

Odd Strangers to Islam: Comedy Shows

Soon a group of people comprising an odd trio of two comedians and one "shaikh" is due to tour South Africa, hosting live comedy shows in the name of Islam. Ostensibly the idea of such shows is to promote Islam and educate Muslims. Sadly though, the actors and organisers of these shows fail to realize that such shows represent a mockery of Islam. Instead of educating people, these shows will earn the displeasure of Allah and cast people into further ignorance and confusion. All of this is totally strange to Islam and absolutely at odds with the Spirit of Iman. Rasoolullah sallallahu alaihi wa sallam condemned comedy shows, as is mentioned in the famous books on hadith. Islam cannot be promoted or propagated through comedies. People who attend these shows will have their focus and attention riveted on the antics and pranks of the comedians, and will be captivated by their wit and glib chatter, as well as comical facial expressions and humorous utterances. The Deeni message that they propose to convey will be lost amidst all the laughter and banter.

Abu Huraira radhiallahu anhu reports that he heard the Messenger of Allah sallallahu alaihi wa sallam say:"Verily, a person will make a statement (in front of people) with the sole purpose of making the audience laugh, through which he shall plunge to huge destruction. The slip of man"s tongue is far worse than the slip of his feet".(Bayhaqi in Shu"abul Imaan and Musnad of Imam Ahmed bin Hambal)

Bahz bib Hakeem narrates from his father and grandfather that Rasoolullah sallallahu alaihi wa sallam said: Woe betide that person who utters a statement to make people laugh, and he lies at the same time. For him there is destruction; for him there is destruction!"(Abu Dawood and Tirmizhi)

The above statements of our Rasool sallallahu alaihi wa sallam emphatically condemn comedies and comical actions in front of audiences. There is an underlying wisdom to this prohibition. Excessive laughter deadens the heart, and when such laughter and frivolous behaviour is adopted by a large group of people, the spiritual harm spreads to all, like a contagious disease. The damage is, therefore, more profound. Instead of creating spiritual awareness and Allah consciousness, the audience leave the gathering in a state of spiritual darkness. The banter, joking, and indulgence in tom-foolery take the heart away from Allah"s remembrance. Islam is not in need of such shows to be understood and propagated. Such activities represent an imitation of Western culture and behaviour.

Islam is not against humour. The same Rasool sallallahu alaihi wa sallam who condemned these comedies and comedians, also engaged in humour with his family and friends; he also smiled broadly when they said something humorous. But all of this was within limits and confines of Shariah. In the time of Allah"s Messenger sallallahu alaihi wa sallam the practice of comedy shows was also in vogue, but these were conducted by the kuffar only; hence, he condemned these shows lest the Muslims follow suit and perpetrate the same.

It is not permissible for Muslims to attend these shows or to support it in any way. May Allah Ta"ala guide us all to His Pleasure and plant us firmly on the Path of Truth, aameen.