



## Media! and our Religious and Moral Responsibilities



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Currently, media has become a successful tool in defence of religious and moral values. It is an effective source of inspecting every country and society, and its contribution in playing a conventional role in shaping a stable and strong society is transparent and crystal clear.

The countries of the world – where moral values are being neglected – have confronted such chaos and moral disabilities that leaves no way of getting out of it for the affected countries. Our beloved country (Afghanistan) – after the American invasion – has also encountered repetitive and irreversible damages by the so-called independent media in religious and moral perspectives, which are increasing on a daily basis.

In contrast to the numerous Western media, there exist only few patriotic and Islamic media outlets in our country, which have few resources to stand against the intellectual and cultural invasions by deviant and corrupt media.

## **What is the importance of Religious and Moral Values?**

### **Importance of values:**

Religious or moral values are the guarantors of decency, justice and social success of any society. What we mean by values is actions, deeds that are considered as religion, law, and etiquettes in a society, and being regarded as great ideal in the social environment. In other terms, values consist of all those good actions and rites that are highly valued and respected, where people dignify and regard them and uphold them in their lives to improve and advance.

**Religious values are;** Worship, prayer, fasting, Zakat (alms-giving), Hajj (pilgrimage), recitation of the Holy Qur'an, the remembrance of Allah and so on...

### **What are Islamic and moral values?**

**Islamic and moral values are:** Humility, shyness, patience, sacrifice, respect for elders, virtuous behavior towards children, good character, valuing time, human respect, attending the patient, moderation, loyalty, brotherhood, civil union, sympathetic attitude toward each other, aiding the poor, preventing oppression and cruelty, assisting and helping the oppressed and the like... those who are called Islamic and moral values.

The media owners and authors are obliged to take the above mentioned values under consideration, meaning: to use their responsibilities and contributions – as being a part of media in any way – for awareness of people, in one way or the other; to stick to those values and not to violate them in their daily, weekly, monthly and timely publications at any cost. Every media person should be aware of their religious, moral and national responsibilities, be cautious and sensitive about those responsibilities, and should be proud of them. If a Muslim does not take pride in his cultural, civilizational and moral values and propagate these values of others, this will lead him to very unfortunate consequences.

It is usually said that media represents whatever goes on in a society, which means that media actually portrays society. But that is not true, the fact is that besides portraying society, it also takes ownership of the intellectual leadership of the society, people of society hear and accept according to what media shows them. So the media has to fulfill its responsibility of educating its followers in a positive way, and not to promote and publicize evil deeds in the society.

Experts say that media carries both positive and negative aspects that can play a part in advertising good as well as bad. It can give strength, determination, and tendency of doing better to a society, can give social, military and cultural supremacy, political and national consciousness, can raise its voice for the truth and harmony, but on the other hand, by publishing false rumors, it can also suspect itself and its beliefs, can raise its voice for hypocrisy and dissension. This is why the 'media' outlets that do not work for aliens and its workers are not employed as laborers, must raise their voice against invasion, bring unity and harmony among the people of society, explain national and religious responsibilities of the Afghan people, fulfill their responsibilities of bringing success and happiness so that a uncontaminated, strong and vibrant community can be created throughout the world. For this purpose, it is important to decide what sort of changes must be brought to society? And which direction the new generation needs to be pushed? And upon which idea the new generation needs to be trained? And what are the messages that need to be convey to the people?

Today the vulgar, indecency and Indian movies being screened on televisions in Kabul, Jalalabad, and Balkh do not represent our religious and national attitude, in fact it is an imposition of an alien and secular culture over our people. Are we in any need of such obscene broadcasting? Or are we in need of scientists, doctors, engineers, scholars, poets, and Mujahedeen? Do we require fruitful entertainment or such disillusion in the name of Art?

The fact is that whatever is being conducted in the name of media these days in the Islamic states especially in our beloved country, is highly harmful leading to very negative and destructive consequences. Media lies to the people, frightens them with fascinating titles and propaganda, and promotes prostitution, indecency and profanity. Instead of stabilization, it endorses negative roles and adopts unlawful ways to impose western culture over the Afghan people.

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