

The Message (1976 film)

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بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

In the name of Allaah, the Most Merciful, the Bestower of Mercy

Questioner: What is your opinion on watching Islamic films, especially those that inspire enthusiasm in the religion among some Muslims, specifically the film “The Message”. This film contains the beginning stages of the victory and Da'wah of Islam. If your answer is that it is not permissible, I would like for you to clarify the reason?

Shaykh al-Albaanee (رَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ) said: We say it is not permissible. Dramas are not legislated in Islam for several reasons. First, this is the way of the disbelievers, and the way of the disbelievers is befitting for them it is not befitting for the Muslims. That is because the disbelievers believe they need incentives and motivation to push them to do good. They do not have a legislation that contains good like we have; and all praises belong to Allaah. As you have previously heard the statement of the Prophet (sallallaahu ‘alayhi wa sallam): **“I have not left anything that will bring you closer to Allaah, except that I have commanded you with it”**.¹

One verse, let alone an entire chapter (of the Qur'aan) will avail us more than numerous dramas if the verse is circulated among the Muslims and explained for them. Thus, the Muslims have no need for these new methods. Especially since these methods have sprouted from the lands of the disbelievers, those whom Allaah said concerning them:

فَاتِلُوا الَّذِينَ لَا يُؤْمِنُونَ بِاللَّهِ وَلَا بِالْيَوْمِ الْآخِرِ وَلَا يُحَرِّمُونَ مَا حَرَّمَ اللَّهُ وَرَسُولُهُ وَلَا يَدِينُونَ دِينَ الْحَقِّ مِنَ الَّذِينَ أُوتُوا الْكِتَابَ حَتَّى يُعْطُوا الْجِزْيَةَ عَنْ يَدٍ وَهُمْ صَاغِرُونَ

[Fight against those who believe not in Allaah, nor in the Last Day, nor forbid that which has been forbidden by Allaah and His Messenger and those who acknowledge not the religion of truth among the people of the Scripture until they pay the Jizyah with willing submission and feel themselves subdued.]²

Therefore, a nation that does not forbid what Allaah has forbidden, or deem permissible what Allaah has declared permissible, how can we take their methodology, customs, and ways, and then we come and apply this to ourselves?!

¹ Collected by ibn Abee Shayba in the book of Zuhud 8/129

² [Soorah at-Tawbah 9:29]

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I like a statement I heard once from a lecturer. He said the example of Muslims and their imitation of Westerners is that of an obese person who takes a garment tailored for a skinny person and wants to wear it. The result is that he cannot wear this garment, and, in the end, he will rip the garment because it was not tailored for his body.

Therefore, these means are for them, they are not good for us because we have what is better than that. It comes in the Hadeeth of Jabir ibn Abdullaah that **one day the Prophet (sallallaahu 'alayhi wa sallam) saw pages in the hand of Umar ibn al-Khattaab. He asked him 'what is this?' Umar replied, 'these are pages of the Torah that a Jewish man wrote for me'. The Prophet (peace be upon him) said: "Are you all in a state of confusion, as the Jews and Christians were? I swear by the One Who has the soul of Muhammad in His Hand, if Moosa were alive, he would have no option except to follow me."**

He said if Moosa—the one to whom Allaah spoke directly; were alive he would have no option except to follow the Messenger (sallallaahu 'alayhi wa sallam). So what do you think about us today, we are followers, rather we are tails for everything that comes to us from the adornments those people who do not forbid that which Allaah and His messenger have forbidden. For this reason, I do not view these dramas as permissible.

The second issue is that it is inevitable that these films will contain lies that have no reality in Islamic history or biography. This is another reason that prevents us from imitating the Europeans in their films. They live by a known principle, which unfortunately some Muslims work according to it also. Their principle is 'the ends justify the means'. The goal for example is to acquire wealth, as for the means, this is not important, whether it is permissible or impermissible. This is in opposition to Islam. Islam clarifies for us the paths which are permissible and impermissible. And it tells us to take the permissible and leave the impermissible. Those who make films include things which have no reality at all. We have followed in their footsteps affirming the statement of the Prophet (sallallaahu 'alayhi wa sallam) **"You will follow the path of those who came before you step by step, so that even if they entered the hole of a lizard, you would enter it too." They said, "O Messenger of Allaah, do you mean the Jews and Christians?" He said, "Who else?"**³

Third, and lastly, there is another infraction that enters these films, and it is the resemblance of women to men and men to women and the mixing of men and women. As the saying goes 'the sweeter of the two is still bitter'. How can we permit such films?!

Here is an example that will make this crystal clear. A man will have a beard that Allaah created him with, but he will follow the customs of the disbelievers and shave his beard. If he is given a role in a movie to portray a companion, he will wear a fake beard like the Englishmen do. He deceives the people. First, he was naturally created with a beard, so he disobeys Allaah and shaves it. But when a movie role is available, he appears in front of the

³ Saheeh Muslim 2669

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people as though he grows his beard. Is this not a lie? And there are some youth that do not have beards so that will place fake beards on them.

Therefore, if we study these films, we will conclude that they are not legislated in Islam; especially if the film is pertaining to the message of the Messenger (sallallaahu 'alayhi wa sallam). It will contain lies. This person will portray Umar, this person will portray the sister of Umar, etc. All of this is false, and whatever is built upon corruption is corrupt.