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Bad Omens

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Fatwa no. (6335):

Q: Dear Sheikh, kindly confirm the degree of authenticity or weakness of the Hadith reported from the Messenger of Allah (peace be upon him) which states, (One should run from the leper as one runs away from a lion.)

A: This is part of a Hadith narrated by [Abu Hurayrah](#) (may Allah be pleased with him) which reads, "The Messenger of Allah (peace be upon him) said: (There is no 'Adwa (no contagious disease is transmitted without Allah's permission), nor is there any bad omen (from birds), nor is there any Hamah, nor is there any bad omen in the month of Safar. One should run from the leper as one runs away from a lion.)Related by [Al-Bukhari](#) in his Sahih (authentic) Book of Hadith, Kitab Al-Tibb (Book of Medicine), "Leprosy".It was also related by

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[Ibn Hibban](#) with the additional phrase "nor is there a promising star bringing rain". It was also related by [Abu Nu`aym](#) in the chapter of medicine in the Hadith of [Al-A`raj](#), from [Abu Hurayrah](#) (may Allah be pleased with him) with the following wording: (One should keep away from the leper as one keeps away from a lion.)It was also related by [Ibn Khuzaymah](#) in Kitab Al-Tawakkul (Putting Trust in Allah), from [`Aisha](#) (may Allah be pleased with her) with the following wording: ((There is) no 'Adwa (no contagious disease is transmitted without Allah's permission). If you see a leper, run away from them as you would run away from a lion.) [Muslim](#) also related the same meaning in his Sahih Book of Hadith in the last chapter of medicine in the Hadith of [`Amr Ibn Al-Sharid](#) from his father that he said, (The delegation of [Thaqif](#) included a leper, so the Prophet (peace be upon him) sent a message to him which read, "We have accepted your pledge of allegiance, so return to where you came from.")

The best of what has been said on this issue is the statement of [Al-Bayhaqi](#), followed by that of [Ibn Al-Salah](#), [Ibn Al-Qayyim](#), [Ibn Rajab](#), [Ibn Muflih](#) and others, which explains that contagiousness is not to be understood as the people of [Jahiliyyah](#) (pre-Islamic time of ignorance) believed, i.e. it is not Allah who causes it, and such things are contagious in themselves. However, Allah perhaps has made mixing with the sick a cause for getting the illness. Thus, the Prophet (peace be upon him) said, (One should run from the leper as one runs away from a lion.)He also stated, ("The sick should not be brought to the healthy.")He informed us about plagues, ("Whoever hears that it (plague) has spread

in a place should not go there.")However, all this is ordained by Allah the Exalted.

May Allah grant us success! Peace and blessings be upon our Prophet Muhammad, his family and Companions.

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