimahullaah) May Allaah the Most High have mercy on him