

"A connected world disconnected from the true purpose of life"

In the not so distant past, our speech was temporary. A few words spoken to an audience would remain simply as a memory within their minds, never to be seen or heard again. Today, due to technological advancements our speech is more permanent.

In the past, our words may have reached only a few people, but today, each and every one of us has the power and capability to send our words and actions to hundreds or maybe even thousands of people all over the globe with the simple click of a button or the touch of a screen. This is the power of social media.

Unfortunately, what we fail to realise is that this brings about all the more reason for us to monitor our actions. Allāh Ta'ālā states in the Qur'ān:

"whenever a word escapes (from a person's mouth), there is a guard ready by him." (an angel immediately records the good or bad speech)

This verse refers to the angels who accompany us at all times, recording our words and actions. And it is based on these records that we will be judged on the Day of Reckoning.

Every post, picture, and paragraph uploaded to social media is recorded by these angels, and unlike our browsers, the records of these angels do not have a "delete browser history" option. Instead, our only hope is caution and sincere repentance to Our Creator.

Rasūlullāh Sallallāhu 'Alayhi Wa Sallam is reported to have said:

"Whomsoever safeguards what is between his jaws and what is between his legs, I can guarantee for him Jannah" (Bukhārī #6474)

What is between the legs refers to the grave sin of fornication, while what is between the jaws refers to the words we speak. Simply mentioning the danger of our words alongside a grave sin such as fornication, emphasizes the caution we need to adopt in our speech.

Rasūlullāh Sallallāhu 'Alayhi Wa Sallam is reported to have said:

"From the perfection of one's Islām is the leaving of that which does not concern him" (Tirmidhī #2317)

In an age of excessive information and constant connection to the lives of others through social media platforms, this beautiful Hadīth outlines a very valuable approach to life: To concern oneself with that which is necessary, and to abstain from the gossip and issues that do not concern one. This is the first step in improving our lives.

How do we protect ourselves?

Ali Ibn Abī Tālib (Radhiyallāhu Anhu) is reported to have said:

"Words are in your control until you have not yet uttered them, but once you have uttered them, you are under their control."

Words cannot be returned after being spoken. Therefore, to safeguard our tongues, we have to adopt caution in our speech. Just as fires can be ignited from mere twigs, disputes can be ignited from mere words and irresponsible use of the tongue.

The tongue is truly a sophisticated and unique creation of Allāh Ta'ālā, and technology is a blessing from Allāh Ta'ālā with regards to the ease and comforts it provides. But both, tongue and technology, when used with restraint and reason, may lead a person to Jannah, whereas irresponsible and inappropriate use may be a means of regret and remorse on the Day of Reckoning.

What a great opportunity we have. We are in the blessed month of Sha'bān regarding which Rasūlullāh Sallallāhu 'Alayhi Wa Sallam is reported to have said:

"It is a month in which the deeds are taken up to the Lord of the Worlds" (Nasaī #2357)

And just around the corner is the holy month of Ramadhān regarding which the Rasūlullāh Sallallāhu 'Alayhi Wa Sallam is reported to have said:

"When it is the month of Ramadhān, the gates of mercy are opened, and the gates of Hell are locked and the devils are chained. (Muslim #1079)

These are times where our spirituality is at its peak. The environment in our communities in the month of Ramadhān gives us the perfect opportunity to leave all that we have done behind, and turn to Allāh Ta'ālā in search of His pleasure and forgiveness.

May Allāh Ta'ālā grant us true appreciation for all that He has given us, and may He forgive our sins, answer our prayers, and grant us the ability to make the most of these blessed days.

May Allāh Ta'ālā keep us all on the straight path and grant success to the entire Ummah.

Aāmīn.