

Corresponding with unrelated women via Internet

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Article taken and slightly adapted from: ferkous.com

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

In the name of Allaah, the Most Merciful, the Bestower of Mercy

Question: Is it permissible to correspond with unrelated women via the Internet with the purpose of acquaintance and marriage?

Shaykh Aboo `Abd-al-Mu`iz `Alee Ferkous al-Qoobee: All praise is due to Allaah, the Lord of the Worlds. Peace and blessing be upon whom Allaah sent as a mercy to the Worlds, upon his Family, his Companions and his Brothers till the Day of Resurrection.

Corresponding with an unrelated woman and speaking to her is not permissible by the Sharee'ah, even under the pretext of acquaintance and marriage, whether by the ordinary methods or by the Internet. This leads, in fact, to temptation and arousal of instinctive feelings, which make the person seek ways of meeting the woman and leads also to commit unlawful things by which the honour is flouted and the religion violated. This is in accordance to the Prophet صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ saying: **"I did not leave after me any temptation more harmful to men than women"**¹, and his saying صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ: **"So, avoid to be seduced by worldly life and avoid the allurements of women: verily, the first trial for the people of Israel was caused by women"**². Although one is wary as regards Satan and his enmity when there is temptation, he (Satan) leads him to commit sin by inviting the man to the woman and vice versa. Allaah عَزَّ وَجَلَّ said:

[إِنَّ الشَّيْطَانَ لَكُمْ عَدُوٌّ فَاتَّخِذُوهُ عَدُوًّا إِنَّمَا يَدْعُو حِزْبَهُ لِيَكُونُوا مِنْ أَصْحَابِ السَّعِيرِ]

Meaning of the verse:

[Surely, Shaitaan (Satan) is an enemy to you, so take (treat) him as an enemy. He only invites his Hizb (followers) that they may become the dwellers of the blazing Fire]³

¹ Reported by Al-Bukhaaree in the chapter of "Marriage" (hadeeth 4706), Muslim in the chapter of "Riqaaq (heart-softeners)" (hadeeth 7121), At-Tirmidhee in the chapter of "Good manners" (hadeeth 3007), Ibn Maajah in the chapter of "Trials" (hadeeth 4133), Ahmad (hadeeth 22463), Al-Humaydi in his "Musnad" (hadeeth 574) and Al-Baihaqee from the hadeeth of Ussaama Ibn Zayd رضي الله عنهما.

² Reported by Muslim in the chapter of "Celebration of Allaah and supplication" (hadeeth 6948), At-Tirmidhee in the chapter of "Trials" (hadeeth 2191), Ibn Hibbaan (hadeeth 3221), Ahmad (hadeeth 10785) and Al-Baihaqee (hadeeth 6746), from the hadeeth of Aboo Sa`eed Al-Khudree رضي الله عنه.

³ [Soorah Faatir (The Originator of Creation): 6].

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He عزَّ وجلَّ also said:

[أَفَتَتَّخِذُونَهُ وَذُرِّيَّتَهُ أَوْلِيَاءَ مِنْ دُونِي وَهُمْ لَكُمْ عَدُوٌّ بِئْسَ لِلظَّالِمِينَ بَدَلًا]

Meaning of the verse:

[Will you then take him (Iblees) and his offspring as protectors and helpers rather than Me while they are enemies to you? What an evil is the exchange for the Zalimoon (polytheists, and wrong-doers).]⁴

The principle is to keep away the evil of temptation and allurement. This takes precedence over the benefit of acquaintance and marriage, in accordance with the rule which stipulates that “Repelling harm takes precedence over procuring benefits”.

The perfect knowledge belongs to Allaah سبحانه وتعالى. Our last prayer is all praise is due to Allaah, the Lord of the Worlds. Peace and blessing be upon our Prophet, his Family, his Companions and his Brothers till the Day of Resurrection.

Algiers Dhu Al-Qa`dah 14th, 1427 H. December 5th, 2006.

⁴ [Soorah Al-Kahf (The Cave): 50].