

My Life and Belief Online: Blessings, Challenges, and Opportunities

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EPC Workshop

Outline

2

- EPC 2016 Topics
- Blessings of Internet
- Internet and Muslim Identity
- Some Challenges of Life online
- Safety and Security online

EPC 2016 Topics

3

- **Elementary School Topic: Level 1:** Write a letter explaining how you use the internet as a Muslim.
- **Level 2:** Write an essay based off the prompt: “Internet – A great blessing for me.” Share all the fun things you do on the internet that helps you become both a good student and a good Muslim.
- **Middle School Topic: My Muslim Identity Online.** Focus on your own online profile. What kind of personality is it showing to the world? Are any your internet activities hurting your beliefs/practices as a Muslim? How are they hurting your beliefs? Explain how can you overcome those to develop your Muslim identity online.
- **High School Topic: Safe and Secure Surfing in the wild wide web.** A myriad of challenges arises along with the blessings of the internet. Identify and reflect on some of these challenges that can potentially make you deviate from your Deen. Explain how you can take control and navigate safely towards establishing a good Muslim role model online.

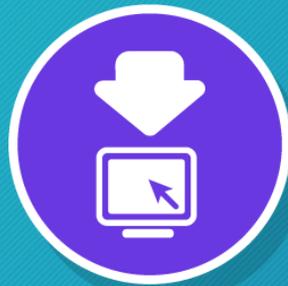
Yes, Internet is a great blessing from Allah (SWT)

4

- Allah (SWT) teaches us technology; we are however responsible for its use or misuse
- How fast we can reach our family and friends!
- Whatever I want to know is literally at my fingertips or mouse-clicks!
- How conveniently I can learn my Deen!
- How fast I can help someone!

What are some of the Internet Goodies?

5



Mankind is meant to be 'social'

- يَا أَيُّهَا النَّاسُ إِنَّا خَلَقْنَاكُمْ مِنْ ذَكَرٍ وَأُنْثَىٰ وَجَعَلْنَاكُمْ شُعُوبًا ۚ وَقَبَائِلَ لِتَعَارَفُوا ۚ إِنَّ أَكْرَمَكُمْ عِنْدَ اللَّهِ أَنْتَ أَعْلَمُ ۚ إِنَّ اللَّهَ عَلِيمٌ خَبِيرٌ [49:13]
- O men! Behold, We have created you all out of a male and a female, and have made you into nations and tribes, **so that you might come to know one another**. Verily, the noblest of you in the sight of God is the one who is most deeply conscious of Him. Behold, God is all-knowing, all-aware.*

But I want to make sure I have a safe and secure Life and Belief online

7

- Am I enjoying the blessings in the right way?
- What's my identity online? How much of muslim identity it reveals?
- Do I make the right decision online?
- Do I know this online world enough? What are the dangers out there in the wild wild web (www)?
- How can my life and belief stay safe and Secure?

My Muslim Identity Online

8

- What is Muslim Identity?
- We are Muslim 60/60/24/7. That covers all our activities, whether others see us or not
- Believers have a unique identity and perspective of Life. Life Herein and Life hereafter
- What are some of the aspects of Muslim Identity that are critically important while we are 'online'?

Set a trend of Goodness

9

ادْعُ إِلَى سَبِيلِ رَبِّكَ بِالْحِكْمَةِ وَالْمَوْعِظَةِ الْحَسَنَةِ وَجَادِلْهُمْ بِالَّتِي هِيَ أَحْسَنُ
إِنَّ رَبَّكَ هُوَ أَعْلَمُ بِمَنْ ضَلَّ عَنْ سَبِيلِهِ وَهُوَ أَعْلَمُ بِالْمُهْتَدِينَ

[16:125] “**CALL THOU** (all mankind] unto thy Sustainer's path **with wisdom and goodly exhortation, and argue with them in the most kindly manner-** for, behold, thy Sustainer knows best as to who strays from His path, and best knows **He** as to who are the right-guided.”

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Be mindful that Allah is 'Latifun Khabeer'

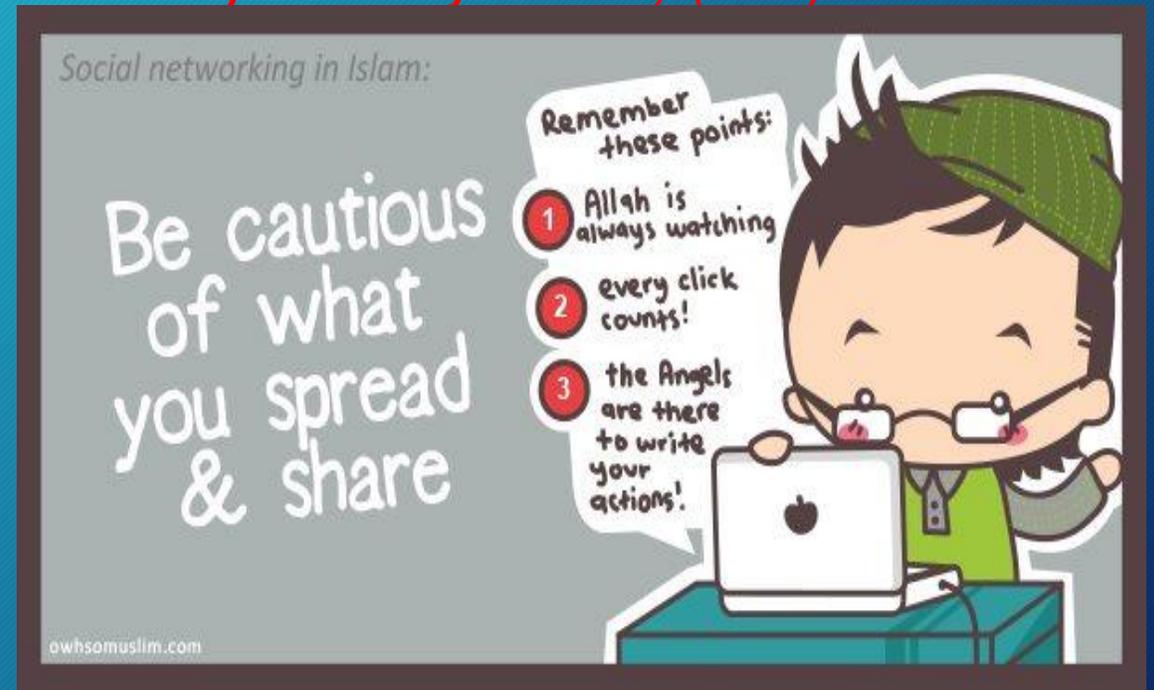
10

- يَا بُنَيَّ إِنَّهَا إِنْ تَكُ مِثْقَالَ حَبَّةٍ مِّنْ خَرْدَلٍ فَتَكُنْ فِي صَخْرَةٍ أَوْ فِي السَّمَاوَاتِ أَوْ فِي الْأَرْضِ يَأْتِ بِهَا اللَّهُ ۗ إِنَّ اللَّهَ لَطِيفٌ خَبِيرٌ

[31:16] O my son!" (said Luqman), "If there be (but) the weight of a mustard-seed and it were (hidden) in a rock, or (anywhere) in the heavens or on earth, Allah will bring it forth: for Allah understands the finest mysteries, (and) is well-acquainted (with them).

فَمَنْ يَعْمَلْ مِثْقَالَ ذَرَّةٍ خَيْرًا يَرَهُ ﴿٧﴾ وَمَنْ يَعْمَلْ مِثْقَالَ ذَرَّةٍ شَرًّا يَرَهُ

[99:7-8] And so, he who shall have done an atom's weight of good, shall behold it; and he who shall have done an atom's weight of evil, shall behold it.



Be Extra careful when we

Like 

 Follow

11

وَيَوْمَ يَعَضُّ الظَّالِمُ عَلَى يَدَيْهِ يَقُولُ يَا لَيْتَنِي اتَّخَذْتُ مَعَ الرَّسُولِ سَبِيلًا
[25:27] “and a Day on which the evildoer will bite his hands [in despair], exclaiming: **“Oh, would that I had followed the path shown to me by the apostle!”**”

- يَا وَيْلَتَى لَيْتَنِي لَمْ أَتَّخِذْ فُلَانًا حَلِيلًا

[25:28] Oh, woe is me! **Would that I had not taken so-and-so for a friend!**

When in doubt, throw it out



Lower your gaze

قُلْ لِلْمُؤْمِنِينَ يَغُضُّوا مِنْ أَبْصَارِهِمْ وَيَحْفَظُوا فُرُوجَهُمْ ۗ ذَٰلِكَ أَزْكَىٰ لَهُمْ ۗ إِنَّ اللَّهَ خَبِيرٌ بِمَا يَصْنَعُونَ

[24:30] Tell the believing men to **lower their gaze and to be mindful of their chastity:** this will be most conducive to their purity - [and,] verily, God is aware of all that they do.

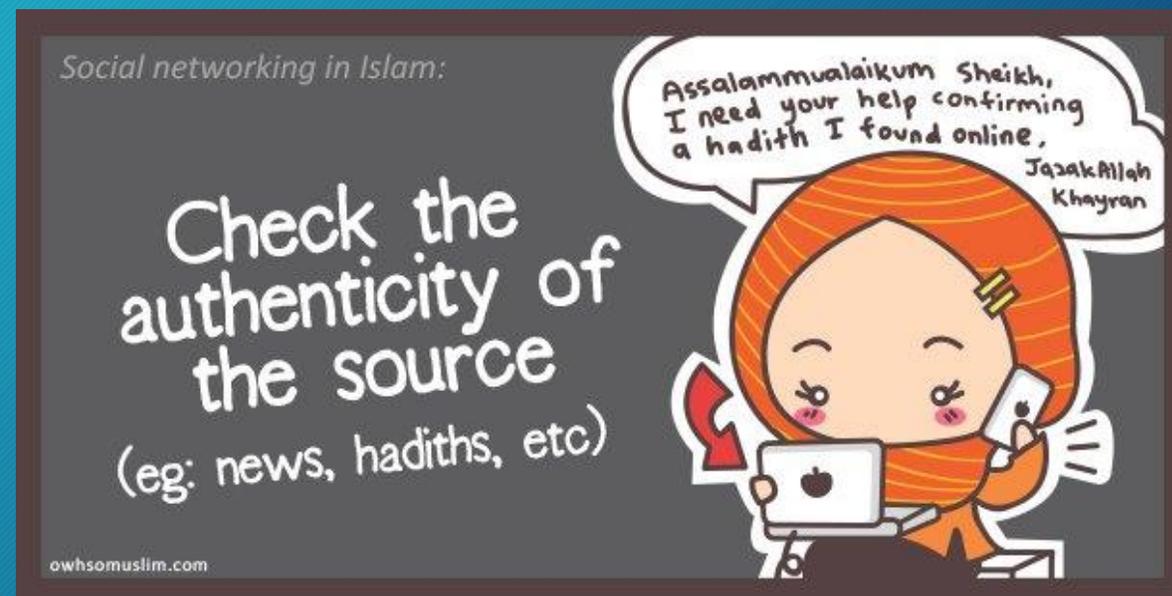


Check the authenticity before you like, share...

13

- يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا إِن جَاءَكُمْ فَاسِقٌ بِنَبَأٍ فَتَبَيَّنُوا أَن تُصِيبُوا قَوْمًا بِجَهَالَةٍ فَتُصْحَبُوا عَلَىٰ مَا فَعَلْتُمْ نَادِمِينَ

[49:6] O ye who believe! If a wicked person comes to you with any news, **ascertain the truth**, lest ye harm people unwittingly, and afterwards become full of repentance for what ye have done.



Be a Good Netizen

- Speaking without knowledge [17:36] **وَلَا تَقْفُ مَا لَيْسَ لَكَ بِهِ عِلْمٌ إِنَّ السَّمْعَ وَالْبَصَرَ وَالْفُؤَادَ كُلُّ أُولَئِكَ كَانَ عَنْهُ مَسْئُولًا**

And never concern thyself with anything of which thou hast no knowledge: verily, [thy] hearing and sight and heart - all of them - will be called to account for it

- [49:12] **يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا اجْتَنِبُوا كَثِيرًا مِّنَ الظَّنِّ إِنَّ بَعْضَ الظَّنِّ إِثْمٌ ۖ وَلَا تَحْسَبُوا ۖ وَلَا يَغْتَبِ بَعْضُكُم بَعْضًا ۖ أَيُّبُّ أَحَدُكُمْ أَن يَأْكُلَ لَحْمَ أَخِيهِ مَيْتًا فَكَرِهْتُمُوهُ ۖ وَاتَّقُوا اللَّهَ ۚ إِنَّ اللَّهَ تَوَّابٌ رَّحِيمٌ**

O you who have attained to faith! **Avoid most guesswork** [about one another] for, behold, some of [such] guesswork is [in itself] a sin; and **do not spy upon one another, and neither allow yourselves to speak ill of one another behind your backs**. Would any of you like to eat the flesh of his dead brother? Nay, you would loathe it! And be conscious of God. Verily, God is an acceptor of repentance, a dispenser of grace!

Have Self-Control: STOP. THINK. CONNECT.

15

Own your online presence. Don't let others ruin your identity

Don't be tempted to put too much of personal/private information online

Never Accept any message/request/attachment from anyone you don't know



Don't forget your Muslim Identity

- Set a Good Trend
- Be Mindful that Allah (SWT) is Latifun Khabir
- Be careful who are our friends, what we like
- Lower your Gaze
- Check the authenticity
- Be a Good Netizen
- Have self-control in revealing information and guard your identity

Watch out! It's full of danger out there

17

- Video from Childnet International
<http://www.childnet.com/resources/the-adventures-of-kara-winston-and-the-smart-crew/chapter1>

Be aware of strangers

18

- Video from Childnet International
<http://www.childnet.com/resources/the-adventures-of-kara-winston-and-the-smart-crew/chapter3>

Tell parents/teachers/adults about any cyberbullying

19

- Video from Childnet International
<http://www.childnet.com/resources/the-adventures-of-kara-winston-and-the-smart-crew/chapter4>

Musa's story

20

- Musa often plays games online with people from a range of countries. One particular contact (*Rocker2011*) is often online and they often chat away from the game on IM. In their discussions *Rocker2011* tells Musa that they are both going to the same resort over the summer and wants to make sure they meet up and asks him how they will recognize each other ...

What do you think about this situation?

Navigate SMART for a safe and secure online

21

- Video from Childnet International
<http://www.childnet.com/resources/the-adventures-of-kara-winston-and-the-smart-crew/chapter5>

Be SMART in the internet

22

- Keep your personal information **Safe**
- Be careful **Meeting** up.
- Always Be careful **Accepting** requests
- Check whether an website or friend is **Reliable**
- Always **Tell** a parent or adult, if someone threatens you online or look suspicious

Do all internet risks come from the strangers?

23

- Strangers
- Friends
- Yourself

Other Challenges/Threats/Dangers

- Social Engineering
- Radicalization
- CyberBullying
- Identity Theft
- Cyber warfare: Launching pad for attacks
- Child Pornography
- Indecent communication
- Virus, malware, Trojan, spyware, ransomware, spam, adware
- Spoofing, Impersonalization



How can you control your own environment? [Ref 3]

25

- Make sure you have up-to-date Malware protection installed
- Only download from reputable sites
- Keep your computer software updated
- Make sure your computer firewall is on
- Question what you see: e-mails and pop ups may not be genuine
- Think before you respond to an e-mail or open a file - *Can I trust this?*
- Keep your password confidential to you.

Password tips

26

- Password should be easy for you to remember but difficult to guess.
- Make your password longer than 8 characters use the first letters of the words in an easy to remember sentence.
- Mix up UPPER and lower case letters.
- Add a bit of punctuation !?](
- Remember your password - write it down and keep it somewhere secret.
- Don't use the same password for different access
- Change password every couple of months or if I think someone has seen my password.

Top Ten online Safety Tips

27

1. Stay in Control over your online image- Is your muslim identity hurt anyway?
2. Respect your own and others' privacy- Use Privacy Settings
3. Think before you send.
4. If in doubt throw it out
5. Always report bullies - save conversations, block contacts and do not reply.
6. Never meet an online friend alone.
7. Tell a trusted adult if something makes you feel uncomfortable.
8. Online friends are still strangers - think before you trust!
9. Online activity lasts forever - remember this when posting anything.
10. Don't forget the first aspect of your identity... Set a trend of goodness, raise awareness of an issue that means something to you.

References

28

1. SMART Navigation <http://www.childnet.com/resources/the-adventures-of-kara-winston-and-the-smart-crew>
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4. Owh So Muslim <http://www.owhsomuslim.com/>
5. Stop, Think, Connect.
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 2. https://www.youtube.com/v/gnEyKE9_6v0