

THE SOCCER WORLD CUP

and other sporting events

MI Moosa Qaadhi



SPIRITUAL LIGHT
PUBLICATIONS

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May Almighty Allāh accept this publication, and in His Infinite Kindness, crown it with His Pleasure, and the pleasure of Rasūlullāh ﷺ.

May Almighty Allāh allow it to be a means of perpetual reward «إيصال الشواب وصدقة جارية» for the author and the members of Spiritual Light, their parents «نسباً وصهرًا», their mentor, and for all those that have offered aid in any form, as well as their parents and children, and for the Ummah of Rasūlullāh ﷺ in general.

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بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

نحمده ونصلي على رسوله الكريم

INTRODUCTION

We have come into this world for a purpose, and that is to prepare for the life of the Hereafter. No one has guarantee that he will enter Jannah. Therefore, it is necessary for every believer to constantly work to please Allaah سُبْحَانَهُ وَتَعَالَى in order to die with Imaan. We have to remain steadfast on our Deen despite difficulties coming about in our lives. Allaah سُبْحَانَهُ وَتَعَالَى states, “And hasten towards forgiveness from Your Lord, and for a Jannah prepared for the pious, as wide as the heavens and the earth.” (*Aal-Imraan* verse 133)

“And for this let all those strive who want to strive.” (*Was-Saafaat* verse 26)

Ibn Abi Dunya narrates from Sulayman Ad-Darani that there was a youngster living in Iraq who used to worship Allaah in abundance. He went on a journey with his friend to Makkah, and he would perform Salah when they would rest. When they would eat, he would fast. His friend put up with him until the journey ended, and they were about to go their separate ways. Then, he said to him, “O my brother. Please tell me, why are you doing this?” He answered, “In my dream, I saw a palace from Jannah. There was a brick of gold and a brick of silver. Where the building finished, there was a balcony made of ruby and a

balcony made of emerald. Between these two balconies was a *Hur* standing with her hair loose. She was wearing silver clothes which moved when she moved. She said, ‘Work towards the pleasure of Allaah to reach me.’ By Allaah, I am working towards the pleasure of Allaah to reach her and this is why you see me fasting and performing Salaah.” (*Haadiyul-Arwaah* page 436)

Anas ibn Maalik رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهُ narrates that Rasulullaah صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ said, “Hellfire has been covered with desires, and Jannah has been covered with difficulties.” (*Bukhaari* no. 6487, *Muslim* no. 2822) The road to Jannah is filled with difficulties. A person has to worship Allaah سُبْحَانَهُ وَتَعَالَى, perform Salaah, spend from his wealth, eat only that which Allaah سُبْحَانَهُ وَتَعَالَى has allowed, and many other obligations. This requires him to go against his desires and to strive to please Allaah سُبْحَانَهُ وَتَعَالَى. On the other hand, it is very easy to follow one’s desires and reach hellfire. An intelligent person will undergo the temporary difficulties of this world in order to gain the eternal pleasures or the hereafter.

Abu Hurayrah رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهُ narrates that Rasulullaah صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ said, “He who fears will travel during the first portion of the night, and he who travels during the first portion of the night will reach his destination. Listen, Allaah’s merchandise is expensive. Allaah’s merchandise is Jannah. (*Tirmidhi* no. 2450) The meaning of this Hadith is that when a person has fear of losing something, he undertakes difficulty and hardship to secure and protect it. The most valuable object of a person is Jannah and

the pleasure of Allaah سُبْحَانَهُ وَتَعَالَى in the hereafter. Therefore, the traveler on the journey of the hereafter should sacrifice his desires and comforts in fulfilling the commands of Allaah سُبْحَانَهُ وَتَعَالَى. If people are willing to sacrifice years of effort, time, and money for a good life in this temporary world, then how much more sacrifice should be made for the permanent life of Jannah?

On the other hand is our enemy Shaytan, who wants to divert our attention from the object of our life. When he refused to prostrate before Adam عَلَيْهِ السَّلَامُ and he was kicked out of Jannah, he asked Allaah سُبْحَانَهُ وَتَعَالَى for certain powers by which he would be able to divert man from his object of life. Allaah سُبْحَانَهُ وَتَعَالَى explains this in detail,

(Remember the time) when We said to the angels, “Prostrate before Adam.” They all fell into prostration except Shaytan. He said: “Should I prostrate before a person whom You created of clay?” He said, “See this one whom You have honoured over me, if You give me respite till the day of resurrection, I will subdue his progeny save a few.” (Apart from a few, I will subdue all humans just as a horse is subdued after being reined. Seeing that these humans are so weak before me, how can You give them honour over me?) He (Allaah) said, “Go! Then whoever among them follows you – hell is the retribution for all of you, a full retribution.”

1. Incite whomever you can from among them with your voice (in other words, the voice that invites to the disobedience of Allaah, like music, pastimes, and futility.)
2. and bear upon them with your cavalry and your infantry (You may spend all your energies and mobilize your army with full force. Those who engage in combat in the disobedience of Allaah belong to the cavalry and infantry of Shaytan irrespective of whether they are humans or jinn. Included in them are film stars and sports players who divert people away from Allaah سُبْحَانَهُ وَتَعَالَى and the hereafter.)
3. and be their partner in worldly goods (by spending wealth in unlawful causes and causes which are of no benefit to mankind, like soccer games.)
4. and children (by not nurturing them properly, such that they love evil actions and qualities)
5. and hold out promises to them (there is no harm in engaging in sin, there is no life after death and no recompense, and this life is for one to enjoy himself to the fullest).

And Shaytan promises them nothing but delusion. (It is the habit of foolish people to be deluded by the green orchards that Shaytan displays. All his promises are mere delusions and fabrications. He himself will testify thus, “and I also made a promise to you, but I deceived you.” (*Ibrahim verse 22*))

Those who are My servants, you have no authority over them. Your Sustainer is sufficient as a dispenser [of affairs]. (Shaytan has no authority over the devoted servants of Allaah سُبْحَانَهُ وَتَعَالَى. Allaah سُبْحَانَهُ وَتَعَالَى fulfils the tasks and removes from the web of Shaytan those who rely on Him and place their trust in Him.)
(*Bani Israeel* verse 61-65)

One of the ways Shaytan has deceived people is through international sporting events like the Olympics and World Cup. The following notes have been prepared by Ml. Imran Qaadhi. Even though the focus is more on the Soccer World Cup, it refers to all such sporting events. I have merely added an introduction and conclusion, and have edited the notes, adding some references.

May Allaah سُبْحَانَهُ وَتَعَالَى protect us from all the evils around us, open our eyes to reality, and let us realize the object of coming into the world.

Moosa Qaadhi

20 Rabiul-Awwal 1444 – 17 October 2022

Azaadvile



THE EVIL CONSEQUENCES OF INTERNATIONAL SPORTS

The following are some reasons why Muslims should not view and not support the World Cup:

1) It hinders us from Salaah and the remembrance of Allaah سُبْحَانَهُ وَتَعَالَى

It is a common observance, that many Muslims are totally neglectful of Salaah when it comes to International, National or local sporting events. Even those who have some link with the Masaajid, will choose to forego Salaah in Jamaat and even the Salaah itself, so as not to miss a moment in watching men run after a ball. Men, running after a ball – Is this intelligent?

Anything which leads to abandoning prayer or not praying on time is prohibited. Many people stay up all night watching the games and therefore miss the following Fajr prayer; others abandon congregational prayers just so that they can watch these games. What is worse than this is when some miss Jumu'ah prayer for the sake of watching the games.

Allaah says, “Satan only wants to cause between you animosity and hatred through intoxicants and gambling and to avert you from the remembrance of Allaah and from Salaah. So will you not desist?” (*Al-Maa'idah* verse 91).

Imaam Al-Qurtubi رَحِمَهُ اللهُ said, commenting upon this verse, “Any fun which leads to more fun and results in enmity and hatred between those who practice it, or hinders them from remembering Allaah or Salaah becomes as prohibited as the consumption of alcohol is.” International sport would naturally take the same ruling because it results in people becoming heedless and hinders them from Salaah.

A person may argue that ‘The consumption of alcohol causes a person to become drunk such that they cannot even pray, whereas following international sport and soccer does not do any of that.’ The answer to that is Allaah سُبْحَانَهُ وَتَعَالَى combined the prohibition of both alcohol and gambling in the same verse, and described them both to be causes for hatred and enmity between people and hinderers from the remembrance of Allaah and Salaah. It is obvious that alcohol is an intoxicant, whilst gambling is not, yet Allaah سُبْحَانَهُ وَتَعَالَى made them equally prohibited because both lead to the same result.

Ibnul-Qayyim رَحِمَهُ اللهُ said, “If one were to monitor these competitions, one would not fail to notice that they have exactly the same influence on people as alcohol does, and partaking in them in a very limited way leads to partake in them in a bigger and bigger way, so they are addictive by nature. The more people partake in them, the more they are hindered from doing that which Allaah and His Messenger love, and the closer they are to committing that which Allaah and His Messenger hate.

Even if there is not a specific text (from the Qur'aan and Sunnah) referring to this, the general rules and principles in Islaam, and judging according to that which brings benefit and prevents harm and evil, is enough to prohibit them.” This statement was made many centuries ago, so what would be said regarding the competitions in our time?¹

Let us relate this to real life and the inevitable: How will this benefit us in this world and the hereafter? Will any one of these sports players be able to intercede on our behalf, before Allaah **سُبْحَانَهُ وَتَعَالَى**, when we have to account for our actions, for our indulgence in futile and even Haraam activities?

2) It causes Muslims to love, glorify, esteem and honour disbelievers, through hero-worship:

One of the most dangerous consequences of International Sports is that the Muslims begin loving, esteeming, praising, admiring, glorifying and exalting the mention of the disbelievers. They even become angry if anyone criticizes these disbelievers whom they admire and love. They refer to their teams as ‘we’ and ‘us’ and align themselves with these disbelievers. They go out of their way to get their shirts, autographs, or even a hand-shake. Some Muslims hang pictures of these disbelieving football stars in their houses and cars and

¹ The Evil Consequences of Sporting Competitions

even on their bodies in the form of tattoos; others would go as far as carrying these disbelieving players or coaches on their shoulders. They are referred to as 'idols', 'stars', 'heroes' and 'champions'.

This "worshipping" of sports stars is a matter of serious concern. Muslims will prefer to dress in the colours of their favourite soccer team, rather than dressing in Islamic attire. Muslim children and even adults are familiar with the names, statistics and histories of numerous sports performers. They are always prepared to defend their heroes if even a word is said against them. One wonders if these very people will defend Islam with the same enthusiasm as they defend their sporting heroes.

One of the greatest sins which has been sternly prohibited in the Qur'an is to love the disbelievers and adore them. International Sport has paved the way for Muslims to love and adore non-Muslim players in a manner which is unprecedented in history. Allaah ﷻ sounds the following warnings in the Qur'an to those who show or express love to the disbelievers:

- a) 'And whosoever from amongst you does so (i.e. expresses love for the disbelievers), then indeed he has gone far astray from the straight path.' (*Al-Mumtahinah* verse 1)
- b) 'O you who believe, take not the Jews and the Christians as friends, they are but friends of one another. And if anyone amongst you takes them as friends, then surely he is one of

them. Verily Allaah does not guide those who are oppressors.’
(*Al Ma'idah verse 51*)

c) ‘You (Muhammad ﷺ) will not find anybody who believes in Allaah and the Last Day loving those who oppose Allaah and his Messenger, even though they may be their fathers, their sons, their brothers or their relatives.’ (*Al-Mujadalah verse 22*)

d) ‘Let not the believers take the disbelievers as friends instead of the believers, and whosoever does so will never be helped by Allaah.’ (*Aal-Imraan verse 28*)

e) “O you who believe! Take not the disbelievers as friends instead of the believers: do you wish to offer Allaah an open proof against yourselves (which establishes that you are hypocrites)?” (*An-Nisaa verse 144*)

f) “And do not slightly incline towards the wrongdoers, lest the fire should catch you. And you will have no supporters other than Allaah, then you will not be helped.” (*Hud verse 113*)

These very same people are the enemies of Allaah سُبْحَانَهُ وَتَعَالَى. They falsify Him, disobey Him, dislike His Deen and are the greatest enemies of the ways of Nabi ﷺ. We have turned them into our greatest friends. We laugh at their happiness, cry at their loss, and are continuously thanking and praising them. How lamentable that we have left the remembrance of Allaah, the Lord of the universe and we spend our time engrossed in

discussions regarding His enemies. One who views these games of soccer creates love in himself for these soccer idols and one who squanders his time and wealth for a few hours of entertainment should realize this to be a great sign of the weakness of his relationship with Allaah سُبْحَانَهُ وَتَعَالَى.

To deal honestly and truthfully with disbelievers or to assist the poor and needy amongst them, are from the teachings of Islam. However, to integrate with them in such a manner that we begin to love and adore them and finally lose our Islamic identity or give up on our Islamic culture is prohibited because this is extremely harmful to one's Imaan.

In order for the disbelievers to accomplish this evil of getting Muslims to lose their identity, the disbelievers focus their media heavily on famous athletes, follow their lifestyles closely and describe them as heroes, stars and celebrities. This affects our children to the extent that it makes them become intensely fascinated by these athletes and the only concern that they have is to be like them in every way. Due to this, any ambitions that they hold with regard to working for the religion of Islam disappears. In many cases the Muslim youth imitate these athletes even in acts that are of disbelief.

A person writes: "This is more of a shocking incident than the previous one. Upon recognizing the dangerous effects this has had, if a Muslim were to cry over this incident, it would be normal for him to do so."

I was walking down a street and I spotted a couple of Muslim children playing football in a far corner. I smiled to myself remembering the old times in which I used to play on this very same place. A child then played an extremely brilliant defence - splitting ball through the middle, which was equally breathtakingly controlled and finished in one movement. I gasped at the skill and finish. But, when the child started to celebrate, I was completely heart-broken. He was pointing to himself and calling himself 'God', imitating a certain footballer.

Again, blatant shirk and again our children's minds are being polluted. Many may argue the fact that he is only a child and does not understand, if he was to understand it wouldn't happen. I totally accept this. But one thing leads to another. There is no smoke without fire. Definitely, this is not an individual case. Hundreds of children are probably caught up in the very same mess.

My brothers, Rasulullaah ﷺ wept constantly in his prayers for the removal of this filth (shirk) from the world. Today Islam's children, and Islam's future are being ruined and spoiled.”²

² Soccer –a religion

Many have given up Imaan and Islam due to very close friendship and relationship with those who do not believe in Allaah ﷻ, His Final Messenger ﷺ and the Day of Judgement. Take the following examples:

The following is the transcript of a lecture given by Sheikh Muhammad Abdul Jabbar:

A woman writes: Could you explain to me, did my husband die a good death or did he die a bad death? She writes that on one occasion she and her husband were sitting down and watching a football match. We were watching a football match because my husband really loved football and he was a supporter of Alan Shearer. He loved him. On his clothes he had an autograph by Alan Shearer. In his bedroom he had pictures of Alan Shearer. He had cards of Alan Shearer. She says one evening when my husband and I were sitting down and my husband said his back was hurting and his legs have become weak. She says she phoned the ambulance and after about 20 minutes the ambulance arrived. They brought a stretcher in, she says, and they put my husband on it and when they did this my husband grabbed my hand and said, 'Look after the children.' I said to my husband that in 20 minutes you will be in the hospital and you will be back out. They walked towards the ambulance and, she writes, my husband was looking at the house. It was like he was not going to return. The ambulance took them to the hospital. They checked my husband and we were told that he was dying

of cancer and the cancer was so severe it had reached his brain. Rasulullaah ﷺ said, “You will die the way you lived.” If you lived a life of disobedience and a life of sin then you will die the same way, and you will be resurrected the way you die. She writes that they put the machines on her husband and they said her husband would only last a couple of days or a few hours, so make the most of it. She sat next to her husband holding his hand and instructed him to say La ila ha illAllaah. Her husband looked out the window and all of a sudden started laughing. He started laughing. His laugh was so loud that the nurses and doctors came in. And when the doctors came in, she says her husband’s body lifted from the middle. And he started screaming and saying, ‘I’m Alan Shearer, I’m Alan Shearer.’ The machines turned off. Rasulullaah ﷺ said, “You will die the way you lived.” If you lived a life of disobedience and a life of sin then you will die the same way. May Allaah ﷻ save us.³

Mujaddid Alf Thaani رحمه الله had written a lengthy letter to Khwaja Abdullaah and Khwaja Ubaidullaah, the two sons of his Sheikh, Khwaja Baqi Billah, in which the following is mentioned, “Once this weak one went to visit a sick person, who was on the throes of death. When I turned my spiritual attention to him (Tawajjuh), I found that his heart was covered with layers of

³ Taken from www.jamiat.org.za

darkness. I made intention to remove these layers, but there was no benefit. After pondering for some time, I realized that these layers of darkness were created due to the qualities of kufr which were concealed within him. These layers were formed as a result of having love for kufr and keeping friendship with the disbelievers. These layers of darkness could not be removed with spiritual attention (*Tawajjuh*).” (*Letter no. 266 of Maktoobaat Imam Rabbani vol. 1 page 483*)

Maulana Yunus Patel رَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ عَلَيْهِ said: ... So we find people going absolutely crazy and wild over soccer players, cricket players and their likes. And one wonders, what is all the clamour and fuss about... when their “outstanding” achievement in life seems to be, kicking, throwing or hitting a ball? Does this call for hero-worship? Is this our shallow understanding of success as Muslims?

Do we not know that the most successful of all people are the Ambiyaa and their followers? Are we even aware of the tremendous successes of the Sahabah? They were MEN. And Brave Men. Their history, their feats, their conquests drown out the thousands of insignificant goals scored by soccer players. In fact, there cannot be any comparison and likeness. The lives of the Sahabah رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهُمْ were constructive and productive – for their Deen and Aakhirah, as well as for those who emulate them. The lives of these players are destructive to their hereafter, as well as for those who are obsessed with them and emulate them.

We should reflect over our obsession, veneration and craze of film-stars, sport-stars and others who are presently the enemies of Allaah سُبْحَانَهُ وَتَعَالَى. ...A warning has been sounded, directing us to make sincere Taubah.

Allaah سُبْحَانَهُ وَتَعَالَى states in the Noble Qur'aan:

‘O People of Imaan! Do not take My enemies and your enemies as friends, showing love towards them. Verily, they have rejected the truth which has come to you (from your Rabb)...’ (Al-Mumtahina verse 1)⁴

When we claim to have love for Allaah سُبْحَانَهُ وَتَعَالَى, how can we love these types of sporting events and sportsmen?

3) The World Cup promotes Music

Almost every venue, event and occasion today seems to demand “music” as part of the entertainment. As Muslims, we know fully well, that music is not the “pleasure” of a true believer because Nabi صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ specifically mentioned that one of his objectives was to destroy musical instruments.

One of our pious elders warned about the harms of music, “Beware of music, because music reduces modesty and shame,

⁴ The World Cup | The Spiritual Harms by Hazrat Maulana Yunus Patel
رَحِمَهُ اللَّهُ

it increases lust and destroys one's dignity and respect. Its effect is like the effect of alcohol."

Then, would it be morally correct for a *Muslim* to view an event where music is 'a must have'?

4) The World Cup promotes alcohol

Nabi ﷺ also said, "Abstain from consuming wine, for verily it is the key to all evil." (*Nasai no. 5666*)

Every person that is associated to alcohol – be it the manufacturer, the one who transports, the one who sells, buys or serves comes under the curse of Allaah. (*Tirmidhi no. 1295, Ibn Majah no. 3381*)

5) The World Cup promotes Zina (adultery/fornication)

Allaah ﷻ says, "And come not near to Zina. Verily it is a shameful and evil path." (*Al-Isra verse 32*)

It is a very evident fact that these events promote Zina in abundance. Besides adultery of the eyes which is also categorized as zina and which is very common at these types of venues, with the indecent and revealing attire, there is actual zina that is being promoted and advertised.

The summary and outline of various Ahaadeeth, is that plague, poverty and diseases which were unheard of previously, earthquakes, drought and destruction, birth of illegitimate

children, and even escalation of deaths will follow in the wake of adultery and immorality.

6) Wastage and Extravagance

Allaah ﷻ states explicitly, “...And do not squander recklessly. Surely, squanderers are brothers to the devils, and Shaitaan was very ungrateful to his Lord.” (*Bani Isra’eel verse 26/27*)

These competitions are the reason for the wastage of huge sums of money. This is because vast amounts are spent in preparing the pitches, securing the money needed to hold the games and refurbishing damages which result from unruly fans when their team loses. Moreover, the security that is required during and after games is an extra financial burden. There is no doubt that all these costs are ultimately shouldered by the poorer section of society. It is extremely unfortunate that many Muslim countries are at the top of the list of countries that set a high percentage of their budget for sports, others spend more on sport than they do on educational and religious issues. This year’s world cup has been hailed the ‘Most Expensive World Cup in History’. Qatar is set to spend more than \$220 billion on the upcoming 2022 world cup.

The Qatar World Cup: Qatar characterized its bid to FIFA as a “bold gamble” to bring world football to the Gulf nation, but that gamble was underwritten by an estimated \$200 billion-plus

infrastructure package that, at the time, was deemed vital to national interest and foreign policy objectives.

A bit earlier, in 2008, Qatar had announced its Qatar National Vision project, which aimed to build the country into an “advanced society capable of sustaining its development and providing a high standard of living for its people.” One of the main foundations for this future would be sports.

From there, the country made successful bids to host both the 2011 AFC Asian Cup and Arab Games. It also made its presence felt in European football. Qatar Airways paid \$163 million to sponsor FC Barcelona’s kits in 2010, and direct investments in Paris Saint-Germain through the Qatari Travel Authority totaled over \$1.08 billion.

However, once the dust settled around Qatar’s World Cup bid, allegations of financial foul play followed soon thereafter.

- 2011: Former FIFA VP Jack Warner made public emails that claimed Qatar (specifically AFC President Mohamed Bin Hammam) had “bought” the rights to win the bid.
- 2014: The Sunday Times reported that Mohamed Bin Hammam made payments totalling \$5 million to football officials in return for their support for the Qatar bid.
- 2019: The Sunday Times reported that FIFA would receive an alleged \$880 million in two instalment payments from Al Jazeera pending a successful bid.

- 2020: The U.S. Department of Justice formally accused three South American officials of receiving bribes to ensure votes for Qatar.

Qatari officials have denied any wrongdoing since the bid was won.

In 2014, FIFA, then run by Sepp Blatter, cleared Qatar of the alleged wrongdoings. But in 2015, Blatter resigned from his position amid a formal criminal investigation by Swiss officials into the 2018 and 2022 World Cup bids.

The Buildout

When a nation wins a bid to host a major sporting event like the Olympics or World Cup, cost is almost always an issue. This applies to situations where there's significant existing infrastructure, and even more so when a substantial buildout is required.

Here's what World Cup costs have looked like since the U.S. hosted in 1994:

- United States 1994: \$500 million
- France 1998: \$2.3 billion
- Japan 2002: \$7 billion
- Germany 2006: \$4.3 billion
- South Africa 2010: \$3.6 billion

- Brazil 2014: \$15 billion
- Russia 2018: \$11.6 billion
- Qatar 2022: \$220 billion

Costs associated with Qatar's new stadiums have been reported in the range of \$6.5 billion to \$10 billion — a significant increase from the proposed \$4 billion in the initial bid.

But that still leaves roughly \$210 billion to be accounted for.⁵

Spending money on tickets is money wasted, and wastage and squandering are categorized as sin in Islam. Moreover, the sin is compounded when it is being spent to view something at a place hosting a combination of evils.

Besides the tickets for the various matches, much more money will be spent on travel and accommodation – with airfares and rates going through the roof.

Consider how many loaves of bread, how many litres of milk or necessities of life, could have been provided for thousands who live below the bread line or thousands more who are in dire need of medical assistance... How can we be so complacent when so many are without food, water, electricity, medicine and other needs?

Doesn't our Imaan and conscience trouble us in the least?

⁵ frontofficesports.com/the-most-expensive-world-cup-in-history

Wastage and extravagance are a cause of drought, high-cost living and other forms of punishment, as drawn from the Ahadeeth – and it is what we are seeing all around us.

Something else which is shocking is when a foreign guest sportsman is invited to participate in a game and paid huge sums of money to do so. One of the North African Arab countries paid a huge amount for the foreign coach of their national team which exceeded the salary of fifty university professors. Another Muslim country hired a Serbian Christian coach for their national team while our brothers were being slaughtered like sheep and our sisters were being raped by his nation.⁶

7) Sport promotes Gambling

These competitions open the door for gambling and speculation which Islam prohibits. For example, FIFA hold weekly gambling sessions for guessing the result of the weekly games between the European teams and LOTTO does the same thing in some of the Arab countries.

It is therefore clear what evil and destructive effects gambling has on a nation's economy; It wastes human resources and increases unemployment, consumes a nation's wealth and instils hatred and enmity.⁷

⁶ The Evil Consequences of Sporting Competitions

⁷ The Evil Consequences of Sporting Competitions

8) Imitating the disbelievers in dress

Islam has gifted us with a dress code, which identifies us as Muslims – which makes us flag-bearers of Islam, representatives of Nabi ﷺ and Inviters to Islam. We have been expressly forbidden from adopting any semblance with the cultural or religious dressing style of people of other faiths.

By wearing soccer T-shirts, caps, bags with football logos clearly indicates our love and support for the event and the culture. Nabi ﷺ said, “Whoever imitates a nation is from amongst them.” (*Abu Dawood no. 4031*)

We are the nation of Islam, and should be rightly proud of our beautiful culture and dress because it is the culture and dress of the greatest after Allaah ﷻ, Rasulullaah ﷺ. ...It is the height of foolishness to exchange diamonds for stones.⁸

9) Becoming desensitized towards sin and becoming passive participants

Being a passive onlooker seated in the comfort of my home, can the World Cup have a negative impact on me?

Maulana Afzal Ismail writes: The viewer or spectator while watching television is constantly bombarded with images of

⁸ The World Cup | The Spiritual Harms by Hazrat Maulana Yunus Patel
رحمہ اللہ

semi - naked women, of alcohol consumption in victory celebrations, of vulgar language, of violence and aggression and other activities which are completely prohibited by Islam. The continued exposure to these kinds of images may reduce the individual's emotional sensitivity to them.

To illustrate, consider a person who has never been exposed to such Haraam things before and who subsequently experiences them. His initial response would be one of shock and disgust. By constantly being exposed to these activities, this may weaken his inhibitions. A mild effect will be that he would consider them as being normal or simply acceptable behaviour. More seriously, he could feel less restrained about performing such actions himself.

A factor which adds to this desensitization, is the fact that people watching sport for pleasure are generally in a relaxed state of mind. A state in which one is 'off guard', where one's inhibitions are lowered and when one is least suspecting. In other words, these images gain access to our inner being at a time when we least expect them to.

If the desensitization of Islamic values is occurring amongst adults, what effect is it having upon our Muslim children? It is the responsibility of parents to see that the home is a place

where Islamic principles are taught and where un-Islamic norms are discouraged.⁹

Undoubtedly, watching football is Haram. The Ahaadith prohibit us to look at the 'Aurah (thighs) of a living or dead human, which leaves us with no doubt that viewing these players on television is also Haraam. But, besides this, think for a moment what will actually transpire behind the scenes of FIFA WORLD CUP. Hooliganism and soccer violence is inevitable, when crowds of unruly, uncivilized, drunk spectators from many countries meet on one plain. Soccer and sin go hand in hand. **There is wastage and extravagance; there is alcohol, gambling, music and immoral behaviour and attire; there is "foul play", "hero-worshipping" and *Tashabbuh bil Kuffaar* (imitating the non-Muslims in their dress and ways), and often there is neglect of Salaah as well. We also hear or read of violence, stampedes and killings.** Adultery, nudity, intermingling of the sexes, alcohol and a host of other social evils encompass every major sporting event.

Maulana Abdul-Hamid Is'haq (Daamat Barakaatuhu) said: Disobedience to Allaah **سُبْحَانَهُ وَتَعَالَى** intensifies and heightens with such events. And this should create great concern, since sins summon the punishment of Allaah **سُبْحَانَهُ وَتَعَالَى**. Moreover, a

⁹ Islam and Sport – Maulana Afzal Ismail

Muslim does not attach or associate himself, in any way, to what is displeasing to his Beloved Allaah.

Maulana Yunus Patel رَحِمَهُ اللهُ said: But there is one serious fact that makes us unsuitable and incompatible for what I would describe as an International “upsurge of sins” – and that reason is: We are Muslims. And we are very fortunate that we are Muslims. As such, there is no compatibility between a Muslim and sin.

‘Urs ibn ‘Amirah Al Kindi رَضِيَ اللهُ عَنْهُ reports that Rasulullaah صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ said, ‘When a sin is committed in the earth, then the one who sees it and disapproves of it will be regarded to have been absent, but he who is not present physically and approves of it will be regarded to have been present.’ (Abu Dawood no. 4345)

Abu Dharr رَضِيَ اللهُ عَنْهُ was once invited to a Walimah. When he went, he heard some sound [music] so he returned. When someone inquired, he replied, ‘I heard some sounds and whoever increases the number of a gathering, is part of them and whoever is pleased with/approves an action will be a partner of those carrying out the deed’ (Az Zuhd of Imam ‘Abdullah ibn Al Mubarak page 447)

10) Muslims are diverted from thinking about major issues affecting the Muslim Ummah

In reality, these competitions are a tool of the disbelievers which they are using to destroy the Muslim nation and their

sense of ambition. This is confirmed by the thirteenth protocol of the 'Learned Elders of Zion' which states, "In order to keep the masses misguided and unaware of what is ahead of them and behind them, or what is plotted against them; we will increase ways of keeping them busy by establishing new forms of entertainment, fun, games and different sports, then have newspapers call for contests and tournaments of these."

The enemies of Islaam have been successful in overwhelming the Muslims with these competitions and making them forget about their religion and their responsibility of propagating it. They have succeeded in exterminating their sense of duty and pride towards their religion; this is precisely the reason why you see many football fans that closely monitor these competitions not caring about what happens to their oppressed fellow Muslims around the world. It does not concern them whether their brothers and sisters in Islaam are killed, displaced, tortured or that their sacred places are profaned; their only concern is monitoring the news of football matches and monitoring the lifestyle and financial conditions of the players.

A poet said describing the situation of sport lovers:

*People stay watching it, dazzled until day light.
And when the call comes for Jihaad, to make their future bright.*

They are all in deep sleep, as if they say, 'The team's victory is our delight'¹⁰

11) Sport is a form of mental enslavement and emotional control

No one can deny that football affects the personality and emotional well-being of the players as well as the fans. Nothing can be more evident to illustrate this than the heart attacks which occur to some football fans during and after games which frequently result in death. This is because such people would usually be observing the games in a state of high-tension.

The true aim of sports, which is to develop the human-body and discipline the soul, has clearly failed to be achieved. In fact, sport has become a lethal weapon which attacks the very bodies and souls that it was meant to develop. One of the ugliest ways in which one can die is on the football pitch, or in a stadium, or to die for the sake of a soccer team, and what an evil state to be in at the time of resurrection, for everyone will be resurrected according to how they were at the time of their death.

An example of this is a story that was published in 'Al-Akhbaar' which is an Egyptian newspaper, it stated that, "The chairman of An-Nasir Company for rubber manufacturing died of a heart attack when his favourite team lost in a final game. He was

¹⁰ The Evil Consequences of Sporting Competitions

watching closely with his family members and became very excited and started jumping and kissing his family members when his team scored the first goal. However, the other team scored an equaliser and then came the second goal which meant defeat for his team. Afterwards, he went to his bedroom to rest and shortly afterwards, his wife went into the bedroom to find that he had died of a heart attack.”¹¹

In Beijing, an elderly supporter died of a heart attack while watching the Brazil-Mexico game. This came after doctors had warned fans who suffered from heart problems, high blood pressure, etc. to cut down on watching World Cup matches.

In Egypt, the sole tobacco manufacturer recorded an increase in tobacco sales. Since the beginning of the World Cup, 55 million more cigarettes were being delivered on the market per day. Apparently, this increased consumption was due to troubled soccer fans who needed to calm their nerves.

After Scotland lost 3-0 to Morocco, about 8000 Scottish fans drank about 125 000 litres of beer. Bars ran out of beer and new supplies had to be shipped in.¹²

¹¹ The Evil Consequences of Sporting Competitions

¹² Islam and Sport – Ml Afzal Ismail

12) Sport intensifies hatred and enmity between people

People claim that these competitions are a civilised way to strengthen bonds, build deep feelings of harmony and build bridges of communication between people. Reality is quite the opposite. History proves that such competitions and contests act as sparks which ignite huge fires, both between the players themselves and the fans of each competing team. The fact that the disasters and subsequent victims which result from such competitions are very many makes it easy for sincere people who are truly seeking the correct Islamic ruling of these competitions to reach the truth; that they take the rulings of other prohibitions because of their evil consequences. The following are some evidences from the history:

- August 16th 1950 CE: The organisers of the World Cup in a game between Brazil and Uruguay were forced to dig a thirteen metre long and one and a half metre wide trench to protect players from the crowd.
- May 23rd 1963 CE: During a game between Peru and Argentina a dispute arose regarding the soundness of a goal which was scored. A clash followed which took place between rival fans that which resulted in the death of 320 people and the injuring of 1000 others.

- September 17th 1967 CE: 48 people were killed and 606 injured in a fight between the fans of two Turkish teams, caused by a disputed goal.
- June 25th 1969 CE: 15 people were killed and 102 injured in a fight between the fans of two teams over a disputed goal during a game in Turkey.
- August 16th 1980 CE: 18 people were killed and 100 injured in India after the referee sent two players off the field.
- November 18th 1982 CE: 24 people were killed and 210 injured in a fight between drunken rival fans at a match in Colombia.
- May 29th 1985 CE: 39 people were killed and 600 injured with broken bones resulting from an intense fight in Brussels, Belgium between the fans of an Italian team (Juventus) and an English team (Liverpool).¹³
- A Romanian teenager was killed during victory celebrations following Romania's victory over England. The teenager, who was drunk at the time, fell over and was trampled underfoot.
- A man was shot dead in Port Elizabeth after he apparently made a derogatory comment following the Saudi Arabia - South Africa match.

¹³ The Evil Consequences of Sporting Competitions

- More than 50 people were injured and 80 arrested in clashes surrounding the England - Tunisia game played on 15 June.
- After the Opening ceremony festivities, sporadic fighting left 34 police injured and 30 people were taken into custody.
- Before the England - Colombia match, at least 30 England fans were arrested in clashes with riot police.
- Five people were injured and 60 arrested as fans clashed with police after the Mexico - Germany match.¹⁴

These are just a few examples of events that have occurred and which remain as a mark of disgrace in our minds.

The evil consequences of some football matches have been even worse than those already mentioned and have even affected diplomatic relations between countries. For example, in 1969 CE, war broke out between El Salvador and Honduras due to the result of a football match between those two countries. In fact, this war was called ‘The Battle of Football’, it lasted for seven days and left more than 2000 people dead.

13) Valuable time in a person’s life is wasted

These gatherings will be a source of regret for a person on the Day of Judgement.

Rasulullaah ﷺ said, “When any people get up from an assembly without engaging in the remembrance of Allaah

¹⁴ Islam and Sport – Ml Afzal Ismail

therein, they most certainly get up from a donkeys corpse and [that assembly] shall be a source of remorse for them [on the day of Resurrection].” (*Abu Dawood no. 4855*)

Donkeys are normally looked upon with scorn. On the day of Judgement, when people will see the reality of their speech and their wasted actions, they will be utterly disgusted with it just as how people sitting around a dead donkey are disgusted with it. There is also an indication that such people are foolish, since a donkey is proverbial for its foolishness

On the Day of Judgement, a person will see the rewards of those who engaged in the remembrance of Allaah سُبْحَانَهُ وَتَعَالَى. He will then express sorrow over every second of his life which he wasted.

In another narration, Rasulullaah صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ said, “When any people sit in an assembly without engaging in the remembrance of Allaah therein and without sending salutations to their Nabi therein, [then this assembly] will most certainly be a source of regret for them. If Allaah wills, He will punish them, and if He wills, He will forgive them.” (*Tirmidhi no. 3380*)

Rasulullaah صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ also said, “The people of Jannah will not regret except for the time in which they did not remember Allaah.” (*Shuabul-Imaan no. 509*)

14) Soccer becomes an obsession. Sometimes, it even turns into a religion or an idol

A person wrote, “Football, over the years has expanded. Previously, it was a sport, in which twenty-two men kicked an inflated piece of leather. Presently, it has become a monopoly in which the fan is completely brainwashed, conned, and bewitched! Presently, it is an addiction. To make my point clear on how the football factory’s psychological process in brainwashing the fan takes place, read on. A satellite broadcasting company once displayed a billboard in which the slogan ‘Football no longer remains a game. Football is a religion!’ was advertised. Many may claim that this slogan holds no real relevance. My brothers understand; think; psychologically we are being destroyed!

In another incident, a so-called philosopher, was foolishly made to look like one of the greatest philosophers ever when he made the statement, ‘Football is life!’ He logically, by means of two phrases, deduced ‘Football is a game!’ He then goes on to say, ‘Life is a game!’ Blowing everything out of all proportions!”¹⁵

Another person wrote: “How can you know if football is a false idol in your life? Here is the big idea, if you are giving to football what belongs to Allaah سُبْحَانَهُ وَتَعَالَى, it is an idol. If you are giving to

¹⁵ Soccer –a religion

football what belongs to other priorities (like your family), it is an idol.

If you will change your schedule, take days off of work, and sacrifice other commitments to watch football, but you don't make time to gather with others for worship and da'wah, football is an idol. If you will take 4 hours to watch a football game, but you won't take 40 minutes for an important conversation with your wife, one that will cultivate your marriage and build her up, then football has become an idol.

If you will spend piles of money, and even go into debt in order to buy game tickets, large-screen TVs, or play fantasy football, but you don't give generously to the poor and the Masaajid or Madaaris in order to promote Deen, then football is an idol. Where your money is, there your heart will also be.

If you will spend hours talking to your friends about football, reading blogs and listening to commentary, but you don't have time to make Du'a to Allaah, recite the Qur'an or make zikr, and you hardly have time to have a real conversation with your children about important things in their lives, then football is an idol.

If you are more emotionally, and mentally invested in football because your team is doing well than you are about the greatness of Allaah سُبْحَانَهُ وَتَعَالَى, football is an idol. If you're more upset when your team loses than you are about the very real

kufr, evil, sin and injustice in the world, then the idol of football has captured your emotions.”¹⁶

During one of the soccer tournaments, there was a video made with the following words:

*It's not just a kit, it's our skin.
It's not just an audience, it's our family.
It's not just passion, it's an emotion.
It's not just 90 minutes, it's a lifetime.
It's not just a stadium, it's our place of worship
We're not only eleven, we're millions.
It's not just a game – it's football.*

This is one of the ways how the Kuffaar have subtly trapped the ummah to become die-hard lovers of this sport. Many consider Lionel Messi or Cristiano Ronaldo to be the **God** of football. But the greatest footballers of all time are Pele and Diego Maradona, also called the **Hand of God** by the football world.

Allaah سُبْحَانَهُ وَتَعَالَى states “O believers, enter into Islam completely and do not follow the footsteps of Shaytaan. Verily he is for you an open enemy. “Any other way besides Islam is following the footsteps of Shaytaan, whose object is to divert us from

¹⁶ Edited from an article named ‘How Do You Know When Sports Are an Idol?’

preparing for our life hereafter. Every second wasted in life will be a source of regret in the hereafter.

Sports becomes like a 'religion' by which people live their lives by and are willing to die for. Hereunder are some differences between those who follow Islam and those who have made their 'religion', sport. Decide for yourselves: Which religion do you follow?

	RELIGION OF ISLAM	'RELIGION' OF SPORT
Purpose	To live and fear for Allaah's pleasure	To live and die for sports
Creed	Devotion, support and worship of Allaah سُبْحَانَهُ وَتَعَالَى	Devotion, support and worship of one team
Messenger	Rasulullaah ﷺ, the perfect role model	Players who lack in morals and honour
Scripture	Qur'aan and Ahadith of Nabi ﷺ	Sports magazines, television guide
Salaah	5 times a day	When countrymen win: Mexican wave, jumping up and down, clapping and screaming like monkeys

	RELIGION OF ISLAM	'RELIGION' OF SPORT
Zakaah	2.5% once a year for needs of the poor	Tickets for matches, airfares for futility
Fasting	Abstain from food, drinks and conjugal relations from Dawn till Sunset	Abstaining from Salaah, Zikr talking with wife and children till end of match
Hajj	To Makkah Mukarramah once in a lifetime	Regular international tournaments
Umrah	Whenever one has the means	To other matches at home and abroad
Zikr	Remembrance of Allaah Ta'ala even in worldly activities	Remembrance of match and players even in Salaah
Clothing	Modest clothing of Nabi ﷺ	Immodest, tight fitting clothing of sports star
Jihaad	To fight those who hinder the spread of Islam even if it be one's family members	To fight with those who support another team be it family members or co-religionists

	RELIGION OF ISLAM	‘RELIGION’ OF SPORT
Alliance	To those who believe in Islam, even if their nationalities, skin colour etc., are different	To those who support the same team even if they hate Allaah سُبْحَانَهُ وَتَعَالَى, Nabi صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ and Islam
Disavowal	To those who are enemies of Islam and try to cause harm to it	To those who do not support ones team, even if it be a Muslim brother
Dawah	Publicize the religion of Islam and invite others to do the	Publicize, defend and justify one’s team inviting others to do the same

15) The road towards Shirk (idolatry and polytheism)

Bowing towards players: A person writes: “To prove my point, I will relate a heart-rending incident, which has left me totally shocked.

A couple of years back, Southampton Football Club were caught ‘dog – fighting’ in the relegation zone. One of their greatest players ever, secured their Premiership life by playing

extremely brilliantly at decisive times. Whenever Matt Le Tissier would go forward to take a corner, the spectators upon his arrival would bow and prostrate before him. Not once, nor twice, but numerously. Blatant *Shirk* (ascribing partners with Allaah) and guess who watches this type of filth? Our children and their parents watch with them! My brothers, Rasulullaah ﷺ wept constantly in his prayers for the removal of this filth (*Shirk*) from the world. Today Islam's children, and Islam's future are being ruined and spoiled.”¹⁷

The Mexican wave seems to be one method of bowing towards the players, without fans even realizing it.

Football shirts and Shirk:

Hence, there are five aspects regarding purchasing and wearing football shirts and kits of soccer teams:

- a) Wearing clothing in imitation of non-Muslim players
- b) Wearing football shirts which advertise breweries
- c) Wearing football shirts which promote Satan and Satanism
- d) Wearing football shirts which promote Christianity
- e) Wearing football shirts which promote Shirk, like Greek mythology.

¹⁷ Soccer –a religion

a) Wearing clothing in imitation of non-Muslim players: The matter regarding football shirts (tops) is simple. Firstly, for a Muslims to imitate the Kuffaar is impermissible. Rasulullaah ﷺ has issued grave warnings regarding it. Ibn Umar رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهُ narrates that Rasulullaah ﷺ said, “Whosoever emulates a group of people, he is of them.” (Abu Dawood no. 4031)

b) Wearing football shirts which advertise breweries: By wearing such shirts one would be advertising and promoting a sin. This, in effect, encourages others to consume intoxicants. Regarding this, the Qur’aan states, “Do not help one another to commit sin and transgression.” (Al-Maa’idah verse 2)

c) Wearing football shirts which promote Satan and Satanism: A few years ago, some Malaysian Ulama sternly criticized the donning of Manchester United kits. “This is very dangerous. As a Muslim, we should not worship the symbols of other religions or the devils,” Mufti Nooh Gadot, a top Islamic cleric from the southern Johor state, told AFP. “It will erode our belief in Islam. There is no reason why we as Muslims should wear such jerseys, either for sports or fashion reasons,” said Mufti Nooh, an advisor to the Johor religious council. “Even if it (the jersey) is a gift, we should decline it. It is even more sinful when people realise this is wrong and still buy these jerseys to wear,” he added. Mufti Nooh said there was no “fatwa”, or religious edict, against the shirts but that one was not needed

when it was clearly wrong for Muslims to don such a garment. “These Muslims should repent, repent immediately,” he said.

Another leading cleric, Mufti Harussani Zakaria, a cleric from northern Perak state, agreed that devils should be shunned, not celebrated. “Yes of course in Islam we don’t allow people to wear this sort of thing,” he told AFP. “Devils are our enemies, why would you put their picture on you and wear it? You are only promoting the devil.”¹⁸

d) Wearing football shirts which promote Christianity:
Maulana Sulayman Kindi writes:

Soccer Crosses – An insult to Allaah’s Majesty

Verily Allaah does not forgive that Shirk be made with Him, but forgives what is less than that to whosoever He wishes. (an-Nisaa verse 48; an-Nisaa verse 116)

A sad indictment on the state of the Ummah’s Imaan and knowledge is the wearing of garments with the Cross – even in the Masjid – under the pretext of supporting certain soccer teams. Included in *Shirk* is displaying or respecting symbols of *Shirk* such as the Cross.

What needs to be understood is that in the matter of *Shirk* the mere display of such symbols is in itself a sin, and cannot be

¹⁸ <https://www.dailymail.co.uk/sport/football/article-1296530>

condoned on the excuse of a non-*Shirk* intention. Who would display a “beautifully” carved idol in the Masjid with the intention of adornment? Who would erect a statue of Mary on the pretext that the Qur’aan reveres Maryam?

Allaah and His Rasul ﷺ have declared *Shirk* to be the worse of sins. Whilst Allaah may forgive sins, even if the sinner has not repented, the Qur’aan specifically excludes *Shirk* – repentance MUST be made from it.

Allaah’s Rasul ﷺ could not bear the sight of the Cross. Adi ibn Haatim رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهُ narrates, “I came to Nabi ﷺ wearing a golden cross around my neck. He called out, “O ‘Adi! Throw this idol off your neck!”

Note from this that the Cross is an *idol* according to Rasulullaah ﷺ.

Why do we place our *Nafs* above the command of Rasulullaah ﷺ? The above Hadith should be sufficient for a true believer.”

Some people argue that *it is only a flag*. Yes, it is a flag, but a flag of what? Let us examine the crests of the four most famous teams who display the Cross:

- Barcelona
- England
- Portugal

- Brazil

Barcelona and England

Do Muslim Barcelona supporters close their eyes when reading the FC Barcelona website? It clearly states: And so, the crest that the club wears to this day was created, although there have been a few variations. It is a bowl-shaped design, in which the two upper quarters maintain the **St George Cross** and the red and yellow bars of the original, which are the most representative symbols of Barcelona and Catalonia.

(<http://www.fcbarcelona.com/web/english/club/historia/simbols/escut.html>)

Some might be unaware of the significance of the St George flag. It should of course make no difference. Did Rasulullaah ﷺ make a distinction between the host of styles of Christian Crosses when he reprimanded ‘Adi رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهُ? Did he specify a particular Cross when telling us that when ‘Isa عَلَيْهِ السَّلَامُ returns he will break Crosses?

St. George’s Cross Flag” This flag was in use during the **crusades** and it was one of the national emblems of England as early as 1277.

(<http://www.anyflag.com/history/stgeorge.html>)

The St George’s cross: **St George’s Cross** (or the Cross of St George) is a centered red cross on a white background. This pattern was associated with Saint George from medieval times.

St George's Cross has been adopted on the coat of arms and flags of several countries and cities which have St George as a patron saint, notably **England**, Georgia, Genoa and **Barcelona**..... It was adopted for the uniform of English soldiers during the **Crusades** of the eleventh, twelfth and thirteenth centuries, particularly by the **Knights Templar**.

(http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/St_George's_Cross)

Some Muslims are not bothered to learn their history and do not know what the Crusades were. A full explanation is not possible here, but in short, they were wars waged by the Christians against Islaam. The earlier Western Crusades were waged against the Muslims of al-Andalus (Spain and Portugal). The first city the Muslims lost there was Barcelona. Today we *celebrate* that loss by wearing the Crusader flag in the Masjid. Would it make any difference to certain stubborn ones if they knew how Muslims were burnt alive in Andalus for no crime other than refusing to be baptized?

Does it make any difference to us that all the Masaajid were turned into churches and stables? Anyone with imaan would weep to read the accounts of how a Spanish Muslim would have to see the Crusaders bringing Crosses and statues of Jesus into the Masjid in which he prayed his whole life. The modern Muslim proudly buys the Cross with his own money and brings it into the Masjid, not that wearing it outside the Masjid is in anyway condoned.

A sad irony is that Muslims refuse to imitate Rasulullaah ﷺ and say, “It is only Sunnah,” but feel no shame in imitating the symbols of the crusaders! Who do you choose?

Portugal Cross of the Order of Christ Football T-Shirt

Let us now look at the Portuguese symbol which is unanimously called, “Cross of the Order of Christ,” as can be seen in the above website. The name should be sufficient, the shape should be sufficient, our Imaan should be sufficient, that we discard this symbol.

For those who would wish for further information, read this about the symbol of a “religious military order.”

The Supreme Order Of Our Lord Jesus Christ

This rarely given distinction cannot strictly be characterized today as an Order of Knighthood, but more as an award of honor of the highest possible standing. The recent reforms of the Papal Orders by Pope Paul VI, [1] the Order of Christ was reserved to Catholic Heads of State to whom it might be given only to commemorate very special occasions at which the Pope himself was present. ...The original foundation was actually **a religious military Order** under the rule of Saint Benedict, constituted in Portugal by King Denis I on 14 August 1318, confirmed and granted statutory regulation by the Bull *Ad ea ex quibus* of Pope John XXII, given at Avignon 14/15 March 1319.

(<http://www.chivalricorders.org/vatican/christ.html>)

Brazil - Brazil was a Portuguese colony and so also adopted the Portuguese Cross of the Order of Jesus Christ. It should be no surprise therefore when the words “Jesus” is sometimes written on the Brazilian Soccer Cross.¹⁹

e) Wearing football shirts which promote Shirk, like Greek mythology.

The most famous example of this is the brand ‘Nike’

A Muslim would normally never wear a garment which has a cross on it, whether on his clothing or on his shoes. The reason why a Muslim will not wear a cross is that he understands that the cross is a sign of kufr and it is exclusive to a particular creed (i.e. Christianity). While the cross is a very obvious sign, there are many other signs of kufr.

Among these religious symbols is the symbol of Nike. Encyclopedia Britannica describes Nike in the following words: “Nike, in Greek religion, is the goddess of victory.” It also states that in Rome “she was worshipped from the earliest times. She came to be regarded as the protecting goddess of the state.” The Nike symbol, the swoosh, embodies the spirit of the winged goddess who inspired the most courageous of warriors.

¹⁹ Condensed from “Soccer Crosses - An insult to Allaah’s Majesty”
Sulayman al-Kindi

Adam Roth, an Australian revert to Islam, writes: Nike is actually the Greek Goddess of Victory, and their logo also symbolises her. I'm sure we all know that the belief in or worship of other Gods besides Allaah is Shirk.

The company Nike, originally known as Blue Ribbon Sports, do not try and hide the background of their name change, and admit that their name came directly from Nike, the Greek Goddess of Victory. This information is readily available on a number of sites on the internet.

Further information of the Goddess Nike is also widely available. She is known as the Winged Goddess of Victory, and has large wings like a swan. There are even ancient coins depicting the Goddess Nike and she is presented on them along with a swan.

The white swan wings of Nike are verified on a number of sources, and these formed the foundation of the Nike swoosh logo. Carolyn Davidson was the original creator of the logo, and it is interesting to hear how she came up with the design. "In a dream, Carolyn smiled at a swan gliding across a lake and, in waking, she thought how gracefully the swan swam, how it moved in space without moving a single feather. Minutes later, the Swoosh was born at the tip of her pencil as the swan in abstract and Blue Ribbon's primary colour became 'Swan white'."

So there is no doubt that the company Nike, along with their logo, are essentially promoting and advertising a false God. Indeed, this is a deliberate tactic by Satan and his Illuminati pawns. They have flooded the world with Satanic symbols, and the vast majority of the population do not know their true meanings.

Rasulullaah ﷺ hated anything which had the slightest connotation of Shirk:

‘Abdullah ibn Buraydah رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهُ narrated that a man came to Nabi ﷺ wearing a ring of yellow copper. Nabi ﷺ said to him, “Why do I detect the smell of idols from you?” So he flung it away, then he came wearing a ring of iron. He ﷺ said, “Why do I see you wearing the jewellery of the people of Hell?” So he flung it away and said, O Messenger of Allah, of what should I make it? He ﷺ replied, “Make it of silver, but do not let it weigh so much as one Mithqaal.” (*Abu Dawood no. 4223, Tirmidhi no. 1785 and Nasa’i no. 5195*))

Allamah Khattabi and other commentators have stated that Rasulullaah ﷺ detected the smell of idols from the yellow copper ring, because yellow copper was the material with which they would make idols.

Due to this slight and seemingly unrelated connotation and relationship with Shirk, the wearing of yellow copper rings has been prohibited. What then would be the case regarding Nike which clearly represents Shirk?

The World Cup Trophy and Greek mythology

The original Fifa World Cup trophy was a fourteen-inch high, gold-plated statuette of Nike, the Greek goddess of victory, holding up an octagonal cup above her head. She had a garland around her neck. It was inspired by the Nike of Samothrace statue, an incomplete yet iconic Greek statue from the Hellenistic era which is on display at Paris' Louvre museum. It was designed by Abel Lafluer, a French sculptor. It was named after Jules Rimet, the third Fifa president. It was finally stolen in 1983.

The task of designing a trophy for the competition was commissioned to Abel Lafleur, a French sculptor who would later go on to compete in art competitions held during the Los Angeles 1932 Olympics.

In the early 1970's, Silvio Gazzaniga, an Italian, sculpted a new trophy. He explains the symbolism of this trophy in these words: Shaped into these lines would be "a human being — the hero — but not alone, because the game and every match is done by two teams, two wills opposing and acting together," Gazzaniga says. "Energy, force, strength, dynamism, roughness, agility, speed, success, achievement, victory, triumph. All this

had to turn around and embrace the world, who is over all and over every single man.”²⁰

Milanese sculptor Silvio Gazzaniga actually used a trope dating back to mythological depictions of ‘Atlas’ bearing the globe.²¹

A person wrote: But of all the trophies, I would have to say that the FIFA World Cup Trophy is the one that really freaks me out...It looks like HR Giger designed it: the “Alien” of trophy design. I’ve never seen it up close, but in the pictures, I have seen, it seems to be all webbing and arms and people supporting the world in such a way that they look like a giant talon-y claw.

16) Disrespect to the symbols of Islaam

Sports in recent times has caused severe damage to the name of Allaah ﷻ and to the Kalimah. Not long ago, Nike Incorporated printed the name of Allaah on a new line of basketball shoes. After severe protest by Muslims, they rendered an apology and agreed to stop selling the shoes. The

²⁰ narratively.com/the-man-who-made-the-world-cup-trophy

²¹ In Greek mythology, Atlas is a Titan condemned to hold up the heavens or sky for eternity after the Titanomachy. In antiquity, he was credited with inventing the first celestial sphere. In some texts, he is even credited with the invention of astronomy itself.

The name of Atlantis mentioned in Plato's Timaeus' dialogue derives from "Atlantis nesos" (Ancient Greek: Ἀτλαντὶς νῆσος), literally meaning "Atlas's Island". (Wikipedia)

Kalimah, as well, has been printed on footballs. Whatever the intention of the manufacturers, the end result is that the name of Allaah and the Kalimah are being trampled, soiled, kicked and shown absolutely no respect.

With the World Cup and the participation of Saudi Arabia, the Kalimah has been further dishonoured and desecrated. The flag of Saudi Arabia which bears the Kalimah, appeared in the newspapers and other media formats. In the hands of non-Muslims, one can barely imagine how the Kalimah will be dishonoured. The carrying of the Saudi Arabian flag into the stadiums is also a matter of concern. In an environment of singing, dancing, music, alcohol, nudity, foul language, etc. the Kalimah is being utterly disrespected.

Often the hatred of the Kuffaar for Allaah and Islam becomes manifest from their words and actions. However, we should consider to what extent we support the very people who openly desecrate the name of Allaah **سُبْحَانَهُ وَتَعَالَى**. If our parents were greatly insulted by any person, will we still support him and add to his coffers? Then what about the name of Allaah **سُبْحَانَهُ وَتَعَالَى**? Would we give publicity to those who desecrate our name? Then what about the name of Allaah **سُبْحَانَهُ وَتَعَالَى**?

17) Other harms

- Becoming blind disciples of sport
- Sport stadiums becoming the shrines of our culture

- Behaviour excesses
- Violence
- Booze and drugs
- Flirting (with the prostitutes)
- Irresponsible bingeing
- Television serving as pulpits
- Coaches and commentators serve as priests offering their wisdom and advice to the masses
- Insults and jeering contemptuously
- Hero-worshipping players (making them idols and gods)
- Masjids becoming the forums for exchanging scores
- Sports gear becoming a status symbol

SPORTS AS AN EPIDEMIC

Maulana Afzal Ismail writes: It is important to determine whether or not sport has reached epidemic proportions within the Muslim community. In other words, has sport reached such proportions that cannot be tolerated on the basis of Islamic principles? To answer this question, we need to define a standard or criterion by which modern sport can be measured.

For a Muslim, any activity that is engaged in should not divert or prevent him from performing and fulfilling his religious obligations. This is a broad principle and standard by which we can establish whether modern sporting interest within the Muslim community is within acceptable levels or not.

Firstly, it is an open reality that sport has the ability to distract a person from the remembrance of Allaah سُبْحَانَهُ وَتَعَالَى. Sport has on many occasions prevented Muslims from performing Salaah. How many times have Muslims not been guilty of watching or playing soccer or cricket during Salaah times? Does sport not prevent Muslims from reciting the Qur'aan, from performing Zikr, etc. during the month of Ramadan? This addictive quality of sport also clouds the mind of one engaged in the remembrance of Allaah سُبْحَانَهُ وَتَعَالَى. It is not uncommon for Muslims nowadays to discuss sport in the Masjid and while making Wudhu. It is indeed unfortunate to see Muslims staying awake after Sehri in the month of Ramadan to watch cricket. How unfortunate that the very same Muslim will not stay awake

after Sehri to perform Ibadat, if the cricket is not on. How tragic that the enthusiasm that exists for cricket quickly vanishes when it comes to performing Salaah, reciting the Qur'aan, engaging in Zikr, etc.

Secondly, sport has managed to consume the spare time of many a Muslim. Muslims have even granted priority to sport over religious and essential worldly obligations. It has become the focus and object of our social discussions and interactions. Do we enthusiastically discuss Islam in the same way that we converse about sport? Unfortunately not.

Thirdly, sport has reached fanatical levels in certain portions of the Muslim community. It is not uncommon to see Muslims in their thousands attending cricket matches where Pakistan is involved. It has for long been a trend amongst Muslims to purchase and wear soccer T-shirts, scarves, etc. of English football clubs. Further, Muslims are very widely read and informed about the latest performances, players and statistics regarding sport. How unfortunate that this kind of interest is seldom shown towards past and current events in the Islamic world.

Fourthly, sport is openly encouraged despite it being coupled to a host of immoral and potentially harmful attributes. These harms which frequently ridicule and ignore basic Islamic teachings are conveniently ignored. Indirectly, sport is glorified and honoured whereas Islamic teachings are ignored.

Fifthly, sport is encouraged and recommended by parents, teachers and leaders alike. This has come about because of the acceptance of sport as a norm or convention. In addition, sport is encouraged with no feelings of guilt despite the numerous harms of sport. There is very little or no discouragement of fanaticism, hero worship and wasting of money and time with regard to sport.

The reasons above prove that sport has most definitely reached alarming proportions within the general Muslim community. Even though this statement may be questioned by some, it is a tragedy if even one Muslim neglects or omits one Salaah due to sport. If one Muslim consciously ignores his essential religious obligations to Allaah ﷻ, the misfortune would be sufficient to demand attention.

Why this epidemic?

In order to find solutions to the problem, we first need to determine why sport has reached such alarming proportions in the Muslim community?

Firstly, the individual Muslim, living in a non-Muslim country, constantly faces a dilemma with regard to the environment in which he lives. In a country like South Africa where the Muslim community is a minority, it is not surprising that alien ideologies are unfortunately allowed to erode the Islamic code of life. The individual Muslim needs to be firm and strong in

belief in order to avoid the various sources of temptation within this un-Islamic environment.

Unfortunately, erroneous dictates of foreign cultures have become norms within the Muslim community. For example, perceptions that this world is an end in itself and as such life should be enjoyed by engaging in such activities which provide for maximum satisfaction of the desires. Worldly pleasures have gained priority over the more important abode of the Hereafter (Akhirah). In the sporting context, Muslims have also started believing that peace of mind can only be achieved through sport.

The Western media is flooded and obsessed with sport. Almost every newspaper and many magazines make some sort of reference to sport. Television is swamped with sport. This widespread coverage of sport has revolutionized Muslim homes. The ease of access to sport due to television is a major reason why sport has reached alarming proportions within Muslim society.

Secondly, Muslim parents, teachers and even some Ulama openly encourage sport, without setting any limitations. The interest in sport shown by Muslim adults together with a culture of hero worshipping of sportsmen have made children falsely believe that modern sport is totally acceptable under all conditions. The common Muslim is seldom discouraged to become a sporting fanatic.

Thirdly, sport has become a norm within Muslim society. The Muslim who shows little interest in sport becomes marginalised in public discussions. Muslims believe that modern sport is an acceptable means of public interaction.

Solutions

The Muslim who is strong in belief and conviction will realize that any activity which he engages in should not divert or prevent him from fulfilling the commands of Allaah ﷻ. This conviction would be sufficient to direct his actions and thoughts accordingly. However, this can prove more difficult for the common Muslim who has become fanatical or addicted to sport. Based on the reasons for sport becoming an epidemic, the following ideas are offered to help solve the problem:

- a) Muslim parents, teachers, community leaders and the Ulama need to educate and advise children and the youth regarding participation, spectating and involvement in sport.
- b) Muslim newspapers, newsletters and other print media need to constantly publish literature in order to educate the Muslim public about Islam and sport.
- c) Muslims need to prevent alien cultures from contaminating our Islamic beliefs. Hence, we should avoid watching sports on television which we know causes more harm than good.
- d) Muslims should avoid wasting time and money to attend major sporting events.

e) The Islamic media, be it print or otherwise, should decrease coverage and reporting of modern sport.

f) Islamic institutions, should encourage students to engage in swimming, archery, horse riding, etc., rather than modern sport like cricket, soccer, etc. Those activities which have been encouraged by the Hadith should be taught to students with the intent of maintaining good health and training for Jihaad.

As mentioned earlier, people participate in sports due to extrinsic motives. These include material rewards, name and fame, etc. If Muslims can only realize that these are secondary to man's existence. Man has been created to worship Allaah *سُبْحَانَهُ وَتَعَالَى*. If this becomes our priority, then a search for extrinsic motives will vanish.²²

²² Islam and Sport – Ml Afzal Ismail

THE PURPOSE OF CREATION AND THE OBJECTIVE OF LIFE

Maulana Yunus Patel explained: Allaah ﷻ mentions in the Qur'aan Shareef,

“Do you then think that we created you in jest and that you would not be brought back to us (for an account)?”
(*Mu'minoon verse 115*)

Our purpose for being sent to this world is definitely not play and amusement.

“We created not the heavens, the earth and all between them, merely in (idle) sport.” (*Ad-Dukhaan verse 38*)

However, Allaah ﷻ and His Rasul ﷺ do not deprive us of enjoyment and entertainment. The Shari'ah and the Sunnah accommodate and give guidance for a Muslim with regards to Halaal, permissible entertainment, humour, laughter, play and relaxation. However, there is certainly no scope for events that feature Haraam indulgences.

Moreover, deliberate and planned sins do not feature in a Muslim's life.

The reality of the “World Cup” and other national and international sporting events, is that they are a dangerous fusion of major sins.

...The Soccer World Cup could be described as an International “upsurge of sins”. We are Muslims. And we are very fortunate that we are Muslims. There is no compatibility between a Muslim and sin.

And when sins increase and multiply then we invite a punishment in proportion to that disobedience. ...Haven't we taken lesson from Tsunamis, Gale-force winds, Hurricanes and Earthquakes that left nothing but devastation in their wake? Are we immune to such disaster? Are we safe from punishment?

One of our great Scholars had said very aptly: “It baffles me to see a people who are advised to get their provision and are called upon that the departure time is due, yet they sit down playing.”

Our boarding passes were given to us the moment we entered this world ... and that boarding pass is for boarding the flight of death. We have been informed and advised of the long journey ahead and the much-needed provision for the journey – but how strange, that we choose to while away our time and accumulate nothing for what lies ahead.

Allaah سُبْحَانَهُ وَتَعَالَى states,

“O People of Imaan! Save yourselves and your families from a fire whose fuel is men and stones...” (*At-Tahreem verse 6*)

“Your (real) friends are (no less than) Allaah, His Apostle, and the (fellowship of) Believers, - those who establish regular prayers, and regular charity, and they bow down humbly (in worship). As for those who turn (for friendship) to Allaah, His Rasul and the (fellowship of) Believers – it is the fellowship of Allaah that must certainly triumph.” (*Maa'idah 58/ 59*)²³

CONCLUSION

To abstain from these sporting events is no easy task. The environment all around promotes this lifestyle. For this reason, great glad tidings have been given for those who remain firm on Deen in such conditions:

Rasulullaah ﷺ said, “The Deen will recoil to Hijaaz just as a snake recoils towards its hole. The Deen will then make its home in Hijaaz just as a mountain goat makes its home on the peaks of mountains. The Deen started off as a stranger and will again become a stranger as it started off, so glad tidings for (those who are regarded as) the strangers (because of their association with the Deen). They are the ones who will rectify the distortions that people had introduced into my sunnah.” (*Tirmidhi no. 2630*)

²³ The World Cup | The Spiritual Harms by Hazrat Maulana Yunus Patel
رحمہ اللہ

In another Hadith, Rasulullaah ﷺ said, “The one who holds firm onto my path in his Deen during times of corruption will have the reward of one hundred martyrs.” (*Ibaanatul-Kubra of Ibn Battah no. 145, see 212 as well – Marfoo’ narration from Yahya*)

It is reported from Abu Qatadah and Abud Dahma who said, ‘We came to a man from the people of the desert and asked him, ‘Did you hear a Hadith from Rasulullaah ﷺ?’” He replied, “I heard him saying, “You will never leave something for the sake of Allaah, but Allaah will give you something better in return.” (*Musnad Ahmad no. 20739*)

Seven great tidings have been given in the following verse for those who abstain from befriending the disbelievers and those who oppose the way of Allaah ﷻ and his Rasul: Allaah ﷻ states,

﴿لَا تَجِدُ قَوْمًا يُؤْمِنُونَ بِاللَّهِ وَالْيَوْمِ الْآخِرِ يُوَادُّونَ مَنْ حَادَّ اللَّهَ وَرَسُولَهُ وَلَوْ كَانُوا آبَاءَهُمْ أَوْ أَبْنَاءَهُمْ أَوْ إِخْوَانَهُمْ أَوْ عَشِيرَتَهُمْ أُولَئِكَ كَتَبَ فِي قُلُوبِهِمُ الْإِيمَانَ وَأَيَّدَهُمْ بِرُوحٍ مِنْهُ وَيُدْخِلُهُمْ جَنَّاتٍ تَجْرِي مِنْ تَحْتِهَا الْأَنْهَارُ خَالِدِينَ فِيهَا رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهُمْ وَرَضُوا عَنْهُ أُولَئِكَ حِزْبُ اللَّهِ أَلَا إِنَّ حِزْبَ اللَّهِ هُمُ الْمُفْلِحُونَ﴾

You will not find a people (i.e. it is not possible to find people) who believe in Allaah and in the Last Day befriending those who oppose Allaah and His Messenger even though they may be their fathers, their sons, their brothers or their family members.

1) Allaah has inscribed Imaan in their hearts (In other words, Allaah سُبْحَانَهُ وَتَعَالَى firmly embedded imaan in their hearts and made it as hard as a rock.)

2) and helped them by His hidden inspiration (Allaah سُبْحَانَهُ وَتَعَالَى provides them with unseen light with which the heart receives a special type of supernatural life, or this could mean that they receive the help of Jibreel عَلَيْهِ السَّلَامُ.)

3) He shall admit them into gardens beneath which rivers flow, abiding therein forever.

4) Allaah is pleased with them (These people became displeased with everyone else for the sake of Allaah سُبْحَانَهُ وَتَعَالَى. Allaah سُبْحَانَهُ وَتَعَالَى therefore became pleased with them. When Allaah سُبْحَانَهُ وَتَعَالَى is pleased with someone, what else can he ask for?)

5) and they are pleased with Him.

6) They are the party of Allaah.

7) Listen! Those who are the party of Allaah – they are the ones who have achieved their goal.” (Mujaadalah verse 22)

Shah Sahib رَحِمَهُ اللهُ writes, “The true believers are those who do not befriend the enemies of Allaah سُبْحَانَهُ وَتَعَالَى even though they may be their parents and offspring. They shall receive these ranks.”

A few additional benefits of staying away from such futility:

8) On such occasions, when all people are in unmindfulness, those who engage in the remembrance and obedience of Allaah ﷻ will gain great rewards.

Imam Maalik رَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ says, “It has reached me that Rasulullaah ﷺ used to say, “One who makes dhikr in the place of heedlessness (the marketplace) is like the one who remain steadfast on the battlefield and continues fighting, contrary to that person who flees from the battlefield. Similarly, one who makes dhikr in the place of heedlessness is like a green branch on a dried-out tree.” (*Shu’abul-Imaan* no. 561)

Another narration states, “One who makes Dhikr in the place of heedlessness is like an extremely bright lamp in a dark house. One who makes dhikr in the place of heedlessness is shown his place in Jannah while he is in this world.” (*Ibid*)

Alqamah رَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ narrates that Nabi ﷺ said, “The action most liked by Allaah is *Subhatul Hadeeth*.” When I asked him what it means, he replied, “When everyone is occupied in talking, this person remains engaged in the Dhikr of Allaah.” (*Al-Mu’jamul-Kabeer* no. 496, vol. 17 page 185)

9) Forgiveness from Allaah ﷻ: Abu Qilaabah رَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ states, “Two men met in the marketplace. One said to the other, “Come, let us make dua to Allaah and seek forgiveness from Him in the

place where people are unmindful, perhaps Allaah will forgive us.” They did so. After a while one of them passed away. The other saw him in a dream. The deceased said to him, “Do you know that Allaah ﷻ forgave us the day we met at the marketplace.” (*Musannaf Ibn Abi Shaibah no. 35692*)

10) Acceptance of Du’aas: Abu Idrees Khowlaani رَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ reports that Mu’aadh رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهُ once said to them, “When you associate with people, it is inevitable that they would engage in (worldly) discussions. When you see that they have become negligent of Allaah, that is the time when you should devote your complete attention to your Rabb. A narrator named Waleed says that when he mentioned this to Abdur Rahmaan ibn Yazeed ibn Jaabir, he remarked, “That is quite right because Abu Talha Hakeem bin Dinaar informed me that according to the Sahaabah رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهُمْ, the sign of an accepted Du’aa is when a person turns his complete attention to Allaah at a time when others are negligent of Allaah.” (*Hilyatul-Awliyaa vol. 1 page 236*)

May Allaah ﷻ protect us from these evils and grant us the ability to prepare for our actual abode. Aameen.

THE SOCCER WORLD CUP – FROM ANOTHER CORNER

Moulana Imraan Khamissa

At this critical juncture we find ourselves in a period where the talks, discussions, topics of conversation and focus of media networks, centre around the Soccer World Cup. Many people would spend large sums of hard-earned money to witness this spectacle live, while others would spend hours of valuable time glued to the television watching every move of their favourite team. I would like to draw a parallel between the World Cup and our lives as Muslims.

It is really amazing how players engaged in a football match or any other code of sport find their lives guided and governed by the rules of the game. They are cognisant of the fact that if the rules are broken or the laws are flouted penalties would follow. The player is guided by the lines, boundaries and parameters of the game which he plays. As Muslims we have been sent for a greater purpose, the lines and boundaries that govern us are the lines and boundaries chalked out for us by Allaah سُبْحَانَهُ وَتَعَالَى. Allaah سُبْحَانَهُ وَتَعَالَى says in the Glorious Qur’aan, “These are the boundaries set by Allah, do not transgress them.” (*Baqarah verse 229*)

How strange it is that a person is so mindful about the 2 linesmen watching his actions from either side of the field while

he is unmindful of the *Kiraaman Kaatibeen*, on either side of his shoulder, writing all his actions.

How strange it is that a person would dare not touch the ball with his hand in the penalty area for fear of the referee penalizing him, while he dares to venture into touching that which Allaah سُبْحَانَهُ وَتَعَالَى has prohibited him from, without any fear of impunity or repercussions.

How strange it is that a person on the soccer field is so cautious about not being caught off side, while he does not care if Allaah سُبْحَانَهُ وَتَعَالَى catches him in places where he is not supposed to be.

How strange it is that when a free kick of the opposing team is so dangerously placed that it is a threat to the goal, players rally together to form a line of defence, while we do not think of standing together to resist the onslaught on Islam from those opposing the deen. Allaah سُبْحَانَهُ وَتَعَالَى says in the Noble Qur'aan, "Indeed Allah loves those who fight in His Cause, in rows as if they are a solid structure." (*Saff* verse 4)

How strange it is that we would do whatever it takes to be like our sporting heroes in terms of dress code, hairstyle and external appearances, to show our identity and loyalty; but there is nothing in us to show that we are the followers of the Greatest Nabi, Muhammad صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ.

How strange it is that a person fears the yellow warning card of the referee but fails to respond to the mild reprimands that

have come from Allaah سُبحَانَهُ وَتَعَالَى in the form of trials and tribulations; the yellow card in the form of some sickness, the yellow card in the form of death in the family, the yellow card in the form of some financial loss, the yellow card in the form of a narrow escape from an accident or the yellow card in the form of relief from a life threatening situation.

How strange it is that we are wary about the red card of the referee which would signify suspension or expulsion for a short period from the field of play, but totally unconcerned about those actions that would shift us out from Jannah forever.

How strange it is that a person understands that after the final whistle is blown no matter how many goals are scored, they cannot count in his favour, but the same person fails to understand that when the final whistle for his life is blown no more good deeds could be added to his account for the Aakhirah.

How strange it is that a person would never think of putting his team at a disadvantage by scoring an own goal, but thinks nothing about doing harm to his own Deen by his very own actions.

How strange is that a player is concerned about the millions of people around the world watching him in action but he seems to be unperturbed about the day when every deed of his will be played out in front of mankind on the Day of Qiyaamah.

Remember, my dear brothers, the matches in the World cup may go into injury time but as far as our life is concerned our time span in this world would not end a second earlier nor delayed a second later. “...when their appointed time comes, they cannot delay it for a moment nor can they bring it any earlier” (*Yunus verse 61*)

Sometimes a person is at the mouth of the goal but fails to put the ball at the back of the net. We say “He missed a sitter”, “He missed a golden opportunity”.

How often has Allaah سُبْحَانَهُ وَتَعَالَى presented us with golden opportunities to gain nearness to him with the opportunity to look after aged parents, opportunities to assist the needy, opportunities to perform Salaah, opportunities to give charity, opportunities to smile or reconcile friendship and family ties and opportunities to turn to him in repentance?

How often Allaah سُبْحَانَهُ وَتَعَالَى asks, “Is there anyone seeking forgiveness that I may forgive him, is there anyone seeking sustenance that I may sustain him, is there anyone in any difficulty that I may ease his difficulty for him”

Shaytaan is playing a more dangerous game with you. He is sure to sit on your path tackling and defending ensuring that you do not reach your goal. How often have you heard of a team scoring in the final seconds of a game to clinch victory? Shaytaan will continue to try to snatch away your Imaan until the final throes of death. Our defences have to be on full alert at all times.

As Muslims we should not be running after the World Cup We should actually be vying with each other for the cups that surround the pond of Kauthar from the Mubaarak hands of Nabi. If only we would make Allaah سُبْحَانَهُ وَتَعَالَى our Goal, Nabi صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ our Model and the Qur'aan our book of rules and regulations, we would be heading in the right direction.

TAKING THE FIRST STEP

Moulana Ridwan Kajee

For every disease, be it physical or spiritual, Allaah ﷻ has created a cure. The responsibility to find and extract the remedies for physical illnesses was then left upon the shoulders of the doctors and herbalists of the world. As for spiritual illnesses, its cures were made open for the world to enjoy. Rasulullaah ﷺ left no stone unturned in describing the diseases his Ummah would suffer from and for every sickness, medication was prescribed.

Speaking of the dreadful spiritual maladies that the Ummah would surely encounter, Rasulullaah ﷺ mentioned that the greatest test his Ummah would ever face would be during the era of Dajjal (The anti-Christ). Rasulullaah ﷺ highlighted the power, affluence, and authority he and his followers would enjoy, as well as the magical influence he would hold over most of the people of the world. The poison dished out by Dajjal shall be the most lethal the Ummah has ever seen, yet even this poison's remedy has been shown.

Rasulullaah ﷺ mentioned, “Whoever shall read Surah Kahf on the Day of Jumu'ah, Allaah ﷻ shall create around him a spiritual shield, stretching from his feet to the sky, which shall provide for him light until the Day of Qiyamah, and his sins

of that week shall be forgiven. According to another narration, if he had to thereafter find Dajjal, he shall not be overpowered.”

If taking this medication is found too time-consuming, a quicker alternative has also been shown: Rasulullaah ﷺ has also been quoted as saying that if one recites just ten verses of this Surah, that too, shall suffice him from Dajjal and his evil.

«من قرأها يوم الجمعة سَطَعَ له نورٌ من تحت قدميه إلى عنان السماء يضيء له إلى يوم القيامة وغُفِرَ له ما بين الجمعتين وقال: من قرأ سورة الكهف كما أنزلت ثم أدرك الدجال لم يسلط عليه وقال: من قرأ عشر آيات من الكهف عصم من فتنة الدجال» (السنن الكبرى للنسائي والأحاديث الثابتة في فضائل سور وآيات القرآن للشيخ محمد طرهوني)

Contained within the meaning of this Surah is the potion for whatever poison Dajjal shall have to offer. And to facilitate matters even more, Allaah ﷻ made this potion such, that even if one merely recites it, although totally ignorant of its meaning, then too it shall render its effect. Just as how medicine does its work, even though the patient knows practically zero regarding its ingredients, similarly the mere recital of this Surah shall produce its desired effect, even though one be ignorant of its meaning.

The highlight of this Surah, and also the reason behind its name, is an incident which occurred between the era of Nabi Isa ﷺ and Rusulullaah ﷺ. It had to do with a group of youngsters, who were not prepared to allow themselves to be merely pushed by the tide, i.e. the tide of Kufr, Shirk and evil.

According to a narration of Baghawi, a ceremony (in which idols would also be worshipped) had begun, and all had to participate. Failure to do so would be punishable with death, yet this made no difference to their resolution to stay pure from the filth of the function. To avoid execution, they decided to flee to some unknown cave and emerge only after everything had calmed down.

The manner in which Allaah ﷻ thereafter, saw to the protection of these youth, by placing an aura of fear around the mouth of the cave, so that none would dare enter it, and then placing them in such a deep sleep, which would last for over 300 years, without a single bed sore forming, and forbidding all harm from coming upon them, be it through insects, snakes, wild animals, etc., all this spoke volumes of the divine power of Allaah ﷻ and the karamah (supernatural feat) of these youth. Yet, when Allaah ﷻ made mention of this most amazing and astonishing event, He began it with the words:

﴿أَمْ حَسِبْتَ أَنَّ أَصْحَابَ الْكَهْفِ وَالرَّقِيمِ كَانُوا مِنْ آيَاتِنَا عَجَبًا﴾

What, do you regard the incident of the people of the cave to be from amongst the major signs of Allaah's power!?

In other words: "Do not regard such events to be rare, one of its kind, one in a million; rather, incidents like this occur all the time. Whoever places his trust on Allah, no matter how severe

the conditions around may appear to be, no matter how strong the opposing tide may seem to be, no matter how attractive and alluring the temptations may be, if one, with determination, in the love of Allah, stands up and refuses to submit to the demands of peer pressure and the whisperings of Nafs and Shaytaan, Allaah سُبْحَانَهُ وَتَعَالَى shall deal with him as He had dealt with the people of the cave.

These youth were not made of iron. They also had fear of the repercussions of their actions. They were also attacked by the whisperings of Shaytaan. They were young boys; made of the same material all other young boys are made of. It was the bold step that they made towards Allah which made the difference between them and the rest of the people of their era. As soon as they took that step forward, Allaah سُبْحَانَهُ وَتَعَالَى grabbed them, drew them forward, instilled spiritual strength within their hearts and enshrouded them with peace and tranquillity, due to which all their fears dissolved into thin air.

﴿وَرَبَطْنَا عَلَى قُلُوبِهِمْ إِذْ قَامُوا فَقَالُوا رَبُّنَا رَبُّ السَّمَاوَاتِ وَالْأَرْضِ﴾

And when they stood up and proclaimed that Allah alone is their Creator, Nourisher and Sustainer, at that moment we transformed their hearts into hearts of steel!

The message being given to all and especially to the youth of the Ummah is: When you will be invited to areas of evil, do as the people of the cave did! Stand up and move away, no matter how

impossible it may seem, and Allaah shall do the rest. As He saw to the protection of the youth of the cave, so too shall he enshroud you with His divine love, mercy and protection. As he made their hearts strong and erased all their fears, so too shall He do for you. All that is needed is the first step from your side!

INVALUABLE 90 MINUTES...

From the teachings of Shaykh Muhammad Saleem
Dhorat (Hafizahullah)

You've just watched or listened to 90 minutes of football... It was just harmless fun? Your team won? Mind if I ask what you've gained?

Please take a moment and look at this, it's amazing what these very 90 minutes could have done for you...

- By reciting **3 Juz** from the Qur'aan Majeed your 90 minutes could have earned you **282,240** rewards!!!
- By reciting **Alhamdulillah** in 90 minutes, you could have filled your *Meezaan* (scale) **5,940** times!!!
- By reciting **Subhaanallaah Walhamdulillah**, you could have earned the reward equal to the space between the earth and the skies **2,970** times!!!

- By reciting **Subhaanallaahi Walhamdulillaahi Walaa-ilaaha Illallaahu Wallaahu Akbar** in 90 minutes, you could have planted **1,620** trees in Jannah!!!
- By reciting **Durood** in 90 minutes, you could have had **51,300** sins forgiven, **51,300** rewards granted and **51,300** stages elevated in Paradise!!!
- By reciting **Surah Ikhlāas** in 90 minutes, you could have earned the reward equal to **360** complete Qur'aan recitals and built yourself **108** palaces in Jannah!!!

So, the next time you have 90 minutes at hand, I hope you'll know how to make yourself a winner.

FOUL

We obey the commands of the referee, yet we never think about obeying the commandments of Allaah.

We go to the stadium hours before kick-off, yet we always leave for the Masjid when Salaah is already over.

“We know the life history of soccer-stars, yet we don't know the life history of our Beloved Nabi ﷺ.”

“Soccer results affect our hearts, yet the slaughter of thousands has no effect on us. We prepare ourselves mentally and physically for a soccer match yet we never think of preparing ourselves for Jihaad.”

“We always talk of the post-mortem of a match, yet we never talk about the greatness of Allaah”

“When the game goes into extra-time, we all get excited, yet when the Imaam makes his Salaah 2 minutes longer, we cry ‘foul!’”

A FEW IMPORTANT DUAS

اَللّٰهُمَّ اِنِّىْ اَعُوْذُ بِكَ مِنْ زَوَالِ نِعْمَتِكَ وَتَحَوُّلِ عَافِيَتِكَ وَفُجَاءَةِ نِقْمَتِكَ وَجَمِيْعِ
سَخَطِكَ

O Allaah, I seek Your protection from loss of Your bounty, changing of well-being granted by You, sudden calamities, and any action which will lead to Your displeasure. (Muslim)

اَللّٰهُمَّ اَلْهِنِّىْ رُشْدِيْ، وَاَعِزِّدْنِيْ مِنْ شَرِّ نَفْسِيْ

O Allah, inspire me with guidance and protect me from the evil of myself. (Tirmidhi)

اَللّٰهُمَّ اِنِّىْ اَعُوْذُ بِكَ مِنَ الْجُبْنِ، وَاَعُوْذُ بِكَ مِنَ الْبُخْلِ، وَاَعُوْذُ بِكَ مِنْ اَنْ اُرَدَّ اِلَى
اَرْدَلِ الْعُمْرِ، وَاَعُوْذُ بِكَ مِنْ فِتْنَةِ الدُّنْيَا، وَعَذَابِ الْقَبْرِ

O Allaah, I seek Your protection from cowardice, stinginess, becoming senile, and from the tests of this world and the punishment of the grave. (Bukhaari)

اَللّٰهُمَّ اَرِنَا الْحَقَّ حَقًّا وَاَرْزُقْنَا اِتِّبَاعَهُ وَاَرِنَا الْبَاطِلَ بَاطِلًا وَاَرْزُقْنَا اجْتِنَابَهُ

O Allaah, let us see the truth as the truth and bless us with the ability to follow it, and let us understand the wrong to be wrong and bless us with the ability to abstain from it.

(Sharhul-Ihya, Du'aa of Abu Bakr رَضِيَ اللهُ عَنْهُ)

رَبَّنَا لَا تُرِغْ قُلُوبَنَا بَعْدَ إِذْ هَدَيْتَنَا وَهَبْ لَنَا مِنْ لَدُنْكَ رَحْمَةً إِنَّكَ أَنْتَ الْوَهَّابُ

O our Creator, let our hearts not stray after being guided, and bless us with Your special mercy. Verily You are The All-Giving. (Al-Imraan)



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