



ONLY ISLAM

Every thinking person knows very well that opposites can never be combined or merged. It cannot be day and night at the same time, nor can a person be simultaneously in the East and West, and it is impossible for a person to be living and dead in the same moment. Likewise, imaan and kufr are totally opposite to each other and can never combine. Stemming from this absolute fact that imaan and kufr are poles apart, the culture of Islam and the lifestyle of kufr – the way of the Yahood and Nasaara – also can never combine.

There are two distinct issues at hand which must not be confused in any way. On the one hand, Islam has placed great value to every human life. The Quraan Shareef declares that saving a life – any life – is like saving humanity. Assisting any human being in difficulty, whether Muslim or not, is an act of great reward. Oppressing anyone, even if he is an open enemy of the Muslims, is a major sin. Therefore, a Muslim must never oppress anyone.

On the other hand is the matter of faith and belief. A Mu-min is firm in his 'aqeedah (belief) as well as his practice of Deen. Imaan and the Islamic culture is not compromised for anyone or anything, as this cannot merge or combine with any other belief or way of life.

CELEBRATIONS

In order to keep the Ummah firm on the path of Islam and avoid any dilution of imaan and the Islamic culture, Rasulullah (sallallahu 'alaihi wasallam) emphasized upon us to oppose any culture that is foreign to Islam, whether in matters of 'ibaadah (worship), or even in one's dressing and appearance, or in one's celebrations. The fast of 'Aashuraa (10th Muharram) is a clear example of this opposition. Rasulullah (sallallahu 'alaihi wasallam) is reported to have said, ***"Fast on the day of 'Aashuraa (10th Muharram) and oppose the Jews. Fast a day before or a day after (as well)."*** (Musnad Ahmad #2154) Likewise, in another hadeeth, Rasulullah (sallallahu 'alaihi wasallam) said, ***"Oppose the Mushriks. Lengthen the beard and shorten the moustache."*** (Saheeh Bukhaari #5892)

As for "celebrations", Rasulullah (sallallahu 'alaihi wasallam) clearly stopped the Ummah from participating with the disbelievers in their activities. Sayyiduna Anas (radhiyallahu 'anhu) reports that when Rasulullah (sallallahu 'alaihi wasallam) migrated to Madeenah Munawwarah, he said to the people, "You used to play (celebrate and enjoy) on two days of the year (as per the Arab customs prior to Islam). Allah Ta'ala has **replaced** it with better – the days of 'Eidul Fitr and 'Eidul Adhaa." (Sunan Nasaai #1556) Thus, a Mu-min will now only celebrate what Islam has given him, not anything related to *jaahiliyyah* (ignorance). In fact, Rasulullah (sallallahu 'alaihi wasallam) practically opposed the Yahood in their way of life to such an extent that the Yahood once commented, ***"This person wants to oppose us in everything!"***. (Saheeh Muslim #694)

SECOND JAAHILIYAH

Among the many things that the western culture has given the world are: A materialistic and purposeless life (apart from the "purpose" of "making money" and merry-making); feminism (which is totally irreconcilable with many verses of the Quraan Shareef); shamelessness and depravity (such as "legalizing" same gender relationships); the great "achievement" of exposing people's bodies through skimpy or figure hugging clothes; an explosion of zina through free intermingling between men and women; breakdown of family structures and a host of other such aspects of "progress". The stark reality is that the western lifestyle is the second jaahiliyyah – which in many ways is much worse than the first period of jaahiliyyah.

In opposition to this, Islam has presented a way of life with an extremely high mission – to earn the pleasure of Allah Ta'ala in every aspect of life, serve His Deen and enter His everlasting Jannah. It has presented a culture with the highest levels of justice, compassion,

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respect, and especially shame and modesty – whether in conduct and interaction, manner of dressing or way of speaking. It is indeed the best and most noble way of life, presented by the greatest of all the creation of Allah Ta'ala, Sayyiduna Rasulullah (sallallahu 'alaihi wasallam).

In this era, the architects and strong proponents of the decadent and shameless western lifestyle are the Yahood and Nasaara. They are working very hard at trying to thrust it down upon every Muslim. Their goal is to try and take away the imaan of Muslims. This is spelt out in the Quraan Shareef where Allah Ta'ala says, "*And the Jews and Christians will never be pleased with you until you follow their creed*". (Surah Baqarah v. 120) Thus we have to be totally on guard and protect the Islamic culture and lifestyle. When the lifestyle slides in the direction of the west, imaan itself is then in great danger.

HALLMARKS OF WESTERNIZATION

Tragically, many Muslims have fallen prey in many aspects to the plots of the Yahood and Nasaara. Look around and observe carefully – look at one's life in general. Compare our thinking and mindset with that of the Muslims of even 50 years ago. Look at one's dressing or the dressing of one's children, our weddings, etc. One will find the hallmarks of westernization glaring all over. A westernized mindset cannot have high Islamic aspirations. The effects of the westernization play out in practice – that the most noble, pure and sublime lifestyle of Rasulullah (sallallahu 'alaihi wasallam) will be substituted with the lifestyle of the Yahood and Nasaara... *Innaa lillaahi wa innaa ilaihi raaji'oon*.

Thus, the choice before every Muslim is one of two; either follow the most noble, pure and most blessed lifestyle of Rasulullah (sallallahu 'alaihi wasallam) and his noble Sahaabah (radhiyallahu 'anhum)... or adopt the western lifestyle – the style of the Yahood. The lifestyle and culture of Islam leads to the success of both worlds and brings one very close to Allah Ta'ala and His most beloved Rasul (sallallahu 'alaihi wasallam).

ONLY MEANS OF SALVATION

While we are all deeply moved by the plight of our brothers and sisters and the little children who are being mercilessly bombarded, these events should have at least jolted us to shun the lifestyle of the Yahood and Nasaara – to shun the materialistic mindset, the purposeless life, the shameless dressing, the extravagant weddings, the engrossment in entertainment and the lifestyle that is sinking deeper towards evil and vice. In place of this, a concerted effort must be made to bring alive the most noble sunnah in every aspect of life. Nothing else will help. Especially when the Angel of Death approaches, or when we are laid down in our graves, or on the Day of Qiyamah, the Yahood and Nasaara will be of no avail. It will only be imaan and the obedience to Allah Ta'ala and His most beloved Rasul (sallallahu 'alaihi wasallam) that will be a means of salvation.

May Allah Ta'ala enable us to follow in the most blessed and most noble footsteps of Rasulullah (sallallahu 'alaihi wasallam) at all times, aameen.

MOTIVATION

It is said that there are three factors which will motivate, urge and prompt a person to carry out an action or engage in some activity.

The first factor is that of acquiring some form of benefit. If a person knows that a certain action will acquire him some benefit, he will carry it out. Hence people slog in their workplaces throughout the week, toiling for a salary.

The second factor is that of fear for incurring some harm or loss. If one learns that a certain action will save him from harm, he will be eager to engage in it. Thus we find people installing alarm systems in their premises, locking their doors, etc.

The third factor is love. When a person possesses true love for something, then the intense fire of this love, blazing in the recesses of his heart, urges him to behave and conduct himself in a certain way. You will therefore see a mother sacrificing her sleep and comfort for the sake of looking after her beloved newborn baby. This is purely out of love.

Allah Ta'ala sent us to this world to strive for the Hereafter. Allah Ta'ala also sent Rasulullah (sallallahu 'alaihi wasallam) to inform us of the pleasures of paradise so that we will strive to acquire entry into it, and the horrors of the hellfire so that we will ensure that we abstain from it.

The Sahaabah (radhiyallahu 'anhum) learnt about Jannah and Jahannam from Rasulullah (sallallahu 'alaihi wasallam). They were also undoubtedly the greatest lovers of Allah Ta'ala and Rasulullah (sallallahu 'alaihi wasallam).

Thus the Sahaabah (radhiyallahu 'anhum) possessed all three factors for adhering to Deen and the sunnah to the highest level.

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QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

PHONE ADDICTION

Q *I am in desperate need of help to get rid of my phone addiction. I just cannot do without it. These are some of my problems:*

- * *I spend hours on social media and YouTube*
- * *I am hooked onto serials. Almost every night, many hours are spent watching serials*
- * *I have also fallen into watching porn which is now also leading to many other sins*
- * *There are problems in my marriage due to the phone.*

I have tried to stop many times but could not manage to stay away for even two days. Please advise me as to how I can come out of this addiction.

A You are unfortunately one of the millions of people who are afflicted with perhaps the worst pandemic of our time — the PHONE-DEMIC.

While plagues and pandemics result in loss of many lives, the PHONE-DEMIC has “killed” many things – some even worse than the loss of life! To mention just a few, it has “killed” countless hours of the most precious capital of time, destroyed family life (since there is no more healthy and constructive conversation in homes between spouses, or between parents and children, since everyone is glued to their phones and devices), it has shattered numerous marriages, unleashed a tsunami of zina (zina of the eyes, ears and zina of haraam chatting and illicit relationships) and has even severely maimed many people’s imaan – May Allah Ta’ala save us.

Alhamdulillah, you have come to realize that you are addicted and need help to break free from the clutches of the hell-phone – Shaitaan’s “smart” hook to catch his prey. Once the prey has been “hooked”, he sets them on the path of hell – this life also becomes hell, and it leads towards Jahannam in the Hereafter, Allah forbid. Thus, not being in denial about being an addict is a big step forward towards treatment and insha-Allah recovery.

The following is the prescription to insha-Allah help you come out of this terrible trap:

- The first, most important step is sincere taubah. First perform 6 rakaats nafl salaah, make istighfaar 300 times very consciously with much remorse and then sincerely repent. Make a firm resolution to totally refrain from any haraam use of the phone.
- You have realized how severely you have been harmed by the smartphone. Therefore, be smart

and replace it with a simple phone with no internet. Shaitaan will present 101 excuses of why you must have a smartphone. However, do your best to avoid it.

- If you cannot avoid it since the phone is needed for work, leave it at work. Never bring it home.
- The very least is to do the following: Install an App blocker which locks up all the apps that “kill” your time, wreck your marriage or even destroy your Deen. Web browsers, YouTube and social media could be locked with a password. The password must nevertheless be set by some person who is senior to you and who will not divulge the code to you. This is the least you can do if you are sincerely wanting to break the addiction.
- More important than all the above, and the most effective, is to install the “blocker” where it matters most – in your HEART. The deep consciousness of Allah Ta’ala and the remembrance of death will block the temptation to misuse the phone. This requires constancy on the five daily salaah as well as some nafl salaah, daily tilaawat of the Quraan Shareef, morning and evening tasbeehaat and zikr, daily ta’leem in the home and reading about the lives of the pious.
- Extremely important is to adopt the company of the pious in general. Also connect yourself to a spiritual mentor (Shaikh) with whom you have compatibility and undertake your islaah (reformation) under his supervision.
- Daily make earnest du’aa and beg the help of Allah Ta’ala.

May Allah Ta’ala assist you and protect you from all the traps of nafs and Shaitaan, aameen.

The Sahaabah (radhiyallahu ‘anhum) had such firm conviction in the pleasures of Paradise that they happily exerted themselves in ‘ibaadat and willingly sacrificed their wealth, time and even their lives for the pleasure of Allah Ta’ala.

Similarly, the Sahaabah (radhiyallahu ‘anhum) possessed such fear of the Hereafter and Jahannam that the greatest of all the Sahaabah – Sayyiduna Abu Bakr Siddeeq (radhiyallahu ‘anhu) once addressed a bird and said, “Glad tidings to you, O bird! You eat from the trees, and take shelter in their shade. When you die you will not face any reckoning in the Hereafter! If only Abu Bakr could be like you!” (*Taareekhul Khulafaa* pg. 86)

Finally, the Sahaabah (radhiyallahu ‘anhum) possessed such love for Allah Ta’ala and His Rasul (sallallahu ‘alaihi wasallam) that they were prepared to undergo any amount of pain and suffering rather than allow even a small amount of discomfort befall their beloved Nabi (sallallahu ‘alaihi wasallam).

Thus, on the occasion when Sayyiduna Zaid bin Dathinah (radhiyallahu ‘anhu) was about to be executed by the Quraish, Abu Sufyaan (who later embraced Islam) asked him, “I implore you in the name of Allah, O Zaid! Tell me – would you not prefer that Muhammad be here now, and he be beheaded in your place, while you are safe and sound with your family?”

Sayyiduna Zaid (radhiyallahu ‘anhu) said, “I take an oath by Allah! I do not wish that Muhammad (sallallahu ‘alaihi wasallam) even be pricked by a

FAQEEHUL UMMAH

The sterling advice of *Faqeehul Ummah* Hazrat Mufti Mahmood Saheb (*rahmatullahi ‘alaihi*) has helped thousands of people to overcome many problems and difficulties — especially in the line of *islahun nafs* (inner-self reformation). Hereunder is an answer to a question posed to him.

REMEDY TO REFRAIN FROM SIN

Hazrat Mufti Mahmood Saheb (rahimahullah) was once asked regarding the remedy and treatment that should be adopted in order to assist a person to refrain from falling into sins. Hazrat (rahimahullah) gave the following reply:

Reply:

Bismih Ta’ala

Respected Brother

Assalamu ‘alaikum wa rahmatullaahi wabarakaatuhu

Before performing the Fajr Salaah, remain seated for some time with your eyes closed, and then imagine and think to yourself, “Allah Ta’ala is watching me! I am present in His court! Every person is present before me, and nobody can move from his place! Everyone is being interrogated, and how great will be my embarrassment and humiliation before all these people (when I will be made to account for my sins before them)!”

Similarly, at other times in the day when you get a chance, ponder over these thoughts. Continue to ponder over these thoughts until these thoughts become your permanent state of mind and you are not unmindful of these thoughts.

Insha-Allah, through pondering over these thoughts in this manner, your malady and weakness will be completely addressed and rectified.

(*Maktoobaat vol. 3 pg. 69*)

thorn while I am safe and sound with my family!”

Hearing this spontaneous response, which spoke volumes regarding the depths of this Sahaabi’s profound love for Rasulallah (sallallahu ‘alaihi wasallam), Abu Sufyaan remarked, “I have not seen any person whose heart is filled with such unconditional love for another, like the love which the Sahaabah have for Muhammad (sallallahu ‘alaihi wasallam)!”

Unfortunately these three crucial

element of motivation lacking in us — the true imaan regarding the pleasures of paradise, conviction about the horrors of Jahannam and most of all – true love for Allah Ta’ala and Rasul (sallallahu ‘alaihi wasallam). Every believer claims to love Rasulallah (sallallahu ‘alaihi wasallam), and insha-Allah, the spark of love is there in the heart. However, the true gauge and yardstick to measure this love is the extent to which we follow the Deen he has brought and uphold his mubaarak sunnah.