

“Islamic” FAIRS, FUNDRAISING DINNERS, SOUQS & FETES

It is true that Islamic organizations and societies are experiencing uphill battles with their fund raising. It is necessary for Muslims to assist those who are striving to uplift the community and those in need. However, many of the methods that are being used today by organizations are un-Islamic. These events include “Islamic” fairs, souqs, dinners and fetes. Without undermining the objectives that these events are hosted for, in any circumstance, the transgression of Shariah is a serious matter indeed. Below are some of the aspects which are of concern:

Intermingling of Males and Females

This syndrome has become so common among Muslims, that it no longer influences the conscience. Every Muslim understands that intermingling is a clear violation of the Qur’an and Sunnah, in every sense. Free mixing of young boys and girls has all but destroyed an already depleted social fibre. Immodesty and shamelessness have become the order of the day, while modesty and chastity are no longer existent. Unfortunately, these events aid in the spread of this syndrome which is clearly contrary to Shariah.

Exposition of Women

Another open violation of Shariah that is prevalent here is the exposition of women. Women attend these events in all their finery, compromising the Islamic dress code. Women are set up on stage to enthrall their audiences in full view of strange men. In this regard the Qur’an has addressed women, in very clear terms.

“And do not make an exposition of yourselves like the exposition of the era of Jahiliyyah (ignorance).” (Surah Ahzaab)

Trademark of Non Muslims

These events have close resemblance to the fairs and events of non-Muslims. The illustrious history of Islam bears testimony that these methods were never the way of the Sahabah, pious predecessors and also of the general Muslim public. In every era different ideas and tactics were utilised to fund Islamic activities, but the fairs and events of today were certainly not amongst them.

Entertainment

The fundamental draw card in these events is entertainment. Precious time and money is frivolously wasted. Rasulullah (sallallahu alayhi wasallam) has warned us **“Two things are such that many are in deception with regards to, good health and free time” (Mishkat)**. While Muslims in other parts of the world are suffering and starving, we are aimlessly wasting our time and money in futile pursuits. How then do we expect the assistance of Allah Ta’ala.

The tragedy of these events is that the profound laws of Shariah are openly violated. Hence, any sensible Muslim with a concern for his *Imaan* and the *Deen* of his family will seriously reflect on the spiritual damage that results in attending such events and functions. A fervent appeal is made for Muslims to be concerned with regards to matters of *Deen*.

May Allah guide grant all Muslims the correct understanding of Deen and save us from the weaknesses of our nafs and desires. Aameen. And Allah knows best.

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