

SOCIAL ALERT

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Common issues affecting our community

ARE YOU SLIPPING IN THE CYBER-SILTH ?

Cyber technology has brought to the fore quick access and dispensation of information to ordinary people. Easy access has brought about a proliferation of messages, chats, email, tweets, etc. being exchanges between individuals and groups.

Sadly, much of this many half-truths, untruths, false information, lies, ethnic jokes, immoral content and a huge amount of character assassination and deception that causes harm and offence to others.

With the ease of the press of a button a person can wreak devastation and harm in families and communities. By promoting malicious and unfounded information, the honour and integrity of a Muslim is dented and damaged.

The importance of verifying information before dissemination and the harms of spreading false rumours and causing hurt to others has been clearly sounded in the Hadith. Nabi (sallallahu 'alayhi wa sallam) said, "It is enough for a man to prove himself a liar when he goes on narrating whatever he hears." (Sahih Muslim)

By pointing to and promoting an evil, one is included in the collective sin and harm of that evil deed.

Today, Muslim blood and honour is being desecrated and decimated by people through cyber communication.

Very little or no verification takes place and people hastily formulate opinions and pass judgement on fellow Muslims, family members, Ulama and Muslim organisations.

This is indeed a serious violation and one that potentially leads to many other spiritual ills that eventually erode all the good actions of a believer. Can we afford to lose our good deeds when people will cling onto every good deed on the Day of Qiyamah? May Allah protect one and all.

A Muslim should be vigilant and cautious in his communications and make a concerted effort to avoid hurting, blaspheming and maligning and slandering others.

Accordingly one should ensure the following:

1. Ignore and delete messages that are vulgar, immoral, abusive to others and unislamic. Keep your slate clean.
2. Verify information regarding others before forwarding it to others. Interrogate the source and request proof and evidence before using the information.
3. If possible advise the sender who may be unwary of the importance of verification and of being truthful.
4. Use technology for positive purposes and shun all uses that will render accountability in the Hereafter.

Remember, the verse of the Quran "Every spoken word is record in a register" Surah....

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