

Naughty Corner

This is a modern method for punishing a child; putting him in a corner which he cannot leave until he feels guilty and repents. What is weird is that our children got used to this kind of punishment. The moment you say “go to the naughty corner,” he heads there with tears in his eyes and without any resistance. Of course, this could only happen in the time of this spoiled generation. In the past, nobody sent us to any “naughty corner.” My father, may God have mercy on his soul, only used the cane, Aljuhisha and sometimes the Agal. At school, our teacher Najm had a cane which he used to punish students who came in late, and our Palestinian teacher Naeem had a wooden ruler. This isn’t really our topic though. The issue I wish to discuss is one that has gone unnoticed as a proliferation of laws have gradually increased the severity of punishments for different crimes. Upon looking at the type of crimes punishable by imprisonment, we will notice that many of them are related to politics, social media, or finances. Take for instance, absconding from compulsory service, imprudent “retweeting,” or posting an ignorant comment on something that the individual probably doesn’t even understand. In short, they’re “clean crimes,” in which no one has been victim to murder or robbery. They have nothing to do with drugs, fraud, or terrorism. They’re not the “terrifying” kind of criminal. But if these “clean” criminals happen to be put behind bars in the same jail and receive the same treatment as the “terrifying” criminals, then we’ll end up with clean criminals leaving prison as terrifying criminals.

Let’s go back to when I worked in a financial institution over a decade ago. I got into an argument back then with a manager about the legality of taking checks as