

221453 - Can she kiss her female friend on the cheek when she is fasting?

the question

I am a girl and I would like to know whether kissing a female friend on the cheek during the day in Ramadan is haraam?

Detailed answer

Praise be to Allah.

There is nothing wrong with a girl kissing her female friend on the cheek when she is fasting, so long as the intention behind this kiss is to show love and friendship, and not physical desire.

Shaykh Muhammad ibn 'Uthaymeen (may Allah have mercy on him) said:

Kissing (on the part of one who is fasting) is divided into three categories:

1.

That which is not accompanied by any desire whatsoever, such as when a person kisses his small children, or kissing someone who has returned from a journey, and the like. This does not have any effect on the fast.

2.

That which provokes desire (such as if a man kisses his wife), but there is no danger of the fast being invalidated by emitting maniyy (semen). The view of Imam Ahmad is that kissing is makrooh in this case.

3.

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Where there is the fear that the fast will be spoiled by emission of maniyy. This is haraam if it is thought that maniyy will be emitted, as in the case of a young man whose desire is strong and who loves his wife very much. In this case there is that risk if he kisses his wife in this situation. In this case we say that it is haraam for him to kiss his wife, because he is exposing his fast to the risk of being rendered invalid.

With regard to the first category, there is no doubt that it is permissible, because the basic principle is that things are permissible unless proof is established that they are not permitted. As for the third category, there is no doubt that it is haraam.

With regard to the second category, which is that of a person whose desire will be provoked if he kisses his wife, but he is confident that he can control himself, the correct view is that it is not makrooh in his case, and there is nothing wrong with it, because the Prophet (blessings and peace of Allah be upon him) used to kiss his wife when he was fasting.

Narrated by al-Bukhaari (1927) and Muslim (1106)

Therefore the correct view is that with regard to the one who is fasting, kissing is divided into two categories only: that which is permissible and that which is prohibited if the person is not certain that he will not render his fast invalid.

The category that is permissible may be further divided into two categories:

1. cases where kissing will not provoke desire at all;
2. cases where it will provoke desire, but he is confident that he will not render his fast invalid.

As for actions other than kissing that may be precursors to intercourse, such as embracing and the like, the ruling on those actions is the same as the ruling on kissing, and there is no differentiation.

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End quote from ash-Sharh al-Mumti' (6/426-429)

And Allah knows best.