



NURTURING OF CHILDREN

Part 12 -

Warning one's children regarding devilish traps



*Dealing with: Apostasy; Atheism; Forbidden Games; Music;
Movies; Gambling and Blind Imitation*

SPIRITUAL LIGHT

TRANSLATION OF TARBIYATUL AULAAD FIL ISLAM

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WARNING ONE'S CHILDREN AGAINST DEVILISH TRAPS

After mentioning the connection and relationship of children, we now would like to shed some light on the other important principle of child-rearing and that is the principles of warning and cautioning.

Respected mentors! Before discussing this, we should understand the following two realities.

- (1) Continue warning and cautioning your child. Lodge in his heart the evil of corruption and create in him the hatred for misguidance.
- (2) Clearly explain to him misguidance, irreligiousness and mischief. This will increase the determination to fulfil his responsibility, will assist in teaching the child to stay far from evil and in guiding him.

After mentioning these two realities, we will now return to the original subject, so that light can be thrown on all aspects. Allaah Ta'ala is the only helper and only on Him should we have full trust.

If we study the book of Allaah Ta'ala and the *sunnah* of Nabi (sallallaahu alayhi wa sallam) deeply, then we will realize that the manner of explaining falsehood and stopping evil is shown openly in many verses of the Noble Qur'aan and in countless ahaadith.

Here-under are a few examples:

لَا تَجْعَلْ مَعَ اللَّهِ إِلَهًا آخَرَ فَتَقْعُدَ مَذْمُومًا مَّخْذُولًا

'Do not set up any other deity together with Allaah and so sit there reviled and forsaken.' [Surah al-Israa' (the Night Journey) 17:22]

وَلَا تَقْتُلُوا أَوْلَادَكُمْ خَشْيَةَ إِمْلَاقٍ نَحْنُ نَرْزُقُهُمْ وَإِيَّاكُمْ إِنَّ قَتْلَهُمْ كَانَ خِطْئًا كَبِيرًا

'Do not kill your children out of fear of being poor. We will provide for them and you. Killing them is a terrible mistake.' [Surah al-Israa' (the Night Journey) 17:31]

وَلَا تَقْرَبُوا الزَّانِيَ إِنَّهُ كَانَ فَاحِشَةً وَسَاءَ سَبِيلًا

'Do not go near fornication. It is an indecent act, an evil way.' [Surah al-Israa' (the Night Journey) 17:32]

Besides this, there are many ahaadith that prevent and warn about misguidance in belief, weakness in actions and corruption in character.

Nabi (sallallaahu alayhi wa sallam) said,

إياكم والكذب فإنَّ الكذبَ مُجَانِبٌ لِلْإِيمَانِ (مسند أحمد، ترمذي)

“Beware of lies, because lies are contrary to imaan.” [Musnad Ahmad, Jaami‘ at-Tirmidhi]

إياكم وكثرة الحلف في البيع فإنه ينفق ثمَّ يُحْمَقُ (مسلم)

“Beware of excessive oaths in business, because it sells a lot but there is decrease in blessings.” [Sahih Muslim]

إياكم والظن فإنَّ الظنَّ أكْذَبُ الْحَدِيثِ (بخاري)

“Beware of suspicion, because suspicion is the worst lie.” [Sahih al-Bukhaari]

وإياكم وكثرة الضحك فإنه يُمَيِّتُ الْقَلْبَ وَيَذْهَبُ بِنُورِ أَهْلِ الْجَنَّةِ (سنن ابن ماجه)

“Beware of excessive laughter, because it kills the heart and destroys the light of the people of jannah.” [Sunan Ibn Maajah]

إياكم وزِيَّ الْأَعَاجِمِ (ابن حبان)

“Stay away from the clothing of the non-arabs.” [Ibn Hibbaan]

There are many other ahaadith that cautions one from evil, corruption and mischief.

Now, we are going to mention those important *masaa'il* which the mentor should warn his child about so that awareness can be created in him, his mind can become clear, his belief can become strong, and his character and actions can become beautiful.

(1) Riddah (Apostasy)

The meaning of *riddah* is that a Muslim leaves the religion and way of life which Allaah Ta'ala has chosen for him, and he chooses some other belief and creed contrary to Islam.

The manifestations of apostasy:

(a) Man works for his nation and makes that his purpose of life. He invites towards it, makes full effort for it, and fights for it. This can be termed as bigotry and fanaticism of the days of ignorance which Nabi (sallallaahu alayhi wa sallam) prevented and warned us of;

ليس منا من دعا إلى عصبية وليس منا من قاتل على عصبية وليس منا من مات على عصبية (سنن أبي داود)

“He is not of us who call towards bigotry, he is not of us who fights due to bigotry, and he is not of us who dies in bigotry.” [Sunan Abu Daawud]

(b) Man works for his country, makes it the purpose of his life, makes full effort for it, and defends it. Allaah Ta'ala has criticized those nations which cling to their countries. Allaah Ta'ala states,

وَلَوْ أَنَّا كَتَبْنَا عَلَيْهِمْ أَنْ اقْتُلُوا أَنْفُسَكُمْ أَوْ اخْرَجُوا مِنْ دِيَارِكُمْ مَا فَعَلُوهُ إِلَّا قَلِيلٌ مِّنْهُمْ وَلَوْ أَنَّهُمْ فَعَلُوا مَا يُوعَظُونَ بِهِ لَكَانَ خَيْرًا لَّهُمْ وَأَشَدَّ تَثْبِيثًا

‘If We had directed them to kill themselves or leave their homes, they would not have done so, except for a very few. But if they had done what they were urged to do, it would be better for them and far more strengthening.’ [Surah an-Nisaa’ (Women) 4:66]

Apostasy will take place when these two things become an object and are given the status of worship. Neither the name of Allaah Ta'ala is taken, nor is any mention made of *imaan*.

If the purpose is the Being of Allaah Ta'ala and to implement His laws, and there is benefit for the Muslim nation, then this is such an act of worship that the doer will become deserving of the pleasure of Allaah Ta'ala and will earn reward from Him. If such a person is killed in this path, he will be counted as a *shahid* (martyr).

Nabi (sallallaahu alayhi wa sallam) said, “The person who is killed protecting his wealth is a martyr. The person who is killed protecting his

life is a martyr. The person who is killed protecting his *din* (religion) is a martyr, and the person who is killed protecting his family is a martyr.”

(c) Man works for humanity and this thought never ever passes his mind that this effort that I am involved in is because Allaah Ta’ala has commanded me to make an effort to bring mankind onto the straight path, to create unity amongst different nations and to assist the Muslims. This is a Masonic approach and encouraged by the Jews.

In brief, we wish to say that if the purpose of any voice and call which is raised by any Muslim, is not in accordance to the pleasure of Allaah Ta’ala, is not to elevate *din* and is not to carry aloft its banner, then this call is a call and sign of ignorance. The person who raises such a call, makes effort for it and is prepared to even physically fight for it, then such a person is a *murtad* (apostate). Out of the fold of Islam, and the enemy of the message of Rasulullaah (sallallaahu alayhi wa sallam), no matter what claims of *imaan* he makes.

Another manifestation of being apostate is that a person gives preference to the rule of those besides Allaah Ta’ala over Allaah Ta’ala and he judges and passes decisions accordingly.

وَمَنْ لَّمْ يَحْكَمْ بِمَا أَنزَلَ اللَّهُ فَأُولَٰئِكَ هُمُ الْكَافِرُونَ

‘Those who do not judge by what Allaah has sent down, such people are unbelievers.’ [Surah al-Maa’idah (the Table) 5:44]

Apostasy becomes manifest in many other ways. Amongst them are:

- Not to like any compulsory duty of Islam e.g. a person says, “I do not like to fast because by means of it, the *ummah* will remain backward in the commercial field”, if a person says, “I do not like *hijaab* for women because it is a sign of backwardness”, or if a person says, “I regard the monetary system of Islam as bad because interest etc. has haraam in it.”

Allaah Ta’ala states,

وَالَّذِينَ كَفَرُوا فَتَعْسًا لَّهُمْ وَأَصْلَ أَعْمَالِهِمْ ﴿٩٠﴾ ذَلِكَ بِأَنَّهُمْ كَرِهُوا مَا أَنزَلَ اللَّهُ فَأَحْبَطَ
أَعْمَالَهُمْ

‘But those who disbelieve will have utter ruin and He will make their actions go astray. That is because they hate what Allaah has sent down, so He has made their actions come to nothing.’ [Surah Muhammad 47 :8 & 9]

- To mock and jest in any matter of *din*, more so the *shi'aar* (distinguishing factors) of *din*.
- To regard as permissible what Allaah Ta'ala has regarded as impermissible and vice versa.
- To believe in a portion of Islam and to deny a portion. For example, a person believes that Islam is a religion which incorporates different forms of worship (*'ibaadaat*), but denies that Islam is a religion of law and system, or he accepts that Islam can present a spiritual, moral and nurturing system, but he denies the other systems of Islam e.g. the political, economical, social or collective system.
- To believe only in the Noble Qur'aan and to deny the *sunnah* of Nabi (sallallaahu alayhi wa sallam). An example of this is the Qaadiyaanis who have been planted in Hindustaan by the British. Their aim is to destroy the Islamic *shari'ah* and to create doubt in the *nubuwwah* of Nabi (sallallaahu alayhi wa sallam).
- To mock or refute any action of Rasulullaah (sallallaahu alayhi wa sallam) e.g. those people who object to the many marriages of Nabi (sallallaahu alayhi wa sallam) stating that how could he ((sallallaahu alayhi wa sallam)) have 9 wives at one time.
- Not to attain the correct recognition of Allaah Ta'ala e.g. to believe that Allaah Ta'ala makes *hulul* (transmigration) into some of His creation, or Allaah Ta'ala has such a quality which is contrary to His greatness or grandeur.

Such a person is a disbeliever and falls out of the fold of Islam.

Allaah Ta'ala states,

لَا تُدْرِكُهُ الْأَبْصَارُ وَهُوَ يُدْرِكُ الْأَبْصَارَ وَهُوَ اللَّطِيفُ الْخَبِيرُ

'Eyesight cannot perceive Him but He perceives eyesight. He is the All-Penetrating, the All-Aware.' [Surah al-An'aam (Livestock) 6 :103]

لَيْسَ كَمِثْلِهِ شَيْءٌ وَهُوَ السَّمِيعُ الْبَصِيرُ

'Nothing is like Him. He is the All-Hearing, the All-Seeing.' [Surah Shuraa (Counsel) 42: 11]

The person who states, "Allah Ta'ala is one deity amongst three," is also astray and a kaafir (disbeliever).

لَقَدْ كَفَرَ الَّذِينَ قَالُوا إِنَّ اللَّهَ ثَلَاثَةٌ

‘Those who say that Allaah is the third of three are unbelievers.’
[Surah al-Maa’idah (the Table) 5:73]

Those who attribute children to Allaah Ta’ala, or such qualities that are not according to His status are also disbelievers and astray.

لَقَدْ سَمِعَ اللَّهُ قَوْلَ الَّذِينَ قَالُوا إِنَّ اللَّهَ فَقِيرٌ وَنَحْنُ أَغْنِيَاءُ

‘Allaah has heard the words of those who say, ‘Allaah is poor and we are rich.’” [Surah Aal ‘Imraan (the Family of ‘Imraan) 3:181]

Besides these, there are many other signs and actions which if done will remove the individual from the fold of Islam and enter him into the frame of disbelief. (May Allaah Ta’ala save us. *Aameen*)

Nabi (sallallaahu alayhi wa sallam) also warned of that era in which apostasy would become widespread. He ((sallallaahu alayhi wa sallam)) encouraged the Muslims that they should hasten to do good actions at that time and should seek protection in the protected forts of *imaan* so that they would not be affected by those things that lead to apostasy.

Nabi (sallallaahu alayhi wa sallam) said, “Hasten in good actions. Soon *fitnahs* (trials) will arise like the portions of the dark night. In the evening a person will be a believer and in the morning a disbeliever. Another person will be a believer in the morning and a disbeliever in the evening. He will sell his *din* for a small portion of this world.” [Tabaraani, Sunan Ibn Maajah]

(2) Ilhaad (Atheism)

This means to deny the existence of Allaah Ta’ala and His *shari’ah* which Rasulullaah (sallallaahu alayhi wa sallam) brought. *Ilhaad* is a form of apostasy, in fact it is the worst form of it as we will mention.

With great sorrow, we are forced to state that *ilhaad* has become fully-fledged system forming the base of many governments. Due to their power and strength they coerce other governments which are under them.

The workers and agents of these governments are present in every country and land, giving open invitation to disbelief and denying all the religions un-hesitantly.

If we study the different ways in which invitation is given to apostacy then he will come to know how many different ways they are using to spread their heretic principles and thoughts, so that disbelief can become common.

Sometimes, they clothe Marxism in the form of Islam and say, “Nabi (sallallaahu alayhi wa sallam) was the first personality to invite towards communism and to creating equality between the rich and poor. He was the first person to destroy monarchy. Therefore, he is a messenger of Marxism and a Nabi of socialism.”

At times they state, “The basic principles of Communism are not contrary to the basic principles of Islam. If we adopt the economic system of Communism and the Muslims remain firm on their religion, then what harm is there? Religion, politics, and economics are all different. Therefore, we should not mix religion with politics.”

Sometimes they openly state, “There is no deity to be worshipped in the universe. Life is materialism and religion is opium for people. The messengers are liars and thieves.”

To spread their disbelief and to misguide others, they use intellectual arguments and thoughts. They make effort to prove to people that these are established e.g. trying to make the theory of Darwin common.

Remember that investigation has proven this theory to be false and completely absurd. It is fit for garbage.

Outwardly, the reason for choosing the different ways is so that these Marxists can convince every group according to their thoughts and circumstances.

Even though *ilhaad* is one form of apostasy, it is more dangerous and worse for society and the individual himself than choosing Judaism, Christianity or becoming a Hindu. The reason for this is that this irreligiousness becomes so entrenched in the heart of these heretics that the feeling of responsibility and accountability is removed. It encourages a person to live like an animal. He has no hope for reward in the hereafter and no fear of punishment on that day when all people will stand in the court of the Master of the universe.

Allaah Ta’ala has mentioned this sinful and evil group in the Noble Qur’aan,

وَقَالُوا مَا هِيَ إِلَّا حَيَاتُنَا الدُّنْيَا نَمُوتُ وَنَحْيَا وَمَا يُهْلِكُنَا إِلَّا الدَّهْرُ وَمَا لَهُم بِذَلِكَ مِنْ عِلْمٍ إِنْ هُمْ إِلَّا يَظُنُّونَ

‘They say, ‘There is nothing but our existence in this world. We die and we live and nothing destroys us except time.’ They have no knowledge of that. They are only conjecturing.’[Surah al-Jaathiya (Kneeling) 45:24]

Islam has an unshakeable stance with regards to the apostates and heretics. The punishment for it is death by the sword.

Nabi (sallallaahu alayhi wa sallam) said,

مَنْ بَدَّلَ دِينَهُ فَاقْتُلُوهُ (بخاري، احمد)

“The one who changes his religion, kill him.” [Sahih al-Bukhaari, Musnad Ahmad]

Three days respite will be granted before execution. During these three days, the people of knowledge and understanding will discuss with him the reasons for becoming an apostate, they will try and remove the doubts and wrong notions from his mind and they will attempt to openly explain to him the reality and golden principles of Islam. If he is persistent in disbelief and heresy, then his neck will be removed so that it will be an exemplary warning for others.

If the apostates and heretics gain power and form their own group or party, then it is the compulsory duty of the Muslim leaders and government to continue fighting with them until they return to the straight path.

REASONS FOR PUNISHING THE APOSTATES AND HERETICS

- (1) It will deter the weak-minded from following them
- (2) It will dissuade hypocrites from embracing Islam, aiming to reject it later so that they may encourage others to commit apostasy and cause confusion within Islam
- (3) Infidels should not increase in strength and threaten Muslims

THE PLOTS OF THE HERETICS AND THEIR EVIL MOVEMENTS

I will now present a few historical examples to make clear the reality of heresy and the plots of these heretics so that you can understand what damage they will cause to the Muslims if they are given an opportunity.

A population of 16 million Muslims in Communist China and Communist Russia at a rate of one million a year were butchered. Plots to destroy the Muslims are made until today. The Chinese caused so much of brutal oppression to the Muslims of Turkistan that surpasses the oppression of the Tartars.

One leader amongst the Muslim was captured. A hole was dug in the center of the main road in which he was placed. Muslims were then forced to bring their waste (urine and stool) and to continue throwing it inside, on top of their leader. This continued for three days. During this punishment, the soul of this person left this temporary abode.

NOTE: May Allaah Ta'ala send His curses upon such oppressors and grant them a severe and painful punishment in the hereafter. -Translator

Yugoslavia, a communist country, perpetrated similar atrocities on the Muslims of their country. From the time when Communism took root until this time, approximately one million Muslims have been exterminated. These brutal punishments and plots to destroy the Muslims continue to this day. Amongst the most sadistic and oppressive punishments inflicted by them is the placing of Muslim males and females into mincing machines. When these Muslims emerge from the other side, they emerge in the form of minced meat, bones and blood.

Whatever is occurring in Yugoslavia is happening in all the countries of the Communist block. How many times have we not heard of the killings and destruction which the Communists inflicted in the 'Iraaqi city of Mosul during the era of 'Abdul-Karim Qaasim. We have in front of us the murder of the group calling towards Islam in 'Sahal'.

Allaah Ta'ala has clearly mentioned regarding these people:

كَيْفَ وَإِنْ يَظْهَرُوا عَلَيْكُمْ لَا يَرْقُبُوا فِيكُمْ إِلَّا وَلَا ذِمَّةً

'How indeed! For if they get the upper hand over you, they will respect neither kinship nor treaty.' [Surah at-Tawbah (Repentance) 9:8]

Allaah Ta'ala also states,

لَا يَرْقُبُونَ فِي مُؤْمِنٍ إِلَّا وَلَا ذِمَّةً وَأُولَئِكَ هُمُ الْمُعْتَدُونَ

'They respect neither kinship nor treaty where a believer is concerned. They are people who overstep the limits.' [Surah at-Tawbah (Repentance) 9:10]

O honorable mentor, once you have understood these realities, it is your responsibility to make full effort to save your children from the bloody claws of apostasy and the traps of heresy so that your child's *imaan* will become entrenched. His Islam will become firm, and he will remain steadfast. He will become of those people whom Allaah Ta'ala has chosen until the day of *Qiyaamah* with the bounty of *imaan* and the honor of Islam.

NOTE: How lamentable it is that for so many years now, the communists, Jews and Christians have gathered against Muslims in Bosnia, Herzegovina etc. not to grant them freedom but to wipe off their existence from the face of the earth. They have done such acts of oppression and shamelessness that to term it animalism and devilishness is inadequate.

These things are not hidden from those who are cognizant of worldwide affairs. This is such a time that we should continuously make *du'aa'*.

(3) Forbidden games

Islam's lofty *shari'ah*, its system and wise fundamental principles has declared *haram* many games that have an evil effect on a person's morals, on a family's honor and on the economy of the society. Here we will mention some impermissible games so that the mentor can come to know of them, abstain from them and make himself an example for others to abstain.

(1) Backgammon

Backgammon is highly discouraged.

Nabi (sallallaahu alayhi wa sallam) has stated,

من لعب بالنردشير فكأنما صبغ يده في لحم خنزير ودمه (مسلم)

"The person who plays backgammon, then it is as if though he has dipped his hand in the flesh and blood of a pig." [Sahih Muslim]

من لعب بالنرد فقد عصى الله ورسوله (ابو داؤد)

"The person who play draughts has disobeyed Allaah and His messenger." [Sunan Abu Daawud]

The wisdom underlying the prohibition of this game, even if not subject to conditions (e.g. gambling), is that the time of the person involved in it is wasted.

(2) Chess

This game has been censured in the ahaadith. It has been referred to as the gambling of the non-arabs. In certain ahaadith, curses have been heaped on the player of chess.

عن علي كان يقول هو ميسر الاعاجم (مشكوة)

'Ali (radiyallaahu anhu) said, "Chess is the gambling of the non-arabs." [Mishkaat]

Abu Musaa Ash'ari (radiyallaahu anhu) called the person who plays chess a sinner.

The following narration is in Jaami' us-Saghir:

ملعون من لعب بالشطرنج والناظر إليها كالأكل لحم الخنزير (مرقات)

“Accursed is the person who plays chess, and the person who looks at it is like eating swine.”

Due to these ahaadith, majority of the imaams, namely, Imaam Abu Hanifah (rahimahullaah), Imaam Maalik (rahimahullaah) and Imaam Ahmad (rahimahullaah) are of the view that it is prohibited.

(4) Singing and listening to music

Amongst the impermissible actions, one is listening to songs in which there is music even if the song is of a permissible type. The proofs of the prohibition of music will be mentioned just now. Immoral songs which incite and excite sexual passions and desires as well as those songs which invite and call towards disbelieving customs, misguided actions and beliefs etc. are also *haraam*.

The proof of the prohibition of music is a narration of Anas bin Maalik (radiyallaahu anhu), which Ibn-e-‘Asaakir (rahimahullaah) has mentioned in his *taarikh* and Ibn Sasri (rahimahullaah) in his *amaali*. He states, “That person who sits to listen to the singing of an immoral woman, then Allaah will pour molten lead into his ears on the Day of Judgement.”

Nabi (sallallaahu alayhi wa sallam) said, “When my ummah become involved in 15 actions, then difficulties and trials will afflict them. When (1) booty will become a means of gathering money (2) trust will be regarded as booty (3) *zakaah* will become a burden (4,5,6,7) men will follow their wives, disobey their mothers, be kind to their friends, and harsh to their fathers (8) voices will be raised in the *masaajid* (9) the worst of people will be leaders (10) the leader will become the lowest and most despised (11) people will be honored due to fear (12) alcohol will be drunk (13) silk will be worn (14) singing women and musical instruments will become common (15) the last people of this *ummah* will curse the people of past generations; at such a time, wait for red storms, sinking of the earth and the disfiguration of faces.” [Jaami‘ at-Tirmidhi]

Musaddad (rahimahullaah) and Ibn Hibbaan (rahimahullaah) mention the narration of Abu Hurayrah (radiyallaahu anhu) that Nabi (sallallaahu alayhi wa sallam) said, “In the last era, from my *ummah*, the faces of one group will be transformed into that of dogs and pigs.”

The sahaabah (radiyallahu anhum) said, “O messenger of Allaah, will these people be Muslims?” Nabi (sallallaahu alayhi wa sallam) replied, “Yes, they will bear witness to ‘*Laa ilaaha illa Allaah Muhammad Rasul ullaah*’ and they will fast.”

The sahaabah (radiyallaahu anhu) asked, “Why will this happen to them?”

Nabi (sallallaahu alayhi wa sallam) answered, “They will be involved in the usage of musical instruments, have singing girls and will begin using the drum. They will be involved in taking alcohol. One night they will be intoxicated in alcohol and merry-making, and the next morning their figures will be transformed.”

Besides this, there are many ahaadith that show the prohibition of such songs which are immoral, futile and which incite the passions.

Regarding the songs which are permissible, I will now present the crux of the subject matter which Shaykh Muhammad Haamid has narrated from the jurist in his book *‘Hukmul- Islam fil-ghinaa’* He writes “If a person recites poems etc. to increase his courage in any difficult work or to gladden his heart when alone on a journey, then this is permissible, since Nabi (sallallaahu alayhi wa sallam) and the sahaabaah (radiyallahu anhum) used to recite poems during the building of Masjid an-Nabawi and at the time of digging the trench.

Included in these permissible types of singing are those songs or poems recited by women to put children off to sleep.

Also included are those simple poems which describe flowers, gardens, and rivers. These will be permissible as long as no impermissible forms of musical instruments are used, otherwise they too will be impermissible, even if it includes words of advice and admonition.”

A few more ahaadith regarding the prohibition and criticism of singing and music:

Nabi (sallallaahu alayhi wa sallam) said, “Allaah has sent me as a means of mercy and guidance for both the worlds. I have been commanded to destroy the flute, musical instruments, alcohol and those idols which the people worshipped during the Days of ignorance. *[Musnad Ahmad]*

Nabi (sallallaahu alayhi wa sallam) said, “In my *ummah* there will be such people who will regard fornication, usage of silk and musical instruments as permissible.”

Besides these narrations, there are many other ahaadith that establish the impermissibility of keeping musical instruments, playing them and listening to them.

(5) Watching movies, theatre and television

The modern instruments of information e.g. radio, television, tape recorders etc. are significant achievements of twentieth century materialistic progress. Some of them may be used for the benefit of mankind. In reality they are a double-edged sword which can be used for good and evil.

If we have to study the programs shown on television, we will realize that most of them invite to shamelessness, immodesty and futility, and destroy all forms of respect and honour.

Keeping a television and watching it is completely *haraam* (forbidden) and a major sin.

Similarly, going to cinemas, theatres and immoral night shows are *haraam*. The reasons for this are:

- (1) Amongst the aims of the *shari'ah* is the protection of one's honour, respect and status. In films, dramas etc, the purpose of those things which are generally shown are to destroy one's honour, respect and status. Therefore, going to such places and watching such things are all impermissible, a means of gaining Allaah Ta'ala's anger and inviting His wrath.
- (2) Present-day films and night-dramas show such things which lead to freedom and misguidance and create sexual thoughts. Muslims going there and seeing those things are completely prohibited. This is so that the character of the individuals and the society can be preserved and so that one can practise on the statement of Rasulullaah (sallallaahu alayhi wa sallam) "Do not harm others and do not let harm befall you."
- (3) In the cinema and entertainment centres, musical instruments are played, immoral songs are sung, half-naked women and dancing are shown. It is completely *haraam* for Muslims to go there.

THE PLOTS AND SCHEMES OF THE JEWS

One scheme of the Jews is to destroy the character of the non-Jewish people and their society. The following is mentioned in their protocols, "We should make effort to destroy the roots of character so that we can attain power over them easily."

Amongst their many schemes is the usage of the communication media which will spread and encourage their plans thus destroying the roots of character.

The Jews have been successful in their plots and evil plans. In the name of civilization, sports and arts, they have destroyed the character of people using these headquarters of immorality, misguidance and evil character.

Honorable mentors! Do you know that these youngsters, be it boys or girls, who are involved in fornication, atheism, immorality, films and evil night-clubs etc. have in reality fallen prey to the schemes of the Jews, whether they understand it or not?

It is your responsibility to keep your child away from these headquarters of vice and evil. These places destroy the beliefs and morals of the child and they are a part of the evil plots of the Jews. Understand this well!

Some parents buy a television for their children on this premise that it will prevent them from going to places of shamelessness and futility like the cinema, theatres, etc. This is a very lame excuse. This claim is incorrect due to the following reasons:

- (1) One evil cannot be stopped by placing another evil in its place.
- (2) In one respect, the evils of keeping a television far outweigh the evils that are at these places of amusement etc. since this is a temporary thing, whereas the evils of the television are permanently around.
- (3) Many social evils and moral destruction come about due to keeping a television. The results of this are very severe. At times individuals sit up till late at night watching programs. The mixing and gathering of neighbours, friends, men and women have become a huge tragedy. Because of this, many people's honour has been tainted and destroyed. People have been killed and it has led to many fights and arguments, the main cause being the curse of the television and intermingling of sexes.

Besides these evils, television has a bad effect on:

- (1) One's health e.g. the eyes are weakened.
- (2) One's psychological condition e.g. seeing a beautiful actress, one's heart becomes infatuated with her and she cannot leave his mind.
- (3) One's learning abilities e.g. children leave out their work.
- (4) One's mental state e.g. the memory as well as the ability to understand and ponder is weakened.
- (5) One's economic status e.g. destroying of one's money to buy it whereas there are more important things needed in the house.

(6) Gambling

Amongst impermissible pastimes in Islam is gambling in all its different forms. By gambling is meant any such game between two people in which one group benefits and the other suffers a loss.

Allaah Ta'ala states:

يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا إِنَّمَا الْخَمْرُ وَالْمَيْسِرُ وَالْأَنْصَابُ وَالْأَزْلَامُ رِجْسٌ مِّنْ عَمَلِ الشَّيْطَانِ
فَاجْتَنِبُوهُ لَعَلَّكُمْ تُفْلِحُونَ

'You who believe! Wine and gambling, stone altars and divining arrows are filth from the handiwork of shaytaan. Avoid them completely so that hopefully you will be successful.' [Surah al-Maa'idah (the Table) 5:90]

The wisdom behind the prohibition of gambling:

- Gambling creates a feeling of having trust on luck, chance and vain hopes. He no longer feels the need to use permissible means and to sacrifice for his earning.
- Gambling destroys happy homes; empties pockets, makes wealthy families beggars and vagabonds and brings disgrace to honourable people. How many incidents do we not hear of where families become completely poor after being affluent!
- Gambling creates enmity amongst those involved since each one wants to usurp the wealth of others and each one wants to gain control over the other's money unlawfully.
- Gambling prevents a person from the *dhikr* (remembrance) of Allaah Ta'ala and *salaah*. It creates the worst of habits and develops a most vile character in people.
- Gambling leads to crime. The one who loses and becomes poor desires to get his money back, no matter what means he uses. He is forced to resort to stealing, robbery etc.
- Gambling creates restlessness and uneasiness. It is the cause of many illnesses. Many a time, it is a cause of incurable sicknesses, madness and even suicide.

FORMS OF GAMBLING AND BETTING

Betting in games like soccer, cricket, chess, dove-shooting, etc, all fall within the scope of gambling. This comes about when two groups stipulate some money payable to the other or some conditions are stipulated on each other, in which one group will gain and the other will lose.

Imaam Ahmad (rahimahullaah) and *Jaami' at-Tirmidhi, Nasaa'i, Sunan Ibn Maajah and Sunan Abu Daawud* have narrated this statement of Nabi (sallallaahu alayhi wa sallam):

لا سبق الا في خف او حافر او نصل (احمد)

“No competition is permissible besides in camels, horses and archery.”

The condition for permissibility is that the prize must be offered from a third party or from only one of the players, not both. If both the competitors stipulate and give the prize from their side that if one wins, he will take everything, then this will be regarded as a bet and will not be permissible. Such horse-racing which has been organized on these terms and conditions have been called the horses of *shaytaan*.

Contrary to this, if a third party offers a prize such as from the government, ministry or any other patron, then it will be permissible to give and take this prize, since this will not be regarded as betting and gambling. The purpose of this is to boost the morale of the competitors, whether it is for army training e.g. archery etc. or for physical exercise and those things related to it e.g. wrestling, playing with a ball etc.

The proof of its permissibility is a narration that Imaam Ahmad (rahimahullaah) narrates from 'Abdullaah bin 'Umar (radiyallaahu anhu) that Nabi (sallallaahu alayhi wa sallam) made the sahaabah (radiyallahu anhum) participate in horse-racing and granted the winner a prize.

The *shari'ah* has declared a few sports unlawful since they have an injurious influence on the spiritual, moral or social life of an individual. Similarly, the *shari'ah* has permitted certain sports so that these people can amuse themselves, remain alert, keep strong and together with this there can be practise for *jihad*.

PERMITTED SPORTS

(a) Racing

The sahaabah (radiyallahu anhum) vied with each other and Nabi (sallallaahu alayhi wa sallam) did not object. In fact, Nabi (sallallaahu alayhi wa sallam) even raced with 'Aa'ishah (radiyallaahu anha) to make her happy and to tutor the sahaabah (radiyallahu anhum).

(b) Wrestling

In *Sunan Abu Daawud* it is narrated that Nabi (sallallaahu alayhi wa sallam) wrestled with Rukaanah (radiyallaahu anhu) and Nabi (sallallaahu alayhi wa sallam) felled him many times.

(c) Archery

When Nabi (sallallaahu alayhi wa sallam) passed the sahaabah (radiyallahu anhum) involved in archery, he would encourage them and raise their spirits. He (sallallaahu alayhi wa sallam) would say, "Continue with your archery. I am with you."

(d) Lancing and javelin throwing

Nabi (sallallaahu alayhi wa sallam) granted permission to some Abyssinian people to throw the javelin in his blessed *Masjid*. He even allowed his honorable wife, 'Aa'ishah (radiyallaahu anha) to witness it.

(e) Horse-riding

Nabi (sallallaahu alayhi wa sallam) mentioned, "All things in which there is no remembrance of Allaah is a past time and game except four things (1) archery i.e. shooting the arrow, aiming to hit a target, (2) to train your horses, (3) to amuse yourself with your wives, (4) to learn to swim." [Tabaraani]

(f) Hunting and fishing

Islam has allowed hunting and fishing. Allaah Ta'ala states,

"It is permissible for you fishing in the ocean and eating which is a means of benefit for you and for travellers. Hunting land animals has been made impermissible for you as long as you are in *ihram*."

Details of hunting and fishing are mentioned in the original book. We have not mentioned them here.

(7) Blind imitation

The child should be taught to abstain from imitating blindly and from copying others without pondering. Blind imitation is a sign of spiritual and psychological bankruptcy and a lack of self-confidence. People then lose themselves in the personalities of their idols. By following a person of bad character, one is led to a life of laxity, freedom and destruction. One is prevented from many religious and social obligations and this becomes a barrier in economic progress and in the cultural field. Blind imitation leads to destruction of character, loss of manliness, destroys such virtues like honour, respect and purity, and creates different forms of illnesses.

George Balushi writes in his book *'Athauratul-jinsiyyah'* (Sexual perversion), "In 1962 I told Kennedy in clear words, "America's future is in danger." This is because its youth are drowned in licentiousness and fulfilment of sexual desires. They cannot fulfil any responsibilities placed on them. From every seven youngsters who come to enrol in the army, six are not worthy of being enrolled since they are so intoxicated in their sexual games and they have destroyed their psychological and physical abilities."

For this reason, Islam has prevented us from imitating and copying others. Nabi (sallallahu alayhi wa sallam) has stated, "He is not from us who imitates others. Do not imitate the Jews and Christians." [*Jaami' at-Tirmidhi*]

In another hadith, Nabi (sallallahu alayhi wa sallam) said, "He who imitates a nation is of them."

"Allaah's curse be on those men who imitate women and on those women who imitate men." [*Sahih al-Bukhaari*]

"None of you should become a person who follows the opinion of everyone. Do not say, "I am with the people. If they do good, I too will do good. If they do evil, I too will do evil." Control yourself. If the people treat you well, you do likewise. If they treat you badly, then repay their evil with good." [*Jaami' at-Tirmidhi*]

The crux of all of these ahaadith is that we should abstain from imitating others in all our actions, character, habits and clothing. Following others in such things which are beneficial for the Muslim *ummah* intellectually is unanimously permissible, for example, taking benefit from mathematics, geometry, physics etc. or learning current atomic and warfare techniques.

These matters are all included with the purview of this verse:

وَأَعِدُّوا لَهُمْ مَا اسْتَطَعْتُمْ مِنْ قُوَّةٍ وَمِنْ رِبَاطِ الْخَيْلِ

‘Arm yourselves against them with all the firepower and cavalry you can muster.’[Surah an-Anfaal (Booty) 8:60]

The under-mentioned hadith also points to this permissibility which is narrated by *Jaami’ at-Tirmidhi* and *‘Askari*.

الحكمة ضالة كل حكيم فاذا وجدها فهو أحق بها (ترمذي)

“Wisdom is the lost treasure of every wise person. Wherever he finds it, he has the greatest right to it.”

Examples of blind following

- Women wear such revealing clothing as if they are naked. Their physical features are clearly apparent. Nabi (sallallaahu alayhi wa sallam) has mentioned that such women will not enter *jannah*, nor will they even get a whiff of its fragrance.
- At the time of death or distress, they wear black clothing in imitation of the Christians.
- In normal conditions and more so when angry, they swear oaths in the name of those besides Allaah Ta’ala.
- They appear unveiled and bare-headed in front of *ghair-mahrams* (those whom one is permitted to marry) e.g. cousins, brothers-in-law etc.

(8) EVIL COMPANIONS

A major cause for the destruction and annihilation of morals in children is evil company. If the child is weak minded and weak in faith, he will be easily affected. In a short while, evil qualities and habits will become entrenched in him. The result is that sin and disobedience will become his nature and habit. Thereafter it will be very difficult for the mentor to steer him back to the straight path and to remove him from the abyss of evil.

(9) EVIL CHARACTER

Hereunder, are a few evil morals and actions which our children should be saved from:

- (1) Lying
- (2) Stealing
- (3) Swearing
- (4) Licentiousness
- (5) Smoking
- (6) Masturbation
- (7) Usage of intoxicants and narcotics
- (8) Adultery and sodomy

The '*ulemaa*' of character and morals are unanimous that the above-mentioned actions have a dangerous and damaging effect on the character of children. If the mentors do not monitor and do not fulfil their responsibility, then the children will be ruined and misguided. Thereafter, it will be very difficult to bring these children back to the straight path and to connect them to the rightly-guided people.