

# MUSIC AND ITS EFFECT

*By Ahmed H. Sheriff*

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## FOREWORD

In modern times, musical entertainment is considered to be one of the essential necessities of life as a result of the cheap and abundant availability of recording instruments, musical enjoyment has become exceedingly widespread throughout the world.

With the tempo of life nowadays being so fast, the human mind is saddled with tension and stress. We have come to accept high blood-pressure and nervous breakdown as the unavoidable side-effects of modern civilization. And many have come to believe that music for its soothing effect is a must in our daily life. But few of us realize that the temporary soothing effect and the pleasure of music is outstripped by many other harmful effects of physical, mental and moral nature.

It was during 1974 that the first edition of this booklet was first published. From little information we have gathered since then from our friends in the East and West , this booklet appeared to have aroused, a good discussion on the harmful effects of music.

In order to counter the fast increasing musical enjoyment throughout the world, the Ahl-ul-Balt Islamic Foundation, Dubai, reprinted the second edition circulating it freely to distant lands. Our grateful thanks to them for their participation in the noble work of arousing awareness of the evil of music.

Never before has the subject of music been so important and arousing concern regarding its influence on human minds than it is today. I have therefore deemed it advisable to republish the third edition of this booklet after reviewing and making minor alterations in its contents as well as adding some useful relevant matter.

It is my fervent hope that the booklet will continue to provoke serious thought over the subject of music. In view of the holy quotations from the Qur'an and ahadith, readers are requested to accord due respect by preserving it. May they also help us in its circulation.

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December, 1984

## (1) WHAT IS MUSIC?

Music, according to the New National Dictionary, means “Art of combining sounds or sequences of notes into harmonious patterns pleasing to the ear and satisfying to the emotions; melody”.

According to the Great Encyclopaedic Dictionary, this combining of sounds is “for reproduction by the voice or various kinds of musical instruments in rhythmic, melodious and harmonious form so as to express thought or feeling and affect the emotion;” and the word is also used for the “sound so produced,” and for ‘written or printed score of musical compositions.’ Not so technically, it is also used for “pleasant sound, e.g., song of a bird, murmur of a stream, cry of hounds.”

In Islam music is called **غِنَا** (Ghina), and in Shia Sha’riah is counted as one of the ‘great sins’. At first, it may seem unrealistic to ban every “pleasant sound”; but there is no need to be alarmed. The Sha’riah has defined ‘Ghina’ in a different way. In Islam, vocal music means: Prolongation of voice with variation of tune and crescendo such as irreligious people recognise as music.

It is evident from the above definition that the Sha’riah does not forbid ‘pleasant sounds’; but if someone recites anything with prolongation of sound and variation of

pitch so much so that a common man thinks that he/she is singing, then and only then it will be 'Ghina' and sin.

And it makes no difference whether the thing recited was the Qur'an, religious poem or love song.

Musical instruments may be divided into two categories:  
(1) The instruments which are exclusively used for 'vain', i.e., disapproved purposes. For example, piano. Islamic Sharia absolutely forbids use of such instruments.  
(2) The instruments which are used sometimes for approved, and sometimes for dis-approved purposes. For example, drum which is be used for military purpose in Jihad, is also used for merry making and dancing. Such instruments are allowed or forbidden, according to the purpose for which, they are used. Another example is Radio, which is allowed if used for the news and such approved purposes, and forbidden if used for music.

These simple rules enable even a layman to decide by himself which sounds and Instruments to avoid, without any need to acquire professional knowledge of music.

## **(2) ORIGIN OF MUSIC**

No doubt music is one of the most ancient methods of merrymaking and enjoyment, of expressing feelings and emotions. It is called 'international language', because it



encompasses the whole world and does not know any geographical or political boundary.

Let us find out what is the reason for its worldwide prevalence. We have it on the authority of Imam Ja'far As-Sadiq (a.s) that when Hadhrat Adam (a.s) died, his infamous son Cain (Qabil) and Satan were very happy. Both gathered at a place and invented some musical instruments to celebrate the death of Hadhrat Adam (a.s). And in the words of Imam (a.s), all such musical things which people now use for merrymaking have originated from that<sup>1</sup>.

So, religion and anthropology both agree that music is a very ancient thing and therefore its no wonder that it has spread widely with the spread of the human race. But how dare a sensible 'child of Adam' (especially if he is a Muslim) "enjoy" music, which is an invention of Satan and Cain, the rebellious and disloyal son of Adam ?

Here one may ask: But what is the harm in music? Why has it been forbidden in Islam?

The answer is that music does have harmful effects on nervous system and is the cause of many ailments including ulcer, diabetes and madness. It creates imbalance in human faculties, retards spiritual

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1 Wasael-us-Shia; Babu Tahrim-e-Istimal-il-Malahi.

development, and lowers the ethical values.

For further details, read the following chapters.

### **(3) PHYSICAL EFFECTS**

Before explaining its effects on nerves it is necessary to briefly describe an intricate and awe-inspiring part of the nervous system itself. These details are quoted from the “Foundation of Biology”<sup>2</sup> and “How your Nervous System Works”<sup>3</sup>:

“Many reflexes that help control the internal environment involve a special part of the nervous system called the autonomic nervous system (ANS). This system consists of nerves making up the motor pathway to the heart, stomach, intestine and other internal organs. These nerves are not under voluntary control, that is, you can not make your heart beat faster on command.”

“The two major divisions of the autonomic nervous system are called the sympathetic and parasympathetic nervous systems.”

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2 William D. McElory & Carl P. Swanson and others; published by Prentice-Hall, Inc; Englewood Cliffs, New Jersey U.S.A. 1968

3 J.D. Ratcliff; Reader’s Digest — Book of Human Body

“Sympathetic nerves leave the middle regions of the spinal cord.

“Parasympathetic nerves leave the central nervous system from the upper regions where they travel in cranial nerves (i.e., 12 pairs of nerves attached to the brain and serving head and neck), and from the lower most regions of the spinal cord where they travel in spinal nerves.

“Most internal organs of your body are supplied with both parasympathetic and sympathetic nerve fibres.”

“In general, these two types of nerves work in opposite ways. For example, impulses travelling along sympathetic nerve fibres towards the heart increase your heart-beat rate, whereas impulses travelling along the parasympathetic nerves leading to the heart decrease its rate.

“When we examine the effects of sympathetic stimulation of various organs, a pattern begins to emerge. We find that sympathetic stimulation causes a number of events:

1. Widening of air passage leading to the lungs;
2. Constriction or narrowing of blood vessel in the skin and in the intestinal tract, resulting in blood

- being shifted from the digestive organs and skin to the muscles;
3. A general slowing down of movements in the intestinal tract;
  4. An increase in the force and rate of heart-beat;
  5. Release of the blood sugar from the liver;
  6. Release of the hormone adrenaline.

All of these activities prepare the human being for emergencies such as running or fighting. The widening of air passages makes it easier for the human being to breathe faster and get more oxygen. Blood is shifted from regions where it will not be needed during the emergency (the intestinal tract, for example) to skeletal and heart muscle which will need oxygen and blood sugar.

The heart beats faster and stronger so that blood circulates through the muscles at a higher rate. Blood sugar is released from storage in the liver into the blood stream where it will be available to supply muscles with energy.

In short, sympathetic stimulation prepares the man for emergencies and in this process increases the blood pressure, retards the function of digestive system and increases the sugar contents of the blood.

The function of Parasympathetic nerve system is opposite to the sympathetic system: “It widens the veins, releases noradrenalin hormones and generally retards activities.”

“The two nervous systems run parallel to each other and in co-operation from one part of the body to another. The co-operation of the two systems is essential for maintaining the equilibrium of the body, which in turn has a great bearing and effect on the physical and mental health of man.

Should at any time there be a lack of co-operation between these two systems, physical or mental disorders could arise resulting in one disease or another.”

Some actions or movements outside human body can adversely affect the natural equilibrium of these two systems. One of those things is music.

A brisk and lively musical programme, particularly if it is accompanied by musical instruments, disturbs this equilibrium of the various systems; digestion is badly affected; palpitation of the heart is increased; blood pressure goes high and abnormal secretion of hormones leaves a lasting bad effect upon general health.

Music stimulates mostly the sympathetic nervous

system; and it may create insomnia (lack of sleep); it may cause tempers to flare up; sudden laughter or nonsensical talks are amongst its possible effects. It may even lead to mania (a kind of madness).

Such people may be seen to move their hands and feet in dancing pattern even when not listening to music.

Dr. Volf Adler, who was a professor in the Columbia University, found out that the best melodious record of music can badly harm the nerves of a human body and the warmer the weather the more the harm. He proved that music upsets the nervous systems unnaturally and causes considerable fatigue.

This research of Dr. Adler had a widespread effect on many Americans; many stopped listening to music altogether. The belief that music was harmful for a progressive nation like U.S.A. reached a stage when a member of the Senate proposed a resolution to ban the music in the country. Relevant proofs and arguments were put before the Senate. But in a nation steeped in lust and materialism, not many senators could be found to vote for that resolution<sup>4</sup>.

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4 Illustré Dimanche; No. 630; Paris; as quoted in, "Falsafa-e-Tahrim-e-Musiqui", published by the institution "Dar Rah-e-Haqq", Qum, Iran.

#### (4) MENTAL EFFECT

It is an accepted fact that mental tension creates many ailments. Excitement and tension are like a fire which destroys the natural functions of human body.

And it has already been shown that music creates excitement and tension. Not only madness and nervous breakdown, but even ulcers and heart diseases are caused by mental tension.

It has been mentioned earlier that music releases the hormone 'adrenalin' in abnormal quantity. This hormone clots the blood vessels and finally leads to heart attack. This relation between excessive release of adrenalin and heart attack was discovered in France in 1957.<sup>5</sup>

Professor Celie experimented by injecting adrenalin into a monkey. Its skin became paralysed and the animal suffered a heart attack.<sup>6</sup>

Dale Carnegie quotes Dr. Joseph Montagu to have said that stomach ulcer is caused by mental tension and violent anger.<sup>7</sup>

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5 Falsafa-e-Tahrim-e-Musiqui.

6 Ibid.

7 Ibid.

Many of the present day common diseases are the legacy of our so called civilization which creates tension and exhausts the tolerance of physical and mental faculties. One of the main causes of this tension and exhaustion is music. The ailments, which are caused by such condition, are diabetes, rheumatism, and even the birth of deformed or disabled children.<sup>8</sup>

Concentration on listening to musical concerts or Jazz bands at times causes such violent tension that mental stability is thrown out of window.

The daily 'Kayhan' (Tehran), in its issue No.6626, published a news of the Reuter Agency: About 50,000 youths had gathered in Melbourne (Australia) for a musical concert. The concert overwhelmed them so much that they started assaulting each other with fists and knives. Many were seriously injured; some girls were molested. The police was called in and with much difficulty controlled the situation. The point to ponder is this: The youths were so much excited that they did not know what they were doing.

Now that we have come to Jazz, and important finding must be quoted here from The Reader's Digest<sup>9</sup>:

“Otologists say that youngsters are going deaf by blasting their ears with electronic pop music.”

8 Ibid.

9 Vol. 49, No. 565, May, 1969.



“Experts know that prolonged exposure to a noise level above 85 decibels will eventually result in a reduction of hearing acuity in the frequency range most important for understanding the human speech. Dr. Charles Lebo, of the Pacific Medical Centre took measuring instruments into two San Francisco dance halls where the cacophony from amplified instruments caused sound intensity from 100 to 119 decibels in the low frequency range.

“Lebo estimates that under such conditions 80 per cent have their hearing sensitivity temporarily reduced by 5 to 30 decibels; 10 per cent suffer temporary 40 decibel impairment. Some might suffer permanent damage after a year of steady listening.<sup>10</sup>

In short high blood pressure, insomnia, emotional instability mania and madness, nervous break downs, ulcers, heart troubles, diabetes, rheumatism temporary permanent deafness and birth of deformed or disabled babies are the effects of music.

No wonder, Islam, being a religion from Allah, has warned us against this disabling habit.

## **(5) INFLUENCE OF MUSIC**

Often people are heard saying: “But music has so much

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10 Time.

influence upon our feelings; so why such a thing should be forbidden?" But it is precisely because of its great influence upon heart and mind that it is forbidden. There would have been no need to ban it if it had no effect. The thing which is to be decided is whether its influence is good or bad. And it has been shown in the previous pages that music and dance have harmful effects physiologically, spiritually and ethically upon human beings.

Music is like intoxicants in that it makes one forget one's surroundings and one does not know what is happening to him or her. The following episode is a good example of the effect of music:

Frank King is reported in 'Reader's Digest'<sup>11</sup> as saying:-  
"I returned home one evening and noticed a large red mark that looked like a burn on my wife's right cheek. When I asked her what had happened she sheepishly told me the story. She set up the iron-board in the living room so that she could watch a favourite television programme while doing the ironing, the telephone table was also near at hand. As she was intently watching TV, the phone rang and she reached out automatically and answered the iron."

Another interesting story was published in the  

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11 Vol. 80 No. 481; May 1962

Tanganyika Standard<sup>12</sup> some 23 years ago. A pregnant woman attended a musical programme in a local cinema. She became so much engrossed in it that she gave birth to a baby on the spot without realizing what was happening to her. ‘Was it a cinema hall or maternity home?’ asked the paper.

Realizing the importance of this engrossing quality of music, the scientists are trying to use it as an aid in surgery. Reader’s Digest<sup>13</sup> writes:

“Audio-analgesia or painkilling by sound is one of modern science’s newest discoveries. The combination of music and other sounds have alleviated pain in dentistry, surgery and childbirth. Nobody can predict how widely the technique will be used but those who have experienced it entertained high hopes — like the new mother who wheeled from the delivery room exclaiming, ‘What a wonderful experience! I’ll always remember south pacific.’”

Palcetry Galiard while on the operation table asked for one of his own musical tapes to be played in the room. The effect was a spate of grief which made all present cry and the operation was performed without any anaesthetic.

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12 Dar-es-Salaam

13 Vol. 80, No. 477; January, 1962

All this goes a long way to prove that the music has the same effect on nerves and mind as the anaesthesia. Nobody in his right mind would suggest that chloroform should be daily used by the general public because it is such a good thing in the operation theatre. If music is a good anaesthetic let it be used in surgery and deliveries of children. But can that use ever justify its common use in every home at all times and in all circumstances?

## (6) THE POWER OF MUSIC

Psychologist Abraham Maslow researched what he called the “peak experiences” in human lives. Of hundreds of cases studied, there were many different experiences which people singled out as their life’s highlight. “Peak experiences” involving music ranked second in the list - surpassed only by sex.<sup>14</sup>

This should not be all that surprising, for “Music is made of a stuff which is in, and of, itself the most powerful stimulant known among the perceptual process. Music operates on our emotional faculty with great intensiveness and rapidity than the product of any other act.”<sup>15</sup>

Music can temporarily change the pulse rate and the

14 The Plain Truth, May, 1973

15 Max Schoen, “The Psychology of Music.” p. 39

blood pressure. It can increase the secretions of the adrenals and other energy producing and fighting hormones. It can affect the out pouring of gastric juice, thereby having a bearing on digestion. It can reduce or delay muscular fatigue and also increase muscular strength.

In “The Doctor Prescribes Music”, Podolsky explains why. Because roots of the auditory nerves, the nerves of the ear are more widely distributed and have more extensive connetions than those of any other nerves in the body there is scarcely a function of the human body which may not be affected by musical tones’ (p. 18).

Music is so powerful that it temporarily paralyses the senses. In “New Oxford History of Music” (Vol. 1), Henry George Farmer has described the effect of Arabic Music on the listeners’ as recorded by “The Arabian Nights” in the following words:

“The rending of garments, and similar sudden, upremeditated, and often violent acts, under music’s influence, are commonplace in Arabic literature. Swooning is the general result of ‘killing charm’ of music” (p. 437).

The power of music, on the whole, has been for evil and has been used to lure people away from God. It so much

captivates the heart that a person becomes its 'slave' and ceases to be an independent person. His thoughts are controlled by ungodly ideas.

The "Caliph" Al-Mustansir (d. 1094) was so much captivated by music that he "even dared to say that his court music was 'pleasanter' than listening to the cantillation of the caller (Mu'adhdhin) to prayer, while pictures of his dancing-girls, CONTRARY TO Islamic custom, adorned his palaces."<sup>16</sup>

The power of music can be witnessed at Music Festivals where thousands of youths go 'crazy'. Describing such a scene, Tony Jasper in his Book "Understanding Pop" (SCM Press 1972) writes:

"Pop festival at Denver, and 14,000 listen to the big names of music from Creedence Clearwater Revival to Johnny Winter and Joe Cocker, The crowd, easy, friendly, laughs at a girl who strips to the sound of music. A policeman is not amused. He moves to stop it spreading and the atmosphere changes. Near by, people seeing that he is no longer there attempt to get through a fence, and within a few minutes everything erupts and mace, chemical canisters, tear gas, riot sticks claim the air. War has come." (p. 10-11).

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16 New Oxford History of Music, Vol. I, p. 430

And after a pop festival, of autumn 1970, one letter in the “Isle of Wight Country Press” said: A proportion of the faces were depraved almost beyond belief, and in many cases clearly drug-ridden; scores had such faces as might be seen in a criminally lunatic asylum: seemed to be adenoidal, with mouths hanging open, slouched shoulders and pitiful physiques.” (Ibid, p. 61).

The Juvenile find it impossible to resist the influence of music. The Juvenile Commission of San Francisco found the so-called psychedelic lights and sound level of the music to be ‘Objectionable’. Chairman of the Commission, Michael Salerno, said: “Those younger than eighteen might not be able to handle themselves in the face of such powerful influences.” (Ibid, p.67)

It is not only psychedelic lights that have an effect but even voice of a favourite singer can play ‘havoc’ with emotions. American band leader, Les McCann, is reported to have said that when he heard Roberta Flack sing, “Her voice touched, tapped, trapped and kicked every emotion I’ve ever known. I laughed cried and screamed for more. And more came-and more-and more” (Ibid, p.90) .

## **(7) EFFECTS ON CHILDREN**

It is no secret that songs, music and films depend upon

sex-appeal for their success. The more sexy a song the more its sale and the more suggestive a music the more its market value. And also it is no secret that building the character of the children begins from their very tender age. If they are exposed to obscene songs, sexy music and suggestive dances in their childhood their entire outlook on the matters of sex morality and marriage sanctity will become jeopardised. They will lose the capacity to distinguish between moral and immoral, modesty and immodesty, chastity and promiscuity.

Some people think that the children do not understand these things! Such people are wrong.

Thus, by listening to the songs and seeing the dance on television, we ruin the moral uprightness of our children. If we believe that children are given to us by Allah as a trust and that we are responsible to give them such a training that they become good Muslims and virtuous servants of Allah, then we must abstain from songs and music and must keep them safe from the evil influence of these sinful habits.

## **(8) EFFECTS ON INSECTS**

Music hath charms to soothe the savage beast and maybe even savage insects.



An Indian scientist believes music can help discourage certain insects from mating by interfering with the pests 'courtship sounds'. Prof. K.N. Saxena, head of a special insect project at the University of Dehli, says three years of research has convinced him music can be effectively used to interrupt insect mating.

"The very purpose of my research is to moderate or probably interrupt for hours at a stretch the mating of pests which are prolific breeds," he said. "We are especially interested in the mating and egg-laying behaviour of pest and then finding out a way to stop them."

Saxena demonstrated his technique, of which he claims to be a pioneer, by attaching a speaker to a cotton-leaf on which two tiny pests, male and female, wiggled vigorously.

The scientist pushed a button to play a jazz cassette and the "courtship" dance stopped.

"You see the effect of music?" he asked with a smile. The 'Amrasca devasta' - zoological name of the cotton-leafhoppers - abandoned their courtship and remained frozen for 15 minutes. Then resumed their jig as soon as the music stopped.

Saxena said that unlike many other insects, the cotton-leafhoppers and the brown rice planthoppers have “sound-based” making habits-specific “courtship sounds” leading to mating.

“These sound are inaudible to human ears but we have successfully recorded the insect songs by using sophisticated cartridges attached to plant leaves.”

Saxena said unlike some leafhopper species his pick up sound only through the plant surface they rest on.

## **(9) INTO THE KINGDOM OF DRUGS**

Modern Pop Music and Drugs are Inseparable. Special Music is written encouraging taking of drugs. The stars take it and boast about it .

Tony Jasper writes :

“ACID ROCK, as the title suggests, is involved with drugs. In this kind of music, word and sound blend to make a whole; music becomes part of a multi - media electronic assault of the audic and visual senses. The intent is to heighten the effect for those under the influence of pot, LSD or other drugs or alternatively to an LSD trip, especially, to quote J. N. Lapseley, the ‘heightened sensory awareness level in which the unconscious with its fund of images and symbols of

darkness and light begins to emerge.' To many people, the world to which this music belongs suggests an attempt to set up a culture”.

“Frequent arrest of pop stars occurred, and the World took notice when a Beatle, Paul McCartney, said he had taken acid, though it didn't bother much with his statement that it brought him nearer to God. John Lennon, Mick Jagger, Brian Jones hit the headlines on drug charges and it was not until the spring of 1970 that Lennon found he could once more visit the states as a visitor and not be termed an undesirable “ (p.137).

This 'Music Religion' has an aim to turn our grandchildren into "Music Worshipper". American Jazz writer, William Douglas Miller, in his "THE WORLD OF POP MUSIC AND JAZZ", writes: "Given free rein, perhaps the world music industry will have our grandchildren so thoroughly entertained that they will forgo natural love and cry themselves to sleep each night to the tune of complete dehumanised electronic sound effects in view of a floor-to-ceiling fluorescent colour photo, double-life size, of their erotic idol, to whom they write from time to time for synthetic assurance of passionate desire." (p. 124-125).

To fulfil this aim, interest is cultivated among and records of pop music sold to, not only teenagers but also

to children of eight to ten age groups.

Judging from response, the number of people turning at festivals and records of sales, the mission is highly successful.

Geoffrey Webb, in his article on ‘Music in Britain’<sup>17</sup> writes :-

“More than ten years ago four boys, calling themselves the Beatles, paved the way for a whole new industry - the industry of British pop music, whose groups, singers and song-writers still dominate the world’s markets.

“Pop music started, perhaps, in support of the ever popular reactions of the young generations against the old - a new rebellion against established convention.

“Originally, the record market was directed almost exclusively at the 17-to-20 year-olds, a section of the community which in recent years has had more money to spend on small luxuries than ever before .

“But in the past three years the market has shown signs of changing. Teenagers of five years ago still buys, more discerningly perhaps, records a their favourite pop groups. Records are also being sold to children in the eight to ten age group. This is a fascinating new trend.

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17 East Africa Standard, 17/10/73

“The children are called, in the new language which has grown up round the pop industry, “Weenie-boppers”

“The emergence of weenieboppers may be due to the availability now of transistor radios so cheap that children can own them .

“The pop boom does not depend on music alone. The latest pull is the “glam” artist glittering with shiny, flamboyant clothes and make-up.”

“Sales of British pop-records exceed 120 million-worth £43,000,000 a year and the figures arise annually. About 15 per cent of the records made are exported.” (Ibid)

“In the year 1969 , CBS made more than one million dollar of business in pop records and produced a net income of USA\$ 71,944,000.”

(Tony Jasper p.25).

## **(10) SXPLOITATION**

Much of today's music celebrates youth's freedom from many of the old taboos and boundries of 'right' and 'wrong'. It encourages them to give vent to their animal instincts whenever and wherever they like.

Tony Jasper, himself a pop-fan, in his book "Understanding Pop" writes:

"Benson adds: 'Some of the early Beatle numbers reflect the physical enjoyment of this generation in touching, holding and being near the girl or guy loved.'<sup>18</sup>

"Few would want to suggest that the pop world crawls with one big love kick or that it does not exploit sex for commercial gain, or deny that it prostitutes the world 'love' .

"Many groups deliberately encourage and stimulate sexual urges in their audience. Nick Cohn talks of wandering along the front row of a pop concert and getting a strong whiff of stale urine. Perhaps it was after seeing the group shove their guitars between their legs, singer conveying orgasm against the speakers. It happens" (p. 124)

True, music's moving effect is only temporary. But it is often long enough to give a decided push in a certain direction, or to lower resistance to a certain attraction or temptation. If you studied chemistry in school you learned about "catalysts". You learned that the combining of two or more chemicals can often be achieved only by using some other ingredient that 'in effect, brings the chemicals together; that ingredient is a "catalyst."

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18 Dennis Benson , The Now Generation , p .84

Now, we all have certain weaknesses and wrong inclinations, and so we feel tempted at times to do certain things that are wrong. Suppose circumstances come up that encourage you to do a wrong act. Music can be the “catalyst” that will cause desire and circumstance to combine resulting in something you may afterward seriously regret. On the basis of her studies, one researcher for a government commission studying pornography said:

*“Music by playing on girls’ emotions to arouse love and affection, frequently serves as a catalyst for love and thereby a stimulus for sexual arousal in the adolescent female. The Music surfaces this feeling”.*

So, the impulse that music supplies, though temporary, may be one that is needed to trigger you into a course or way of life that is itself long lasting or that produces results that are ultimately harmful.

## **(11) BAN ON MUSIC BY A MOGHUL KING**

An interesting story is narrated about Alamgheer, a Moghul king in India. It is narrated that he was an orthodox muslim and staunch upholder of Islamic tenets. He banned all luxury items in his kingdom including the listening to music. No one dared do so even privately in his home.

Once, those engaged in musical profession for earnings, got together and took out a grand procession carrying a big coffin and passed in front of the king's palace when the king was sitting on the front terrace. On inquiring as to who had died, some leaders in the procession approached the king crying out that the coffin was in fact that of music, since it was strictly banned in the country, resulting in the loss to their income.

The king smiled and said:

*“Very Good, dig the grave so deep as to ensure that the dead does not rise again for hundreds of years to come”.*

## **(12) IN THE SERVICE OF RELIGION?**

Christian Churches have always tried to toe the line of the prevalent trends of thoughts and behaviour. And the present days' people are not different from their predecessors. They have bowed down before 'Pop-culture'.

Several efforts have been made to use rock music in the service of religion and through it draw the crowds to the church. But all such efforts have been in vain.

The crowds which flock to listen are not interested in religion and unless the music is of their taste, they soon run away.



Those who try to use pop music in the service of their religion are doing a great disservice to that religion. They not only fail to convert the already lost ones but introduce the faithfuls to music and inculcate in them love for it which eventually leads them to anti-religious music.

### (13) GOOD AND BAD

Of course, not all music is bad. But it is not possible for everyone to discern what is good and bad in music and to avoid bad music. Once a person gets addicted to music, he is more likely to be swayed by bad music away from God than to listen to reason. It can be compared to Alcohol and Gambling about which God says in the Holy Quran:-

يَسْأَلُونَكَ عَنِ الْخَمْرِ وَالْمَيْسِرِ ۖ قُلْ فِيهِمَا إِثْمٌ كَبِيرٌ وَمَنْفَعَةٌ لِلنَّاسِ  
وَإِثْمُهُمَا أَكْبَرُ مِنْ نَفْعِهِمَا...

“They ask thee concerning wine and the game of hazard; Say: ‘In both there is great sin and also (Some) advantages for men’ but their sin is greater than their advantage.” (2:219)

In the same manner the disadvantages of Music outweigh the advantages and perhaps because of it Islam has forbidden it.

## (14) PHILOSOPHICAL VIEWPOINT

According to the philosophy of Islam, man has been endowed with two main faculties:

(i) Intellect; and (ii) Emotions.

1) **Intellect:** Its function is to think and understand;

2) **Emotions** may be divided into two categories: Positive and Negative. We may call them 'Attraction' and 'Repulsion', or 'Love' and 'Hate'; or 'Desire' and 'Anger' respectively. Let us call them here 'Desire' and 'Anger'.

a) **Desire:** Through it man tries to attain things which are beneficial to him or which give him satisfaction and enjoyment;

b) **Anger:** By this facility man defends himself against, and repulses the things which he considers harmful to himself.

Intellect has been designed by Allah to guide and control the emotions: Desire and Anger. If a man wants to remain on the right path, he must ensure that the two perform their functions under the guidance of Intellect. For example, the ambition to get rich is the result of Desire. But it is the Intellect which guides the man that the wealth should be obtained by honest labour, hard

work and not by robbery or fraud.

Likewise, the Anger inspires the man to resist pain. But it is the Intellect that tells him, for example, to submit to the surgical operation so that he may avoid greater pain in future.

When the Faculty of Intellect is sufficiently developed and dominates over the other two faculties, the man advances spiritually and ethically and surpasses the angels because angels have got only the Intellect and do not have to contend with desire and anger.

Uncontrolled desire and anger are dominating factors of animals. If these faculties were to be nourished by the man beyond the ethical limit and freed from the control and guidance of Intellect he would sink to the abysmal depth of depravity and would become worse than animals.

It has been already described that music is among those things which boosts the emotions and arouses the sensual powers beyond their natural limit; music gives desire or anger an upper hand and makes them dominant over the Intellect. As has been shown with a few examples this state could reach a stage where Intellect ceases to function altogether; man becomes the slave of his emotions — desire and anger. A time comes

that he forgets his Creator and does not remember the real aim of his life (which is to know his Creator and obey Him).

The Love and Fear of Allah promotes virtues and good deeds and restrain the man from sins and evils. Islam aims at producing best of the characters in its followers and therefore it has forbidden those things which tend to divert attention from Allah and from man's divine duties. Music is one of those things which has a toxic effect on human mind. Therefore, Islam has forbidden not only the playing of music but also listening to it; also forbidden is participation in musical programmes whether it is in places like theatres, night clubs, and cinemas or in one's own home.

Incidentally, the same is the reason behind the law forbidding liquor and gambling.

After understanding this principle, it is easy to appreciate the reasons behind laws of Islam forbidding various actions.

### **(15) FROM THE ETHICAL POINT OF VIEW**

In the last chapter, I explained the harm which music brings upon the spiritual well being of a man. Connected with it is the effect of music on ethics and morals.

Those intoxicated by music should try to reply to these questions:

Why those engaged in singing and dancing profession almost always sink to the lowest level of immorality?

Why the film actors and actresses change their wives and husbands with every change of weather?

Why singing and dancing was considered a 'Must' for prostitutes in Indian subcontinent?

Why marital sanctity and conjugal bliss are words without meaning in the world of singers and dancers? Why? Oh! Why?

The following quotations from 'The Bridal Bed'<sup>19</sup> will provide an answer to these questions:

(Dance) is the start of culture. Though some of these dances are sensationally erotic, the sexual element is present in most of the world's dancing. It is sublimated even in ballet.

Many primitive dances, the world over, serve as preliminaries to mating, being closely connected with

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<sup>19</sup> Joseph Braddock; published by Corgi books, Ransworld Publishers Ltd., London; 1960

the choice of a marriage partner.....A description or two will make this clear.

The Dinka, a gentle pastoral tribe, live on the east bank of the White Nile. They are astonishingly tall, sometimes more than six and a half feet high. Blacker than charcoal, often above a naked body, the hair glistens a longish pale gold mop, when it has been dyed with cow's urine.... Dinka buy their wives.....But first they see the women in dance.

Within a village clearing the drums and gourd rattles are ready. Possibly as many as three hundred Dinkas have been waiting an hour or more under the yet powerful and declining sun, the tall girls standing together in a line, by now worked up to a pitch of excitement bordering on hysteria as they await the moment for the dance to develop. But what is strange here is that although the dance will mirror by no means deeply buried sexual desires, it remains curiously abstract and impersonal.

The magnificent nubile Negresses, with narrow hips and slim limbs, suggest bronze antequely proportioned statues full of shy giggles; they begin to shuffle with their feet, beads and bracelets jangling on smooth wrist and dusty ankle. A laughing girl retreats, advances, invites her warrior partner, her arms tapering into the narrow

palms of clasped simian hands stretched out behind her, her pointed breasts trembling. Her bead skirt rattles and sways, as she jerks her lacquer-like thighs forward and backwards as in love. Her partner guides her movement with his spear, thrusting his loins forward in a mime of pursuit.”

In Sierra Leone the ‘Dance of the Susu Bundu girl’s has much more actual colour. Previously, the girls will have been circumcised in the Bundu Bush according to the ancient rites, and instructed in household accomplishments to prepare them for marriage. They are presumed to be virgins. It is night, but little fires flicker red in a moon-lightened darkness. Parents and relations of the participants cluster together with the rest of the village to watch. Monkeys chatter noisily from the trees.

As the girls step forward, they show gleaming teeth and the whites of their eyes. They are wearing their best finery: lengths of garish flower-patterned cloth are wound about their thin waists to the ground; high turbans composed of flaring coloured silk scarves decorate their small vivacious heads. Behind, over their skirts fall black velvet kirtles sewn with rows of bells. Each girl carries a showy handkerchief in one hand. Naked above the waist, her breasts, with prominent nipples, are thrust forward. Valleyed between the shoulder-blades, her upright back shines as though oiled.

She dances with a proud, unspoiled grace of carriage.

No sudden crash of drums heralds the opening of this dance. Instead, a sweet wailing music from a native instrument, almost bell-like, blends with the controlled drums and the gentle swish of calabash, as the girls sway like dark columns of smoke, bending, skimming the earth with the fingers of first one hand then the other. More instruments join the rhythmic theme, emphasizing the flowing snake-like movements. On the girls' now serious faces appears entranced concentration. The orchestra speeds the tempo; the sensuous vigour of the Negresses changing to such a vibrating single energy of supple writhing forms that individually the dancers can hardly be separated. The speed is so great that the girls appear to be mingled in one florid streak of colour.

But from among the audience the boys have been watching with aroused attention, picking out the girls they would like for brides. Often at the end of such a dance, a girl will fall to the ground exhausted. Then, in a flash, a boy will dash out, pick her up in his arms and carry her into the bush nearby, where, with a sigh, she may thank the darkness for preserving the myth of her virginity.

The reader should not think that these rites of the primitive tribes have no connection with the 'refined'



dances of the so-called civilized world. It has been quoted above that “the sexual element is present in most of the world’s dancing.”

European civilization celebrates a marriage with dancing. The bride is obliged to dance with the guests. Have you ever stopped to think what is the significance of this custom?

In early feudal times the bride might have spent her wedding night not with her husband but with her feudal lord, who had the right to deflower her.

For example:

Old writers of the history of Scotland say that King Evenus III - contemporary with the emperor Augustus - ‘made a law by which he and his successors in the throne were authorized to lie with every bride, if a woman of quality, before her husband could approach her and in consequence of this law the great men of the nation had a power of the same kind over the brides of their vassals and servants.

It would seem that this law remained effective throughout the kingdom, for more than ten centuries, until St. Margaret persuaded her husband King Malcom III to have it abolished. After this, any vassal or servant who wished to redeem the first night of his bride had to

pay a tax in money.

In almost all countries of Christendom, sometimes even monks, who were feudal lords, held the right of sleeping with the bride on her first night as a married woman.

Now, such customs have been diluted, and the dance with the bride has been substituted in place of sleeping with her on her first night.

In Swedish weddings it is still usual for the bride to dance with all the men; elsewhere in Europe, as in parts of Germany, there is tradition that every guest who dances with the bride must pay her some money!

In Hungary, for example, on the day of marriage, many rites are performed. "At last, at about midnight, comes the "putting bed" ritual. First every man present dances with the now almost exhausted bride, each giving her money for this privilege." Not only in weddings but even in social dances the erotic factor dominates and survives. You must have seen in Western countries (and in their blind followers) that when a state guest arrives, the wife of the host stands with the guest and the wife of the guest stands with the host. And the same thing happens during the dances given in honour of the guest. Do you know the origin of this custom? In ancient times there was a custom which still survives in the

Chukchee tribe of Asiatic Eskimos. It is the system of “Group marriage” which anthropologists believe to be the most primitive form of marriage.

(Dr. Bogoras) states that marriage among the Chukchee does not deal with one couple only but extends over an entire group. The men belonging to such a marriage union are called ‘companions in wives’.....but takes advantage of his right comparatively seldom, namely, only when he visits for some reason the camp of one of the ‘companions’. Then the host cedes him his place in the sleeping room.

As the author says, “the custom of loaning wives to strangers or friends, for a fee or just as an act of hospitality has been common and widespread over many lands from time immemorial and not only among savage tribes.”

And this system survives in the form of loaning the wife to the guest in the dance room, in place of the bedroom.

Now that we have seen the relation between the dance and music on one hand and sexual promiscuity on the other, we can easily understand the following tradition of the Holy Prophet of Islam: Music is the magic of fornication.

Singing becomes the cause of Adultery as the below mentioned tradition states:-

The Holy Prophet (s.a.w.w) said, “Singing is a ladder to Adultery.”

Singing gives rise to the lust in man which ultimately gives out bad consequences. Not only he who sings but also the one who listens attentively to it becomes negligent towards Allah and is ready for immoral deeds.

Imam Ja’far As-Sadiq (a.s) said, “All those past times and amusement are major sins, which makes a person negligent in remembering Allah. For example people indulging in singing, music and musical gadgets.”

Yes, indeed it’s a fact that music not only makes shame and modesty disappear but also destroys love, brotherhood and generousness. In short, it makes the whole environment a specimen of Hell.

Masoomen (a.s) said, “And you will see that music will become so common that no one will forbid others. Nor will anyone find the courage to forbid anyone.”

The words of Masoomen are a proven fact as we do experience the situation in our day to day lives.

## **(16) HEALTH HAZARDS**

Rock and beat music are taken so seriously as a health hazard by health insurance companies in the Federal Republic of Germany that a survey has been conducted, revealing that earsplitting noise levels in discotheques and at rock sessions can amount to 120 decibels - six times the noise of traffic, or twice the noise of a thunderclap.

Doctors note that many eighteen-year-olds have the impaired hearing of octogenarians. They are, as it were, addicted to the sound of music, which sends them into a trance and boosts the body's adrenalin output. They need more and more decibels to achieve the desired effect. Modern orchestral music also comes in for criticism by health insurance companies. It puts musicians' nerves on edge, causes heart, circulation and stomach trouble and occasions lack of sleep.

## **(17) THE QUR'AN ON MUSIC**

After briefly explaining the evil effects of Music and dance, now time has come to give here some of the ayats of the Qur'an and some of the traditions of the Holy Prophet (s.a.w.w) and Imams (a.s.) on this subject.

Here are four Ayats of the Qur'an which forbid the

Muslims from indulging into music.

فَاجْتَنِبُوا الرِّجْسَ مِنَ الْأَوْثَانِ وَاجْتَنِبُوا قَوْلَ الزُّورِ

*“So abstain from the pollution of the idols and abstain from false vain words.” [22:30].*

The Arabic word “Zoor” has several meanings which include falsehood and the musical expressions. According to Imam Ja’far As-Sadiq (a.s.) “pollution of the idols” means Chess and “Vain words” means music.

See how ‘Music’ has been joined in this Ayat with the pollution of idols”, only then you can appreciate the seriousness of the sin of Music.

وَمِنَ النَّاسِ مَن يَشْتَرِي لَهْوَ الْحَدِيثِ لِيُضِلَّ عَن سَبِيلِ اللَّهِ بِغَيْرِ  
عِلْمٍ وَيَتَّخِذَهَا هُزُوًا ۚ أُولَٰئِكَ لَهُمْ عَذَابٌ مُّهِينٌ

*“And of the people there is he who buys a ‘vain talk’ so that he may lead others astray from the path of Allah without (real) knowledge and takes it (the revelation of Allah) for a mockery for these shall be a disgracing chastisement (punishment).” [31:6].*

‘Lahw’ means any thing which diverts the mind from serious thinking. “Vain talk” has been interpreted by the Imam as some talk, sound or thing which diverts the attention of man from the ultimate aim of his creation;

in other words makes him forget Allah and His commands. For example fictions romantic stories and such useless talks. “It includes ‘Music,’ intoxicants and all such diversions.”<sup>20</sup>

Imam Muhammad Baqir (a.s.) said: Music is among the things for which Allah has promised the Fire (of Hell). Then he recited the above Ayat.<sup>21</sup>

قَدْ أَفْلَحَ الْمُؤْمِنُونَ ﴿١﴾ الَّذِينَ هُمْ فِي صَلَاتِهِمْ خَاشِعُونَ ﴿٢﴾  
وَالَّذِينَ هُمْ عَنِ اللَّغْوِ مُعْرِضُونَ ﴿٣﴾

“Indeed successful are the believers those who in their prayer are humble and those who keep themselves aloof from Vain (words and deeds).” [23:1-3].

‘Laghv’ (Vain words and actions): The first Imam, Imam Ali (a.s.) said that “all that is void of the remembrance of Allah is ‘Laghv’. According to other authentic traditions of Imams, ‘Laghv’ means all useless entertainment, wasteful of times among which music has been specifically mentioned. Also included in this term are vain games played just to while away the time.

وَالَّذِينَ لَا يَشْهَدُونَ الزُّورَ وَإِذَا مَرُّوا بِاللَّغْوِ مَرُّوا كِرَامًا

“And the servants of the Merciful Allah are those.....

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20 Tafseer As-Safi.

21 Kafi; Wasael us Shia; Tafseer As-Safi.

*who bear not witness to what is false, and when they pass by what is vain they pass with dignity*”[25:72].

The words ‘Zoor’ and ‘Laghv’ have been explained earlier. According to the traditions of Imams (a.s.), the first part may also be translated in this way: “who do not witness what is vain”! And accordingly, it has been interpreted in the exegesis of the Qur’an as “do not listen to music.”

The following two traditions explain the second part:

Imam Ja’far As-Sadiq (a.s.) asked some of his companions: “Where are you staying?”

They replied: “With so and so, who has singing and dancing girls.

Imam said: “You should have dignity.”

They thought that Imam (a.s.) had advised them to treat that man generously. But they were not sure; so they returned to the Imam and requested him to explain his meaning to them.

Imam said: “have not you heard Allah saying ‘when they pass by what is vain they pass with dignity’?”



Imam meant that you should not stay with a man who has singing and dancing girls.

Second tradition: Muhammad bin Abi Ibad was known to indulge in music and liquor. He once asked Imam Ali Ar-Ridha (a.s.) about listening to music.

Imam said: Some people in Hijaz have their own view about it but that view is absolutely wrong. Have you not heard the word of Allah ‘when they pass by what is vain they pass in dignity?’”

I think this much should be enough for a follower of, Muhammad (s.a.w) and Ahul ul Bait (a.s.).

## **(18) SOME TRADITIONS ON MUSIC**

After Ayats of the Qur’an, I mention here some of the traditions of the Holy Prophet of Islam (s.a.w) and Imams (a.s.) about musical sound, musical instruments, and musical parties.

1. The Holy Prophet (S) said: “When my Ummat (followers) will acquire fifteen habits they will be visited by disasters:
  1. When the booty will be treated as personal property;

2. and trust will become like a booty of war;
3. and charity will be (disliked) like a loss;
- 4 & 5. and man will obey his wife and disobey his mother;
- 6 & 7. and will be generous to his friend and tyrant to his father;
8. and voices will be high in the mosques;
9. and a man will be respected as a safeguard against his evil;
10. and the leader of the people will be the worst of them;
11. and men will wear silk;
12. and people will keep singing and dancing girls;
13. and will keep musical instruments;
14. and will drink intoxicants;
15. and fornication will increase;

At that time expect red storms or depression of land-mass or changing your faces like the image of

animals and the victory of your enemy upon you and then you will not be helped (by Allah).”

2. The Holy Prophet of Islam describing the signs of the Day of Judgment said: “Verily amongst the signs of the Hour is that people will neglect prayers (will not pray in the preferred time) And will follow their desires, and will incline towards their own preferences ..... In those days, there will be people who will learn the Qur’an for other than Allah (i.e. for earning worldly benefits) and will treat the Qur’an as musical instrument (as is happening today in Islamic countries where Qur’an is recited on the radios just to entertain the listeners) and there will be people who will study religion for other than Allah (for earning prestige or wealth as is happening today when the main purpose of study of religion is to be come a good orator, so that higher and higher fees may be demanded from the audience) and number of illegitimate children will increase and people will sing the Qur’an ..... and will adore musical instruments and will dislike enjoining the good and forbidding the evil ..... These are the people who will be called unclean and dirty in the kingdom of heaven.”
3. The Holy Prophet (s.a.w) said: “Listening to music

and vain (sounds) grows hypocrisy in the heart as the water grows the plants”

4. Imam Ja'far As-Sadiq (a.s.) said: “Music is the nest of hypocrisy.”
5. Also he said: “Music is the worst of the sounds.”
6. Imam Ja'far As-Sadiq (a.s.) said: The place where music is performed, Allah does not look at its participants (with mercy).
7. Hassan (a companion of Imam Ja'far As-Sadiq a.s.) said: There was a man in my neighbourhood who had singing girls and he always remained immersed in music and dance. When I went to the toilet, I used to stay a bit longer (to listen to those sounds). When I went to Imam Ja'far As-Sadiq (a.s.), he told me: O Hasan, *Verily the ear, and the eye and the heart, all of them will be asked.* The ear and what it listened to, the eye and what it looked at and the heart and what it intended.”

Hasan says: When I heard that Ayat of the Qur'an, it was as though I had never heard it before. Then I repented (from my sin of listening to music) and made a covenant with Allah not to do it again.

The Imam (a.s.) said: “Stand up have bath and pray to Allah as much as you wish. How bad would have been your position if you had died with this habit. Repent before Allah and ask His forgiveness for every evil because Allah does not dislike but evil, leaves evil for evil people because for everything are its people.”

In a list of major sins which he sent to Caliph Mamun Rashid, Imam Ali Ar-Ridha (a.s.) mentioned the participation in the musical gatherings.

Holy Prophet (s.a.w) said, “I forbid you to dance and to play the flute, the drum and the tambourines.”

Holy Prophet (s.a.w) said, “Molten lead will be put in the ears of that person who listens attentively to music and songs.

Imam Ali Reza (a.s) said, “And to listen attentively to the musical instrument (is also a greater sin )....” manufacturing, buying or selling musical instrument is forbidden, and the profits accrued from such dealings are illegal and the transaction is also null and void. Even safe keeping of musical instrument is forbidden and to destroy them is obligatory.

Imam Ja'far As-Sadiq (a.s) said, “Allah has prohibited the manufacturing of such things which are used for

harmful purpose. And the things which only create harm. Thus the manufacturing of harp, flute, chess, musical instruments, cross of crucification, idols is forbidden.”

Imam Mohammed Baqir (a.s) said: “Singing is one of those sins for which Allah has reserved the punishment of Hell.”

The place where songs and music are played, Allah’s wrath descends, as the following traditions say:-

Imam Ali (a.s) said, “And music and songs give rise to hypocrisy and is one of the ways leading towards poverty and hunger.”

Imam Ja’far As-Sadiq (a.s) said, “Thus to teach singing and music, to learn to play it or to receive payment for it and to indulge in any kind of musical pastime is forbidden.”

Imam Ja’far As-Sadiq (a.s) said, “The house wherein there is music is not immune to afflictions and sudden deaths, and the supplication to God by the people of the house is not acceptable, nor will an angel enter such a house.”

Imam Ja’far As-Sadiq (a.s) said, “One who has been

bestowed with favours of Allah while in possession of such favours plays flute, he has been unthankful to the favours of Allah.”

Holy Prophet (s.a.w) said, “Verily Allah has sent me as a divine blessing for all the worlds and has commanded me to destroy the flutes, violins and all instruments of vain pleasures and music.”

Safwan s/o Abi Umayya a companion of the Prophet (s.a.w) - narrates that he was once sitting with him when suddenly Omar s/o Korah- a prominent musician of Madina in those days arrived and said “Oh Prophet of Allah I can find no other way of earning my bread except through these musical instruments as if Allah has inflicted a misery upon me. Therefore permit me to continue with this occupation and I assure you that I shall not exceed the limits of shamefulness.”

In reply the Prophet said: “I shall never permit you to indulge in such a God-forbidden and lowly occupation. There is no honour nor blessing (for you). Oh! enemy of God. Indeed Allah has provided means of lawful sustenance, but you have chosen that which is forbidden. Beware, should you again utter such words, I shall punish you with a harsh beating”

Ibne Abbas narrates that during his farewe Hajj, the

Prophet described at length the signs of times to come, in which he said:

“The (use and enjoyment) of drumbeating and lady-singing will be on the increase and people would be more attracted towards the drummers and players of flutes and various musical instruments.”

The foregoing sayings of the Prophet not only portray the extreme evil and sinfulness of music but also the present-day widespread use of musical instruments. The fact that the Prophet could 1400 years ago predict of what we openly see happening today is a proof of the truth in the divine message conveyed by him.

### **(19) MUSIC AS PER THE COMPANIONS OF THE HOLY PROPHET (S.A.W)**

Caliph Omar heard the sound of a flute of a shepherd and he hastily plugged his ears with his finger and turned his mouth to a different path saying : “The Prophet (s.a.w) heard the sound of a shepherd once when I was with him. He did not like it.”

Abu Aamah reported on the authority of the Holy Prophet (s.a.w) that Holy Prophet (s.a.w) prohibited trade in singing slave maids and training them for singing and said that their sale proceeds were unlawful.



On the authority of the Holy Prophet (s.a.w) Hazarat Ayesha narrates that the Prophet (s.a.w) said that Almighty Allah has made unlawful the trade in singing slave maids, their training and listening to their songs.

Abdur Rahman bin Auf narrates that the Holy Prophet (s.a.w) said that Almighty Allah has forbidden two nonsensical and wicked voices, one is melody and the other is the cry in distress.

Akramah reports the words of Ibn Abbas that the Prophet (s.a.w) said that Almighty Allah has raised me to destroy flute and the drum.

Sahl Bin Saad narrates that Holy Prophet (s.a.w) said, "Submersion below the surface of the earth, raining of stones from the sky and mutilation of figures shall come about in my ummat."

The companions asked, "O the Prophet of Allah when shall it happen?"

The Prophet (s.a.w) there upon said: "When musical instruments shall be in abundance and there shall be a large number of singing girls and shall be unlawful."

Abu Talib Tibri says that Imam Malik condemned music and forbid listening to it and said: "If you buy a slave

maid and afterwards you find her to be singing girl, it shall be lawful for the buyer to restore her to the seller.”

Imam Shafii said that music was an abhorrent sport. It was just like a filthy thing and the one who listens to excessive music was a fool. His evidence shall be rejected.

Abu Tayyab says: Shafii declared music as abhorrent.

Tradition on abhorrence of music has also come down from Ahmad Bin Hambal.

Abu Tayyab Tibri says that Imam Abu Hanifa considered music as abhorrent and held singing as sin. The same is the view of all the scholars of Kufa like Ibrahim, Shahabi, Hammad, Soufian Thousi and other. There is no difference even among the scholars of Basarah in respect of its being abhorrent and forbidden.

This was the reaction of the companions towards the ordinary music of past times. How forceful would have been their condemnation of music, musical bands and dance of today.

## **(20) MUSICIANS FATE**

Imam Ja'far As-Sadiq (a.s) said, “One who plays music in

the house for forty days will be beset by a Satan named Fogander. Allah will cause that Satan to occupy each and every part of that person's body. When this would happen then shame would depart from him and he would not care what he is saying nor what is being said about him. Then the Satan would blow unto him and after that his modesty would be completely destroyed. Then he would not feel ashamed even if the chastity of his women is being defiled."

The Holy Prophet (s.a.w) said, "the playing of violin causes hypocrisy to grow in the heart in the same way as water becomes the cause of the growth of greenery."

Imam Ali (a.s) said, "Angels do not enter the house which has wine, drum, tambourine or a flute. Even the innovations of the people of that house are not accepted and the fortunate blessings from them are taken away."

Imam Ali Reza (a.s) said, "That person in whose house is kept for forty days a drum, flute or any other musical instrument, chess or similar things, that person invokes the wrath of Allah and if that person dies during those forty days his death shall be of a transgressor and a libertine. His abode shall be Hell and what a terrible abode it is."

The Holy Prophet (s.a.w) said, "A person who sings will

be put in the group of those people on whom Allah will not look with grace on the Day of Judgement.”

Dance halls are modern nurseries of the Divorce Courts, training shops of prostitution, and the graduating school of infamy and vice.<sup>22</sup>

I attack the modern dance as a reversion towards savagery. As a medical man, I flatly charge that modern social dancing is fundamentally sinful and evil. I charge that it is the most insidious of the manoeuvres preliminary to sex betrayal. It is nothing more or less than damnable diabolical animal physical dissipation. Do brother and sister dance like that? Father & mother? Mother & son? I tell you the basic spell of the dance is the spell of illicit physical contact..... We doctors know trial of broken homes prove this.<sup>23</sup>

The Holy Prophet (s.a.w) said, “The person possessing aguiler will be brought on the Day of Judgement with a black face he would have a guitar of fire in his hand, and above him will be seventy thousand angels all carrying the maces of fire. They would be striking the maces on the head and face of that person and the singer shall arise from his grave blind, deaf and dumb and the adulterer shall also be raised from the grave in this way.

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22 Dr. L. L. Holling Worth.

23 Dr. E.S. Sonners.

And the one who plays flute shall be similarly raised and the one who plays the drum too.”

The above Tradition clearly proves that all those people involving themselves in singing, committing adultery or playing musical instruments will be gathered on the Day of judgement as Deaf, Dumb and Blind.

Let us seek refuge in Allah from the temptations of Shaitaan so that he may never lead us into the disgraceful vice of listening to music. Let us make a firm resolution to keep our houses clean of this ignominy, let our children listen to sounds invoking and glorifying Allah(swt) rather than the satanic chants of music.

Let us not follow the habits promoted by the killers of Imam Hussain (a.s.).

Let us make a firm determination to eradicate this sin from our society completely.

## (21) SOME EXCEPTIONS

Some exceptions have been made by the *shari'ah* in this prohibition.

1. Hudi: A song sung by camel-drivers, the effect of which is to increase the camel's speed.
2. Military band used during soldiers' march while

training or fighting etc.

3. A third exception - which is not accepted by all scholars of religious jurisprudence - is the song of women during marriage: but it should be restricted to the occasion of sending the bride to the bridegroom's house and to the gathering related to it also, the song should not be obscene, and the voice of singers should not reach men's ears.

## **APPENDIX: TELEVISION, A BLESSING OR A CURSE?**

All quotations in this article unless stated or otherwise, have been taken from “Eternity” October, 1971 and July, 1972 Issues.

If a child is afraid of something expose him to it often and his fears will diminish or disappear.

Dr. Victor B. Cline, a University of Utah (U.S.A.) Psychologist and four year research assistant, wrote, “Psychologists have for years demonstrated for example that you can overcome a person’s fear of snakes by gradually exposing him to others who casually play with snakes.”

He then adds, “It stands to reason that you can also change attitudes and emotional responses to violence, sex and various antisocial behaviour by repeated exposure.”

Everyone, especially a Muslim, should seriously consider the effect before he exposes himself or his children to anti-religious behaviour.

These days it is a sign of “Education” and “intelligentsia”

to have Television at home giving little thought to its long-term effect especially on children.

Much research has been done in the United States of America on the effect of Television on its viewers. President Nixon had appointed a Commission to study Causes and Prevention of Violence. The commission in its Report published in 1970 said that Television networks were “pandering to a public preoccupation with violence that television itself has helped to generate.” The Commission concluded that on the basis of many experimental studies “observed violence stimulates aggressive behaviour.”

Dr. Robert M. Liepert of the State University of New York at Stony Brook (U.S.A.) after considerable research concluded: “There is a link between televised violence and aggressive behaviour for the majority of normal children.” Although it has previously been assumed that only abnormal children would be affected by viewing scenes of violence, Liepert strongly disagreed. He writes, “The data show no evidence that only a minority is influenced. This is a factual error.”

Dr. Victor B. Cline, the Psychologist, says that “The media are powerful teachers of values and ethical behaviour and sometimes may play a more significant role than the Church.”



To this “Newsweek” commentator, Joseph Morgenstern, adds: “If the effect of Television violence on children has been finally demonstrated, it’s not unreasonable to assume that ultra-violence in the movie has some effect on adults.”

The real danger of films shown on Television lies in the philosophy of life or value system that they propagate very subtly in many cases. This underlying system does not get edited out for television, as do most of the sex scenes and profanity.

And one cannot switch off the set as soon as something objectionable appears because often the viewer does not even realise the subtle moral implication of the film. Even an intelligent and educated person can easily be affected by such films.

On U.S.A. T.V. a film “Easy Rider” was shown which made heroes of two young men who “earned their freedom to take a cross-country motorcycle tour by smuggling heroin into the United States from Mexico. No criticism of their offense or even of their own indulgence in drugs was implied in the film. In fact, smoking marijuana was portrayed as perfectly normal and very agreeable and even the use of hard drugs left no ill-effects. When these points were discussed with a group of College freshmen - all of them from highly

religious homes admitted that the film had left them confused about using drugs. "It (the film) made it look so nice," he said.<sup>24</sup> In some films the main characters are portrayed as sweet, gentle, loving and admirable young people, in spite of the fact that they are in bed with partners whose names they do not know. Even a person with firmly grounded sexual morals and little temptation to change them begins to sympathize with these gentle youngsters and to feel that, after all, such behaviour is not particularly damaging.

When children are exposed to such films, it gradually changes their attitude and undoes what the poor Mulla or Maulana has been trying to instil in them.

Almost every evening he sees ngomas, dances, kissing, dating, violence, scenes of night clubs and eventually he accepts all these things as normal and starts considering all those who oppose these things as "abnormal".

It might be argued that not much violence or immoral films are shown on local Television. It should, however, be borne in mind that poison, however small the dose, seeps in and does damage.

Furthermore, it should not be forgotten that the standard of morality of those who control showing

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24 Eternity-October, 1971, pp. 29

of television programmes is different from ours. Things which in their eyes are “innocent” are most objectionable from our point of view. Drinking, dating, dancing, kissing, etcetera, may be “innocent” to them but we would not like our children to accept these ideas and follow them.

Even with much noise being made by those in authority about guarding the morality of the public, quite often extremely objectionable films, even from their own point of view are shown on television. Once such a highly objectionable film was shown on Nairobi television about which “East African Standard” had to write as follows:-

“The ‘Nana’ controversy is just dying out the film having now been “deported” to Mombasa. But another ‘Nana’ in the name of ‘Celestina’ appeared on V.O.K. television last Wednesday, as the Midweek movie.

Part of this otherwise excellent drama depicts Celestina’s husband indulging in massage treatment to a charming and highly romantic young girl.

The exercise develops into proper romance when Celestina’s husband starts undressing the girl, and she obliges. The bedroom scene continues until: Enter Celestina, looking furious.

Having suspected what was taking place she picks up a knife and drives it into her husband's heart. I would not mind seeing this film, and particularly the sex scene, in a cinema, as it would be my individual decision to see it by paying for it.

What V.O.K. has done is to bring right in our homes such a film with highly romantic scenes. What are we expected to do in our houses with children around? Just look at such scenes and laugh them off? One wonders what sort of society we are trying to build.”<sup>25</sup>

The “Perry Mason” and “Falk” series films which are often shown on our television are American films showing violence, immorality, etc, which is likely to have an effect, specially on children. Some of these films propagate “ends justify the means” slogan.

In a film called “Evening Rider” shown on Coast television, a teenager was shown married to a man her father's age and being tempted by the husband's own son of the same age.<sup>26</sup> It left one with the impression that adultery, for such a teenager was justified.

“Grab Game” was shown on Nairobi television which showed a person looking for a job attacking the

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25 East African Standard — 15.5.72.

26 East African Standard, 19th April, 1973.

manager of the firm and the manager tells him in fear to “come next Thursday”<sup>27</sup> it was nothing but propagation of “Might is right”.

That such films have an effect on even adults can be judged from the reviews of these programmes from accredited journalists who are not only intelligent but highly educated.

A reviewer of Television of East African Standard once wrote, “I have in mind the fact that a procrastinating father finds himself sharing a girl friend with his own son. One may turn round and blame the poor girl for having extended both hands, but what about difficult time when the father, and I bet he was doing it without the knowledge of his perhaps halfway starving family, offers assistance, including paying overseas academic fees and all that goes with it.”<sup>28</sup>

It can be seen that instead of revolting against the immorality of the girl viewers are made to sympathize with her and condone her actions.

The censor Boards controlling showing of programmes on television change and we may see a time when the Board is more lax and permissive. We may then

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27 East African Standard, 12.3.73

28 East African Standard, 26.3.73.

see highly objectionable films being shown on our television which have brought chaos in the United States of America.

It will then be difficult to tell our children to stop viewing TV when we have introduced it to them and made them its addict.

However strict we may be at home in trying to control what programme our children should see, but once they are addicted to it they will see even the highly objectionable programmes as and when they get an opportunity. We shall be held responsible before God for introducing televisions to them and weakening their moral fibre. God says in Quran,

*“O ye who believe, save yourselves and your families from a fire whose fuel is men and stones.”* (66.7)

Let us not expose our children to immoral behaviour and turn them into fuel of fire.

## LIST OF THE BOOKS REFERRED TO

1. Translation of the Holy Qur'an, by M.V. Mir Ahmad Ali
2. Ghina Ki Hurmat, by Seyyid Saeed Akhtar Rizvi
3. Falsafa-e-tahrime-E-Musiqui; published by 'Dar Rah-e-Haqq', Qum
4. Intisharate-e-Yazdahgana; published by Anjuman-e-Tablighat-e-Islami, Tehran
5. How your Nervous System Works; by J.D. Ratcliff; Reader's Digest — Book of Human Body
6. Foundation of Biology, by William D. Mc Elory & Carl P. Swanson and others; Prentice-Hall Inc., U.S.A.
7. The Bridal Bed, by Joseph Braddock; Corgi Books, U.S.A.

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