

Lottery ads such as this mock the virtues of study & work while building an expectation that almost never materializes. With govt hooked on lottery money, they have no choice but to continue to bombard their citizens, especially the most vulnerable ones, with a message at odds with the ethic of work, sacrifice & moral responsibility. Lotteries also are exempt from truth-in-advertising standards. Thus they are free to make outlandish claims. Consider this example of a lottery ad that is morally offensive, imploring citizens to “get even luckier than you did on the Christmas Eve party night.” **They peddle false hope.** They persuade citizens that with a little luck they can escape the world of work to which only misfortune consigns them.

Although Internet gambling is technically illegal, there are many sites in operation which allow you to bet from the comfort of your own room. Experts tell us that gambling addiction is related to several factors, chief among these being **easy access to gambling & the speed of the games. Internet gambling is a lethal combination of these factors.** Gambling is destructive of every good habit. It bids adieu to all the virtues. It stagnates the just & honourable affections of the soul. It quenches religious feeling. Religion in all its ennobling commands & blessed promises, are nothing to the one who is the victim of this accursed vice. Spouse, children, parents, are ruthlessly sacrificed on the altar of this destructive demon. Such a person is deaf to every plea of pity or mercy. Their hearts are consumed by this fire of play, until every noble impulse & generous emotion, & conscientious dictate are burnt to ashes. Such is its end.

But its beginning is not so. Its front is a palace, splendid with the lineaments of architecture. A balmy air floats through each room. Sweet music echoes in the halls. Rich carpets yield softly. The walls are beautified with pictures. The newcomer sees nothing to offend his modesty or refinement. But beyond this lies the room of wretchedness, in which the gambler ends his days. Look at that table, where paleness & dejection sit on the countenances of some; horrible perturbation is stamped on the brow of others; fearful blasphemies & oaths are heard on all sides; quarrels, curses, cries of agony, the laugh of exultation, the grin of approaching idiocy, the jeers of the drunken courtesan, these present the midnight orgies of death and hell, and show us the mouth of the pit – “Lost! lost! The die is cast, I am lost !” once broke from a dying gambler’s lips. **“I suffer the fires of hell already! You need not tell me there is no hell; I know there is; I feel it already; I have it in anticipation. Lost! lost! lost forever!”**

In fact there is probably no one vice which makes a person more like the devils in hell, than does the vice of

gambling. Four palaces Satan has built along the highway of this world, each of which leads to hell – the Places of Usury, the Liquor Shop, the Gambling House & the Brothel. Those who frequent one generally frequents all.

Young man, beware of the gambler. Have you never seen him? He is a well-dressed gentleman, rather profuse with jewelry. He is very friendly, indeed somewhat officious. He inquires about your business, and prospects in life. He seeks your confidence that he may steal your purse. He hints at easy ways of getting a living. “There is no need,” he says, “of a man making a slave of himself. The world owes every man a living.” With such specious words he is poisoning your mind. Avoid him. Gambling provides a sense of false hope. Participants place their hope in winning, often against astronomical odds, instead of placing their hope in God.

And what is the plea urged by woman? – *woman*, who has so much to suffer from the gambler, whose home may be desolated, whose heart may be wrung with sorrow, whose brow may be wrinkled prematurely, by this fiend – what plea does woman present with all her potent influence & charms to lead the young into the bewildering excitements of gaming It is only, she says, a harmless amusement. Oh, that you knew, that under the specious name of amusement, you are laying the foundation of gambling. **Harmless** amusement! Can that amusement be harmless, which so often leads to penury & vice? **Playing cards for amusement is the inclined plane, which by gradual descent ends at the gambler’s table.**

Why has the world forgotten why previous generations considered gambling to be a terrible curse, and why they fought to outlaw it. Now, it has become just another form of entertainment for “fun-loving” folks. It’s not FUN! Proverbs 13:11 Dishonest money dwindles away, but the one who gathers money little by little makes it grow. Alcohol and gambling are vices leading to spiritual bankruptcy.

You have descended into the gambler’s hell. You have made the first tentative decision to quit. There are moments that stand apart from all others; marked by such honesty & gravity that the hum & buzz of standard social fare comes to a complete halt. This is one such moment. There is one thing in your favour; one golden ray of hope that shines like a sliver of light through an imperceptible crack in the vaulted dome of a darkened cavern. It’s this from a Merciful & Compassionate God: “Call on Me!”

With God on your side you win against all the odds. Heaven celebrates such courage.

God pardons all the sinners in the month of Ramadan except three; those who drink alcohol, those who gamble & those who harbour enmity & avarice towards a Muslim



A dangerous & deceptive slogan.

The social costs associated with gambling far outweigh the potential benefits touted by both the gaming industry & government officials.

Personal loss, addiction & gambling can all be used in the same sentence. The gambler’s descent into criminal acts of deception & desperation & the gamut of emotions of fear, remorse & deep shame is sheer Hell.

Politicians speak **without** the guiding principle of morals as they expand gambling for the sake of raising revenues. In the process friends, family members & communities are decimated. We should work against the increase of legalized gambling, which leads to more gambling addiction, and therefore broken homes, ruined lives. Govt shouldn’t be in the business of making losers of its citizens.

What are the irrational thought patterns that drive the compulsion to gamble & chase the losses? For far too many that **tantalizing dream** of instant wealth is always one pull of the slot machine away or one more hand of poker from happening. The highly sophisticated marketing/ad campaigns conducted by the gaming industry make it more & more difficult for individuals to resist the temptation.

Dishonest money dwindles away.

(QURAN 5:91)

Satan's plan is to create enmity & hatred between you, with intoxicants & gambling, and hinder you from the remembrance of God, and from prayer. Will you not then ABSTAIN?

To carnal minds the above Divine Order will sound like a tyrannical edict, because it seems to take away their natural "liberty"; preventing them from the pursuit of that kind of enjoyment for which they pant. Gambling is a sterile transfer of money, creating no new value. **It's a cancer that sucks money from the weakest members of society.** The toll it takes on individuals & on society is encapsulated in that Quranic phrase "enmity & hatred." A report by the AG of Maryland concludes, "Casinos would bring a substantial increase in crime. There would be more violent crime, more crimes against property, more insurance fraud, more white collar & juvenile crime, more drug & alcohol-related crime, more domestic violence & child abuse."

Jean Baudrillard on gambling in the wicked city of Las Vegas: The secret affinity between gambling & the desert: the intensity of gambling reinforced by the presence of the desert all around the town. The air-conditioned freshness of the gaming rooms, as against the radiant heat outside. The challenge of all the artificial lights to the violence of the sun's rays. Night of gambling sunlit on all sides; the glittering darkness of these rooms in the middle of the desert. **Gambling itself is a desert form, inhuman, uncultured, initiatory, a challenge to the natural economy of value, a crazed activity on the fringes of exchange.** Neither the desert nor gambling are open areas; their spaces are finite & concentric, increasing in intensity toward the interior, toward a central point, be it the spirit of gambling or the heart of the desert—a privileged, immemorial space, where things lose their shadow, where money loses its value, & where the extreme rarity of traces of what signals to us there leads men to seek instant wealth.

The harm of a game of billiards cards is threefold. 1. In the surroundings. Take a game of billiards, for example. This is a game which depends so much on skill, that it is a question whether it should be put in the category with cards. And yet it is turned to the purposes of gambling. A small stake is put up to give life to the play. And what are generally encountered at the billiard table? **Profanity, lewd**

conversation, vulgar jests, and the drinking of ardent spirits. Besides, this game & similar lead to late hours. The young man is enticed from his home. He is deprived of necessary repose. He is wasting precious time, which should be spent in self-improvement. The man of family is kept away from those whose society he should prefer to all others. His money is wasted, and he acquires the habit of seeking pleasure away from her whom he promised to cherish & protect.

2. Another evil of these games is a fostering of a taste for hazards, which may finally lead to gambling. When a man finds himself an adept at cards, the temptation will be strong, and in many instances irresistible, to profit by his skill, and play for money. He will think it an easy way to get funds. It is taking a viper to the bosom, which when warmed may sting to death.

3. There is a most unhealthy excitement connected with gaming. The player becomes wholly absorbed. The pulse rushes with accelerated speed. The face flushes. The eye stares wildly. The feelings are wrought to the highest pitch, and a state of mind is produced, which often breaks out in unkind words. The love of play grows on that upon which it feeds. The mind becomes as eager for the game, as the drunkard is for his cup. It becomes a passion, and little else is thought of, or desired.

Betting is gambling. Whether a person bets on the speed of a horse, or lays a wager upon the performance or non-performance of any matter, they are gambling. Bets are often made in sport, and sometimes by those who do not realize the nature of the act, and who would shrink in alarm from avowed gambling. Sometimes the forfeit is to be paid to a charitable institution, but that does not lessen the sin. Betting puts money at hazard, and the recipient gets it without rendering an equivalent to the loser. That is the principle of gambling.

Lotteries are another species of Gambling. It has received the sanction of governments. Lotteries have been resorted to, as a source of revenue to the state. In no respect is the lottery system removed from gambling. The essential feature is the same, procuring money by chance, and without giving an equivalent for it. Every ticket-holder is a partner in the lottery-game; and the managers are his deputed agents to play it. The attending evils are the same, the exciting of an unnatural thirst for gain, and cherishing the inclination to indulge in games of hazard, which soon becomes an uncontrollable passion. Most persons are enticed to try lotteries, from a desire to get rich in other ways than by the

accumulations of industry. This is a growing evil of the present age. It is poisoning the minds of the young. People want to live & thrive by speculations, and by fat contracts; so that the humbler walks of toil are despised & forsaken.

But be assured that it is no advantage to get rich suddenly. Nine out of ten would be ruined were a fortune thrown into their laps in early life. What people need, is to acquire habits of patience, of self-denial, of steady application to duty, and of prudent forecast, which are as necessary to keep a fortune, as to get it. Without these, wealth is soon squandered. This is a fatal evil of lotteries. So easily is money obtained, where one is successful, that it loses its value. This is the history of the few winners in lotteries, while the greater portion by far, of those who buy tickets, waste their money in fruitless efforts to draw a prize. Innumerable instances might be enumerated to prove, that money gained by the lottery is a curse to the winner.

Lottery advocates are incredibly crafty & manipulative of the public. They link state-sponsored gambling programs to funding for education, which dupes people into believing that buying a ticket will somehow benefit children. It is a lie. No matter how proponents attempt to dress it up, **the govt-sponsored lottery continues its shameless exploitation of the poor.** Historically, govts have outlawed or tightly regulated gambling. Now they promote it with vigour. Indeed, today's politicians love lotteries because they allow them to feed their voracious appetites for revenues without having to pay the political price for raising taxes. Truly, the fox is in the henhouse.

For policymakers considering gambling as a source of revenue, we encourage a search for moral, sustainable alternatives to solutions for budget shortfalls. Any industry that undermines the work ethic, economy, security, and morality cannot be accepted as legitimate.

Lotteries also foster a get-rich-quick mentality while belittling the work ethic. A Lottery ad offered two options for how to "make millions." Plan A: Start studying when you're about 7 years old, real hard. Then grow up & get a good job. From then on, get up at dawn every day. Flatter your boss. Crush competition ruthlessly. Climb over backs of co-workers. Be the last one to leave every night. Squirrel away every cent. Avoid having a nervous breakdown. Avoid having a premature heart attack. Get a face lift. Do this every day for 30 years, holidays & weekends included. By the time you're ready to retire you should have your money." Or "Plan B": Play the lottery.

Intoxicants & gambling, are an abomination of Satan's handiwork:

Shun them that you may prosper

(QURAN 5:90)

Zamals Software Co.; 6 Dowding St. Kitty

shamal2007@yahoo.com; Brochures on zamalsgy.com

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