

Col. Rahal was a prominent Commander of an army engaged in one of the past battles fought in the U.S.A. During the course of a battle, he took time off perhaps for a little enjoyment and relaxation. He engaged himself in a game of cards in company of his colleagues.

Whilst he was busy playing the game, a messenger came from the battle-ground and delivered to him a note. It contained a message advising him that Washington, the commander of the enemy was already crossing Delaware in other words the enemy was then advancing approaching them closely. Col. Rahal was then so deeply engrossed in the game that he could not think of disrupting it to open the note which he had kept aside.

After some time when the game was finally over, he read the note and then decided to take action. He assembled his army and proceeded to the battle-front, but alas it was already late. He was ultimately killed in the battle and his army had finally to surrender to the enemy.

The question one may like to ask that as a commander of an army in the battle-front, Col. Rahal was supposed to have a sense of discipline and duty. He was expected to be alert all the time. What made him lose his presence of mind, become so negligent of his duty? Should it not lead us to believe that the game of cards and such other games of gambling are harmful? That such games have in them the characteristic effect of intoxicating one's mind so much as to make one unmindful of his duties towards Allah, family members, society and even his country?

That is why Islam has forbidden and condemned such games,

whether played with the intention of gambling or just ^{h7} pleasure pass-time, whether there was in the game monetary gain and loss or not. After all, Islam has come to promote good character and healthy society.

The holy Quran and the traditions of the Holy Prophet and his progeny have condemned the games of gambling in the strongest terms. Both the gambling and wine drinking have been mentioned together as the source of enmity among people encouraged by Satan.

Does it not therefore behove the wise and sensible members of society not only to abstain from playing but even from watching such games of gambling and not even to befriend those indulgent in such games? That is the Islamic rule in the most emphasized manner.