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# 6 WAYS TELEVISION *CORRUPTS AND DESTROYS OUR CHILDREN AND SOCIETY*

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*'I know the secret of making the average American believe anything I want him to. Just let me control television... You put something on the television and it becomes reality. If the world outside the TV set contradicts the images, people start trying to change the world to make it like the TV set images...'*

Hal Becker (prominent media expert and consultant)

## SOME QUESTIONS AND POINTS THIS BOOK WILL COVER:

What are some alternatives to television?

How did television, in Mexico create a 34% decline in its population growth rate within a decade?

Have we underestimated how harmful television is to children?

What is social engineering and how is it done?

What is culture creation?

How television destroys the ability to form long-term "bonding" in later life.?

How television instils hatred towards parents or total independence from them?

5 signs of TV addiction

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## 6 WAYS TELEVISION CORRUPTS AND DESTROYS OUR CHILDREN AND SOCIETY

This is on the subject of “dajjaals” (great liars), and Satan and the Jinn, and what is connected to this of magic and the occult, and there are related issues that branch off from these subjects that are worthy of being covered. From them is the television, which is simply an effective brainwashing and social engineering tool. One of the clearest and most blatant aims of what is delivered through television is the “abolition of the family” (by tearing away and destroying all its bonds). You just need to go and read up on eugenicist, self-righteous elitist socialist, collectivist, bigots like Aldous Huxley, Julian Huxley, George Bernard Shaw, Bertrand Russell, Charles Darwin, H.G. Wells and others to understand the war on “*the family unit*”. Television is the most-effective means of delivery for that envisaged social engineering.

المجتمعات في وتفكك ومرج هرج وعوامل والانحلال الإباحية إلى دعوة أمرها ودخيلة حقيقتها في ولكنها العمران وتخريب وإفساد الأخلاق ومكارم الشرائع لصرح وتقويض هدم ومعاول الأمم لعري وانفصام ،

“...But it is in its reality and in its interior a call to permissiveness, to decay and (to) factors of turmoil, and disintegration in societies, and to the splitting of the handholds of nations and to the destructive, subversive annihilation of the edifice of legal injunctions and noble characteristics (morals) and the corruption and destruction of civilization (culture)...

Before continuing, it is our hope that as a Muslim, you already recognize the television for what it is and have disposed of it (if you had one to begin with). You’ve realized that what is delivered through the television is mostly propaganda, marketing, culture and value modification and brainwashing, and legally, TV Networks are under no obligation to tell

the truth, because they are privately owned – and what you see through your television is decided by people whose values are more or less entirely in opposition to yours. If you've realized this much, congratulations, you've got your head on right, and this information will not really apply to you. If you are a Muslim who has a television in your house, we advise you for the sake of Allaah Ta'ala that you get rid of your television, and that you do not give away your children to “**television foster-care**” because all you are doing is destroying their lives, socially, morally and psychologically, whilst being deceived into thinking you are providing them “entertainment”. For your information, very large numbers of well-informed, and conscientious non-Muslims are recognizing the corruption and sham that is television, its evil effects on themselves and the children and are getting rid of it from their houses.

First a quick note on what is referred to as “**predictive programming**”:

*When you want to bring about social change, it is easier to familiarize the target audience with the desired change but in a non-direct way. This is done mainly through movies, sitcoms and music, in other words through the backdoor of “entertainment”. Through entertainment you familiarize people with a certain social norm, or agenda, because it's weaved into the plot, and because this is entertainment, **you've already got the audience to subconsciously accept it**. This is a very powerful technique. In this manner you can make anything a social norm, fornication, adultery, even incest, robbery, violence and so on, you can make them all justifiable simply by presenting it through a carefully crafted plot or story line, and by casting the right character(s). If you think that you are receiving “entertainment” through the box, you are mistaken. You are receiving “social engineering” (the alteration of morals, attitudes, values) disguised as entertainment and its not as innocent as you may think it is – all the social evils*

*and moral degradation don't come out of thin air, they have reasons, causes and they have to be coming from somewhere.*

As for “**culture creation**”:

*True culture always come from the ground up, it always starts with the people in the society, and then it grows and spreads and becomes the accepted custom and way, and it binds that society together for generations to come, if not hundreds or even thousands of years. In the modern age, all culture is created artificially. It is forced from top down, and it is a fake contrived culture. In history, true culture (grass roots upwards) has bonded people and societies and kept them together. In the 20th century, the fake contrived culture which continues to be pushed through movies, music, novels is used to destroy societies and families. So this is what we mean by “culture creation”. You create a fake contrived culture and export it to the rest of the world, and through this fake culture achieve socialist goals. You can tear apart the family bonds (husband-wife, parent-child relationships) and degrade all morals, you can promote cultures of violence, greed, selfish individuality and so on. So culture creation is extremely powerful and it is delivered through the television.*

So we ought to be aware of “*predictive programming*” and “*culture creation*” because it is all around us and its a false reality through which nations and societies at the family unit level are brainwashed and through which your children are given a culture, perception and way of thinking some of which is now going to be described to you...

## **Brief Overview of the Role of Television in Destroying Children, the Family and Society**

We will mention 6 major aspects here:

## **1) Sexualization of Children From the Earliest Age Possible:**

*Amongst the roles of television is to bring children into contact with sex from the earliest age possible. These people know from decades of research that sexual encounters and activity from an early age leads to the inability to create and maintain long-lasting, meaningful relationships in later life. In other words it demolishes “bonding”. For this reason, you see the increased sexualisation of children through television programming, and this includes cartoons and films along with music. It is proven that there are subliminal messages hidden in cartoons aimed at stimulating the interest in sex. Music stars specifically are chosen from a very early age, and groomed and prepared to become mega-famous pop-stars which children (out of their human nature) will idolize take as role models. The lifestyles of these people are then given prominence through the TV and these people change partners every year and have morally degraded lifestyles. This makes pop-stars in particular the ideal route to pushing socialist agendas, and every genre will have its “pop-star” who is simply a pawn in the game, used to impart a certain social norm. This very early contact with sex leads to children having experienced, physically and emotionally – by the time they are only 13 or 14 or even younger – what in a normal society, an adult would not have experience well into their 40s. Thus, having got bored of life by the time they are only 14 or thereabouts or younger still, these children end up depressed, sick of life, with no direction and no purpose, and the only thing driving them on is the pursuit of more and more excitement and pleasure. In schools, children from the age of seven (yes, seven!) are now being shown cartoons of explicit sexual encounters as part of their “sex education”. As we said earlier, all the research shows that sexual activity and promiscuity at an **early age destroys the ability to form long-term “bonding” in later life.***

## **2) Destroying the Differentiation Between the Feminine and Masculine**

### **- Gender Confusion:**

*Amongst the ways in which children are being socially engineered is the continued blurring of issues of gender difference. Television is simply one of the mediums of delivery for this and fashion, music, films, and socialist think-tanks who push policies in countries drive this obfuscation. Cartoons, children's programs sitcoms and movies (all "entertainment") are used to blur and confuse the clear differences between male and female identities (masculinity and femininity) which have always been clearly defined in all cultures and civilizations for thousands of years, and which have worked harmoniously and perfectly well to provide long-term meaningful relationships and stable societies. Children will make up the society in a couple of decades time, and thus they are the ideal and perfect targets for destroying the proper types of "bondings" for building stable family units, that are the foundation for the fabric of social morals.*

## **3) Instilling Hatred Towards Parents or Total Independence From Them:**

*This is very prominent, and is a major aspect of the social engineering for which television is a delivery mechanism. What is put out by major movie production centers and through certain genres of music are replete with particular themes that disdain parents. The children that develop the best and are most stable are those who have regular contact with people of different ages, they are not cocooned and do not develop a warped and segmented picture of reality, and these children always tend to hold on to family values and the types of "bonding" that hold society together. By breaking contact and "bonding" with parents, or older*

generations, let alone being brainwashed into resenting and hating them, the society loses its cohesion over a few generations and the young are out of touch with the old and so whatever morals the old had do not get passed down to the young. In all the famous and popular cartoons targeted to children (the Disney films) from the early 20th century onwards, you will see that generally they follow a formula. This is a scientific formula worked to perfection. In most of these cartoons the main character is always separated from his or her family, and is usually cast as an orphan. Thus, disassociation with the parents (or mainly the mother) is a prominent feature in many story lines. The mother may often be presented as evil, oppressive, or you may have the “evil stepmother”. Motherhood is made to be absent. They usually have a very tragic, extremely traumatic incident occurring at the beginning. Usually this is the loss of both parents or just one in a very brutal or unkind way. The scenes are deliberately made extremely intense and traumatic. When kids watch this stuff it really does traumatize them. In that traumatized, emotionally disturbed state, it becomes easy to impart values and messages through whatever follows in the rest of the film or cartoon. The children identify with the main character and subconsciously impose themselves upon that character or within the character’s context. Then whatever the character experiences and goes through is soaked up by the subconscious of the (traumatized) child who is watching. **This really is a subject in itself, but let us say loud and clear that if you think these are just innocent cartoons for children, you are dead, dead wrong.** These are cartoons based upon scientific formulas devised after much experimentation and research.

#### **4) Creating Perception of Parents as “Criminals Under Assumption” and Parents as a Grave Danger to Their Children**

*This occurs through the television as well as other ways and means. Child abuse does take place, however, rare, isolated, extreme cases are used as part of perception change and management which leads to all parents being assumed to be criminals and a serious threat to their children. This is weaved into sitcoms and movies and through the coverage given it leads to a climate in which child abuse is assumed to be going on in every household, and through which children are nurtured to be suspicious of their parents. We see that what actually constitutes abuse is very broadly defined, and the television is used to alter and distort the true parent-child relationship (through cartoons, films and so on) from one of trust, confidence, love, care and so on (which is the case overwhelmingly in the majority of all households), to one of mistrust, abuse, hatred and so on (which is pushed as being the standard assumption).*

#### **5) Familiarization and Introduction to Magic and the Occult (Avenue to Satan and the Jinn)**

*This really is a lengthy article on its own, but its worthy of mention here. The television, as well as stories, are used as the means of delivery for the change in perception of young children towards magic and the occult. It's treated as a fun and exciting indulgence, and its normalized and made part of life. If you are not doing it, you are boring. If you are not reading Harry Potter, you've got a mental problem and you've got a sad life. This is the type of perception change that is brought about and its been going on for decades with the casting of witches, magicians and sorcerers, young and old in a particular way. Magic is the use of*

*devils to effect results, and the devils never obey humans unless the human performs what is disbelief, and desecration of the religion, of revelation, of prophethood. The breaking down of this barrier and luring children towards magic and the occult allows them to be open to the influence magic. This is not the place to digress, but most movies and music (coming from the likes of Hollywood, Disney and the record labels) contain the symbology of qabbalistic, occultic magic. They put spells within and upon the music, and we have this acknowledgement on audio from those formerly amongst the highest authorities within the industry. More on this in separate articles.*

## **6) Dumbing Down and Reduction of Intelligence**

*One of the major roles of television is the reduction in intelligence, blocking the ability to think critically and question and evaluate critically, and acquire objective factual knowledge. One of the main reasons outlined by those elitist socialist bigots in their books is that we are now in the post-industrialist era. Amazing efficiency and automation and so on has moved us out of the industrialist era. Most sciences and knowledge in all disciplines have been refined and perfected. Society does not need large numbers of thinkers, intellectuals, or those who can think critically. We just need manageable people who can be trained (in industry and science) to think and work upon protocols and routines that have already been perfected. So intelligence and critical thinking is not as important anymore. For this objective, movies, sitcoms, music, cartoons are all the means of delivery, and we also see it in education where there is a shift from the teaching of objective facts to what they call outcome based education which is simply the alteration of attitudes, perceptions and morals, it's social engineering again. Focus is given to "feelings" and "attitudes" (i.e. *hawaa*) rather than the*

exercising of judgment through objective facts (i.e. aql). Here, read the words of one of those elitist, self-righteous communist, socialist bigots, Aldous Huxley, in his book "The Devils of Loudun" (1952) he writes concerning music and singing,

“ If exposed long enough to the tomtoms and the singing, every one of our philosophers would end by capering and howling with savages. Assemble a mob of men and women, treat them to amplified band music, bright lights, and in next to no time you can reduce them to a state of almost mindless subhumanity. Never before have so few been in a position to make fools, maniacs, or criminals of so many.

Now he is talking about "philosophers", he means educated refined people, let alone the average person or child! The constant blazing of mindless insanity, music, stupid lyrics, and chants, and aggrandizing of stupid characters (in movies, cartoons) and all the other senseless filth neutralizes the ability of children to harness the mind for critical thinking. They adopt ways of thinking, slogans, chants that render them nothing short of idiots. Around 50 or 60 years ago when this type of social engineering had not taken effect on a mass scale, if a child behaved in a certain way he would be called an "idiot" and it was normal to refer to certain children as "idiots", because there were norms and standards and values. Today, by the same standards, if you told a parent "You have an idiot-child" they would become offended. As for reduction in intellect, go and take a look at standard exam papers for 14 year olds in English, or History, or Maths from 100 years ago (if you can find them) and compare them with today's exam papers. A 40 year old with a university education to his or her credit would struggle to answer those questions.

## Summary

We can summarize some of the main outcomes of this type of programming of children, so here are some of the main messages communicated to children in varying layers of subtlety through the television (music, films, programs, sitcoms):

### **Some Common Messages Put Out To Children Through Television**

- Get sexually aware and active from an early age (there are mini-condoms now for 10 year olds and inoculations to prevent little girls from transmitted diseases, and then you've also got "social services" there to help you make sure you are doing things safely).
- There is no such thing as "masculinity" or "femininity", everyone is essentially the same. Also, that male to male and female to female relationships are perfectly natural, and preference is down to the individual, there are no taboos, and the seeking of pleasure in any context is a good thing. There are no such qualities that make someone "masculine" and no such qualities that make someone "feminine".
- Your parents will abandon you and you don't need them anyway, little girls don't need mothers to guide and direct them into womanhood, boys don't need responsible fathers to be role models, you'll get along all fine without your parents. Also, you can't really trust your parents, they may be out to harm you or abuse you.
- Magic and occult is a normal, harmless and fun thing to be involved in, and all children should be participating in it.
- Attitudes, opinions, emotions and feelings are what count most. You are good child if you are malleable and who can very quickly change opinions and attitudes. Critical thinking and exercising of judgment upon and after

the establishment of objective facts, to enable the holding of values and performance of actions upon concrete realities is only for odd people.

As you can see, in all of this is nothing but destruction of the society, and you see in all the Western developed nations the breakdown in society and overall reduction in their populations because society is degraded, corroded and no one is having kids at a rate that is maintaining the population (amongst the indigenous Western races and nations). Now, we have a lot more to say on television, social engineering and related subjects, however, we will close the article here and so as not to create any misunderstanding at this point, we should also clarify the following:

*There are a lot of useful programs, documentaries and so on that can be useful aids in education whether that be in knowledge related to Islam (learning the Qur'an, Arabic and so on) or other types of knowledge such as Maths, or the Sciences or History and so on. We don't reject the use of recorded media, or the broadcasting of media, in a controlled way, to bring about the teaching of objective facts (as opposed to attitude formation and social engineering which is the prime purpose of television).*

The Muslim scholars have alluded to this have stated that 99% of what is found on the television is moral degradation, sin and vice. So the benefit is negligible. And he explained that within the context of a righteous Muslim state, it is possible to provide truly beneficial content to educate the Muslims (of their deen), and in this case the use of such a means would be fine. Other Scholars explained that it would be extremely difficult to use television for only good purposes, without comprising anything that is haraam, for the reason that censorship of what is haraam, given the great amount of broadcast media, would be impossible to achieve.

## It's a Perfected Science, These People Know What They Are Doing

Here are some excerpts from an article on what is called the Sabido Methodology, its a way of bringing about social change through the use of characters in telenovels who are opposed to the desired social change, and then developing their character through the series until they eventually adapt to the desired social change.

“*The Sabido Method is a methodology for designing and producing serialized dramas on radio and television that can win over audiences while imparting prosocial values...*

All movies, sitcoms, dramas, and even music, are very carefully thought out with a very specific objective in mind, and there are formulas, scientifically perfected, that exist for bringing about attitude formation and social engineering.

“*Named after the pioneer in application of this entertainment-education strategy, Miguel Sabido, the Sabido Method is based on character development and plot lines that provide the audience with a range of characters that they can engage with – some good, some not so good – and follow as they evolve and change...Change is the key to the Sabido methodology. Characters may begin the series exhibiting the antithesis of the values being taught, but through interaction with other characters, twists and turns in the plot, and sometimes even outside intervention, come to see the value of the program's underlying message... This is of course the classic literary device of character growth, but Miguel Sabido developed the process in detail for television in a way that enabled it to tackle the most sensitive of subjects – sex, abortion, family planning, AIDS – in a non-threatening and even enlightening manner....*

This article we are quoting from is written from the angle of showing the positive effects of this methodology being used in Mexico and on its population and literacy and so on. The point here though is to highlight the fact there are formulas that are worked to and which are extremely effective in bringing about change in perceptions and values, morals and manners, and that is what the population (who sit and watch for hours and hours on end) are subject to.

“ During the decade 1977 to 1986, when these Mexican soap operas were on the air, the country experienced a 34% decline in its population growth rate. As a result, in May 1986, the United Nations Population Prize was presented to Mexico as the foremost population success story in the world.

They promoted “family planning” through these “telenovels”, and they viewed it as a success for Mexico. The point here is that when you see the power behind such methods, you can see how very easily an entire society’s opinions, attitudes, values, morals and so on can be directed in whatever way desired. So now you have seen the “programming” at work, and they have known this stuff from the days before television, in radio broadcasts, through to the big-screen, before the days when television became mainstream and in all homes. So this is what television is primarily used for, it is “social engineering through entertainment”, not mere entertainment. And finally here is another quote from a prominent media expert and consultant called Hal Becker who said close to 30 years ago: I know the secret of making the average American believe anything I want him to. Just let me control television.... You put something on the television and it becomes reality. If the world outside the TV set contradicts the images, people start trying to change the world to make it like the TV set images...

## IS TELEVISION DESTROYING YOU?

Television has become the most common way of entertainment and amusement

today. It has replaced many physical activities, like sports and reading, which were previously utilized by people to spend their leisure time. However, television is not the correct substitute for those activities, which besides entertaining also enhance skills and talents. Research performed on the impact of television undoubtedly prove its ill effects upon the viewers! Moreover, most part of the entertainment programs displayed on television transgress Islamic bounds...

The Messenger of Allah (sallallahu alaihi wa-sallam) said: **“Everything with which a man amuses himself is Baatil (baseless, null and impermissible) – except three, his practicing with bow (and arrow); his training the horse and his playing with his family.”** [Saheeh al-Bukharee]

This Hadeeth encourages the Muslims to choose amusements that benefit him, either by improving skills or strengthening family ties. Television, on the other hand, severs family bonds. Television programs dealing with family and personal matters suggest a lifestyle far from reality; single parent families, children out of wedlock, continuous disputes and problems are publicized as normal way of life and divorce is portrayed as the easiest way out!

Islam does not allow any amusement, which make people negligent of Allah Subhaanahu Wa Ta’ala. Television does not only make one

negligent of Allah's remembrance, but it also makes people negligent of their obligatory duties, especially the Salaah (prayer).

Television transmits fictitious stories, which greatly attract the viewers, as it takes one away from the reality into the world of desires and fantasy. Islam is in strong opposition to such illusions, because illusions make man negligent of death and Hereafter. The Prophet (sallallahu alaihi wa-sallam) said:

**“Make mention of the destroyer of desires (i.e. death) very often.”**

[(Hasan) at-Tirmidhee no: 2049, and Ibn Majah no: 4258]

Television also destroys the Muslim's Aqeedah, Character, Health, Wealth, and it has also become a cause of wasting time, as we shall see in the following:

### **Destruction of Aqeedah:**

Television displays images and stories of Shirk, un-Islamic cultures and rituals that inevitably influence the viewer's belief. Many Muslims have been lead to believe in the false ideas and beliefs presented on the television – the proof for this is the increasing number of un-Islamic beliefs that are rampant in the Muslim society, like spirit possession, belief in good luck charms and amulets, belief in auspiciousness and inauspiciousness of particular days and numbers, belief in fortune telling and astrology, etc.

Sometimes, television propagates false ideas and beliefs in such subtle way that the viewer learns them unknowingly, especially in children programs, where ‘super heroes’, like superman, etc. are often portrayed as the saviors of the Universe and its inhabitants, who reach anywhere and everywhere to help people and protect them from any kind of dangers!! Such ideas corrupt the basic beliefs of Islam that Allah Alone is the Ruler and Savior of mankind and He alone can protect the people from all harm.

So, television can gradually destroy our Aqeedah and subsequently ruin our Hereafter, because Aqeedah is the foundation of Islam. It is necessary that the Aqeedah be free from all un-Islamic influences, in order to escape the Hell-Fire.

This requires that we avoid all chances and means that cause danger to our Aqeedah – one of which is watching television!

One should not only be concerned about his beliefs and actions, but he should also take precautions to safeguard the Aqeedah of his family members, since on the Day of Judgment, everybody will be accounted for his actions and the actions of those under his guardianship. Allah Ta’ala says in the Qur’aan:

**“Oh you who believe, save yourselves and your families from the fire which is fueled by men and stones. Over it are Angels who are stern, and strong, who do not disobey Allah’s orders and they do what He orders” [Soorah at-Tahrim (66): 6]**

The Messenger of Allah (sallallahu alaihi wa-sallam) said:

**“Every one of you is a protector and a guardian of his immediate charge and is responsible for the actions of those people who are committed to his charge. A man is a guardian in respect to the family members of his house. A woman is a guardian in respect to her husband’s house and his children.”** [Saheeh al-Bukharee and Saheeh Muslim]

### **Destruction of Islamic Morals:**

Immoral behavior, violence, crime, music, singing, use of tobacco, alcohol and cigarette are some of the many un-Islamic behaviors taught by the Television.

Especially children, television teaches them to lie, cheat and steal from early ages!

Music is an integral part of television – Allah’s Messenger (sallallahu alaihi wasallam) said:

**“Verily, I forbid two voices, which are imbecilic and sinfully shameless; one, a voice (of singing) accompanied by musical instruments and Shaytaan’s wind instrument...”** [al-Hakim]

Scholars mention many wisdoms behind the prohibition of music, like music sprouts hypocrisy, prevents the heart from Allah’s remembrance, excites sinful desires, etc. but the fact that Allah’s Messenger (sallallahu alaihi wa-sallam) called it the voice of Shaytaan should be enough for the believer to understand the great harm and danger associated with music!

Advertisements on television fully exploit female voice and use semi-nude female pictures to promote and sell their products. Whereas, Islam

has even prohibited the women to speak in soft voice with the strangers, Allah Ta'ala says:

**“...be not soft in speech, lest he in whose heart is a disease (of hypocrisy, or evil desire for adultery, etc.) should be moved with desire, but speak in a honorable manner.”** [Soorah al- Ahzab (33): 32]

Immodesty, nudity and free mixing of men and women are the most apparent evil spread by the television. Islam teaches that modesty is a part of Eemaan and prohibits the mixing of sexes. But television puts great emphasis on immorality and fornication (zina) regarding which Allah says in the Qur'aan,

**“...come not near to zina. Verily, it is Fahishah (immoral sin) and an evil way.”** [Soorah al-Isra (17): 32]

Islam does not only consider the actual act of fornication to be zina, but Allah's Messenger (sallallahu alaihi wa-sallam) said:

**“The zina of the eyes is the gaze (at which is unlawful, e.g. Nudity); the zina of the ears is to listen (to the unlawful, e.g. talks of nudity which excite illicit desires, music, etc.); the zina of the tongue is to speak (what is evil); the zina of the hand is to touch (the female who is unlawful to you); the zina of the feet is to walk (towards unlawful); the zina of the heart is to desire (that is unlawful) and it is the private parts which either commit or shuns the actual act of fornication.”** [Saheeh Muslim]

So, watching nudity and evils displayed on television is zina of the eyes, listening to them is zina of the ears, and the illicit desires aroused by them means zina of the heart. Allah says:

**“Verily! Hearing, Sight, and the heart, all will be questioned (by Allah).”** [Soorah al-Isra (17): 36]

Imaam Ibn Katheer (rahimahullah) writes, ‘the person will be asked about them (all parts of the body) on the Day of Resurrection, and they (all parts of his body) will be asked about him and what did he do with them?’

Repeatedly watching the evil displayed on television so adversely influence the viewer’s mind that he considers them to be the acceptable mode of behaviour, he gradually loses his Haya (modesty, shame and shyness) and imitates the evil.

Allah’s Messenger (sallallahu alaihi wa-sallam) said: “

**...If you do not have Haya, then do whatever you want.”** [Saheeh al-Bukharee]

Imaam an-Nawawi (rahimahullah) said in the commentary of this Hadeeth, “When he loses his Haya, he will freely indulge in what Allah has prohibited. This is similar to the Hadeeth, “**...Let him take his seat in Hell-Fire.**” [Saheeh al-Bukharee and Saheeh Muslim] meaning he will take his seat in the Fire... what prevents a person from indulging in sin is al-Haya that he has. When he abandons al-Haya, he will be like the one whose character and habits order him to indulge in every type of evil.” Researches testify to the fact that many people actually enact the crime and violence displayed on television!

## **Destruction of Wealth:**

Wealth is a trial from Allah, and the believers are expected to earn it from lawful means and also spend it in the lawful needs, otherwise, wealth can become a source of misery in the Hereafter.

Allah says in the Qur'aan: **“And among mankind are those who purchase Lahwal- Hadis (idle talk) so as to lead astray (others) from the Path of Allah. And they make a mockery of the laws of Allah. To them, there is a disgraceful punishment... Give them the news of a painful punishment.”** [Soorah Luqman (31): 6-7]

Ibn Mas'oud (radhi allahu anhu) commented about the verse saying this (Lahwal-Hadis) refers to singing. Ibn Jarir (rahimahullah) said about this verse that it (Lahwal-Hadis) means all speech that hinder people from seeing the signs of Allah and following His Path.

Other scholars explain that this verse was revealed to prohibit music and stories imported from Persia, since they divert man's attention from the remembrance of Allah and take him into the realm of imagination. — Television consist all these evil — Therefore, purchasing television is purchasing Lahwal-Hadis, which is spending wealth in the unlawful and thus destruction of wealth.

Allah's Messenger (sallallahu alaihi wa-sallam) said: **“The servant of Allah will remain standing on the Day of Judgment until he is questioned about... his wealth, from where he acquired it and in what way he spent it...”** [At-Tirmidhee]

## **Destruction of Time and Health:**

People spend hours watching television, which is damaging to the physical and mental health. It also increases obesity, which is the root cause of many treacherous diseases like heart disease and diabetes. Television causes laziness and inefficiency in people. Students spend more time watching television and neglect studies and learning.

We should realize that time and health are two great blessings of Allah for which Allah will account us on the Day of Resurrection. The Messenger of Allah (sallallahu alaihi wa-sallam) said:

**“The servant of Allah will remain standing on the Day of Judgment until he is questioned about his life, how he spent it...”** [at-Tirmidhee]

It is therefore necessary that we make good use of our time and health and perform those acts, which will benefit us in the Hereafter. Allah’s Messenger (sallallahu alaihi wa-sallam) has warned us against spending time and health foolishly, he (sallallahu alaihi wa-sallam) said:

**“There are two blessings that many people lose, health and free time.”** [Saheeh al-Bukharee] and:

**“Lose no time to do good work before you are caught up by one of the seven calamities...A starvation which may ruin your wisdom, or a prosperity which may mislead you, or an ailment which may damage your health, or an old age which may harm your senses, or a sudden death or the appearance of Dajjal. All these are bad events which may be awaited; or the Doomsday, but this Day is indeed very hard and bitter.”** [At-Tirmidhee (2408)]

## **The Only Solution: Turn Off the Television**

The only solution to escape the enormous dangers of television is to completely abandon it. Islam not only forbids violating the laws of Allah, but also condemns all means that may lead to it. For example, Allah says about zina (fornication or adultery): **“And come not near to zina. Verily, it is Fahishah (immoral sin) and an evil way.”** [Soorah al-Isra (17): 32] Scholars say in the explanation of this verse, do not even tread the paths or acquire the means, which may lead to the evil act of committing zina or any other sin. Thus, television, which is the stepping-stone towards zina and a number of other evils, should be thrown out of the Muslim houses, or at least the amount of time spent in viewing the television should be limited.

Shaikh Ibn Baaz (rahimahullah) said in al-Fatawa (3/227): “With regard to television, it is a dangerous device and its harmful effects are very great, like those of the cinema, or even worse. We know from the research that has been written about it and from the words of experts in Arab countries and elsewhere enough to indicate that it is dangerous and very harmful to Islamic beliefs (Aqeedah), morals and the state of society. This is because it includes the presentation of bad morals, tempting scenes, immoral pictures, semi-nakedness, destructive speech, and Kufr. It encourages imitation of their conduct and ways of dressing, respect for their leaders, neglect of Islamic conduct and ways of dressing, and looking down on the scholars and heroes of Islam. It damages their image by portraying them in an offputting manner that makes people despise them and ignore them. It shows people how to cheat, steal, and hatch plots, and commit acts of violence against others. Without doubt, anything that

produces so many bad results should be stopped and shunned, and we have to close all the doors that could lead to it...”

## **Alternatives for Television**

When the television is turned off, you will find plenty of time for other activities. Develop the habit to properly manage your time, and engage in beneficial activities. Always remember the Hadeeth of Allah’s Messenger (sallallahu alaihi wa-sallam),

**“Lose no time to do good work before you are caught up by one of the seven calamities...A starvation which may ruin your wisdom, or a prosperity which may mislead you, or an ailment which may damage your health, or an old age which may harm your senses, or a sudden death or the appearance of Dajjal. All these are bad events which may be awaited; or the Doomsday, but this Day is indeed very hard and bitter.”** [At-Tirmidhee (2408)]

On the following page is a list of creative activities, which will Insha’Allah, help you and your family make beneficial use of the time that you save by not watching the television:

## **Alternatives for Television**

**(a) Outdoor Activities:** Encourage outdoor activities like, swimming, horse riding, archery, etc. Allah’s Messenger (sallallahu alaihi wa-sallam) always encouraged outdoor activities, it is reported in Saheeh al-Bukharee (4/120) that Allah’s Messenger (sallallahu alaihi wa-sallam) arranged for horse race, also once he (sallallahu alaihi wa-sallam) passed by some

people from the tribe of Aslam practicing archery and said, **“O children of Ishmael! Throw (arrows), for your father was an archer. I am on the side of Bani so-and-so,”** meaning one of the two teams. The other team stopped throwing arrows, whereupon the Prophet said, **“What has happened to them?”** They replied, **“How shall we throw while you are with Bani so-and-so?”** He said, **“Throw for I am with all of you.”** [Bukharee]

**(b) Family time:** Islam encourages maintaining close family ties. The Messenger of Allah (sallallahu alaihi wa-sallam) said: **“Whoever severs the bond of kinship will not enter Paradise.”** [Saheeh al-Bukharee] Spend ample of time with your family, communicate and know each other’s needs, and help them out. This is the best way to develop meaningful relationship with your spouse and children. Aa’ishah (radhi allahu anha) narrates that it was the practice of Allah’s Messenger (sallallahu alaihi wa-sallam) that after finishing the Asr prayer, he (sallallahu alaihi wa-sallam) would visit his wives and stay with one of them at that time. [Saheeh al-Bukharee] This is also the best time to teach your children discipline, respect and Islamic etiquettes. You can also read to them stories of the Prophets, give them short Du’aa (supplication) to memorize, recite Qur’aan, etc.

**(c) Community Living:** Brotherhood and mutual consent among the Muslims is the basis of a strong and powerful Islamic society. Allah’s Messenger (sallallahu alaihi wa-sallam) first established brotherhood and love among the believer even before he initiated the Muslim society in al-Medina, Abdullah Ibn Salaam (radhi allahu anhu) said: **“When the Prophet (sallallahu alaihi wa-sallam) arrived in Medina...The first thing he (sallallahu alaihi wa-sallam) said was, ‘Extend peace greetings**

**among yourselves, provide food to the needy, maintain upright relations, observe prayer at night while people are asleep, then you will peacefully enter the Gardens (Paradise)."** [Tirmidhee, Mishkat (1/168)]

So, part of our community living is to strengthen the bond of brotherhood with other Muslims. Allah's Messenger (sallallahu alaihi wa-sallam) said: **"Believers in mutual love, are like the human body where, when the eye is in agony, the entire body feels pain, when the head aches, all the body will suffer."** [Saheeh Muslim]

There are a number of ways to build mutual relationship, like, knowing the needs of other Muslims and helping them out. Allah's Messenger (sallallahu alaihi wa-sallam) said: **"A Muslim is the brother of a Muslim; he neither oppresses him nor does he fail him. Whosoever removes a worldly grief from a believer, Allah will remove from him one grief of the Day of Judgment. Whosoever shields a Muslim, Allah will shield him on the Day of Resurrection."** [Saheeh al-Bukharee]

and, **"Allah helps His slaves as long as he helps his brother."** [Saheeh Muslim] Also, visit the sick people, share their pain, encourage patience, give them hope in Allah's Mercy, etc. all these acts create closer relationship and are from Sunnah of Allah's Messenger (sallallahu alaihi wa-sallam), he (sallallahu alaihi wa-sallam) said: **"Feed the hungry, visit the sick and free the captives."** [Saheeh al-Bukharee]

#### **(d) Other Activities:**

- 1) Enroll in Classes of interests, like, gardening, sewing, cooking, computers, swimming, etc.
- 2) Read Islamic books in particular and also other informative books.
- 3) Listen to tapes, lectures by Islamic scholars.

4) Perform acts of worship, like Dhikr, voluntary prayers, reading Qur'aan, etc

5) Get involved in charity work, helping others, or use a skill or talent that you have to benefit others. Find something that you enjoy doing or something that you are very passionate about.

## TELEVISION HARMFUL TO TODDLERS

The more TV a toddler watches, the higher the likelihood they will do badly at school and have poor health at the age of 10, researchers warn.

The study of 1,300 children by Michigan and Montreal universities found negative effects on older children rose with every hour of toddler TV.

Performance at school was worse, while consumption of junk foods was higher.

The study, part of the Quebec Longitudinal Study of Child Development Main Exposure, asked parents how much TV their children watched at 29 months (two years and five months) and 53 months (four years and five months).

On average, the two-year-olds watched just under nine hours of TV per week, while for four-year-olds the average was just under 15 hours.

But 11% of the two-year-olds and 23% of four-year-olds watched more than the recommended maximum of two hours of TV a day.

When the children were revisited at the age of 10, teachers were asked to assess the children's academic performance, behaviour and health, while body mass index (BMI) was measured at 10 years old.

Higher levels of TV viewing at two was linked to a lower level of engagement in the classroom and poor achievement in maths.

Researchers also found a decrease in general physical activity but an increase in the consumption of soft drinks and in BMI (body mass index).

### **‘Common sense’**

Dr Linda Pagani, of the University of Montreal, who led the research which was published in the journal Archives of Pediatrics & Adolescent Medicine, said,

*“Early childhood is a critical period for brain development and formation of behaviour.*

*High levels of TV consumption during this period can lead to future unhealthy habits.*

*Common sense would suggest that television exposure replaces time that could be spent engaging in other developmentally enriching activities and tasks that foster cognitive, behavioural and motor development.”*

And she added,

*“Although we expected the impact of early TV viewing to disappear after seven and a half years of childhood, the fact that negative outcomes remained is quite daunting.*

*Our findings make a compelling public health argument against excessive TV viewing in early childhood.”*

The UK’s National Literacy Trust campaigns to raise awareness of how to police a toddler’s viewing.

It said that until research demonstrated that children under two might benefit from TV, parents should,

*“limit exposure and encourage other one-to-one language-enhancing activities that centre on talk at mealtime, bath time, shared reading and imaginative play”.*

### **‘Radical’**

British Psychological Society member Dr Aric Sigman has carried out his own research, which highlighted concerns over young children watching too much TV. He said,

*“My recommendation to the government five years ago, and even as recently as three years ago, that they merely issue general guidelines on the amount of TV that children watch and the age at which they start was considered radical and controversial.*

*Yet a growing body of evidence is now causing governments and health authorities elsewhere to do just that, and we need to as well.*

*This is yet another study reinforcing the need for our society to finally accept that quite aside from good or bad parenting, children’s daily screen time is a major independent health issue.”*

**Source:** BBC Health

# TOP 10 REASONS TO TURN OFF YOUR TV

Article From [www.jamiat.org.za](http://www.jamiat.org.za)

*From Mark Stibich, Ph.D., Your Guide to Longevity.*

Turning off your television will gain you, on average, about 4 hours per day. Imagine if you took that time to exercise, give your brain a workout and develop strong relationships. Not only would you be adding years to your life, you would become more interesting, energetic, and fun. So take the plunge and try not watching TV for a week. At first it will be strange and awkward, but stick with it and soon you will love all the extra time.

## **1. Television Eats Your Time**

The average U.S. adult watches more than 4 hours of television a day. That's 25 percent of waking time spent every day. Imagine if you suddenly had 25 percent more time — that's three extra months per year! You could get in all your exercise, cook your meals from scratch and still have time left over to write a novel.

Over a lifetime, an 80-year-old person would have watched 116,800 hours of television, compared to only 98,000 hours of work. As a nation, adults watch 880 million hours of television every day or 321 billion hours per year. Whew! Imagine what could get done if we all just stopped watching TV.

## **2. Television makes you stressed**

With the average of four hours a day gone, it's no wonder everyone is feeling stressed out and overwhelmed. We put aside paying bills, finishing projects, making phone calls and cleaning our homes to watch TV. We feel overwhelmed because of all the things we should be doing (exercising, spending time with family, eating right) go undone.

And when we feel overwhelmed, tired, and exhausted we don't have energy to anything but — you guessed it — watch TV. It is a dreadful cycle. So take a break from TV for a week and see what happens to your life.

## **3. Television Makes You Overweight**

Eating while distracted limits your ability to assess how much you have consumed. According to Eliot Blass at the University of Massachusetts, people eat between 31 and 74 percent more calories while watching TV.

This could add, on average, about 300 calories extra per TV meal. Now consider that at least 40 percent of families watch TV while eating dinner. It becomes clear that TV is a big part of the obesity epidemic in the U.S. and that TV, in fact, makes you gain weight.

## **4. Television Makes You Uninteresting**

Many people have whole conversations that are recaps of TV programs, sporting events and sitcoms. When asked about their real lives, there is little or nothing to report and no stories to tell (except the TV shows they have watched).

Life is too interesting and wonderful to spend your time either watching TV or recapping television to your friends. Find something interesting to do: volunteer, read, Paint — anything but watch more TV.

## **5. Television Ruins Your Relationships**

A television is turned on an average of 7 hours and 40 minutes per day in many U.S. households. With the TV on that much, there is little time for you and your significant other or children to spend time together, share experiences, and develop deeper relationships.

Sitting together and watching TV does not grow a relationship. Turn that TV off and find something to do together –cooking, exercising, taking a walk, anything.

## **6. Television is Not Relaxation**

TV is the opposite of exercise. If you are watching TV you are usually sitting, reclining or lying down. You are burning as few calories as possible. All that extra food you eat while watching TV does not get burned off. Your brain goes into a lull.

But you are not relaxing — your mind is still receiving stimuli from the TV, you are processing information and reacting emotionally. Have you ever found yourself thinking about TV characters? Do you ever dream about TV shows? These are signs that the brain is working hard to process all the TV you have been watching.

## **7. Television Loses Opportunities**

If you are sitting and watching TV, nothing new or exciting is going to happen to you. New opportunities and ideas come from being out in the world, talking to people, and reading interesting things.

Watching TV isolates you. Nothing is going to change in your world if you are watching TV. Turn off the TV, go out into the world, talk to people, and see what happens.

## **8. Television is Addictive**

Television can become addictive. Signs of TV addiction include:

- using the TV to calm down
- not being able to control your viewing
- feeling angry or disappointed in how much TV you watched
- feeling on edge if kept from watching
- feeling a loss of control while watching

If the idea of giving up TV for a week is horrifying, you may be addicted to television. Luckily, TV addiction is a habit and not a physical addiction like smoking. You should be able to control it once you are aware of the problem and make a decision to change.

## **9. Television Makes You Buy Things**

By age 65, the average American has seen 2 million commercials. Your knowledge of products and brands comes from these TV commercials. Your perception of what you need also comes from these commercials.

If you didn't know that your iPod could talk to your running shoes, you wouldn't feel like your current shoes are too low-tech. If you didn't know about vacuums that never lose suction, your current vacuum would seem fine. Our perception of need is determined by what we see. Need less by watching less TV.

## 10. Television Costs Money

A basic cable package costs \$43 per month and many packages cost much more than that. That comes to at least \$500 a year spent on TV. For that much money you could: buy a membership to every museum or zoo in your town, get a gym membership, buy a nice bicycle, invest it every year for 10 years at 10 percent interest\* and have more than \$10,000.

Sources: TvTurnOff.org; US Census Bureau

**Jamiat Comment:** There isn't much left to say except that for a Muslim home the most dangerous part about the TV is that it corrodes Islamic values. All the sex, violence, bad language and rotten attitudes of characters on TV have turned generations of innocent young children into monsters which even their parents cannot recognize. And then we ask ourselves: where did we go wrong as parents?

Added to that, the TV is without doubt *the* most powerful propaganda machine ever created by man. Want to make the masses believe in something? Show it on TV. In this way our children accept the worked ideologies of the atheists and liberals without even being consciously aware of it!

There is only one solution – Break the TV and then throw it into the garbage bin. This may seem harsh, but there is no time left for subtleties. Get rid of that Shaytaan box immediately, and feel the goodness return to your home.

\* remember that this article is not written by a Muslim, hence the mention of consuming interest. This is obviously incorrect for a Muslim, as interest is Haraam. But the principle behind what the author is saying applies to Muslims as well: save your money and invest in some Halaal way.

# THE ILL EFFECTS OF TELEVISION

Abu Mohammed Abdur-Rauf Shakir

In the name of Allah the Beneficiary, the Merciful, all praise is due to Allah. We seek his aid and ask him for guidance and ask his forgiveness. We seek refuge in Allah from the evil of ourselves and our wicked actions.

Whoever Allah guides, none can send astray and whoever Allah sends astray, none can guide. We testify that there is no God but Allah alone and that He has no partner, and I testify that Muhammed is His servant and messenger. May Allah bless him, his family and his companions.

We ask Allah, the Most High, to accept our efforts, overlook our shortcomings and cover us all with his mercy in this world and in the next.

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## **Introduction**

The great need for discussion of the Islamic perspective concerning the issue of television is clear to us all. Since television has entered the homes of people in every corner of the earth, the rich and the poor, the educated and uneducated, Muslim and non-Muslim - it has become a necessity to address the issue and explain the problems and dangers of television in a clear and concise manner for the benefit of every Muslim who is seeking to please Allah, the Most High, and earn His reward.

## **The Definition of Television**

The Encyclopaedia Britannica defines television as follows: The electrical transmission of pictures in motion and the simultaneous electrical transmission of the accompanying sounds. The Encyclopaedia International explains television as: The unique feature that distinguishes television from radio is the conversion of an image into an electrical current which is later reconverted to the original image ...

## **The Working of Television**

The equipment consists of a camera which convex the image into electrical impulses; these are transmitted by radio to a receiver which converts the impulses by means of a cathode-ray tube into a corresponding image on a screen.

## **The Image**

The illusion of motion in television is produced by showing 30 still pictures, or frames, each second. Through persistence of vision the brain retains each picture until the next comes along. We are not aware of the fact that our eyes are really seeing a rapidly changing sequence of a large number of slightly different still pictures. Each still picture consists of about 250,000 picture dots of varying brightness which appear as if painted on the screen. This process is called scanning (Encyclopaedia International). (For an interesting and comprehensive discussion of the technical functioning of Television, refer to the original book: Television and the Institution of Photography or Picture-making.)

It should at this juncture be said that the undesirability and the Islamic prohibition of this institution of television is not based solely on the stand that photography (picture-making) of animate objects is employed. Without minimizing the importance and the decisiveness of the prohibitive factor of picture-making it has to be said that a number of other evil and un-Islamic factors accompany the institution of television. It is this conglomeration of evil factors which make television illegal in Islam although, in most cases, each single one of these factors is sufficient to secure the verdict of illegality of TV. Insha'Allah (God Willing), we shall outline these asbabul hurmat (prohibited factors) of television in the ensuing pages.

## **Picture-Making: The Mother of Television**

Photography which is merely a method of picture-making is the actual basis of TV. Without the institution of photography television is not possible. Whether shows are "live" or otherwise, the institution of photography is employed. Now, according to the Law of Islam picture-making of animate objects is severely criticized and banned.

## **Music and Television**

We can consider music as an integral part of television programs. No TV show is complete without music. Islam has forbidden music in no unambiguous terms (For further details and full discussion of the evidences concerning the prohibition of Music in Islam, refer to: *The Islamic Ruling of Music and Singing*, by Abu Bilal Mustafah al-Kanadi). For the purposes of the present subject it will suffice to state that Islam categorically forbids all types of music. Music in Islam is regarded as a kabirah (great) sin. With regard to music our Prophet, may the prayers and blessings of Allah be upon him, said:

**"There will be men from among my ummah (Nation) who will consume alcohol, giving it another name (so as to deceive themselves and others). Singing girls and musical instruments will be playing to them. Allah, the Most High, will cause the earth to swallow them. Allah will transform them into apes and swine."** (Ibn Majah, *al-Bayhaqî* 10/221, no. 20989. Shaykh al-Albanî declared it to be authentic in *Silsilat Sahîhah* 1/136-139, no. 90)

It is reported from Abdullah ibn Mas'ûd, may Allah be pleased with him: "Music sows hypocrisy in the heart like water causes seeds to grow in

soil." (Ad-Durrul-Manthûr, by Imam as-Suyootee 5/307-308, in his explanation of verse 31:6 of the Qur'an)

Allah says in the Qur'an:

**"And when they (the believers) hear idle talk they turn away from it saying: 'We have our deeds and you have yours. Peace be upon you! We have no desire for the ignorant.' "** (Al-Qur'an 28:55)

## **The Female Voice**

The female voice, according to Islam, is also included in the category of satar, i.e. it has to be 'concealed' and not 'revealed'. Since the female voice is an entity not to be displayed or advertised, it is not permissible for males to listen to women singing or even reciting the Qur'an ...

When necessity demands that they have to speak to males then their speech should not be attractive, gentle and alluring like the deliberate allure put in speech by trained women of the disbelievers. Recognizing the danger of allurements in the female voice, the Qur'an commands women thus:

**"If you fear Allah, be not soft of speech, lest he in whose heart is a disease aspire to you, but speak honourably."** (Al-Qur'an 33:32)

Van de Velde in his book *Ideal Marriage*, states: "The tone-colour of a voice, and the intonation of a single word -- and it may be a word of no special meaning or association in itself - may excite incredible intensity of desire. The unique and precious significance that a woman's voice can give to to "you" can suffice to overwhelm man's power of endurance and control ... "

Islam has, hence, forbidden its women to speak in a soft or "sexually" sweet tone. If anyone is aware of the springs of sex-psychology he will clearly see the justification for Islam having restriction in this matter.

Islam commands the concealment of the female voice and prohibits its display in public but television demands the contrary. Great use is made of the female voice on TV to advertise, to allure, to excite lust and female singing with the accompaniment of music is most popular ...

The importance of television programs, like the importance of all the mass media of the disbelievers, hinges on maximum exhibition of the female body and the female voice which have been subverted by the bestial culture of the unbelievers, to pamper the inordinate sexual desires of men who have no belief of Allah in them - of men who have no fear of Allah left in them.

### **Serials, Romances and Stories on Television**

What is the attitude of Islam to fiction, novels and romantic stories? Allah, the Most High, says in the Qur'an:

**"And of mankind there are some who buy idle tales without knowledge, to mislead people from the path of Allah, and take it in jest. For such there is a humiliating torment. And when Our signs are recited to him he turns away in pride as if he hears them not, as if there were a deafness in his ears. So give him good news of a painful torment." (Al-Qur'an 31:6-7)**

These verses of the Qur'an were revealed to prohibit, according to the mufassirîn (those who explain the Qur'an) and Jurists, music and the stories of romances imported from Persia. Since these things divert man's attention from the remembrance of Allah and transport one into the realm of illusion and imagination the Qur'an outlaws them. Islam strongly discourages fiction and encourages one to live in reality and not an illusion which has the tendency to make one negligent and forgetful of the prime purpose of man's creation which is to gain Allah's Pleasure by fixing the gaze on the akhirat (Hereafter) and not on the TV screen. Islam,

therefore forbids the wasting of time in listening to idle tales and fiction or false stories.

## **Nudity, Immorality and Television**

The most glaring evil propagated by the television media of the world is the crime of nudity and sexual immorality. Commercialized nudity and sexual immorality under the camouflage of "educational" pictures are accepted and necessary features of world television. The Western world is haunted by the obsession of illicit sex, and it is this carnal obsession of illicit sex coupled with the unbeliever's god of materialism which makes capital of the female body on TV as well as all other mass media.

The Islamic concept of morality and modesty is the very antithesis of the immorality and passivity dished out to the world via TV. Islam demands the concealment of the female body. The Messenger of Allah, may the prayers and blessings of Allah be upon him, said:

**"A woman is an object of concealment."** (At-Tirmidhî. It was declared authentic by Shaykh al-Albanî in Sahîh Sunan at-Tirmidhî 1/343 no. 1189)

TV is an institution which is widely used to exhibit the female body. Islam has banned all forms of immorality and immodesty, but TV exhibits immodesty and immorality in their crudest forms by depicting the actual sex acts and, above all, it audaciously and shamelessly passes these off as "educational". Television as a prime agent of immorality is very well known ...

The Messenger of Allah, may the prayers and blessings of Allah be upon him, said: **"Shamelessness (immodesty) is vice, and vice will be in the fire."** (Muslim 4/1375, no. 6309)

## Television as an Agent of Zina' (Fornication)

Allah, the Most High, says in the Qur'an: **"Keep away from zina', for it is an indecent thing and an evil way."** (Al-Qur'an 17:32)

The terms, keep away, mean: stay away from all such things and practice: which lead to zina' - which are stepping-stones to fornication.

All practices, things and institutions which aid and foster fornication and immodesty are forbidden by Islam. There are different categories of this abominable crime of zina'. The Messenger of Allah, may the prayers and blessings of Allah be upon him, said:

**"The zina' of the eyes is the gaze (at that which is unlawful, e.g. nudity); the zina' of the ears is to listen (to talks of nudity which excites the carnal desired); the zina' of the tongue is to speak (what is evil); the zina' of the hand is to touch (the female which is unlawful to you); the zina' of the feet is to walk (towards immorality); the zina' of the heart is to desire (what is unlawful), and it is the private parts which either commits or shuns the actual act of fornication."** (Muslim 4/1397 no. 6421, 6422)

In this statement, the Messenger of Allah, may the prayers and blessings of Allah be upon him, speaks of the zina' committed by the various parts of the human body. Thus, to look at the nudity and evil portrayed on the television screen constitutes the zina' of the eyes. To listen to the immodest and illicit sex elks of the television is zina' of the ears. Lust which is loused by the display, discussion of nudity and passivity and perversion on the TV screen constitutes the zina' of the heart.

Television, therefore, is without any doubt a powerful agent and a stepping-stone for fornication...

We find today the whole family - father, mother, sons and daughters - sitting huddled together around the TV screen. Together, in a display of

stark shamelessness, the whole family is committing zina' of the eyes, zina' of the ears and zina' of the heart, and Allah alone knows how many multitudes of men and women indulged in the final act of fornication as a result of watching and being aroused by the evil on the TV screen ...

Islam lays great emphasis on modesty, so much so, that our Prophet, may the prayers and blessings of Allah be upon him, said:

**"Modesty is a part of îman (faith)." (At-Tirmidhî. It was declared authentic by Shaykh al-Albanî in Sahîh Sunan at-Tirmidhî, 2/195, no. 2094 (1634))**

But TV with its emphasis on illicit, depraved and bestial immorality is the very negation of the Islamic concept of modesty and shame. Mother, father and children together viewing the zina' -- the fornication and vice on the TV screen. What is now left of humanity? May Allah, the Most High, protect us and our children from the filth and depravity of the Western world sunk in perversion and immorality.

Allah, the Most High, says: **"This day We seal up their mouths, and their hands speak out; and their feet bear witness as to what they used to earn."** (Al-Qur'an 36:65)

## **TV in Stride - Terror of Copy Rapes**

The horror of a TV rape came true for two women. They were attacked only days after the screening of a documentary "Cry Rape" on British TV.

The maniac who broke into their homes at Reading, Berkshire, acted just like the TV rapist.

He struck by day, threatening his victims with a knife. He robbed them and stacked his loot in a neat pile ready for a quick getaway. The police chief leading the hunt for the rapist said: "He may have seen this program. It could have stimulated these attacks." Now police may ask ITV for a

private screening of the film to seek possible new clues. (Sunday Times, 8th February, 1976)

## **Television and Crime in General**

Television besides being a powerful agent of immorality, generally fosters various types of crime. Violence, aggression, robberies, murder, etc., are crimes which the young readily learn from TV shows. Much of the delinquency and youth crimes being perpetrated in the Western world could be traced to the TV.

In an article entitled: TV Shows Blamed For Crimes. Los Angeles judge, Mark Bridler, blasted a TV crime show recently as the cause of a "seven-hour nightmare" in which two teenagers taped shotguns to the heads of hostages and extracted a huge ransom from a Californian bank.

## **Television Encourages Acceptance of Aggression**

The regular and continuous shows of violence and aggression slowly, but most certainly, claim their victims. Viewers are 'brain-washed' by the perpetual scenes of violence to such an extent that violence and aggressiveness becomes accepted as a mode of behaviour.

## **Television Encourages Imitation of Crime**

Research has established that TV exercises a very strong influence on the minds of people causing them to imitate and enact the crime shown on the TV screen. Dr. Robert Liebert, a child psychologist who was a leading researcher in the United States Surgeon General's investigation into TV and social behaviour, says: Violence on home screens encourages 'an acceptance of aggression as a mode of behaviour...Perfectly normal

children will imitate anti-social behaviour they see on television, not out of malice, but curiosity ... in showing displays of violence and criminal acts, the media is 'teaching', people are 'learning', he says.

## **The Brainwashing Action of Television**

Television is here and its biggest fans are children. Overnight they've become instant pundits, immediately recognizing personalities who are still just faces to the rest of us.

It's the kids who grab the TV guide and plot their viewing with military precision; the kids who know every cop and cowboy and exactly why it could not have been the butler who did it.

Will reading become a forgotten art only necessary to decipher the basic English of the TV guide or the secret message flashed on the screen by Agent X who has seconds to read the scrawl before it self-destructs? Researchers have established that the young minds of children are readily susceptible to being brainwashed by TV. In America organizations have been formed in scores of cities in order to fight the evil effect of TV on children. The President of the Organization , Action For Children's Television, a Boston-based parents' organization with branches in 60 cities says:

"At present from Monday to Friday, children are subjected to 16 minutes of commercials an hour, and 12 minutes an hour on weekends."

"Television advertisers in America are pouring unprecedented millions of dollars into the child slots for the autumn season, despite a storm of public indignation over 'brainwashing' on children's shows."

## **Television Stunts Intellectual Growth**

An eminent American elocutionist, Professor Lowell Little, claims that TV raises ignorant students. At an education seminar in Florida he said:

"Today's youth are so used to plopping down in front of a television set and not having to put their brains to work that when they come to sit in a classroom of a university all they are capable of doing is day-dreaming and vacantly watching the clock.

"As the first generation of youngsters all but raised on television has now reached college age it is abundantly clear that the boob tube (i.e. television) has destroyed any curiosity they may ever have had.

"Their level of communication is just at the sixth grade level.

"The television has more influence on them than parents, teachers or clergy - and that is a disgrace.

"If I get through to four students out of 30 and arouse their interest that's the best I can expect."

## **The Addictive Influence of Television**

The addictive influence of TV over its viewers is a serious malady which has reached alarming proportions. Viewers become so addicted to TV that it becomes most difficult for most viewers to live without TV. Research in this field of the 'addictive influence of TV' has established that if these who are addicted to TV are deprived of television they become increasingly nervous, short-tempered and unhappy.

In an article captioned: Millions Addicted To The Box, the Eastern Province Herald of the 23rd October, 1975, reports:

"Television's addictive grip was emphasized some months before when three socially varied 'guinea pig' families agreed to try a switch-off for a

month. The lowest income family could stand the deprivation only a week; the other two lasted for four weeks, hating every minute of it. They said they felt as if they had lost a friend, were depressed and thought their work was suffering too.

"In an earlier psychological experiment 182 West Germans volunteered to try to give up television for a year, with the inducement of payment as long as they kept off. One brave family stood the strain for nearly six months - till they wanted to watch a crime serial. The first volunteer, a bachelor; failed after three weeks. Others became increasingly nervous, short-tempered and unhappy ... "

Television diverts man's attention from the remembrance of Allah the most High - The Prophet, may the prayers and blessings of Allah be upon him, said:

**"Every sport or amusement that a Muslim occupies himself with is batil (baseless, null and not permissible) - except three: (the three types beings his practicing with your bow (and arrow); his training horse and his playing with his family."** (Ibn Majah. It was declared authentic by Shaykh al-Albanî in Sahîh Sunan Ibn Majah 2/132. no. 2267 [2811]. See also Silsilah Sahîhah 1/562, no. 315)

Allah, the Most High, says in the Qur'an:

**"The life of the world is nothing but a pastime and a play. The Hereafter is better for those who fear [Allah]. Have you no sense?"** (Al-Qur'an 6:32)

The above stated statement and verse of the Qur'an, as well as many others of the Qur'an and ahadîth (statements of the final Messenger) make it quite clear that Islam does not tolerate futility, idle sport or amusement. This is so because amusement and entertainment divert one's attention from the Remembrance of Allah, the Most High. It also interferes with one's worship causing neglect of salat (in general) and the congregational prayers (particularly for the men). Amusement and entertainment which

Islam describes as Lawh, it makes a person indolent, negligent and irresponsible. Hence, we find the Messenger of Allah may the prayers and blessings of Allah be upon him, condemning very strongly even such play as chess and backgammon, etc., in the following statement:

**"Whosoever plays with chess and backgammon is like one who has dyed his hands with the flesh and blood of swine."** (Muslim 4/1222 no. 5612)

Research on Television has shown ...

Research studies on the effects and influence of television on society has shown:

- That the average American child stares at more than 11,000 murders on television by the age of 14.
- That most American children spend more time before a set than with their teacher in any one year.
- That in a national survey many young viewers claimed to watch television for up to 46 hours a week.
- That Television takes one away from reality.
- That TV has created a vast tribe of mini-stars, pop-idols, schmaltzy gurus, talking-heads, telegogues and cardboard 'personalities' whose only achievement is to be on the box.
- That TV causes lethargy in children.
- That Television is responsible for the falling standard of literacy.
- That millions of dollars are spent by advertisers to 'brainwash' children by means of television to increase demand for consumer goods.

- That Television makes viewers insensitive to violence Numerated by others.
- That public apathy and failure to respond to a victim's cries for help is blamed on Television.
- That Television is detrimental to the physical and mental health of children ...

### What They Say About Television

"The Church of England General Synod, in a report to a Government appointed committee deploras scenes of heavy drinking, chain smoking and casual use of obscene language and blasphemous language on TV." (Eastern Province Herald, 23rd October, 1975)

The psychiatrists, Dr. William Tompkins of the George Washington School of Medicine, and Dr. Paul Fink of the East Virginia Medical School, have been engaged in intensive research into the effect on people if television advertising. They say that TV commercials "encourage belief in mysticism by making viewers believe they can get what they want almost by magic."

Dr. Tompkins says: "Television advertising gets us to accept nonsense and leads us to go looking for a fantasy world. "

"...the FCC (Federal Communications Commission) was ticked of by the House and Senate Appropriation Committee and told to report on fresh measures to curb video violence or face 'punitive action' . "

Mr. Tindall, Director of the Audio-visual Center of Sydney Teachers' College said: "Children were learning that violence is not only rampant but frequently justified."

"For years, people had been saying the good thing about TV was that it brought news to the living room. But the survey indicated that few children, if given the option, watched the news or current affairs."

"An almost unbelievable avalanche of sex, perversion, pornography, blue films, sadism, masochism, bestiality, murder, rape and brutality has flooded into the public view through the modern 'boob tube' of television, or the movies and lurid novels."

"In British television, almost unbelievable references to lewdness, perverted sex and depravity are as open and unabashed as news reports." (Tomorrow's World, August 1971)

## **Television and Time**

Television undoubtedly dominates the free time or leisure of millions who have become addicted to it. Hours of precious time are daily squandered in the presence of the TV set. This malady of wasting hours daily doing 'justice to the TV screen' is so serious that even necessary and important work and activities are neglected, especially when the TV program or serial clashes with the time when a particular work has to be done. The Eastern Province Herald dated 23rd October 1975, states in a report:

"Britons spend more time with television than with radio, books, theatre and newspaper combined."

"The average person watches television nine hours and six minutes a week in winter and seven hours 42 minutes in summer but these estimates seem conservative."

"Three-quarters of homes in one British Midlands industrial area found to have the 'telly' on the entire evening every day and in one national survey many young viewers claimed to watch for up to 46 hours a week."

"When early in 1974 the Government put 10:30p.m. curfew on television to save electricity for several weeks the outcries were loud and long."

A recent survey conducted by the Audio-visual Centre of Sydney Teachers' College (Australia) revealed that the average child watched over

21 hours of TV a week. Mr. Tindall, Director of the Centre asked: "What does TV offer the child in exchange for about 1,100 hours of almost undivided attention each year?"

Time in Islam is of great importance. So important indeed is time that Almighty Allah in the Qur'an takes an Oath by Time, and says: "Wal-Asri" - By the Token of Time.

A Muslim is not permitted to waste time, even more so when the wasting of time is a result of an institution portraying vice and evil, and when the wasting of time on a practice or 'past-time' involves interference or neglect with ones duties to Allah and man. The addictive grip of television over its viewers is so powerful that the viewer becomes a helpless victim wasting sacred hours glued to the TV screen, thus neglecting his salat, his family duties and his social duties. The student, undoubtedly neglects his studies and learning. In a survey, teachers have said that a direct link exists between television and the failing standard of literacy, particularly among lethargic children continually sitting up late in front of the "goggle box".

**"By Time! Man is indeed in loss! Except those who believe and do good works, and exhort one another to truth, and exhort one another to patience." (Al-Qur'an 103)**

Should anyone be watching television?