

## Sports Fanaticism

Shaykh Ali al-Haddady

Shaykh Ali: O believers have awareness and fear of Allah, and know that sports during this day and age has expanded and diversified. The interest and concern given to sports by individuals, communities and countries has magnified. Often this is accompanied by things that contradict the pure legislation of Islam.

For example: Blind sports fanaticism between fans for their respective teams. This fanaticism leads to insulting, slandering, heckling, taunting, animosity, and lying. In some cases it leads to the collapse of some families, divorce, and ostracism between family members. It may lead to physical fighting with the hands, sticks or weapons, as has been witnessed in some countries.

From the evil effects of this evil sports fanaticism is love for the sake of the team and hate for the sake of the team, allegiance for the sake of the team and enmity for the sake of the team. All partisanship whether it is religious, tribal, racial, or based upon sports teams; is all impermissible.

The Prophet صلى الله عليه وسلم disassociated himself from the people of partisanship. He said:

لَيْسَ مِنَّا مَنْ دَعَا إِلَى عَصَبِيَّةٍ وَلَيْسَ مِنَّا مَنْ قَاتَلَ عَلَى عَصَبِيَّةٍ وَلَيْسَ مِنَّا مَنْ مَاتَ عَلَى عَصَبِيَّةٍ

He who summons others to party-spirit does not belong to us; and he who fights upon party-spirit does not belong to us and he who dies upholding party spirit does not belong to us. (Sunan Abi Dawud 5121)

Thus it is upon the youth specifically and the Muslims in general to be warned of sports fanaticism because it weakens the durability of religious brotherhood. And it places the people into groups and parties hating and fighting one another.

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