

**Shaykh Mashhūr Hasan Āl Salmān**

*(hafidhahullāh)*

# **THE RULING ON WASTING TIME PLAYING MOBILE PHONE AND PLAY STATION GAMES<sup>1</sup>**

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## **Question:**

“What’s the ruling on playing games on the mobile phone?”

## **Answer from Shaykh Mashhūr:**

The origin of games is that there is a dislike, the meaning of which is verified from the kalām of the ‘Ulama. The Prophet (*sallallāhu ‘alayhi wassallam*) said: “*Every form of play is bātil except for shooting with his arrow, training his horse and amusement with his wife.*” These games are based on strengthening the body and the strong believer is better than the weak one for it prepares one for jihad and play with the wife brings about a righteous child. This is a view which takes the consequences of actions into consideration, and all games which are not based on strengthening the body are just time-wasting without any benefit (in them) are not good and this is especially the case if playing games is not physical but only visual. Many questions have reached me regarding martial arts and their ruling and the hitting of the face which is involved in them.

There are also some questions regarding playing football games on Play Station and the likes of such computer games and the basis of all of these games is that they are *makrūh* (disliked) and not *mahmūd* (praiseworthy) except that which helps to strengthen the body. Those fighting games which help the body then there is no harm in those games however the face of the Muslim cannot be hit even the face of the person of the Book today (i.e. the Jew or Christian) the dhimmī. The ruling on games such as wrestling (Musāra’ah) and the likes is that they are good and the Prophet

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<sup>1</sup> Abridged translation from our Shaykh’s Q&A session dated 24<sup>th</sup> October 2009 CE, see: [www.mashhoor.net](http://www.mashhoor.net)

(*sallallāhu 'alayhi wassallam*) wrestled Rukānah as is well known, and overcame him.<sup>2</sup> The Prophet (*sallallāhu 'alayhi wassallam*) said to him: “Two losses will not be inflicted upon you, overcoming you and taking your property.”

Rukānah was a man who did not lose and no one was able to put him down to the ground. My brothers have narrated to me about an Egyptian man who they saw on the internet, who lived in the Egyptian mountains, whose fist was stronger than a hammer! And that if he punched a wall he would break the wall! And they said that he can place a coin between his eyelid (*jafan*) and his cheek (*khad*) fold it and then destroy it with his hands! Some people have extraordinary abilities like the one who has four wives and is able to have relations with them over fifteen times!<sup>3</sup> He has extraordinary abilities! Likewise with Rukānah, for the Prophet (*sallallāhu 'alayhi wassallam*) took him down a first time, and he could not believe it, then the same happened a second and then on the third Rukānah said: “I testify that you are the Messenger of Allāh!”

So wrestling was practised by the Prophet (*sallallāhu 'alayhi wassallam*) so there is no harm in it and rather I exhort my brothers from the youth to practice Muhammadan chivalry such as horse-riding, running, wrestling without causing harm these are better than football and other games. We always say “the best guidance is the guidance of the Prophet (*sallallāhu 'alayhi wassallam*)” – so this is the guidance of Muhammad (*sallallāhu 'alayhi wassallam*) in regards to games! These games are better than other ones without doubt! They are more beneficial than other games and bring about happiness and activity more than other sports and games because this is what Allāh granted for His Prophet (*sallallāhu 'alayhi wassallam*).

As for other games such as football then I have mentioned that it contains some prohibited things and the three prohibited actions within it are the following:

1. Wasting time and energy, times the number of spectators × the length of the match = the amount of time wasted - especially with the repetition of these games!
2. Upturning the scales, for a football player is made out to be a hero!
3. It causes party-spirit and ignorance between peoples and sometimes even between a home!  
We ask Allāh for good health! Enmity between siblings and even at times between a husband and wife!? We seek refuge in Allāh.

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<sup>2</sup> **Translator’s note:** in the Sunan of Abū Dāwūd, on the authority of Muhammad ibn ‘Ali ibn Rukānah, who said, “Verily Rukānah wrestled the Prophet, and the Prophet (*sallallāhu 'alayhi wa sallam*) took him down.” For more on this see this translation from the book *al-Furūsiyyah* by Ibn ul-Qayyim (*rahimahullāh*) by Mūsā Richardson: <http://www.bakkah.net/articles/wrestling.htm>

<sup>3</sup> **Translator’s note:** distributed among the wives!