

AL-ISLAM FATWA BANK - (Marital issues)

Title of Fatwa	Sucking Wife's Breasts
Topic Of Fatwa	Sexual Relations Between Husband and Wife
Question of Fatwa	As-Salamu `alaykum! Is sucking one's wife's breasts <i>haram</i> ? Does suckling one's wife's breasts make her as one's mother (i.e., becoming unlawful for him)?
Name of Mufti	Group of Muftis
Content of Reply	<p>Wa `alaykum As-Salamu wa Rahmatullahi wa Barakatuh.</p> <p>In the Name of Allah, Most Gracious, Most Merciful.</p> <p>All praise and thanks are due to Allah, and peace and blessings be upon His Messenger.</p> <p>Dear brother in Islam, thank you very much for having confidence in us and we hope our efforts which are purely for Allah's sake, meet your expectations.</p> <p>As for sucking one's wife breast, you should know that this issue is controversial. Some scholars say that if a husband sucks his wife's breast several times in a way that he gets satisfied and the milk reaches his stomach, his wife will be forbidden for him. But, the majority of scholars view that the sucking that makes a woman non-<i>mahram</i> to one is that which is given only within the first two years of his life.</p> <p>The well-known Muslim scholar, Sheikh Yusuf Al-Qaradawi, states:</p> <p>"During the life-time of the Prophet's Companions (may Allah be pleased with them all) it happened that one of the Companions was making love with his wife, and in the course of love-making he (the Companion) sucked her breasts to the extent that some of the milk reached his stomach. Following that, the Companion went to Abu Musa Al-Ash`ari (may Allah be pleased with him) and asked him about the ruling. Replying the man, Abu-Musa Al-Ash`ari said that the man's wife had become forbidden for him. (i.e., like his mother)</p> <p>After that, the man went to ask `Abdullah Ibn Mas`ud (may Allah be pleased with him) about the same ruling and Ibn Mas`ud stated that there was nothing wrong with what happened. Ibn Mas`ud backed his argument by citing the Prophetic hadith, which clearly states that suckling is confined only to the two earlier years of a child. Ibn Mas`ud cited this Qur'anic verse: 'Mothers shall suckle their children for two</p>

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whole years; (that is) for those who wish to complete the suckling...'
(Al-Baqarah:233)

The apparent meaning of the aforementioned verse is that the suckling, which may act as a cause of prohibition, is confined to the suckling during the first two years. After the elapse of the first two years, suckling is no longer a cause of prohibition. Hearing the above argument, Abu-Musa Al-Ash`ari (may Allah be pleased with him) said: 'Do not ask me while this erudite scholar is there to guide you.'

In conclusion, sucking the wife's breast, as far as Islam is concerned, does not render her unlawful for the husband."

Sheikh Ahmad Kutty, a senior lecturer and an Islamic scholar at the Islamic Institute of Toronto, Ontario, Canada, adds:

"The wife's breast milk is intended for the baby, and not for the husband to consume. Although the husband is allowed to suck on it gently, he is not allowed to draw the milk in. According to some scholars, if he were to do so it would endanger the marriage relationship – if done five times. The Prophet (peace and blessings be upon him) said, 'Avoid that which is doubtful', for, 'thereby one keeps his honor and religion intact.'

It is, therefore, important for the husband to refrain from such actions for we should do what is most pious and therefore safest." (Source: www.muslims.ca)

May Allah guide you to the straight path and direct you to that which pleases Him, Amen.

Allah Almighty knows best.