

# Playing Computer Games

In the beginning we'd like to state that Islam is not against entertainment as long as it does not keep a person from an obligation and its means does not contain anything un-Islamic. By the same token, as long as computer or video games are void of undesirable themes and messages, then playing them can be considered as permissible. However, the permissibility here is conditional on the fact that one is resorting to it as an occasional outlet only; for there is no doubt whatsoever that if one's indulgence in playing such electronic games in any way interferes with one's performance of his/her worship or other obligatory duties, then it shall be considered as strictly forbidden.

As regards playing and making electronic games, we'd cite for you the following:

“Video game-making and playing is not *Haram*. However, the content is the criterion in determining whether we should rate it as *Halal* or *Haram*, i.e. exactly like movies. Educational games are very good, but many of the video games in the American markets are full of violence and sexual content which is *Haram*.”

Dealing with this issue, **Sheikh M. S. Al-Munajjid**, a prominent Saudi Muslim lecturer and author, states the following:

“Islam does not forbid leisure or having fun in permissible ways. The basic rule concerning these games is that they are permissible so long as they do not get in the way of obligatory duties such as establishing prayer [i.e., praying properly and on time] and honoring one's parents, and so long as they do not include anything that is *Haram*.”

Based upon this, it is not *Haram* to play computer games as long as none of the material contains indecency, pornography or anything against Islamic teachings and playing them does not keep one from doing an obligation. The same conditions apply to making and selling such games. However, Muslim parents should be on alert regarding the content of these games and pay much

attention to the choice of the beneficial games that do not go against the Islamic teachings before they bring them to their children.