

The meaning of makrooh

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Taken from the works of Shaykh Muhammad ibn Saalih al 'Uthaymeen (رَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ)

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

With regards to the meaning of makrooh in the Islaamic Sharee'ah, Shaykh Muhammad ibn Saalih al 'Uthaymeen (رَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ)¹ comments:

The takleefiyyah² are of five types:

waajib (obligatory)

mandoob (recommended)

muharram (prohibited)

makrooh (disliked)

mubaah (permissible)

The meaning of makrooh in the (Arabic) language is: mubghad (that which is hated).

And its technical meaning is: that which the Lawgiver has prohibited, but not in a way that it is obligatory to leave off (that action) – such as taking with the left hand and giving with it.

And the statement of ours “that which the Lawgiver has prohibited” excludes that which is waajib (obligatory), and that which is mandoob (recommended), and that which is mubaah (permissible).

And the statement of ours “but not in a way that it is obligatory to leave off (that action)” excludes that which is muharram (prohibited).

And the person who avoids something makrooh is rewarded if (he does it) in obedience (to Allaah);

and the person who does it is not punished.

(Al Usool min 'ilm ul usool, quoted in Rasaa-il fil usool of Shaykh Muhammad ibn Saalih al 'Uthaymeen rahimahullaah , p127)

¹ (رَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ) (rahimahullaah) May Allaah the Most High have mercy on him

² Rulings which relate to the actions of the people who are bound by the Islamic duties – so this excludes the young child and the insane person for example.