

Abortion after Two and a Half Months

Q: Prohibitions and Permissions-5: I am married with three sons, the youngest of whom is 8 months. My wife has not been well for awhile and the doctor has confirmed that she is 2 to Two and a Half Months pregnant. She has however developed a cyst on her womb because of which the child cannot be nourished as it ought to be. The pregnancy will also be dangerous for my wife, who is now extremely weak and the doctors are therefore advising that she have an abortion. What is the ruling according to the Shari'ah?

Answer: The limbs of the child have started to develop and the soul has been placed into the child at 120 days (4 months). after this happens. It is Haraam to abort the child according to consensus of all scholars Aborting the child before this period of time is permissible as long as there are valid reasons.

The abortion may be done in the stated situation on condition that it is advised by a righteous Muslim doctor or Hakeem who believes that there is no way in which the condition can be successfully treated. The word of a non-Muslim doctor cannot be taken in this regard.

Having a hysterectomy performed displays ingratitude for the boon of having children and defies the very objective of marriage. If doctors advise that some prevention methods be practised, it may be done, but having the 'womb removed will remain impermissible unless righteous Muslim doctors or Hakeems are adamant that the mother's life is in danger and there is no other alternative Here again, the word of a non-Muslim doctor cannot be taken.

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