

HEDONISTIC ENTERTAINMENT

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الْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ الَّذِي أَرْسَلَ رَسُولَهُ بِالْهُدَىٰ وَدِينِ الْحَقِّ لِيُظْهِرَهُ عَلَى الدِّينِ كُلِّهِ وَلَوْ كَرِهَ الْمُشْرِكُونَ،
أَشْهَدُ أَنْ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ وَحْدَهُ لَا شَرِيكَ لَهُ، وَأَشْهَدُ أَنَّ سَيِّدَنَا مُحَمَّدًا عَبْدُهُ وَرَسُولُهُ، اللَّهُمَّ صَلِّ وَسَلِّمْ وَبَارِكْ عَلَى
سَيِّدِنَا مُحَمَّدٍ وَعَلَى آلِهِ وَأَصْحَابِهِ وَمَنْ تَبِعَهُمْ بِإِحْسَانٍ إِلَى يَوْمِ الدِّينِ.
أَمَّا بَعْدُ، فَيَا عِبَادَ اللَّهِ، اتَّقُوا اللَّهَ حَقَّ تَقَاتِهِ وَلَا تَمُوتُنَّ إِلَّا وَأَنْتُمْ مُسْلِمُونَ.

Let us all increase our devotion towards Allah the Almighty by performing all that He has decreed and abstaining from all that He has prohibited. Surely, consciousness of God (*taqwa*) is the best provision for a blessed life in this world and in the Hereafter.

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

It is human nature to want entertainment in life. Entertainment is something that cheers the heart, relaxes the mind, pleases the soul and satisfies the ears. Islam does not restrict its believers from seeking entertainment as long as it does not go beyond the limits of the Islamic jurisprudence (*sharia*). Allah the Almighty says in the Quran in Chapter 7 (*Surah Al-A'raf*) Verse (*ayat*) 32:

قُلْ مَنْ حَرَّمَ زِينَةَ اللَّهِ الَّتِي أَخْرَجَ لِعِبَادِهِ وَالطَّيِّبَاتِ مِنَ الرِّزْقِ قُلْ هِيَ لِلَّذِينَ ءَامَنُوا فِي الْحَيَاةِ الدُّنْيَا خَالِصَةً يَوْمَ الْقِيَامَةِ ۗ كَذَلِكَ نُفَصِّلُ الْآيَاتِ لِقَوْمٍ يَعْلَمُونَ

Which means: Ask, [O Prophet], “Who has forbidden the adornments and lawful provisions Allah has brought forth for His servants?” Say, “They are for the enjoyment of the believers in this worldly life, but they will be

exclusively theirs on the Day of Judgement. This is how We make Our revelations clear for the people of knowledge.”

The Prophet (peace be upon him [PBUH]) himself understood the human tendency of desiring entertainment. When *Sayyidatina* Aisha (the Prophet’s wife [may Allah be pleased with her]) helped an *Ansar* woman prepare for her wedding, the Prophet (PBUH) said in a *hadith* narrated by Imam Al-Bukhari:

يَا عَائِشَةُ مَا كَانَ مَعَكُمْ لَهُوَ فَإِنَّ الْأَنْصَارَ يُعْجِبُهُمُ اللَّهُوَ

Which means: “O Aisha! Haven't you got any entertainment (during this wedding) as the Ansar like entertainment?”

It is also narrated that *Sayyidina* Umar (may Allah be pleased with him) once heard a man singing in the desert, so he said which means: “*Singing is a provision for a traveler.*”

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Guidelines issued by the National Islamic Affairs Council in 1981 states that entertainment is generally permissible provided that the song or entertainment is not obscene or rude, does not encourage immorality, does not allow mixing between men and women, and does not lead to slander. On the other hand, it is prohibited (*haram*) if it leads to immorality or goes against Islamic principles.

Today we are exposed to entertainment that is fascinating and distracting without considering limits and are willing to spend money, time and energy to attend entertainment activities that are distracting. Allah the Almighty says in the Quran in Chapter 31 (*Surah Luqman*) Verse (*ayat*) 6 which means: “*But there*

are some who employ theatrics, only to lead others away from Allah's Way—without any knowledge—and to make a mockery of it. They will suffer a humiliating punishment.”

In the context of our country today, the phenomenon of hedonistic entertainment or debauchery is no longer unknown to the general public. Hedonistic entertainment can be defined as all forms of entertainment that violate the limits of Islamic law and moderation to the point of causing people to no longer remember Allah the Almighty.

If we deeply ponder, extreme entertainment is the agenda of the enemies of Islam, to destroy the morals, *sharia* and faith of Muslims. As a result of being distracted by entertainment, Muslims spend a lot of time mindlessly gossiping, while the bigger problems in developing the community are ignored. We are happy to attend entertainment programs and feel a sense of distress when asked to attend religious ceremonies and programs that spread Islam.

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Not all entertainment is permitted by Islam. Even entertainment that is permitted should not be done extremely and excessively. Be careful when getting involved in entertainment. Do not imitate perverse cultures from abroad that can damage our faith, morals and civilization as Muslims. What the Prophet (PBUH) said in the *hadith* narrated by Imam Muslim are true which means: *“You will follow the ways of those nations who were before you, span by span and cubit by cubit (i.e., inch by inch) so much so that even if they entered the hole of a lizard, you would follow them.”* We said, *“O Allah's Messenger! (Do you mean) the Jews and the Christians?”* He said, *“Who else?”*

Today there are many Islamic entertainment programs that can be used as an alternative to hedonism. Many efforts have been made to develop Islamic entertainment with the emergence of *nashid* groups, *qasidah*, *maulid Nabi*, patriotic songs and *halaqah dhikr* as well as activities other than singing such as traveling to see the greatness of Allah the Almighty and the beauty of the universe. Indeed, real entertainment is entertainment that reminds us of Allah the Almighty.

From today's *khutbah* (sermon), it can be concluded that:

1. Islam is a religion that recognizes the nature of men and allows entertainment as a way to fulfill the demands of human nature.
2. All parties should be concerned in educating family members so that they do not fall into the trap of hedonistic entertainment.
3. As Muslims, we need to be wise in choosing entertainment. We should seek entertainment that provides peace and reminds us of Allah the Almighty.

بَارَكَ اللهُ لِي وَلَكُمْ فِي الْقُرْآنِ الْعَظِيمِ وَنَفَعَنِي وَإِيَّاكُمْ بِمَا فِيهِ مِنَ الْآيَاتِ وَالذِّكْرِ الْحَكِيمِ وَتَقَبَّلَ مِنِّي وَمِنْكُمْ تِلَاوَتَهُ إِنَّهُ هُوَ السَّمِيعُ الْعَلِيمُ. أَقُولُ قَوْلِي هَذَا وَاسْتَغْفِرُوا اللَّهَ الْعَظِيمَ لِي وَلَكُمْ وَلِسَانِ الْمُسْلِمِينَ وَالْمُسْلِمَاتِ وَالْمُؤْمِنِينَ وَالْمُؤْمِنَاتِ الْأَحْيَاءِ مِنْهُمْ وَالْأَمْوَاتِ فَاسْتَغْفِرُوهُ إِنَّهُ هُوَ الْغَفُورُ الرَّحِيمُ.