

THE EVIL EFFECTS OF  
**PORNOGRAPHY**  
**FORNICATION**  
**& ADULTERY**  
ON THE FAMILY AND SOCIETY

فطر مشاهدة الأفلام الإباحية



PORNOGRAPHY IS A GATEWAY TO  
FORNICATION, MARITAL INFIDELITY,  
SEXUAL DEPRAVITY AND  
DEPRESSION.

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*In the name of Allah, Most Merciful, the Bestower of Mercy.*

## **SEXUAL MORALITY IN LIGHT OF THE QUR'AN AND SUNNAH**

All praise is due to Allah, Lord of all creation, and may the peace and blessings of Allah be upon our Prophet Muhammad, his family and all his Companions.

Islam forbids fornication, and Allah تَبَارَكَ وَتَعَالَى stated in the Qur'an: **“Do not go near unlawful sexual intercourse (*zinā*). Indeed, it is an abomination and an evil way.”**<sup>1</sup> This verse proves that not only is fornication prohibited, but also behaviours that lead people to fornicate are not permitted. The Prophet صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ informed his followers that if a man is secluded with a woman, the devil would be the third, tempting them to sin. Fornication is a major sin and an act of disobedience to Allah for which a person is threatened with punishment in the grave and the Hereafter.

Muslim parents are required to explain to their children the importance of permissible (*halāl*) relationships, that Allah is pleased with marriage and displeased with immoral and lewd behaviour—that courtship and sex before marriage is *harām* (forbidden).

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<sup>1</sup>. Qur'an, Al-Isrā 17:32.

There is no allowance in the Muslim religion for boyfriend and girlfriend relationships commonplace in Western societies. This type of courtship is not allowed because it leads to temptation and eventually fornication. Practising Muslims strongly disapprove of anything that encourages or leads to pre-marital sex between people, including contraception prescriptions to teenagers and unmarried people. In Western societies, many people choose to live together rather than get married—Islam forbids these types of relationships.

Adultery is viewed as something even more severe than pre-marital sex because the married person already has a partner who can satisfy their natural desires. The adulterer breaks the trust of loyalty that Allah has commanded in the Qur'an and has shown a complete lack of respect for their spouse. Illicit relationships lead to numerous harms to the individual, the family and society. Some of the evil effects of fornication and adultery are the following:

- Disobedience to Allah, who has wisely legislated marriage and prohibited the pathways to fornication.
- A blatant disregard for family values.
- A lack of commitment and respect for a religious and social contract that makes intimate relations *halāl*.

- Disrespect and abuse of women who are used and discarded—maintenance rights are denied to them, and they are left abandoned as single mothers.
- Many children grow up not knowing their fathers—so they suffer mental torment feeling unwanted, which in turn leads to underachievement, despondency and a greater likelihood of criminal behaviour.
- Disregard for life: millions of babies are terminated before birth through legalised abortion.
- Increased risk of violence and abuse against women and children who are left without the protection of a steadfast husband and devoted father that a true marriage offers.
- The breakdown of family structures and communities because the mother befriends a series of different men having children with them out of wedlock.
- The loss of traceable lineage and parental lines leading to loss of identity and anchor for children and families.

So, loose sexual morals, pornography, pre-marital sex and adultery all lead to the exploitation of women and young people as well as the breakdown of families and discord in society. Allah تَبَارَكَ وَتَعَالَى stated:

**“Lawful to you in marriage are chaste women from the believers and chaste women from those who were given the scripture before your time—and when you**

have given their dowry [at the time of marriage] desiring chastity and not fornication nor taking them as girlfriends.”<sup>2</sup> The Prophet ﷺ said: “Allah fixed the precise portion of fornication which a man will indulge in, there is to be no escape from it: the fornication of the eye is the lustful look, the fornication of the ears is listening to immoral speech, the fornication of the tongue is talking lewdly, the fornication of the hand is the lustful grip, the fornication of the feet is to walk to where he intends to commit fornication—and the heart yearns and desires for what he may or may not put into effect.”<sup>3</sup> The Messenger of Allah ﷺ asked his Companions about fornication, and they said, “It is unlawful. Allah and His Messenger have made it unlawful.” Then he said, “It is less serious for a man to fornicate with ten women than for him to fornicate with his neighbour’s wife.”<sup>4</sup>

A person can repent from fornication, and Allah accepts their repentance because He is the Oft-Forgiving, Most Merciful. A woman confessed to adultery in the time of Allah’s Messenger ﷺ, and

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<sup>2</sup>. Qur'an, Al-Mā'idah 5:5.

<sup>3</sup>. Sahīh Muslim, no. 2658.

<sup>4</sup>. *Al-Adab Al-Mufrad* of Al-Bukhārī no. 103, authentic.

she was punished. Afterwards, he prayed for her. The Companion, ‘Umar رَضِيَ اللهُ عَنْهُ said: **“Are you praying for her even though she committed adultery?”** He said: **“She has repented such that if it were to be shared among seventy of the people of Madinah, it would suffice them all. Have you ever seen repentance better than the one who sacrificed herself for the sake of Allah, the Mighty and Sublime?”**<sup>5</sup> Even if a person is not punished in this world, Allah will still forgive the repentant sinner who feels remorse, sincerely seeks forgiveness and resolves not to return to disobedience.

From the negative effects of the growth of the internet and social media is the dramatic rise in the production and viewing of online pornography. Pornography in every form is strictly forbidden in Islam. An article from the *Reward Foundation* entitled, *Common Sense about the Effects of Pornography*, stated: **“Over time, constant binging and seeking that dopamine reward hit can lead to a deep habit that is hard to kick or cause ‘pathological’ learning in the form of addiction.”** This means that the porn addict craves this behaviour despite its negative consequences. The porn-addict experiences negative

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<sup>5</sup>. An-Nasā’i no. 1957, authentic.

feelings when he misses the habit, such as depression or feeling low—this drives him back to pornography, again and again, to try and restore feelings of pleasure. Consuming pornography tends to make people more prone to seeking new relationships and are more likely to become promiscuous and seek illicit and non-conventional sexual gratification such as prostitution, group sex, rape (acting or real) and so on. Research shows that consuming pornography correlates with a lack of commitment to one's wife and family.

In a study of university-age males, difficulties with social functioning increased as pornography consumption rose—this applies to psycho-social problems such as depression, anxiety, stress and reduced social functioning. The research also reported a strong link between high levels of pornography consumption and low sexual desire [for one's wife, for example].<sup>6</sup> Dr David J. Ley stated: **“When we hear people talk about starting with one form of pornography, like Playboy Magazine, and ending up later looking at some extreme forms of porn like rape porn or bestiality, it makes common sense for us to worry that porn could have a tolerance effect, that might lead people to pursue harder and harder forms of it, in order to reach the same level of**

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<sup>6</sup>. Source: psychologytoday.com

**stimulation. That need for greater stimulation could also make it so that men can't get erect with real women, but only when faced by their fantasy images. If that slippery slope of porn tolerance might lead men to watch extreme porn like rape porn, then might it not lead them to act on those desires?"**<sup>7</sup>

So, a true believer, man or woman, must resist the temptation to fornicate or fall into the traps of Shaitān that lead them to this major sin. Allah rewards immensely those who resist these temptations. From the people who will be shaded by Allah تَبَارَكَ وَتَعَالَى on the Day of Judgement is a man who a woman invites to fornicate with her, but he refuses, saying, **“Verily, I fear Allah.”**<sup>8</sup> And this is no ordinary woman as the Prophet صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ stated—rather, she is of high birth, and Allah gave her such beauty that it is difficult for a man to resist her or ignore her appeal—even so, the believer refuses to fornicate. Allah, the Most High, has said regarding the likes of this conduct, **“But as for him who feared standing before his Lord, and restrained himself from impure desires and lusts, then verily,**

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<sup>7</sup>. Mental Effects of Porn, [rewardfoundation.org/porn-health/mental-effects-of-porn/](http://rewardfoundation.org/porn-health/mental-effects-of-porn/)

<sup>8</sup>. Al-Bukhāri no. 1423, Muslim no. 1031.



**Paradise will be his abode.”<sup>9</sup> Allah’s Messenger ﷺ told his Companions the story of three men who supplicated to Allah to be released from being trapped in a cave. One of them called upon Allah, saying, “O Allah, you know that I was in love with a cousin of mine with the deepest love a man can have for a woman—she told me that she would not sleep with me unless I paid her one hundred gold coins. So, I struggled until I gathered the desired amount—and when I sat between her legs, she told me to fear Allah and not lie with her except by the right of marriage. So, I got up and left her. O Allah, if you see that I did this deed for your sake, then remove this rock.’ So two-thirds of the rock moved from the mouth of the cave.”<sup>10</sup> This hadīth contains glad-tidings for the believers because it proves that Allah rewards people for not sinning, and He helps them out of their hardships. No doubt, looking at what is forbidden leads to that which will inevitably end in regret. For this reason, Allah stated, “**Say to the believing men to lower their gazes and to guard their chastity for that is purer for them. Indeed, Allah is all-aware of what they do. And tell the believing****

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<sup>9</sup>. An-Nāzi’āt 79:40-41.

<sup>10</sup>. Al-Bukhāri no. 2215, Muslim no. 2743.

**women to lower their gazes and to guard their chastity.”<sup>11</sup>**

And if you can get married, you should not delay. Marriage is a legal union between a man and a woman without which they cannot be alone together. The Prophet ﷺ considered marriage to be from his Sunnah, and he added, **“whoever turns away from my Sunnah is not from me.”** In another narration, he said: “O young men, those of you who can support a wife should marry, for marriage controls the gaze and protects the private parts from prohibited acts. And if one is unable to marry, he should fast for it is a shield.”<sup>12</sup> So when a person marries, Allāh suffices him and enriches him by way of his wife—he does not look at other women. And looking at other women is prohibited regardless—and what leads a person to look in most cases is being unmarried. If a person gets married, then Allāh عزوجل suffices him, and he will not look at impermissible things. So, a person who has strong lusts gets married, then that is protection from immoral acts due to him doing that which Allāh has permitted for him with his wife. So, in marriage, there is a safeguard for the man and woman. And this in itself is

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<sup>11</sup>. An-Nūr: 30-31.

<sup>12</sup>. Al-Bukhāri no. 1905, Muslim no. 1400.

a tremendous benefit. For this reason, the Prophet ﷺ said about marriage, **“Indeed it controls the gaze and protects the private parts from prohibited acts.”**<sup>13</sup>

In this short article, you have read about the great dangers associated with immoral sexual behaviour.

—Authored by Abu Khadeejah’ Abdul-Wāhid for Salafi Publications. Please listen to [salafiradio.com](http://salafiradio.com) for daily classes and [salafisounds.com](http://salafisounds.com) for past recordings. Visit [abukhadeejah.com](http://abukhadeejah.com) for articles on various Islamic subjects.

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<sup>13</sup>. See *Tas-hīl al-Ilmām bi-fiqh al-Ahādīth min Bulūghil-Marām* of Shaikh Sālih Al-Fawzān, 4/304.