

## Cell Phone Addiction

Shaykh Abdullah al Bukhari

Look, may Allah bless you, this is a calamity. The class has ended. But I want to mention to you that this has become an addiction. Do you know what addiction is? What is the meaning of addiction? Addiction is when something flows through the blood. **This telephone, playing on the cell phone, Twitter and other things has become like an addiction. The person subconsciously puts his hand in his pocket and immediately pulls out his cell phone. He does this in the home, on the road, in the Masjid, everywhere, even in the bathroom perhaps.**

What is this? What do you want to gain from this? What is it that you want? What lies beyond this? Are you going to fix the issues of the believers (on your cell phone)? **Are you going to solve the issues in Palestine (on your cell phone)?** Or what are you doing (on your cell phone)? Rather the (time spent on the cell phone) is all nonsense; looking to see **what did so and so say, what did they write, what did they send out, what did they do?** As though he is *"A slanderer, going about with calumnies, hinderer of the good, transgressor, sinful, cruel, after all that base-born"* (Soorah Al-Qalam 68:11-13)

He is not able to keep his hand straight due to holding the phone. It is as though his hand is permanently curved. **Perhaps he sleeps beside his cell phone**, grasping on to it and opens his cell phone and looks at it during the night because he is addicted to it. This is not correct. **If only he was addicted to knowledge!** If only he were addicted to acquiring knowledge and busied his time with knowledge instead of busying himself with trivialities and foolishness. He is busy with 'what did 'so and so' say?'

So then what?! If you know what 'so and so' said, now what? What is the benefit? There is no benefit. There is no benefit my children, don't waste your time and do not waste your lives. You find some people in the corner of the Masjid in plain sight playing on the cell phone. This is present in the Masjid, yes or no? It is present.

The Imam says Tasleem to exit from the prayer while the person's mind is with the cell phone. **He immediately takes out his cell phone so he can see what he missed during these minutes he was praying.** He has to see what was said? What was written? This is because he wants to monitor the entire Ummah. He wants to see what everyone is doing; the good people and the evil people, the people of falsehood, the Jinn and mankind.

He even wants to see what the Jinn are up to. How do you know if what is posted on the internet was written by a human and not by a Jinn? How do you know? Do you know? Allah gave the Jinn abilities which He did not give to man.

إِنَّهُ يَرَاكُمْ هُوَ وَقَبِيلُهُ مِنْ حَيْثُ لَا تَرَوْنَهُمْ ﴿٢٧﴾

Verily, he and his tribe see you from where you cannot see them. (Soorah Al-'A`rāf 7:27)

قَالَ عِفْرِيتٌ مِّنَ الْجِنِّ أَنَا آتِيكَ بِهِ قَبْلَ أَنْ تَقُومَ مِنْ مَّقَامِكَ ۖ وَإِنِّي عَلَيْهِ لَقَوِيٌّ أَمِينٌ ﴿٣٩﴾ قَالَ الَّذِي عِنْدَهُ عِلْمٌ مِّنَ الْكِتَابِ أَنَا

آتِيكَ بِهِ قَبْلَ أَنْ يَرْتَدَّ إِلَيْكَ طَرْفُكَ ﴿٤٠﴾

An Ifrit (strong) from the jinns said: "I will bring it to you before you rise from your place (council). And verily, I am indeed strong, and trustworthy for such work." One with whom was knowledge of the Scripture said: "I will bring it to you within the twinkling of an eye!" (Soorah An-Naml 27:40)

So how do you know about this affair, may Allah bless you?

These cell phones have benefits; but use it with caution and moderation, and do not be excessive. The cell phone is for making phone calls when necessary. You call someone and tell them important matters. That's it. And then you leave it.

How did people survive before the cell phone? Were they lost? Were they not able to handle their affairs? They were indeed able to handle their affairs and all praises belong to Allah. Leave this phone alone, may Allah bless you. Busy yourselves with beneficial matters. This frivolous device has distracted you from knowledge. May Allah bless you.

They call them 'smart devices' and deceive the people with this terminology. Someone asked 'is this a smart device?' They responded 'yes!' No one stops to ask 'how?' How did this device become intelligent? This device is lifeless. Does it possess intellect such that it can be called smart or stupid? Intelligence is instinctive and may grow. Intelligence is only attributed to humans. It may be acceptable to use this terminology when referring to animals, but in most cases this is only used to refer to humans. The term intelligent is use for animals metaphorically. But it is not used for lifeless objects. Is it correct for us to say this microphone is smart? Can we say this table is smart? Can we say this Minbar is smart? What kind of statement is this? They respond by saying 'the cell phone has programs'. But wasn't it a human that designed the program? Was it a human or not? Humans placed within these devices the programs. They tricked the people thus they were deceived. By Allah, these devices do not have one percent

intellect. Don't ever believe this. It is not possible for an inanimate object to be intelligent. If you toss it on the ground it will not speak or scream and say 'why did you throw me down?' Will it say this? May Allah bless you.

Translated by Rasheed ibn Estes Barbee