

ADVANTAGES AND DISADVANTAGES OF GADGETS

الْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ نَحْمَدُهُ وَنَسْتَعِينُهُ وَنَسْتَغْفِرُهُ. وَنَعُوذُ بِاللَّهِ مِنْ شُرُورِ أَنْفُسِنَا وَمِنْ سَيِّئَاتِ
أَعْمَالِنَا. مَنْ يَهْدِهِ اللَّهُ فَلَا مُضِلَّ لَهُ وَمَنْ يُضِلِّهِ فَلَا هَادِيَ لَهُ.
أَشْهَدُ أَنْ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ وَحْدَهُ لَا شَرِيكَ لَهُ، وَأَشْهَدُ أَنَّ سَيِّدَنَا مُحَمَّدًا عَبْدُهُ وَرَسُولُهُ.
اللَّهُمَّ صَلِّ وَسَلِّمْ عَلَى سَيِّدِنَا مُحَمَّدٍ وَعَلَى آلِهِ وَأَصْحَابِهِ أَجْمَعِينَ.
أَمَّا بَعْدُ،

فِيَا عِبَادَ اللَّهِ، اتَّقُوا اللَّهَ وَأَوْصِيكُمْ وَأَيَّايَ بِتَقْوَى اللَّهِ فَقَدْ فَازَ الْمُتَّقُونَ.

Let us increase our righteousness to Allah the Almighty by doing all that He prescribes and and leaving all that He prohibits. May we be blessed by Allah the Almighty in this life and the hereafter.

Dear brothers and sisters,

Our lives today are filled with all sorts of technological tools. In this increasingly advanced and sophisticated era, we need to use these tools because it gives certain advantages to us. It would be awkward to refuse using the latest technological tools such as the use of cell phones, computers, tablets and others.

Some parents are willing to buy gadgets such as tablets, smartphones and others for their children so as not to be seen as outdated. Some buy these gadgets as presents for special occasions such as birthdays, excellence in exams and for other purposes. Some parents use gadgets as a companion

for their young children so that they can do their work without any disturbance.

Dear brothers and sisters,

Many children and school teenagers waste time and neglect their schoolwork when they use their gadgets to play games. They are willing to stay up late at night for this purpose and eventually fall asleep during class time. They are also not able to concentrate in class due to lack of sleep. Some even play truant when they feel sleepy or tired due to playing with their gadgets.

What is more worrying is that some of them are using gadgets to initiate prohibited relationships between men and women such as downloading and uploading pictures which can eventually cause them to be caught in forbidden affairs.

Dear brothers and sisters

Misuse of gadgets does not only involve children and teenagers but also the adults. Some of them use these gadgets irregardless of place and time. This also happens among public and private employees who spend hours and hours on their gadgets during office time such as surfing social network sites and others. Some are busy making personal calls on their handphones while serving customers at the counters.

Some gadget users endanger their lives by using these gadgets while crossing the road, driving, going up and down escalators at shopping complexes, that can cause serious accidents not only to themselves but to others as well. Relationship of families and spouses can become chaotic because of gadgets misuse. The Al-Quran recommends that we use things for good purposes and prohibits us to engage in activities that will harm us. Allah the Almighty says in chapter 2 (surah al-Baqarah) verse 195:

وَأَنْفِقُوا فِي سَبِيلِ اللَّهِ وَلَا تُلْقُوا بِأَيْدِيكُمْ إِلَى التَّهْلُكَةِ وَأَحْسِنُوا إِنَّ اللَّهَ يُحِبُّ

الْمُحْسِنِينَ

Which means: *And spend in the way of Allah and do not throw [yourselves] with your [own] hands into destruction [by refraining]. And do good; indeed, Allah loves the doers of good.*

What is more unfortunate is that some Muslims are preoccupied with gadgets in the mosques when the *khatib* reads the Friday sermon. Listening to the sermon is one of the necessary requirements of Friday prayers. Some even refuse to recite the *wirid*, *dhikr* and supplicate after prayer because they are rushing to get hold of their gadgets.

In addition, some people use gadgets to spread news that are doubtful. These messages are shared with others who believe them without any suspicion. These sort of news invites slander, dispute, hostility and disunity. Besides, gadgets can create a gap in the close relationship between family

members and friends. The Prophet (pbuh) reminded muslims in a hadith narrated by Imam Ahmad Ibnu Hanbal:

شِرَارُ عِبَادِ اللَّهِ الْمَشَاءُونَ بِالنَّمِيمَةِ الْمُفْرَقُونَ بَيْنَ الْأَحِبَّةِ الْبَاغُونَ الْبُرَاءَ الْعَنَتَ

Which means: *“The most vile of humans are those who are slanderous, create disputes among loved ones and find faults in the innocent”*.

Dear brothers and sisters,

We do not deny that sophisticated technology has numerous advantages in making our communication, work and learning much easier and faster. What is important is that parents, head of families, teachers and employers supervise and advise those under their care to not misuse these technological tools but to use them judiciously. They are not to be engaged in wasteful activities that bring no benefits and especially those that unwittingly cause them to commit sins. Allah says in chapter 66 (surah al-Tahrim) verse 6:

أَعُوذُ بِاللَّهِ مِنَ الشَّيْطَانِ الرَّجِيمِ

يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا قُوا أَنْفُسَكُمْ وَأَهْلِيكُمْ نَارًا وَقُودُهَا النَّاسُ وَالْحِجَارَةُ عَلَيْهَا مَلَائِكَةٌ
غِلَاطٌ شِدَادٌ لَا يَعْصُونَ اللَّهَ مَا أَمَرَهُمْ وَيَفْعَلُونَ مَا يُؤْمَرُونَ

Which means: *O you who have believed, protect yourselves and your families from a Fire whose fuel is people and stones, over which are [appointed] angels, harsh and severe; they do not disobey Allah in what He commands them but do what they are commanded.*

بَارَكَ اللَّهُ لِيْ وَلَكُمْ فِي الْقُرْآنِ الْعَظِيْمِ، وَنَفَعَنِيْ وَإِيَّاكُمْ بِمَا فِيْهِ مِنَ الْآيَاتِ وَالذِّكْرِ الْحَكِيْمِ، وَتَقَبَّلَ مِنِّيْ وَمِنْكُمْ تِلَاوَتَهُ، إِنَّهُ هُوَ السَّمِيْعُ الْعَلِيْمُ. أَقُولُ قَوْلِيْ هَذَا وَأَسْتَغْفِرُ اللَّهَ الْعَظِيْمَ لِيْ وَلَكُمْ، وَلِسَائِرِ الْمُسْلِمِيْنَ وَالْمُسْلِمَاتِ، وَالْمُؤْمِنِيْنَ وَالْمُؤْمِنَاتِ، فَاسْتَغْفِرُوْهُ إِنَّهُ هُوَ الْعَفُوْرُ الرَّحِيْمُ.