

## HOW DO WE SAFEGUARD OUR YOUTH?

The challenge for parents and teachers is how do we safeguard our next generation from this trial of faith? We should adopt a practical approach in helping them to stay safe from such dangers. A few points are mentioned hereunder:

- Keep our youth connected with Ulama, and encourage them to seek guidance from and consult with them so that their doubts and concerns are addressed.
- Parents should befriend their children and listen to them attentively. Demonstrate love and affection and consult them in your own matters - show interest in their discussions.
- Make them aware of the dangers of following social media in religious matters and guide them to seek their guidance from authentic sources.
- Strictly supervise the use of smartphones and time spent online.
- Teach them constructive use of the internet - alert them to the value of time.
- Keep the environment of learning Islam alive and discuss it at home with the family.
- Children should be given sound Islamic education along with academic education.
- Regulate your own use of the phone in front of your children. Show discipline.

The greatest success is to preserve the gift of Iman and present it to Allah Ta'ala intact. Therefore, it is our duty to protect our youth and our future progenies from those seeking to corrupt our faith.

*May Allah Ta'ala grant protection to the entire Ummah. Aameen.*



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## ! ATHEISM !

## HOW MUSLIM YOUTH ARE INFLUENCED

*An important message to parents adapted from the writings of Mufti Muhammad Taqi Usmani (hafizahullah) who expresses his concern for the youth of this Ummah*

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For a Muslim, to have offspring is not only a worldly bounty, but also an investment for perpetual rewards in the hereafter, so long as they have true faith and Imaan.

In the current era of easy accessibility to social media, there is a concerted agenda driving our new generation towards atheism. Parents who give unsupervised internet access to their children without setting any limits, should take special heed.

### ATHEISM IS ON THE RISE

Parents must take heed. It should not be that your child is exposed to atheism, and that you are oblivious of it. Regrettably, through social media platforms, atheism is on the rise. The numbers are alarming. Youth in their teens, especially between the ages of 15 and 25 are being actively targeted and are easily falling prey to this trap. Ulama are witnessing cases on a daily basis.

### ISLAM IS RISING FAST

Undoubtedly, Islam is rising fast and spreading rapidly throughout the world. The opponents of Islam are unhappy about this, especially when they see the beauty of Islam and the Sunnah of Nabi ﷺ in the lives of new Muslims. This creates even more curiosity and reversions to Islam. Efforts to drive people away from Islam have failed to a great extent. However, new avenues have been found to enter the homes and hearts of Muslims through social media.

### PROMOTING ATHEISM THROUGH MEDIA

There are thousands of accounts that exist on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram which have

been established specially to deny the existence of Allah Ta'ala. These initiatives are based purely on scientific proofs. On these portals, the authors openly ridicule Islamic laws, ridicule the Sunnah and denigrate various aspects of the blessed life of Nabi ﷺ.

### FICTITIOUS ACCOUNTS

Then you will find social media accounts and pages run by Jews, Christians and atheists fictitiously under Muslim identity. Their strategy is to subtly infiltrate the mind and influence the thinking. At first no objections are raised against Islam. Only those injunctions are selected and discussed which correspond with scientific findings. Islamic laws are classified as praiseworthy only if they can be proven scientifically. In this way they create a sense of trust and confidence in the reader without any apparent concern. The general thrust of their argument is to convince people to accept only that which is proven scientifically.

### ATTRIBUTING EVERYTHING TO SCIENCE

Once the thinking and mind-set is brought in line with logic and science, then aspects of belief that are beyond the grasp of science and are linked to *ilmul ghayb* (the realm of the unseen) are presented. Topics of this nature which include the existence of Allah Ta'ala, Wahi (divine revelation), Me'raj (physical ascension to the heavens by Nabi ﷺ), paradise, hell, etc. are brought to interrogate the young mind. Since the mind has been conditioned and is adapted to think and examine everything scientifically and logically, the mind accepts the argument. This then leads the person to doubt the fundamental beliefs of Islam.

### EXAMPLES OF TARGET TOPICS

By way of example the following topics are targeted:

- Slavery in Islam
- Gender equality
- Nabi's ﷺ marriages/ slaves/ concubines
- Ayesha's (RA) age of marriage

For a true believer, there are no objections about these points, but for Muslims influenced by modernism and social media, it creates confusion in their minds. The problem is compounded by the lack of association with learned Ulama who could guide them and clear these doubts. To allay their state of confusion, these youths then resort to Google searches and other social media platforms for answers. This is where modernist and atheist elements await them to further capture their minds. This is where the survival of Iman becomes critical.

### DISTORTED VIEWS ON ISLAM ARE PRESENTED

Furthermore, other important aspects of Islam like Hajj, Qurbani, Nikah and inheritance are argued. Views, analysis, opinions and edicts are presented with a distorted view, creating the impression that Islam is as a self-invented religion which is orthodox, irrelevant to modern times and has no credence in society. The ultimate result of this is *kufr* (disbelief/atheism). Now this opens the way to the next level of refutation, i.e. openly challenging and criticising Islam, ridiculing the Prophet ﷺ and denying the existence of Allah Ta'ala. With this aggressive agenda, Muslim youth subtly become entangled in this trial of faith and can be easily influenced and deviated.