

Bismihi Ta'ala
Television Has a Vicious Tale!!

The Holy Quraan states: "Know that the life of this world is but play and amusement, a beautiful show, the cause of boastful vying with one another and greed for more riches and children."

All praise is due to Allah - Who fashioned the human personality and imbued it with the tendency towards vice and virtue. Successful indeed are those who are able to purify themselves and lost indeed are those who corrupt their souls. May His choicest blessing continue to shower upon our Master and Mentor - our Leader Muhammad (saw) - whose mercy and wisdom saved humanity from the darkness of violence, immorality, and disbelief.

"Every child is born on the fitrah (natural ability to worship Allah) His parents then (pollute this fitrah) and lead him to become a Jew, a Christian or a fire worshipper)

Every child is born pure with a natural tendency towards the obedience of Allah. His state of purity and innocence is then polluted by his social environment and by the indifferent attitude of his parents. His belief and value systems are largely influenced by the role model of his parents and by the society.

Television and the mercy of Allah

"Modesty is part of Imaan, and Imaan (will admit you) into Jannah - Obscenity stems from the hardness of the heart and the hardness of heart (will admit you) into the fire" Ahmed

The social environment today is largely influenced by the media and by television in particular. Television decides what is good or bad, what is fashionable or not. Television erodes our modesty; it weakens our imaan and attracts the displeasure of Allah. It is a means of committing zinaa of

the eyes, which increases our lust and drives us to commit wrong. Nabi (saw) has said: 'Allah curses one who looks (at nudity) and one who displays (nudity)' Many people are afflicted with hardships and calamities; least realising that we draw these hardships upon ourselves by lustfully glancing at the opposite sex. Our homes are bereft of tranquillity, peace and serenity because we have distanced ourselves from the mercy of Allah by spending endless hours gazing, gaping and gawking at haraam. Viewing television makes the heart hard - which in turn drives people to obscenity, which is the key to the doors of hell.

Television and children

"O You who believe! Save yourselves and your children from the fire..."

Even those who make money from this enterprise willingly admit that television is creating a generation of delinquent children. CNN tycoon Ted Turner said in July 93 before a U.S Congressional subcommittee: "I don't need experts to tell me that the amount of violence on television today and its increasingly graphic portrayal can be harmful to children.

Television violence is the single most significant factor contributing to violence in America," a poll released in February 95 in the U.S. by "Children Now", whose directors include TV producers and Warner Brothers Chairman, reported that most children believe that what they see on television encourages fornication, disrespect for parents, telling lies, and aggressive behaviour. Television does not require reflection; in fact it does not even permit it. That is why little children can spend hours in front of the mini screen. Television can titillate, it cannot teach. It can bring images into our heart, not ideas into our mind. It appeals to the emotions, not the intellect

Television and the personality

"Sins breed darkness"

One symptom of too much television is hyperactivity, and a handicapped ability to focus or concentrate. Many common problems of today's society, from the inability to read effectively to unrestrained aggression in young people can be linked to the brain damage caused by habitual television viewing. The child who is accustomed to all these forms of media in his everyday life loses his ability to play creatively and does not develop socially. When there are no electronic gadgets to distract him, he becomes bored and unmanageable. His attention span is the same length as a television commercial, and, worst of all, he doesn't know how to formulate ideas. When he plays he simply repeats what he has seen on television. If the programs he has been watching contained violent, racist or chauvinist material, then these elements will be incorporated into his play. This perverted ability to think and dream has a serious and dangerous effect on the individual personality, and ultimately, on the entire society.

Television and mood swings

"He who turns away from My remembrance for him shall be a constricted life..."

A project by the National Institute of Mental Health in the U.S. involving 1200 subjects in nine studies over a 13 - year period found in 1990, television is like a drug. The researchers asked the subjects, ages 10 to 82, to note down their activities and moods every time a beeper was activated, which was done randomly. The researchers found that when people sit down to watch TV, particularly for long periods, they tend to be in low moods. The longer they watch, the less able they are to concentrate. As time goes on, they grow sadder, lonelier, more irritable, and more hostile. Although people are relaxed when the television set is on, when they turn it off, they are less relaxed than before they began, "much like a drug that makes people feel better while they are doing it but worse afterwards." And just like a drug the weaker segments of the society are its greatest target.

Television and character

"...Viewing violence may lead to real life violence
...Viewing arrogance against fair authority may lead to your kids defying you in real life." Or "Viewing sex may lead to sex in real life." Its effects are measurable and long lasting. Moreover, prolonged viewing of media violence can lead to emotional desensitization toward violence in real life."

Adults are also not immune to the dangerous effects of TV. Watching TV causes us to enter a passive, vegetative mental state where we are simply absorbing information without understanding, allowing ourselves to be hypnotized. Once we are in such a state, it becomes easy for our opinions to be manipulated and controlled. TV commercials awaken our desires for certain foods and products. (Impact of Entertainment Violence on Children - Congressional Public Health Summit July 26, 2000).

Television and the wrath of Allah

The Holy Quraan states: "Know that the life of this world is but play and a amusement, a beautiful show, the cause of boastful vying with one another and greed for more riches and children.."

TELEVISION embodies the illusion of this world - play, amusement, a beautiful show, a cause for boastful vying and greed! It distracts us from our primary purpose in life and creates an insatiable desire for entertainment. The greatest tragedy is that we have become immune to the sins we commit while watching television, some of which are:

- Watching immorality, nudity, illicit sex, pornography, etc.
- Listening to obscene language and music
- Incitement to fornicate and acceptance of aggression, and deceit as a mode of behaviour
- It diverts your attention from the remembrance of

Allah

- It encourages vice and disrespect.
- It distances you from the akhirah and your real purpose in life
- It gradually erodes your levels of modesty and decency.
- It weakens your faith and leads to disobedience.
- The angels of mercy stay away from such a home
- The shayaateen frequent such a home

Deaf, dumb and blind

"And among men are those who purchase idle tales so as to lead (those) without knowledge astray from the path of Allah and to take it as a joke - for such will be a humiliating punishment - Whenever our messages are conveyed to them they turn in arrogance as if they had not heard them - as though there were deafness in their ears..." (31:6/7)

This verse refers to people who prefer idle and vain entertainment to the path of Allah. Over a period of time they regard the deen as a joke and hold it in ridicule. They become deaf and blind to the law of Allah and are driven by ignorance and arrogance. Their hearts grow hard and they are unable to repent or desist from their evil ways. Television plants the seeds of heedlessness, hypocrisy and blind imitation. It is a medium that indoctrinates and programs our attitudes and beliefs. Television is a bad companion that perverts your mind and pollutes your fitrah! Television makes you deaf, dumb and blind to the laws of Allah!

We can change the course of events - simply turn OFF your TV and remove it! Be rest assured that there is no known disease linked to lack of exposure to TV!

May Allah give us the foresight and strength to regard evil as evil and the fear that serves as a barrier between us and the disobedience of Allah!

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